

From: **Brent Denton** <[bdenton@uwalumni.com](mailto:bdenton@uwalumni.com)>  
Date: Sun, May 14, 2023, 6:50 PM  
Subject: Public Comment for 17 May 2023 Meeting - RE File # 74470  
To: <[parkslongrangeplanningcommittee@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parkslongrangeplanningcommittee@cityofmadison.com)>

Regarding File # 74470 - Dog Park Designation Status Update

Hello,

The 2020 decision to allow dogs, on-leash, in most Madison parks was a good decision. The 2021 decision to change the designations of many parks with regards to this topic, without soliciting any public input, was not a good decision. Since then, the public has become increasingly agitated by the lack of information, communication, or change with regard to the dog status of our parks: we were initially told we needed to wait an entire year before the parks would be reassessed, yet it has now exceeded another 6 months past the meeting where action was supposed to be taken. Please, at the very least just let us know what is being discussed on the city website and/or on postings in our parks.

Additionally, I was surprised when reading the re-refer action text from when this item was last taken up in January: that park designations are explicitly for the equity of those who want spaces free of dogs. As a dog owner who lives within a quarter mile of two parks, both of which now prohibit dogs since the 2021 revisions, this is very frustrating. I am no longer allowed to walk through the local parks with my dog, who loved to sniff around and roll in their fields, and the nearest park that does allow leashed dogs is a full mile farther of a walk away - especially now that it is getting into the warmer summer months my dog can't even make a walk that far (and back). The status of parks, either as dog friendly or as dog free, should be made for the equity of the entire community.

Kind Regards,

Brent Denton

(7814 W Oakbrook Cir  
Madison, WI 53717)

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**From:** Eva Lewandowski <elewandowski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2023 1:47 PM  
**To:** Parks Long Range Planning Committee  
<ParksLongRangePlanningCommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** major equity issues in dog park status recommendation

Hello,

I was alarmed to see in the minutes from the recent Parks Long Range Planning Subcommittee that a recommendation is being made to remove dog free status from Madison Parks. As a disabled person, this is a pure issue of accessibility and equity for me. I cannot safely recreate around dogs, and neither can many of our most vulnerable community members, including the disabled, elderly, very young, neurodivergent, and those suffering panic and anxiety disorders after dog-related trauma.

I'm extremely concerned that nowhere in the committee's recommendation memo is there any mention of accessibility needs or how this issue will be viewed as an equity and inclusion item. The plans for public comment and participation in the topic seem to be exclusively electronic, meaning that these same groups who will be denied a safe place to recreate if dog free park status is eliminated will also be at a disadvantage when it comes to voicing their opinions. The disabled and elderly especially are less likely to have a voice in the process.

Did the committee discuss the equity and accessibility components of the recommendation or consider how to address these issues at all in the public participation process? I think denying multiple groups of vulnerable community members access to safe places to recreate and enjoy nature should be considered with extreme caution and handled in a way that carefully considers the equity and inclusion impacts. So far I am not seeing anything to that effect.

Can you please take a step back and think about this issue with equity and inclusion in mind? Thank you,

Eva Lewandowski

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kathleen Satut <ksatut@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

I'm writing regarding proposed dog regulations allowing dogs in parks. Nakoma Park is the playground for Thoreau School. There are probably other schools that have parks as playgrounds. I hope that dogs would continue to be prohibited in these parks.

Sincerely,

Kathy Satut  
801 Ottawa Trail

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**From:** STACEY M SCHAEFER <stacey.schaefer@wisc.edu>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 3:45 PM

**To:** Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** hurray for this decision to allow leashed, licensed and permitted dogs be allowed in all general parks

Thank you for allowing leashed, licensed and permitted dogs be allowed in all general parks (even with continued notable exceptions – including conservation parks, athletic fields, beaches, shelters, playgrounds, golf courses (during golf season), splash parks, culturally significant resources such as burial mounds, and more).

Dog walking provides healthy exercise and purpose to people of all ages. It promotes healthy aging and longevity. It gets us outside and getting exercise during the long Wisconsin winters. It is a form of healthy, outside, family time bringing my immediate and external family members together regularly.

Now please consider more places where dogs can be off leash because there's much more play that can happen when dogs are not constantly tethered (fetch, swimming, sledding, and more).

Thank you!

Stacey Schaefer

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**From:** Sara Krauskopf <sjkrauskopf@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 4:00 PM

**To:** Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Fwd: changes to dog friendly parks in Madison

I support the proposed change to allow more parks to be dog friendly and, in particular, would very much appreciate allowing dogs on golf courses during non-golf seasons. My family did not having our dog excluded from our walks on Odana golf course when noone is using it to golf.

Sara Krauskopf

2025 Carey Ct

Madison, WI

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Devon Agaba <devonaa1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 4:00 PM

**To:** Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

I wanted to support the change to allowing leashed dogs in most public parks. I'm not a dog owner myself, but if the dogs are leashed and the owners pick up their waste, I see no problems with it.

Devon Agaba, Madison resident

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-----Original Message-----

From: helena tsotsis <htsotsis@ameritech.net>  
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 5:05 PM  
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

Good afternoon - I am writing to express dismay that there will no longer be any dog free parks if this proposed change goes through. I am not a dog lover, and unfortunately, many dog owners don't respect this. Most dog walkers seem to assume that all of us want to be greeted by their dog. I usually cross the street to avoid this interaction, if possible. I admit that I don't seek out dog free parks, but I like the fact that they exist. I mostly walk in spaces that there aren't many dogs (arboretum, Olbrich Gardens, etc).

My other issue with this change is that I do not see how it will be enforced. If someone has their dog off leash, who will do anything? I have the same question re: picking up waste. I believe that most owners are responsible, but it only takes 1 to ruin a perfectly good walk. Enforcement is not likely, so the rules have little teeth.

I urge you to rethink this - just because many dog owners want access to all parks does not mean that those of us who don't want to be around dogs have no rights.

Sincerely  
Helena Tsotsis

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**From:** Weselley Slaymaker <wess@wesengineering.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2023 3:04 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Hi

I'm supportive of the newer changes to ordinances allowing leashed dogs in Madison parks- I live near Vilas Park and find the extra people dog walking at early and late hours makes it feel more safe, and inclusive. Given it's allowed to drink and party, and a myriad of other activities, having a few dogs walked seems quite in keeping with the spirit of the place

Wes Slaymaker, P.E.  
WES Engineering  
[wess@WESengineering.com](mailto:wess@WESengineering.com)  
Cell: 608-556-1702  
Office: 608-259-9304

Fax:608-299-0426

Address:

706 S. Orchard St  
Madison WI 53715

[www.WESengineering.com](http://www.WESengineering.com)

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**From:** beth hanson <behanson2004@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in McPike Park

Good morning.

As someone who lives across the street from McPike Park, I notice dog owners are frequently letting their dogs off leashes. There are also quite a few dogs being aggressive, even when on leashes. I have witnessed three dog attacks in the park in the past year.

Because this park has so much activity that dogs frequently find "triggering" (the movements of skate board riders, kids on bikes, joggers, babies in strollers, and the dropping of food), I believe dogs should not be allowed in this park.

I know banning dogs from this park is not a popular idea.

If a ban is not feasible, maybe more frequent visits by the Park Ranger are in order, especially in the late afternoon/early evening when the park is most busy. Also, some stronger signage regarding the need for leash usage may help.

I definitely think dogs should not be in the park during large events such as La Fete, Sessions, FOOD festivals, etc.

Thank you for your consideration

Beth Hanson (not a dog hater...)

302 S Few St

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**From:** Kelly Pluemer <kellypluemer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

I fully support leashed dogs in all parks! However, I do want to provide feedback on off leash dogs. I particular, Door Creek Park. I enjoy walking my dog there. It is a beautiful, well kept gem. My frustration is that I run into owners with their dogs off leash almost everytime I am there. In the playground, in the soccer fields, and on the paths. The wooded area is the biggest concern because I can't see them running towards us until it is too late. As a dog owner, I don't want to complain, but it is unfortunate that these folks ruin a beautiful park for the rest of us, as now I rarely go.

Another trouble spot is Lake Edge Park.

I appreciate these changes to allow leashed dogs! Thank you!

Kelly Pluemer

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**From:** MELISSA A ROSENKRANZ <melissa.rosenkranz@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2023 2:55 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

I enthusiastically support the change in ordinance to allow dogs in most city parks. Relative to other similar cities, Madison has been noteworthy in its lack of dog-friendliness. Thank you for considering this proposed change.

Melissa Rosenkranz

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**From:** David Van Sickle <dvsickle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 27, 2023 6:53 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

As a Spring Harbor neighborhood resident, I'm writing to express my support for the proposed change to allow leashed, licensed and permitted dogs in most (if not all) Madison parks. And, in my neighborhood specifically, dogs should be allowed in Merrill Springs Park.

Thank you,  
David Van Sickle  
4910 Lake Mendota Dr  
(608) 719-9531

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**From:** heidi <hsonnenburg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 27, 2023 9:40 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Hallelujah! I'm all for dogs allowed in parks on leash!

I am happy to see this happening! There are always a few who cause problems for the majority by not picking up waste or by the irresponsibility of unleashing their dog.

When I see this happening, I discuss it with the dog owner and explain how this affects the rest of us to lose our privileges.

I am sure we can demonstrate that having your dog/family member in the park responsibly can be beneficial for all.

I need to rest on a bench at Merrill Springs park for 5 mins when walking my dog, it's a disgrace it isn't permitted due to only 2 neighbors in the area that don't like dogs! The majority of the neighborhood has dogs and are very respectful owners!

Thank you for changing the attitude regarding dogs in most parks!

Sincerely,

Heidi Sonnenburg

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**From:** mdonagan@gmail.com <mdonagan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 27, 2023 2:03 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Conservation

**Contact Information:**

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**Name:** Mary Donagan  
**Street Address:**  
1517 Burning Wood Way  
Madison, WI 53704  
**Phone:** 6087708801  
**Email:** [mdonagan@gmail.com](mailto:mdonagan@gmail.com)

**Comments / Questions:**

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**Subject:** Conservation

**Comments / Questions:**

Hello. I saw an article today saying they are planning on allowing dogs in previously restricted parks. We live near Cherokee Park North Unit and often see dogs that are not permitted. There were 2 dogs with a couple walking in it yesterday and they had seen the signs with no dogs. As I walked a little further on the path there were two big poop piles. Oh and I had just passed the nesting migrating Crane with printed signs posted regarding its protection! They had no consideration for wildlife or other rule following people that enjoy the park.

I believe you are asking for trouble in allowing dogs in general use public parks.

I do not hate dogs but worry about children's safety and people's simple enjoyment.

Thank you,

Mary Donagan

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**From:** Brian Spindel <bspindel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 27, 2023 6:19 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Hi folks. I am a cat person, but the change to the dogs in parks ordinance sounds all good and fine to me.

However, please, please in large letters and repeatedly emphasize where dogs are NOT welcome. I am a very frequent user of Turville Point and Edna Taylor Conservation Parks. I have seen deer, foxes, and turkeys in those parks, and dogs will not tolerate the presence of that wildlife. The conservation parks are also some of the few quiet places remaining in this rapidly growing city.

Thank you very much for considering the needs of all types of Madison residents!

Brian Spindel

2017 East Dayton St.

Madison 53704

[bspindel@gmail.com](mailto:bspindel@gmail.com)

M) 608-234-1883

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Submitted on Saturday, May 27, 2023 - 10:27pm

Full Name: Elizabeth Voelz

Phone: (608) 333-5884

Email: [ElizabethVoelz@gmail.com](mailto:ElizabethVoelz@gmail.com)

Park Name: Elmside Circle Park

Current Designation: Dog Free

I would like the Board of Park Commissioners to consider changing the designation of this park or remain the current status: Dog Free

Please provide why you are interested in changing the designation of this park or remain the current status: Many small children play in this park and I find it unsafe that dog owners regularly bring their dogs into this park despite being dog free. Animals are unpredictable and children should be free to run around the park without worrying about bumping into a dog that could be startled or aggressive.

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**From:** Jason Reid <[mrartsyfartsy@yahoo.com](mailto:mrartsyfartsy@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2023 5:14 AM

**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

I am not a dog owner but I have to say that I am not a fan of the current proposal. It is a blessing to be able to find a quiet spot in the city such as a park to read or relax and having possibly barking dogs adding to the city noise is not something I approve of. I also had an unpleasant dog experience several years ago in the Monroe Street area. I was walking along the sidewalk where the front yards of homes are very narrow and there was a dog tied up in the front. The length of cable the dog owner had used was long enough to allow the dog to get close enough to jump and bite my hand through my jacket pocket. Since then, I am leary of all unfamiliar dogs, especially when they get rather close.

I hope you will seriously consider my input when making a decision.

Thank you for your time

Jason Reid

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From: Elizabeth Bauer <elizabeth607@ecentral.com>  
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2023 2:40 PM  
To: Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

Hello,

I am in support of allowing leashed dogs in all dog parks. Walking our dog in a Madison park allows us all to get great exercise in a lovely environment. It also allows us to socialize with other dog walkers and other walkers along the way.  
Please open up all the parks so everyone in the city has access.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Bauer

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kimberly McBride <kasmcbride@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:07 PM  
To: Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

Dear City of Madison Parks,

I am requesting Merrill Springs Park become a dog friendly leash park. It is mostly a neighborhood used park due to its small size and difficult parking on Spring Court. The park is under the watchful eye of the Friends of Merrill Springs and regular park users and would monitor any unleashed dogs although that is generally few as most dog owners are respectful of park property. It is a lovely spot to observe the lake with one's pet and allow our dogs to cool their feet in the lake as one continues on a walk through the neighborhood. In the winter it is an easy access out to the ice. The park has a historical spring which pays homage to the native Americans but there are no mounds or any other historical elements to worry about. Dogs were common in Native America villages and I don't see them being harmful to the park. Please open this beloved park to our beloved pets so that we can quietly enjoy this space on our walks through the neighborhood! We promise to be respectful of the city rules and remind others to do the same. Thank you for your consideration!!

Sincerely, Kim and Pat McBride

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**From:** J K <jeanbean.krieg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023 7:43 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parcs@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Potential Updates to Dogs in Parks - for 7/12/2023 BPC meeting

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I live across from Westmorland Park. Since that time I see owners and their leashless dogs in the park - NEARLY EVERY DAY.

I've tried politely pointing out to these people that the park requires leashed dogs ("Hey, just a reminder...") but am ALWAYS met with resistance and anger. And excuses - "I've lived here a long time", "I'll pick up after my dog", "My dog is under voice control", etc.) It is REALLY

frustrating when people cannot respect the rules!

These are neighbors who walk to the park and also non-neighbors who park on the street and then treat the park as a dog park, letting their dog loose from the curb. Perhaps the people that drive here don't know that the park requires leashed dogs.

I WISH IT WAS A DOG-FREE PARK! But I realize that probably won't happen. Perhaps multiple large signs could be posted around the park? I do see the signs with the rules posted at the entrances but truthfully they are too small. Could flyers be distributed and I can have some and just hand them to people or leave them on their windshield? I'm open to ideas to get this enforced.

Calling the Park Ranger to report these people does not work. By the time they get here, the person is gone.

Unleashed dogs can create problems - for people of all ages, for other dogs, and for drivers on the adjacent roadways. Please do something about this before someone or some dog gets hurt. I have seen multiple near-misses with dogs that run into roadways and sidewalks.

I've owned several dogs. It is a PRIVILEGE to own a dog and allow it to be walked in a leashed-park in Madison. I wish everyone thought this way. I may never get another dog because of the unpredictability of other dog-owner's behavior, due to the risk of a bad interaction between dogs.

Thanks,  
Jean Krieg

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-----Original Message-----

From: William Ebbott <wjebott@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 6:29 PM

To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Nancy Paul <napaul@wisc.edu>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

I favor allowing dogs in all Madison parks except conservation parks. We live in the Summit Woods neighborhood and would like to be able to take our well-behaved Westie to nearby Zook Park, which currently prohibits all dogs.

William Ebbott  
32 Heritage Circle, #5  
Madison, WI 53711-2742  
(608) 347-7990

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**From:** Lori Grapentine <lori.grapentine@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 10:06 AM

**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

I would like more, not fewer, parks to be dog-free.

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**From:** Justin Vander Schaaf <justinvs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2023 10:25 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

As a long time citizen of Madison and frequent user of many different city parks, I would prefer that dogs be kept out of parks not specifically designated as dog parks. The proposed change to remove the existing dog-free parks would negatively affect many people who prefer not to be around dogs.

Sincerely,

Justin Vander Schaaf.

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**From:** Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 3, 2023 5:48 PM  
**To:** William Ebbott <wjebott@gmail.com>; Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Nancy Paul <napaul@wisc.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Dogs In Parks Feedback

Thank you for your email. The new recommendations will be coming to Parks Commission on July 12. [Here's info](#) from the Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting. The areas where dogs are not allowed per ordinance would continue to be in effect: beaches, shelters, conservation parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, etc. Parks did a [blog post](#) and sent it out in their newsletter as well so residents are aware of this item coming up. I will post to the blog too.

Thanks,  
Yannette

Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole (she/her/hers/ella)  
District 10 - Madison Common Council  
Subscribe for Updates  
Common Council Meetings Information

Interactive map of new boundaries

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From: William Ebbott <[wjebott@gmail.com](mailto:wjebott@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 6:28 PM  
To: Madison Parks  
Cc: Nancy Paul; Figueroa Cole, Yannette  
Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

I favor allowing dogs in all Madison parks except conservation parks. We live in the Summit Woods neighborhood and would like to be able to take our well-behaved Westie to nearby Zook Park, which currently prohibits all dogs.

William Ebbott  
32 Heritage Circle, #5  
Madison, WI 53711-2742  
(608) 347-7990

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**From:** Anthony O'Dea <anthonyodea@ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 4, 2023 1:17 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Public Parks

To whom it may concern,

I am against the LRP subcommittee proposal and the general allowance of dogs in public parks. However, I understand that the proposal will still probably pass. I want the rules regarding leashes, aggressive dogs, and dog waste to be enforced, so I suggest the dog permit fee be increased to \$60 and the annual renewal fee to be raised to \$30 as part of this proposal to help cover any costs associated with extra enforcement. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony

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**From:** Rebecca Sawyer <rebecca.sawyer.44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 4, 2023 8:53 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in parks proposed change

Good evening,

If dogs are allowed in all parks, there MUST be enforcement of leash use. My largest concern are with the smaller parks where people will bring dogs and their children to the playground, and then not attend properly to their dog. Our child has a fear of dogs, and it only takes one incident to make that fear worse OR for the fear to be legitimated by a dog attack. Even a "well trained" dog can lash out if they are not properly supervised, especially around children who are unpredictable and might not know proper dog etiquette or how to read dog body language yet.

Clear signs about leash usage in all parks, signs on playgrounds forbidding dogs, baggie dispensers for cleaning up waste next to trash cans, and some kind of public education about being a responsible dog owner would make those of us who do NOT think dogs belong everywhere feel much more comfortable with dogs being allowed in all parks.

Thanks,

Rebecca Sawyer

PhD Student Second Language Acquisition

University of Wisconsin - Madison

[resawyer@wisc.edu](mailto:resawyer@wisc.edu), [rebecca.sawyer.44@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.sawyer.44@gmail.com)

she/ella

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**From:** Layne Larson <layne\_larson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2023 1:53 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Parks Feedback

Hello,

Thank you for spreading the word about the changes in dogs in parks. However, I disagree in this change. My daughter is extremely fearful (Cynophobia) of dogs as she will no longer be comfortable to use the local park independently because of her fear and anxiety.

My daughter is not alone as this condition. It is not as uncommon as one would think. I think that the decision makers should be aware and acknowledge that allowing dogs in all city parks will exclude a portion of our community from using many of our parks because of this disability. Can you please address what people should do if they are fearful of dogs in the park?

[Cynophobia \(Fear of Dogs\): Causes & Treatment \(clevelandclinic.org\)](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/health/condition/cynophobia)

I would appreciate any feedback that you can provide.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

[layne\\_larson@yahoo.com](mailto:layne_larson@yahoo.com)

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**From:** Katie Bannon <kjbannon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023 8:18 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Parks Feedback - Support for Leashed Dogs in Parks

I'm writing in support of allowing leashed dogs in all parks in Madison. The vast majority of pet owners can responsibly use a park with their dog. I like that park rangers could instead focus on enforcement of leash laws. Thank you for considering.

Katie Bannon

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**From:** Robert Beets <city@robertbeets.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 6:01 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Field, Derek <district3@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs in Parks Feedback

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

I was enthused to see the recent memo on [Dog Park Designation Status Update](#) regarding staff's upcoming presentation of the recommendation 'to allow leashed and licensed dogs with valid dog park permits in most parks'. Thank you for your thoughtful assessment of these rules and policies over the past 18 months. I am happy to see that dogs will have a little more access to some local parks where their presence does not unduly interfere with other recreation and

conservation priorities. Many thanks also to District 3 alders past and present for providing input and updates on this matter.

Sincerely /

Robert Beets

[city@robertbeets.com](mailto:city@robertbeets.com)

[612-749-5263](tel:612-749-5263)

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**From:** Victoria Vlisides <vlvisides@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:11 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi there!

I am writing today to ask for more responsible dog owners to be allowed to enjoy the parks with their pets.

Another major reason to allow dogs in parks on leash is for safety reasons. As a female who often takes my dog for long walks in parks where not many people are around, I feel much more safe having my dog there if someone were to approach me.

Please consider being more inclusive !

Thanks,

Victoria Vlisides

Madison Resident

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**From:** Meredith <meredith.mcglone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 8:27 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi, please approve allowing leashed, licensed and permitted dogs in most city parks.

Thanks,

Meredith McGlone

1414 Drake St.

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**From:** Connor Stone <cdstone262@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 3, 2023 11:25 AM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No to Dogs in Parks

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Board of Parks,

I am writing to strongly oppose expansion of dogs in Madison parks. Madison has more parks per capita than most other cities, and permitting dogs in most of these parks will create a situation where city staff have no capacity to enforce leash, vaccine, and permitting rules, while also increasing the risk for injuries and disease spread. This will put people who are following the rules and their dogs, as well as people without dogs, at risk in our parks.

People already bring dogs into parks against park rules, largely without consequence, and enforcement capacity to address this already seems very limited. I know multiple people bitten by off-leash dogs in a Madison parks who had little recourse since owners can largely just leave or refuse to pay vet/medical bills. Allowing more dogs would lead to a greater risk of negative interactions between two dogs or a dog and other people.

If parks is going to make this change, there needs to be a clear strategy to increase knowledge and enforcement of vaccine, permit, and leash rules. So far, it does not seem as if there is a plan to improve the already underfunded process for addressing these problems. Please take this chance to create a comprehensive plan to prevent problems before encouraging folks to take more dogs to our parks.

Thank you,

Connor Stone

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**From:** Patricia Wildgen <[plwildgen@icloud.com](mailto:plwildgen@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 3, 2023 7:58 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dogs should absolutely be allowed in all parks. For many of us they are part of the family and often accompany our children on walks which end up in parks. It is definitely the responsibility of owners to keep their dogs under control and to pick up their waste. I remember being in Chicago and passing a large park on the lakefront. People having picnics, playing with their children and playing with their dogs as well. There is no reason Madison can't be like that.  
Patricia Wildgen

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**From:** [calistalowe@gmail.com](mailto:calistalowe@gmail.com) <[calistalowe@gmail.com](mailto:calistalowe@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 7:56 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** General Park Inquiry

**Contact Information:**

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**Name:** Calista Lowe  
**Street Address:**  
8545 Mansion Hill Avenue, Unit #3  
Madison, WI 53719  
**Phone:** (608) 509-3741  
**Email:** [calistalowe@gmail.com](mailto:calistalowe@gmail.com)

**Comments / Questions:**

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**Subject:** General Park Inquiry

**Comments / Questions:**

Hello I don't know if I have the right contact board, but I am messaging to send my support of the new policy to allow leashed dogs into more parks in the city of Madison. I vote yes!

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**From:** [akstein2@gmail.com](mailto:akstein2@gmail.com) <[akstein2@gmail.com](mailto:akstein2@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 9:11 AM  
**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Park Maintenance

**Contact Information:**

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**Name:** Amy Stein  
**Street Address:**  
1122 1122 Southridge Ct  
Madison, WI 53704  
**Phone:** 6086287023  
**Email:** [akstein2@gmail.com](mailto:akstein2@gmail.com)



**Comments / Questions:**

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**Subject:** Park Maintenance

**Comments / Questions:**

Please make all Madison Parks dog friendly for leashed dogs with Dane County Park Permits. Those of us willing to go through the hassle of registering our dogs and paying the fee each year should be able to use the public spaces with our dogs. Responsible pet owners keep their dogs leashed & under control and we pick up after them. Thanks!

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**From:** Eva Lewandowski <[elewandowski@gmail.com](mailto:elewandowski@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 1:15 PM

**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Dogs In Parks Feedback

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing in opposition of the proposed plan to remove dog-free park status. Doing so would leave me, a disabled person, without a safe place to sit or walk outside in nature. Opening all neighborhood parks up to dogs creates a true safety hazard and removes safe access to the outdoors for many in Madison, including myself. As a disabled person with mobility and balance difficulties, I cannot safely be around dogs. I cannot safely walk or even sit in an area near dogs because far too many dog owners allow their dogs to chase, lunge at, jump on, trip, tangle their leashes around, and knock over people. I have had all these things happen to me on a regular basis in Madison parks for years. Because of my disability, I physically cannot protect myself when these things happen, and no dog owner has ever attempted to help me when their dog endangers me.

Dogs also slip their leashes, get into fights with other dogs that put people at risk, and pose a serious bit risk. All these things happen with leashed dogs day after day, with no protection for park goers who simply want a safe place to recreate and relax.

Many of our most vulnerable residents, including people with disabilities, the elderly, the neurodivergent, the very young, those with severe allergies, and those suffering from anxiety or panic disorders after dog attacks need (not want- need) safe dog-free access to neighborhood parks. This is an accessibility issue, and unsafe access to parks is not true access. Nor is forcing people to walk through unsafe areas to get to supposedly dog-free playgrounds, beaches, and athletic fields, or requiring people to travel 40+ minutes by bus to visit a conservation park. We need safe access to local neighborhood parks.

Please do not eliminate access to the outdoors for those of us for whom the presence of dogs poses a constant danger.

Eva Lewandowski

1115 E Wilson

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From: William Ebbott <[wjebbott@gmail.com](mailto:wjebbott@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 2:06 PM  
To: Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>  
Subject: Dogs In Parks Feedback

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> I favor allowing dogs in all Madison parks except conservation parks. We live in the Summit Woods neighborhood and would like to be able to take our well-behaved Westie to nearby Zook Park, which currently prohibits all dogs.

>

> William Ebbott  
> 32 Heritage Circle, #5  
> Madison, WI 53711-2742  
> (608) 347-7990

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**From:** [cyanasbridge@gmail.com](mailto:cyanasbridge@gmail.com) <[cyanasbridge@gmail.com](mailto:cyanasbridge@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 10:01 PM  
**To:** Madison Parks <[parks@cityofmadison.com](mailto:parks@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Planning & Development

**Contact Information:**

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**Name:** Cynthia Bridge  
**Street Address:**  
5702 Bittersweet Pl  
Madison, WI 53705  
**Phone:** 608-333-5417  
**Email:** [cyanasbridge@gmail.com](mailto:cyanasbridge@gmail.com)

**Comments / Questions:**

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**Subject:** Planning & Development

**Comments / Questions:**

This is for the Madison Parks Board of Commissioners, I am strongly opposed to expanding dogs in the parks. I am a naturalist and bird watcher. I can confidently state that 90% of the time I visit any natural be it a city park, county park, state park, I ENCOUNTER OFF-LEASH DOGS and militant dog owners who

take offense to any reminder that their pets should be leashed. WHY would you choose to REWARD DOG OWNERS IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR? Where is the consideration for those of us who do not appreciate the disruption to plants and birds that these off leash dogs present? Madison's natural areas provide critical stop over habitat to migrating birds. Dog owners perpetually and relentlessly allow their dogs off leash. I see it over and over again. Please do not expand dog access in Madison. Dog owners are not the only park users. They already have plenty of access and do not need more.

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**From:** Kevin Hendryx <khendryx909@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:53 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** NO to dogs in public parks please!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Park Commissioners,

I urge all members to please retain the current prohibitions on dogs in our Madison parks.

I am very much against having dogs running around in our parks. We already have special Dog Parks and other such set aside places for dog owners. No more special privileges at taxpayer expense! I find the dogs increasingly overrunning our public spaces an inconvenience at best and a dangerous nuisance at worst. Here are my reasons:

- 1) public health -- dogs can spread diseases, parasites, and create messes. There is a reason we should keep them out of parks the same as for restaurants. I can't tell you how many times I've seen dogs allowed to urinate and defecate on floors and walkways in public places and shops.
- 2) Similar to the above, many people have pet fur allergies (or phobias) and don't want to be around animals in public parks.
- 3) Dogs are too often not controlled by owners and as long as this is not being monitored and rules enforced, the public is exposed to dogs running up to people, including small children and the disabled and elderly, potentially biting and knocking them down (I was knocked down by a dog or group of dogs when a child and had to be taken to an emergency room for stitches to close a head injury). The City could be held liable for such injuries. Loose dogs can also get into fights with one another and I don't understand why dog owners are so irresponsible as to not be more concerned about this.
- 4) Dogs endanger and disturb wildlife in parks, chasing birds and small mammals and befouling the landscape with their waste. Very few owners are cleaning up after them. They bark and ruin the peace and tranquility many of us go to parks to enjoy.

Dog owners: Not everyone loves your pet! Leave them at home!

Thank you for allowing public input and I hope you will all do the right and responsible thing and not bow to pressure of a small but vocal minority of dog owners. (You don't see cat owners making a fuss over being allowed special park privileges, do you?)

Kevin & Mary Hendryx

Madison

(Hawks Landing neighborhood)

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**From:** Kathy Campbell <kcamb1985@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:13 PM  
**To:** Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** dogs in parks

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the issue of dogs in parks. Personally, I do not support this. I enjoy going to parks to relax, and having dogs around takes that away. When my children were young, we were all attacked by a dog when we were going to get our mail. It was extremely traumatic and has stayed with us since. Don't get me wrong, I do like dogs...when I know the owners well. I go to the Madison beaches quite regularly and encounter dogs every single time. It is extremely unnerving when you are sitting on the ground and a dog you don't know comes at you, face level. Every single time, I am cringing and cowering in fear. The owners always say that he/she is a sweet dog and wouldn't hurt anyone. That's exactly what the owner of the one who attacked us said. Just because you love your dog doesn't mean the rest of us do. It's frustrating enough that the "no dog" rule at Madison beaches isn't ever enforced. There is no visible signage anywhere at the multiple beaches I have been at. Dog owners don't care about the rules when they are at parks or beaches regarding the fact that they shouldn't even be there!. It's quite frustrating that I can't go to a public place in this city (even Home Depot and many other stores) without encountering a dog. Even the farmer's market on the square is supposed to have a no-dog rule, but they are always there, and it is never enforced. If it continues like it is, I won't be enjoying the parks, beaches, or many other places because of this. Again, and I'm sure I speak for many...just because you love your dog doesn't mean that I do.

Please vote to not allow them in more places, and please find a way to enforce the existing rules throughout Madison so those of us who don't appreciate dogs in our space can enjoy the city safely and comfortably.

Regards,

Kathy Campbell

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