

From: Jesse Mangerson <jesse.mangerson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Glenway woods

Hello,

My name is Jesse Mangerson, I am a responsible dog owner, living on Euclid ave. in the Westmoreland neighborhood in Madison's near West side as a homeowner for the past 12 years. I am contacting you with regards to the proposal to make the Glenway woods a "dog free" space. ***I am in strong opposition to that proposal*** as the Glenway woods have been a dog friendly location within walking distance of the Westmoreland and Dungeon Monroe neighborhoods for decades. The use of the Glenway woods as a Dog Friendly space pre-dates most of us who live in the neighborhood and existed long before the majority of us were of the age to serve our communities as adults.

The proposal to make this space a "dog free" space is an action that excludes dog owners from this space and not just their dogs. Dog owners represent the majority user group for this space and should not be excluded from using it as a walkable location for walking their dogs. Excluding those of us who are responsible dog owners from using these woods as a local and walkable location to take our dogs burdens the community of dog owners to have to drive to other locations to walk our dogs in areas that are wooded and peaceful like this one.

As dog owners we are already excluded from using the wooded areas adjacent to Monroe street, around Lake Wingra, because of its protected status as part of the Arboretum. We accept this and do not take our dogs into that area. By closing the Glenway woods to dog owners and their dogs, you are excluding us from more of the beautiful wooded areas that exist in the neighborhood where we own homes, raise our families, and pay taxes.

Who benefits from excluding dog owners and their dogs from the Glenway woods? No one. This can be a shared space as it has been for decades in the past. Non-dog owners are a small portion of the users of this space and have no grounds to push the majority of users out of that space for no clear or positive outcome or reason. Non-dog owners are welcome in all spaces where dogs are allowed and in spaces that are designated as city dog parks.

In Madison and on the near West Side, we are an inclusive community of reasonable and responsible people. These actions to make the Glenway Woods "dog free" are an action of exclusion and are in opposition to our larger belief systems of inclusion for all with equal access to our outdoor spaces.

By saying that dogs are not allowed in the Glenway woods you are effectively saying that I am not allowed in the Glenway woods as a dog owner. Moving forward with a "dog free" classification of the Glenway Woods is a major mistake and a choice made for the few rather than a choice made for the many.

Sincerely,

Jesse Mangerson
3913 Euclid ave
Madison