

Subject: Dogs in Parks

From: Dan Nordstrom [mailto:████████@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 12:17 PM

To: Knepp, Eric

Subject: Dogs in Parks

Hello,

I oppose having dogs in the proposed parks. I have seen many dog owners release them from their leashes and there is zero enforcement of this.

I live near Yahara River Parkway and feel it is not an appropriate place for dogs due to the large number of children, neighbors and wildlife who frequent these park areas.

Dogs should be able to the dog parks the city already spends significant tax dollars to maintain and offer.

Thanks,

Dan

--
Dan Nordstrom, MSSW, CAPSW, SAC-IT

Please connect with me on [LinkedIn!](#)

Miller, Nicole

From: Finn Ryan [redacted@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Park Commission
Subject: Expansion of On-Leash Dog Parks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Parks Commission,

I am not in favor of expanding the number of on-leash dog parks. I am an almost daily user of Madison parks. Almost every time I use a park, there are dogs off-leash in them. I have to avoid them while jogging or stop my exercise to deal with them so they are not aggressive, or worse, pick up my 3 yr old son so dogs do not mess with him. I have called the Park Rangers in the past.

The only thing the expansion will lead to is more off leash dogs in parks.

I urge you not to include Yahara Riverway as a place for on-leash dog use as there are tons of violations of existing dog rules in this area and adjoining Yahara Place Park.

Thanks,
Finn Ryan
Atwood Neighborhood

Subject: Dogs in Parks

From: Schmitt, Joshua
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 4:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Cc: Knepp, Eric; Romines, Charles; Oleksiak, Claire; Rutledge, Kay; Shea, Ann
Subject: Re: Dogs in Parks

Mr. Nordstrom,

Thank you for sharing your feelings on dogs in parks. I will make sure that your opinions on the issue are shared with the Board of Parks Commissioners by including your email with the supplemental materials.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to provide some background.

Our city dog parks were created in 1996 based on a user fee system. Users are required by law to purchase a permit to use the facility and the funds generated are placed in a separate fund for the maintenance and staffing of the dog parks. It has been successful model where the users of the dog parks fund dog parks themselves, and tax payers who do not support the dog parks are not forced to pay for them. It is a system where enough residents wanted to have an area for off leash dogs, the area was separated by a fence to preserve the rights to those that do not and those users that want to use the area pay a fee for use.

We are in agreement that parks, by their nature, are designed for the use and enjoyment of humans. They are an oasis from urban living, and a place where children and adults alike can experience a connection to the natural world. I am in agreement that off leash dogs prevent an unacceptable risk to that activity and that it is unfortunate that one resident to feel justified in imposing their off leash dog on another. After all dogs are required to be on leash by law.

Since the pilot concept of allowing dogs in parks was introduced, Park Rangers have taken on much of the enforcement of dogs running off leash in Madison's Parks. In 2016, nearly 200 citations were written for dogs being run off leash. This was done under the premise that if there is to be any loosening of a no dogs policy, it must come with regulation. The pilot program is less about creating an open invitation for dogs to run free, as it is able creating a system to regulate the actions of dog owners using the system.

As for the Yahara River Parkway, I am curious as to the area to which you are referring. It is a long parkway spanning nearly from lake to lake. I am aware dogs being run between Morrison and Williamson and we have addressed a few complaints in this area. North of Williamson we have heard little. I want to make sure that I have an accurate understanding of the severity of the issue so that I am directing appropriate resources. For the purposes of clarity, Yahara River Parkway is not part of the proposed expansion. Dogs have been allowed on leash in this area prior to the pilot program. I was unclear if your objection was about adding Yahara River Parkway or about the program all together.

I would be amiss to say that we are successful in addressing every situation, but every action has to start somewhere.

Thank you so much for sharing your point of view and for caring about Madison's Parks,

Josh Schmitt
Recreation Services Coordinator
Park Rangers, Aquatics and Weekend Manager on Duty
City of Madison Parks Division
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Rm 104

Madison, WI 53703
Office- 608-261-9295
Parks Manager on Duty- 608-239-7187
Park Ranger on Duty- 608-235-0448



Madison Parks - City of Madison, Wisconsin
Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter @PlayMadison.

From: Dan Nordstrom [mailto:██████████@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Knepp, Eric
Subject: Dogs in Parks

Hello,

I oppose having dogs in the proposed parks. I have seen many dog owners release them from their leashes and there is zero enforcement of this.

I live near Yahara River Parkway and feel it is not an appropriate place for dogs due to the large number of children, neighbors and wildlife who frequent these park areas.

Dogs should be able to the dog parks the city already spends significant tax dollars to maintain and offer.

Thanks,
Dan

--
Dan Nordstrom, MSSW, CAPSW, SAC-IT

Please connect with me on LinkedIn!