

From: [Dawn O'Kroley](#)
To: [Fruhling, William](#)
Cc: [Heiser-Ertel, Lauren](#)
Subject: James Madison Park Master Plan
Date: Monday, October 01, 2018 1:06:16 PM

Bill and members of the Landmarks Commission,

As staff reviews the purview of the Landmarks Commission for the improvements in James Madison Park, I ask the significance of views and the green space between Gorham Street and Lake Mendota be considered. The 1940 plan for Conklin Park included in your packet references the views from Hamilton Street and Hancock Street across the open green space to Lake Mendota. The importance of views to the Lake have been reiterated in our recent planning efforts including the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Plan, Downtown Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan. I believe Bill is quite familiar with those recent planning efforts.

The proposed approximately 750 foot long parking lot for 33 cars, even if lower than street level, has a negative impact on the existing green space, views and pedestrian access to the park.

Some thoughts on the program need and alternatives to surface parking in an urban park:

- The Capitol Square North Garage is within 750 feet of the park providing 612 Public Parking Spaces.
- Comparatively, the recently developed 9.21 acre McPike Park has zero surface parking lot stalls.
- The City-County Building is a nearby polling location with zero surface parking lot stalls.
- The submitted Master Plan and all three initial James Madison Park Master Plan design options proposed single loaded surface parking lots parallel to Gorham Street in the existing green space.

Inspired by (Park)ing Day, on Saturday, September 22nd, three resident stakeholders gathered in James Madison Park and volunteered their time to gauge support for some of the current project proposals in the JMP Master Plan. Orange survey ribbon outlining the approximate location of the parking lot resulted in a resounding lack of support for the proposed parking lot from approximately 100 people providing signatures or completing surveys. We are providing this information to Parks to positively impact the Master Plan. Survey responses overwhelmingly support natural stormwater management filtration buffer zones along the shoreline and beach access. This (Park)ing installation received significant public response in just three hours in the park with 1,500 feet of orange survey ribbon. By comparison, the July Master Plan Progress Report reported 16 interviews with individuals at the park between December 2017 and June 2018.

I live in the C.C. and Anna Collins House in James Madison Park and support the need for accessible parking and drop off, event loading, Gates of Heaven and Boathouse access as well as maintenance access. While the proposed parking layout has been described as a compromise to remove the existing parking lot, I, as well as other neighbors and stakeholders, **request the conversation and collaboration between Parks and Traffic Engineering continue** including potential to park on both sides of Butler Street or provide angled back-in parking stalls.

I also support a new shelter and public pier location at the west end of the park to improve views to Lake Mendota and provide views of the James Madison Park shoreline from Gorham Street extending from the Boathouse to Gates of Heaven. This location would be consistent with the 1939, 1940 and 1971 plans. This west location would positively support the continued use of Gates of Heaven by providing nearby accessible restrooms and gathering space.

This urban park provides an important link between the Mansion Hill and Fourth Lake Ridge Historic Districts. I appreciate your consideration of the significance of the green space and views in your review. Thank you, Dawn O'Kroley [REDACTED]