



Office of the Common Council

Ald. Ledell Zellers, District 2

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December 7, 2018

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm sorry I am unable to be at your December 12 Parks Commission meeting. There are two city committees, of which I am a member, meeting that evening; I will be going to those. I want to let you know that I support the James Madison Park (JMP) Master Plan. As you will hear from staff and the consultant, an enormous amount of work and public outreach have gone into the development and shaping of the plan. I believe the plan, once executed, will help better serve the many users of the park, including the thousands of new residents of the area that have come with the apartment building boom that has occurred in the heart of downtown as well as along the East Washington Ave corridor.

I have heard strong support for most elements of the plan, including the emergent wetland with living shoreline, the interpretive boardwalk with overlook, and the relocation of the basketball court away from the Gates of Heaven. One item which has been most controversial is the parking plan. As an alder, parking, in general, garners more than its share of concern by residents...either that there is not enough, that there is too much or that what parking there is, is in the wrong place. The parking, as proposed in the James Madison Park master plan has drawn similar comments and concerns. In my view, there is seldom, if ever, a perfect plan for parking.

Some people have advocated for having no parking in JMP. And while I believe minimizing parking in JMP is a good thing, I do not believe that eliminating it is reasonable, practical or fair. There is a need for parking since this is a community park drawing people from all over the city (and beyond). The surrounding streets have primarily 2-hour parking so cannot accommodate many who want to use the park.

The location of the parking is favored by many because some of it is closer to the shelter and boathouse than is the current parking. The proposed parking location also is closer to the street, along the edge of the park. This increases the area of contiguous open space within the park. Additionally the relocated parking eliminates the current parking which is relatively hidden and has proven an attractive place for drug dealing and other bad behavior. There were ~ 700 calls for service for this park in 2017. The JMP design team met with neighborhood police officers and the City of Madison Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) office with a goal of improving public safety in the park. Their top priority was moving and reconfiguring the parking lot to reduce loitering and blind corners.

Objections to the location of the parking are primarily due to concern for blocking views of the lake, taking land which could be used for other purposes and loss of trees.

The designers noted that lake views would not be significantly diminished since the new parking will be put in at a level lower than the sidewalk and thus will not diminish sight lines appreciably from what exists currently given the on street parking. Proposed parking was also adjusted to accommodate sight lines from the Capitol down to Hamilton Street which is a view the pedestrians, bicyclists and cars also enjoy.

One item, related to parking, as well as to shared use paths in the park, which I would like to see specifically supported in the plan is the use of permeable pavement wherever paved surfaces are installed. While this should be done in all of our parks, it is particularly important in our lakefront parks. This would emphasize and recognize the critical importance of the need to better manage stormwater as our recent flooding so clearly demonstrated.

There are 16 trees that are anticipated to be in conflict with the proposed elements (not just the parking) in the park master plan. That is one of the hardest things for me. That said the arborist's report informed the design of the parking to save the healthiest trees. Of the 16 trees, 11 are in poor health or are Green Ash or Norway Maple, the latter of which the Wisconsin DNR has identified as an invasive species.

I ask that you support the proposed JMP Master Plan. Given the increasing population of the area, we need to make the most effective use of the parkland we have...particularly parkland on the shores of our beautiful lakes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ledell Zellers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ledell Zellers
District 2 Alderperson

From: Jackie Suska [mailto: [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 1:28 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park Master Plan Parking Concern

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

I saw the the October 4th article in the Wisconsin State Journal detailing the JMP Master Plan and I have to say I'm extremely troubled by the parking lot plan. A 750 foot, 26 car parking lot along East Gorham Street will ruin the character of the park. My husband and I lived at 523 East Gorham Street (directly across from the park on the corner of Blair Street) for 20 years and 7 years respectively. When I heard about the master plan process I thought about getting involved and attending meetings but I thought they were mostly focused on the redesign of the shelter. I had no idea such big changes were afoot in an already very popular, iconic city park. I recently spoke to friends that did attend the meetings but apparently the new parking configuration was non-negotiable. Even when residents mapped out the parking area and surveyed over 100 residents in the park on September 22nd, their voices were not heard.

Here are just a few reasons why this is not the right design for JMP...

- Ruining views from the sidewalk and East Gorham Street into the park.
- It will require the removal of 7 mature trees from the edge of the park, some are shading the sidewalk
- Creating a urban heat island within an important green, cooling space
- Paving over a large area of any park is just inherently wrong...think stormwater and run off so close to the lake.
- **This design creates a dangerous traffic situation on Gorham Street by locating a driveway entrance near Blair Street. I lived on Gorham and Blair for 7 years and witnessed rear-end collisions there because of people speeding over the hill would not see traffic stopped near Blair St. Screeching brakes are a constant, daily occurrence at this location.**

We are all concerned about safety, but I just don't think that should be the only factor when considering such an important design. I think the real issue is the loitering by current basketball courts and parking lot. The basketball courts are going to be moved to the sports area near the shelter. So maybe the problem is already solved?

I hope that an alternative can be reached that reflects the needs and desires of the neighborhood. I'm completely behind elimination of the parking altogether with the exception of handicap and loading/drop off zones. Or keep a smaller lot behind Gates of Heaven.

There is a lot of good in the new master plan and I appreciate all of the time and effort that the city and residents have put into the plan. The plans for better beach access, wetlands restoration and shelter design are great ideas. I don't want all of these positives negated by such a poor parking design along East Gorham Street.

Many thanks,

Jackie Suska
[REDACTED] Spaight Street

From: tom cranley [mailto: [REDACTED]@icloud.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park parking

Hello,

The vote for final approval of the James Madison Park proposal is coming up and I would like to voice an opinion.

I live in the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood and use the park frequently with my kids.

We are excited about the new shelter, beach and storm water retention.

What concerns me is the new parking lot.

- it removes mature trees.
- it diminishes sight lines of park and lake from street and neighborhood.
- it does not accommodate more cars than the existing lot.

Are there reasons that are more important than the negative impacts?

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Cranley

[REDACTED] E Dayton St.

From: Jessica Becker [mailto: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 12:34 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Ledell Zellers < [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: James Madison Park re-design promotes flooding

Dear Plan Commission and Alder Zellers,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the plan for James Madison Park and to ask that the parking lot be removed from the plan.

Flooding and lake levels are under discussion at the city level and this huge park redesign invests lots of money and effort in the wrong direction. It is time to hit pause and reconsider.

This article, which comments on the report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, offers some thoughts on the reality of flooding and asks us to keep in mind how long it truly takes to mobilize city efforts.

When my kids are my age, downtown Madison could conceivably be underwater.

There is a lot of new and planned concrete with coming construction on the isthmus. Does an expensive overhaul of James Madison Park's shoreline with loads of new concrete surface for parking make sense without considering what the next several decades of climate change will bring to our city? Why are we prioritizing cars and concrete? Why are we removing MORE mature trees after the huge loss to the urban canopy already?

We know better and should model forward-thinking choices!

Thanks for taking the time to think about this. If there is something I can do to help, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Jessica Becker
[REDACTED] E. Dayton St.

From: Katie Silverwood [mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Proposed parking at James Madison Park

My son, who is 6, and I live on N Pinckney St. We love to walk to James Madison to play in the park and love driving home by James Madison because of the beautiful view of the lake. Even though I grew up in Madison, I am still mesmerized by the beauty of Lake Mendota in every season.

I have not been able to attend the planning meetings for James Madison, which I feel terribly guilty of, but as most, schedules are incredibly busy. While I am thrilled by the plans for the majority of the park facelift, I absolutely don't understand or agree with the proposed parking spaces, apart from the handicap and drop off zones. The new proposed parking will do the following:

- Ruin views from the sidewalk and East Gorham Street into the park
- Require the removal of 7 mature trees from the edge of the park, some are shading the sidewalk
- Create a urban heat island within an important green, cooling space
- Pave over already existing greenspace that I have enjoyed since my time in college at the UW
- Create MORE of a traffic issue on Gorham, which is not even pedestrian friendly as it is right now – if you actually want to do some good, do something so people can actually cross Gorham

While I do understand the plan is to replace existing parking spots, those parking spots do very little in the first place and there is street parking and Capitol Square North Garage, which is within 750 feet of the park. If the argument is due to a polling location, there are others nearly with no parking spots either. Also, as someone who votes at the Gates of Heaven Synagogue, I walk, and I am pretty sure if you polled the residents this would impact very infrequently, the vast majority would pick grass over concrete parking spots blocking the lake view.

Please do the right thing and preserve the beauty of Lake Mendota, the trees and greenspace for all to enjoy.

Kind regards,

Katie Silverwood

From: Jessie Chmell [mailto: [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposition to the James Madison Park Master Plan

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to the James Madison Park master plan proposal to build a parking garage in the park.

As an east side resident, I feel very strongly that one of our city's greatest assets is our green space. James Madison Park is a place that is heavily utilized. On nice days you can find many UW students, families, etc. picnicking, playing frisbee, swimming, etc. at James Madison. My husband and I enjoy walking there and take our children to play there too. It is a much needed green space in a heavily urban area. Adding a parking garage would be a terrible alteration of this space. With the removal of so many mature trees in the city this year it would be absurd to create a parking garage that would require the removal of 7 more. The parking garage would be a heat island and add to run off issues (and right next to the lake!). It would completely change the views, the park, and decrease a green space. (of which our city needs all that it currently has)

It saddens and disappoints me that this idea is even under consideration. I ask that you please do not go forward with building this parking garage at James Madison Park.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessie Chmell
[REDACTED] Spaight St.
Madison, WI 53704

From: Shawn Schey [mailto:[REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:40 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: A parking lot for James Madison Park

Dear Park Commissioners:

I am solidly against expanding the parking lot in James Madison Park.

After all the flooding from the lakes and Yahara River this summer, why would putting an urban heat island within a greenspace in downtown Madison be considered a good idea?

Removing 7 mature trees for asphalt? Really?

If you have a beautiful place and want it to be more accessible to people, turning a big portion of it into a parking lot defeats the whole purpose.

Please don't expand the parking lot at James Madison Park.

Shawn Schey

+From: Judy Sidran [mailto:[REDACTED].com]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 5:30 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parking

To Madison Parks Commission,

James Madison Park is a beautiful open space in an urban setting. Not everyone who would like to use it lives in walking distance to its access to the lake and its views, the walking paths and sports activities. So parking spaces need to be provided for all citizens to use this park.

The park is also home to Gates of Heaven, an active historic building which is being used for the Jewish Holidays, weddings and events of all kinds. People pay a lot of money to rent this building and they should have parking in close proximity. As not everyone has handicap parking passes, spaces need to be provided for all who rent this building

Thank you for your sensitivity to this issue.

Judy Sidran

garden volunteer at The Gates of Heaven and annual renter of Gates of Heaven for the Jewish Holidays

From: Zorba Paster [mailto: [REDACTED]@wisc.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 7:59 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Parking

To Madison Parks Commission,

My wife, Penny and I, go to James Madison Park a lot. She has mobility issues (i.e. uses a walker). If you take away the parking then we won't be able to go there as the street parking is:

- A. Often filled with cars.
- B. Getting out of the car on Gorham street with a walker is a *life threatening* experience that we tried once and will never try again. It's scary.

We go to the Gates of Heaven for Jewish services, wedding, funerals, etc. If you take away those spaces others, who also have mobility problems, will also be affected. You will impact their lives negatively. When you enlarged the parking, years ago, you

This is really not a small issue. For seniors, and there are more and more of us, and those with disabilities, removing these spaces will impact on their ability to use one of Madison's greatest resources - the parks.

Please don't do it.

Zorba Paster

From: Ben Sidran [mailto: [REDACTED].com]
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:57 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park

To Parks Commission:

James Madison Park is significantly different from other city parks in that it is home to the venerated Gates of Heaven, an historic building that is regularly used throughout the year for meetings, religious services, family functions (i.e. weddings, wakes) and other social occasions. Parking for participants at these events is as critical as lighting and heat in the building - without it, this venue loses much of its functionality. Street traffic is often heavy and parking, other than that provided by the city for the Gates of Heaven, virtually non-existent.

Thank you,

Ben Sidran

From: Susan Hobart [mailto:████████@wisc.edu]
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2018 11:03 AM
To: Judy Sidran <████████@gmail.com>; Park Commission
<pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Parking

To Madison Parks Commission,

I have lived in the central/eastside of Madison for over four decades, and James Madison has been a significant public space for our family and many others to enjoy. We are so fortunate that community members and City of Madison Parks have preserved the Gates of Heaven as one of the central features in this lake shore park.

Over the course of those years, I have rented and organized dozens of events in the Gates of Heaven. We have had religious services, family gatherings and community meetings in this historic site. Having parking adjacent to the building has been essential for these gatherings. It has provided vehicle access for the delivery of food and rental furnishings. It has provided a drop off point for people carrying things to the building. And most importantly, it has provided handicap accessibility for those who need close access to the venue.

As you proceed with your planning for James Madison Park, please keep adjacent, accessible parking in the forefront of your decisions. In line with its namesake, James Madison, we need to ensure equal access for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Hobart
████████ Russell Street
Madison WI 53704

From: Alon Andrews <████████@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 12:10 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Respectfully I object.

Hello, I have been somewhat disconnected from the "goings on" of Madison for a little bit, however the new proposed plan to build a massive parking garage lining James Madison Park has recently come to my attention.

I will spare you listing the litany of objections I have to this element of the project and will instead save my confusion/indignation for the upcoming public hearing. However, I felt it necessary at the very least put in writing my real lack of support for this design. It feels extremely unnecessary to me and part of a very dangerous larger shift towards the commodification of parks and outdoor services that were originally intended to make us

as a community feel whole and harmonious. A huge garage just kills that freedom, it makes us have to interact with some large unnatural structure in a beautiful natural setting. I don't like what that means for kids, especially. I mean that without spite, I truly do.

Lets consider preserving the sanctity of that wonderful park, my daughter and I have had some truly memorable times there, and I know I speak for many when I say that.

Thank you for listening with an open mind,

Sincerely, Alon Andrews

Alon Andrews, Doctoral Student
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ethnography, Digital Media + Literacy
Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction

From: Danielle Scodellaro [REDACTED]@mendotarowingclub.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2018 9:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parking at James Madison

To All,

Members of Mendota rowing club will strongly disagree with a design that does not offer parking. To say that we can just walk to the park is ridiculous and short sighted. I also would not expect any of our members to pay for parking in a parking garage and walk to James Madison at any hour of the day. The street parking situation is also not acquitted as many times in the morning there is none available yet because people have not left for the day and in the afternoon many people drive to the park for an evening or people are getting home from work. It would be nice to have signs at the parking on the east side of the park near the B&B that say park parking only. This would help as many people park there overnight and it is not regularly enforced.

If the park design does not have parking included, you will significantly hurt Mendota Rowing Club, our 88 members and the 80 or so guest we have annually.

Danielle Scodellaro
Head Coach, Mendota Rowing Club
Secretary of the Board

--

Danielle Scodellaro
Mendota Rowing Club
Cell: [REDACTED]
Alt Email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Start of Email String:

From: Kate Brunner (personal) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 9:01 AM
To: Park Commission; Zellers, Ledell
Subject: future of James Madison Park

I was just recently made aware of plans to construct a parking lot at James Madison Park. My kids and I enjoy this park year round--swimming, birthday and graduation parties in the shelter, frisbee and soccer in the grass, building sand castles, playing on the playground structure, and picnics in the amazing, huge shade trees.

Although I think more parking may be necessary in the neighborhood, there are so many downfalls to claiming parkland for pavement at this location. The recent flooding should be enough new information for the board to reconsider this plan--cutting down trees and adding more impervious surface will only add to the problem. Permeable pavement is never as efficient as soil and plants. Open space on the isthmus is limited, especially ones with mature trees and view corridor to the lake. Please reconsider the plan for increasing parking at James Madison Park.

Thanks,

Kate Brunner

[REDACTED] S Baldwin St, Madison, WI 53703

On Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 9:23 AM Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Thanks for your message and for caring about James Madison Park. I just want to be sure you understand that the parking in James Madison Park would be decreased if the proposed master plan is implemented, not increased.

We can't eliminate parking entirely from JMP; there is a need for parking since this is a community park drawing people from all over the city (and beyond). Plus the surrounding streets have primarily 2-hour parking so cannot accommodate many who want to use the park.

In addition, the relocation of the parking to be further from the lake keeps pavement and pollutants at a greater distance from the shoreline while it also increases the amount of uninterrupted open space by a few hundred square feet.

And finally, relocation of the parking eliminates the current parking which is fairly hidden and has proven an attractive place for drug dealing and other bad behavior. There were ~ 700 calls for service for this park in 2017. The design team met with neighborhood police officers and the City of Madison Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) office to improve public safety. Their top priority was

moving and reconfiguring the parking lot to reduce loitering and blind corners. The basketball courts have not been identified as a significant source of the problems...but rather the somewhat hidden nature of the parking.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best,

Ledell

Alder Ledell Zellers
608 417 9521

From: Kate Brunner (personal) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 9:56 AM
To: Zellers, Ledell
Cc: Lerner, Sarah; Rummel, Marsha; Knepp, Eric
Subject: Re: future of James Madison Park

As I see the plan, several of the large trees will be cut down for the new parking lot. Trading existing green space by creating fresh green space doesn't account for the reduction in shade and the change in the water usage between large trees and newly planted vegetation.

I understand that parking is tricky, I don't live in the immediate area and so I too need to bike, bus, or even drive. Public parking at a park is not common to other parks or public spaces on the isthmus so it seems strange to maintained here.

Kate Brunner

From: Zellers, Ledell
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Kate Brunner (personal) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: future of James Madison Park

Hi Kate,

There are indeed 7 trees which would be removed. That is one of the hardest things for me. That said the arborist's report informed the design of the parking to save the healthiest trees. The ones to be removed were reported to be in "Fair" to "Poor" condition. I'd be happy to send the species and arborist's assessment should you wish.

As you may know the other Community Park in District 2, Tenney Park, also has parking, as does Law Park, another Community Park. McPike Park does not.

I understand this is not a perfect solution for parking...there seldom is an approach to parking all agree on; however a lot of thinking, listening to input and weighing of issues and alternatives did go into the current design.

Best,

Ledell

Alder Ledell Zellers
608 417 9521

On Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 10:27 AM Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Greetings Kate – Thanks for writing in and providing your perspective on this important plan. I think an important consideration here is that there are significant environmental benefits to relocating the parking and other impervious surfaces away from the lake. Certainly the improvements proposed will have a net positive impact on retention/detention of stormwater in the park in comparison to existing (even with some tree loss). I do share your concern about loss of trees (and corresponding shorter term canopy reduction) and I have always been a fan of reduction in parking lots where practicable. I don't think we should provide paved parking at our neighborhood parks (e.g. Orton, Reynolds) and I'm skeptical of increasing parking provided at community parks. However, I don't think it is practicable or advisable to eliminate parking in a community park. Demetral, Brittingham, Tenney, Olbrich, and Burrows are the five relatively close Community Parks, all with more parking than existing or proposed at JMP. Of note, McPike Park does have some parking still to be developed from the Master Plan in the last portion we acquired. It is also important to note that at McPike the neighboring land uses and traffic grid provide more ample on street parking as well as lower speed streets to be navigated to walk across when parking on nearby streets.

Thanks,

Eric M. Knepp

Madison Parks Superintendent

608.266.4711

From: Kate Brunner (personal) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 11:12 AM
To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Lerner, Sarah
<SLerner@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: future of James Madison Park

Thanks for responding so quickly and thoroughly and letting me be part of the process. I remain disappointed in the loss of trees and focus on parking. It looks like no minds are changed, though I'm glad to know you considered the issues at hand!

Kate

From: Knepp, Eric
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 11:20 AM
To: 'Kate Brunner (personal)' <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Lerner, Sarah
<SLerner@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: future of James Madison Park

Kate – You have not convinced me that the elimination of parking is possible at this time (I hold out hope for the future), but I'm not the ultimate authority on these decisions. Staff recommends to the Board of Park Commissioners, and they adopt/amend/reject Master Plan's based on numerous factors. You have influenced my thinking here, in that I think it is a high level priority to ensure we are replanting a healthy and diverse urban canopy within the park as practicable once a plan is adopted.

We will share this exchange (and many others) with the Board of Park Commissioners prior to their meeting on this in December.

Thanks,

Eric M. Knepp
Madison Parks Superintendent
608.266.4711
www.cityofmadison.com/parks

End of email string

The master plan for the James Madison Park includes no parking in the park. This is a big mistake. Those using the Gates of Heaven synagogue for weddings, celebrations, or religious services must use the parking lot. Several of the people are often in wheel chairs

and need close access to the building. The historic building is important to the character of Madison, and of course to the park. Having no parking will end the capability of many events there and would truly be unfortunate for disabled individuals and people needing to be close to a venue.

Please reconsider your plan. It will change the character and accessibility of important parts of the park.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Hannah S Rosenthal
[REDACTED] North Livingston Street [REDACTED]
Madison, WI 53703
608 [REDACTED]

Email String:

From: Dawn O'Kroley <[REDACTED]@dorschnerassociates.com>
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 2:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Abi Barnes <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: James Madison Park Design - Public Input

Forwarding the below to all stakeholder members. We will follow up by getting the design team and city copies of all of the questionnaire responses and signatures. This (Park)ing Day inspired installation and impressive public response can have a positive influence on the design as we continue the dialog. Thanks, Dawn O'Kroley [REDACTED] E. Gorham Street

From: Abi Barnes [mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 2:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]@urbanassetsconsulting.com; SLerner@cityofmadison.com;

district2@cityofmadison.com; [REDACTED]@urbanassetsconsulting.com;
SClose@cityofmadison.com
Cc: Dawn O'Kroley [REDACTED]@wisc.edu; [REDACTED]@gmail.com;
[REDACTED]@gmail.com; [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Subject: James Madison Park Design - Public Input

All:

This past 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.

Respondents were asked six questions relating to parking, stormwater management, beach access, viewshed preferences, and shelter location. Respondents were also asked whether they supported the proposed parking lot. An image accompanied the survey to show park landmarks, and the questions were based on the design proposed at the stakeholders meeting on September 12th. Orange tape and stakes demarcated the area slated to become parking space to make it clear where the proposed parking lot would be located.

Below is a summary of our findings.

We collected over 100 signatures and 40 interviews in the park over the course of three hours. By comparison, the July Master Plan Progress Report reported 16 interviews with individuals at the park between December 2017 and June 2018, and 151 survey responses and 43 comment cards compiled over 10 months.

In response to the question of whether respondents supported the proposed parking lot, over 100 respondents stated that they do not support the proposed parking lot. The vast majority do not support additional parking generally.

Survey responses further expressed overwhelmingly support for natural stormwater management buffer zones along the northern shoreline, beach access, unobstructed views of the lake between the boathouse and the west end, and a design proposal for a west end shelter.

We consistently heard people say that the park was already great, and maintenance and keeping the park clean were big issues as far as improvement for a lot of folks. Notably, weeds and debris from the recent flooding are still covering large swaths of the park and boathouse area (see below image), resulting in a foul stench along the shoreline. Many also noted that the current shelter was a bit of an eye sore and could use an upgrade - this feedback regarding the shelter consistent with most park goer feedback to date.

Error! Filename not specified.

Debris and weeds on Monday, September 24th at approximately 11am in front of the boathouse.

On the question of shelter location, since your team recently learned that renovating the current shelter is not permitted under current zoning regulations without displaying hardship, it would seem only appropriate that an alternate location be considered.

On the topic of parking, there was overwhelming shock and dismay at the suggestion of converting any green space to concrete. Many cited a lack of need, and pointed to the ample street parking available on a Saturday afternoon.

Many respondents also questioned how the design and planning team could be so disconnected from the interests of JMP park goers.

One couple hanging in a hammock noted that the only two trees in the park where you could hang a hammock fell within the area designated for parking. This parking lot would effectively eliminate this activity.

Error! Filename not specified.

Park goers in hammock filling out our survey on Saturday, September 22nd.

In the comment section of our surveys, one respondent noted that "the size and openness of the park is part of the appeal." Another relayed that the proposed parking lot "would reduce the area of the park, thereby increasing crowding...making the park less enjoyable." Two respondents respectively referred to the proposed parking lot in the comment section as a "tragedy" and "abhorrent." One surveyor noted the correlation between lack of greenspace and depression.

Based on these findings, we urge the city and design team to consider how previous public feedback was collected and considered, and what our data suggests about how public feedback was factored into the the current design proposal and planning process to date.

As today is the final public meeting, we ask that the design team respond to this data—which is effectively a 3-hour survey resulting in unanimous rejection of the current parking lot proposed in the current JMP Master Plan—and ask that a representative from traffic engineering be present to discuss parking alternatives and safe access to the park.

We look forward to your response and seeing you all this evening. Thank you.

Regards,

Abigail & JMP Residents

On Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 6:49 PM Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hi Abigail and Dawn –

Thank you for your commitment and personal interest in James Madison Park. We will add this email to the benchmark engagement report to document your efforts. We appreciate your volunteerism to engage park users in the development of the master plan and invite you to further assist with this process by helping us add to our database of SOPARC inventories for James Madison Park. If you would like more information on this process, please feel free to email me.

As for the parking, we agree that people don't like to consider parking as a park feature. However, it's a necessary amenity in parks – especially parks that provide spaces for community events, voting, family gatherings, swimming, and programming for activities for people throughout the city. Madison Parks strives to provide an equitable park system and that includes providing accessible parking nearby to our park shelters, as well as encouraging diverse users from outside the neighborhood to use the park - many who get to the park by driving.

We understand parking is not everyone's preferred amenity, but hoped to improve it in the master plan by relocating the parking lot further from the lake to keep pervious pavement and pollutants further away from the shoreline while also increasing the amount of uninterrupted open space by a few hundred square feet. This relocation seems consistent with both your and the design team engagement efforts which noted preservation of open space as a high priority for park users. We also wanted to improve site lines into the parking lot to be consistent with CPTED design principles and conversations with Madison Police. Additionally, in hearing the concerns expressed through the engagement process regarding the parking, we have reduced the number of stalls from 39 (existing) to 33 which would serve Gates of Heaven, the new shelter, and the Mendota Rowing Club.

Regarding the overwhelming support for natural stormwater management buffer zones and unobstructed views, this goes well with the proposed master plan which proposes shoreline plantings along the northern shoreline and preserved viewsheds across the park.

Regarding maintenance, thank you for sending the information along with the photo. I know maintenance of the beach and shoreline is a continuing effort that agencies, including Madison Parks are working to improve. I have forwarded this email to Lisa Laschinger, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Services and Facilities so that she is aware of this issue.

As for the shelter relocation, we reviewed potential alternate locations early in the design process and continued to review them throughout the master plan development. That being said, providing a central building location with proximity to the beach, as well as basketball courts, parking, playground, and potential vendor amenities seemed to provide overwhelming advantages over relocating the building. It was also consistent with feedback received from focus groups and at the public meetings.

We thank you for your comments, and will review this information along with on-going feedback from the community, staff, and city committees.

At a recent public meeting, the design team seemed to imply that parking space was required in the design, and that they were simply complying with a local

ordinance. The fact that Gates of Heaven is a voting location was mentioned in the same breath, seeming to lend further credence to this argument. I believe this response was misleading and inaccurate. First, I know of no statute or ordinance that requires that a certain amount of parking space be allotted in park development plans. If I am mistaken and am missing some law on the books, please let me know. I do know that the recently developed McPike Park has no surface parking, and neither does the City County Building, which is a local polling station.

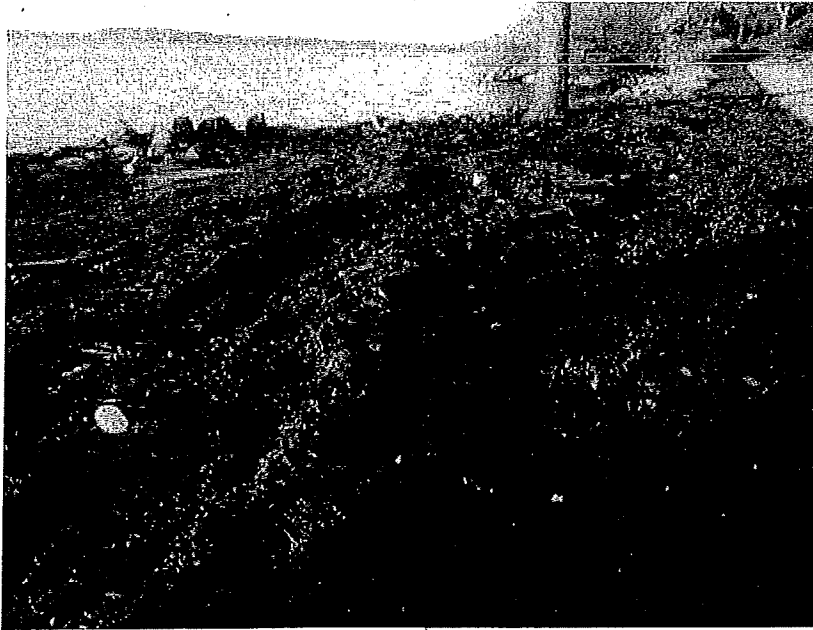
Perhaps most troubling, is that when asked why the parking lot was considered "necessary," the team cited requests from the YWCA. Why residents living three blocks from the park would request parking is disconcerting, especially when the YWCA building itself does not offer parking. If this is the leading reason for converting a large swath of greenspace to concrete, impeding the lake viewshed with rows of cars, and killing 10 trees (6 of which are +35 years old and in "fair" condition, the remaining 4 older than 50 years, and two the only trees in the park that support hammocks), I would find this deeply troubling. This explanation further calls into question the design team's ability to exercise sound judgment and how feedback was weighed into the decision-making process.

The submitted Master Plan and all three initial James Madison Park Master Plan design options proposed surface parking lots parallel to Gorham Street in the existing green space. Several alternatives were not considered in these designs: 1) angled parking along Gorham St. or parking on both sides of Butler Street ; 2) securing parking space on an adjacent property, such as the the empty concrete lot across from Gates of Heaven (I recognize this option may implicate issues of eminent domain and factoring its purchase into the budget); and 3) shorter-term parking to accommodate the duration of a typical park visitor; or 4) relying on existing public parking availability and nearby parking garages.

All of these options should have been adequately explored and an analysis of each option presented to the public. The capital cost and ongoing maintenance of a parking lot - especially considering the current lot has proven problematic - seems short-sighted and unnecessary.

Finally, any modern park design today should reflect the city's (and country's) growing initiative to incentivize walking, biking, and public transportation to mitigate traffic congestion and reduce GHG emissions.

As mentioned in my initial email, Parks Department currently struggles to meet the basic maintenance needs of the park. Trash and seaweed often litters the walking paths and beaches, and there are not enough park rangers to have one assigned to JMP. The below photo was taken last week - it took over a week for the department to clean it up, and there is still considerable trash and seaweed littering the park. I also saw several volunteers (possibly the Mendota Rowing Club) assist with the cleanup. I routinely pick up trash on my daily walks in the park.



The parking lot is one of many design projects in the proposed plan that make little sense, and go against the wishes and feedback collected from park goers. For one, adding a house at the top of Blount, which would obstruct a popular sunset viewing spot (and further eliminate green space and old, healthy trees). This proposal would also require that the city to purchase space to offset the lose of this federally-funded park land, and I have heard no discussion on this point. For another, a path cutting directly through the north end greenspace. But the most egregious and troubling by and far is the proposed parking lot.

I would encourage the Parks Department to focus its limited resources on maintenance and safety before putting funds into a design plan that strikes me as rushed, poorly-informed, unnecessarily costly, short-sighted, and inconsistent with the wishes of the majority park goers. Once the department achieves these basic functions, an iterative, thoughtful, and measured approach to projects like a new shelter, ecological restoration, extended beachfront, and an updated playground all make sense.

I sincerely hope that more reasonable minds prevail, and we have more volunteers and experts involved in the design planning process going forward.

Thank you,
Abi

11/8/18

GIGI HOLLAND

Top Board of Parks Commissioners:
The Planning process is complete for
James Madison Park & is on your
agenda for the 12/12 meeting. There
still seems to be neighborhood contro-
versy about providing some parking
for Parks users

I have volunteered gardening & maintenance
at The Gates of Heaven for 23 years.
It is a popular spot for gatherings
all year around. People pay to
rent the building. There needs to
be some parking stalls near the
Gates of Heaven.

The perfect spot for angled parking
is all along the Butler St. side.
It is not a heavily used street
and has very little foot traffic
on the side-~~street~~ walk on the Gates
side of the street. People can easily
use the south-west side. There are
good-sized trees in the Park in this
area.

Please consider the need for some
parking. Thanks

gigi holland

[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net

251-[REDACTED]

From: Dawn O'Kroley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2018 11:16 AM
To: Park Commission
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] s Madison Park Design - Public Input
Attachments: Signatures in JMP 09.22.18 2PM-5PM who do not support the proposed parking lot.pdf

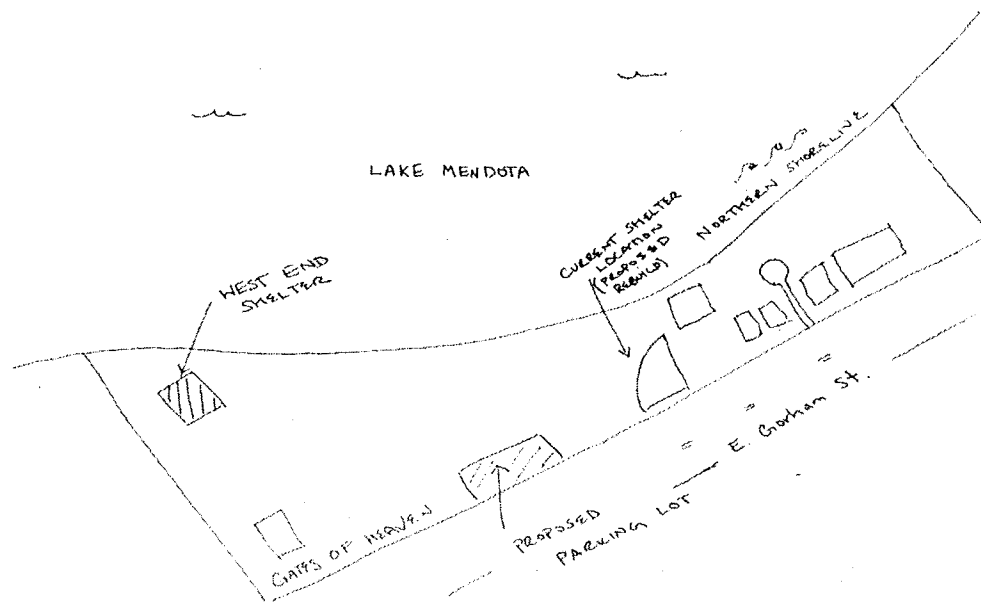
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Members of the Board of Park Commissioners,

Attached are survey responses from **over 100 individuals voicing their lack of support for the proposed parking lot**. These responses were **collected in a three-hour time period in James Madison Park** on September 22nd. In the survey results, 111 of 112 responses do not support the proposed parking lot. The below email previously sent to Parks and the design team describes the volunteer outreach inspired by Park(ing) Day.

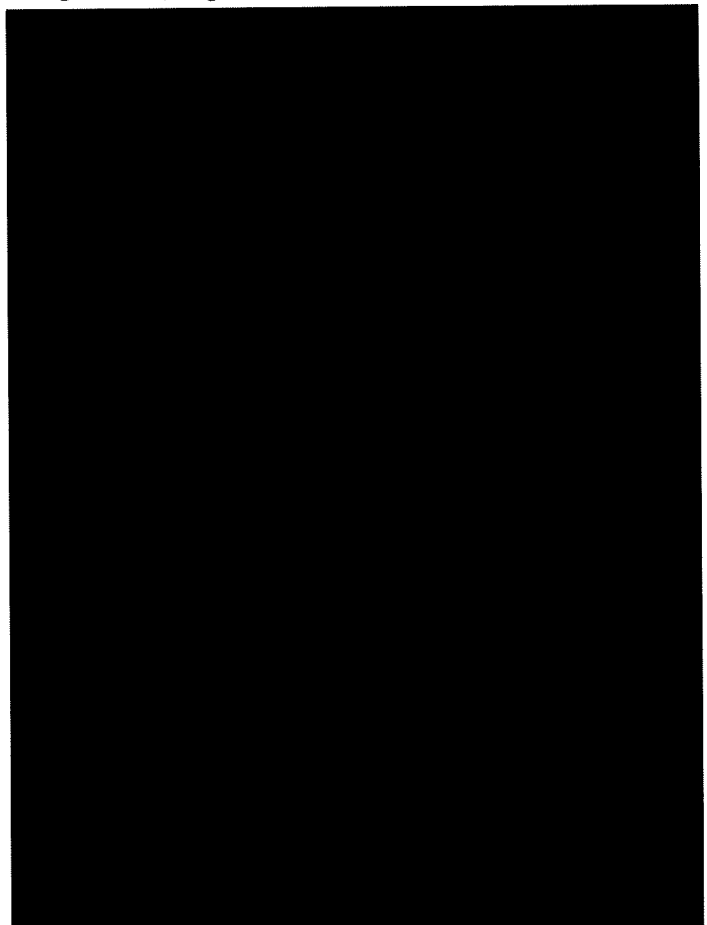
Thank you,

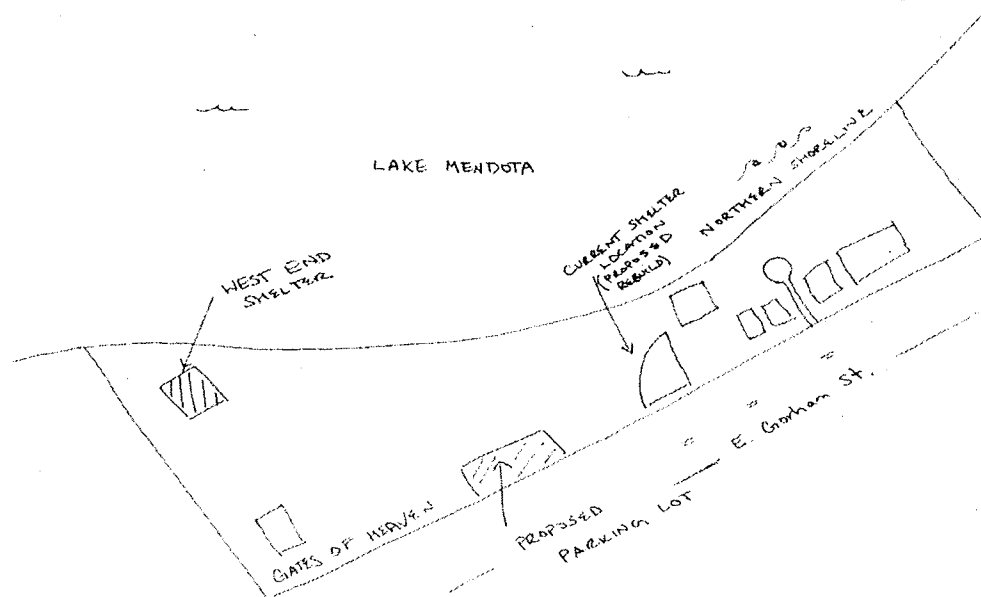
Dawn O'Kroley & JMP Residents [REDACTED] E Gorham Street



Sign below if you do not support the proposed parking lot in the James Madison Park Master Plan.

	Name	zip	email
1	Brian Tuth	53703	
2	Ana Magnuson	53562	
3	Cody Bankamp	49441	
4	Peter Cannon	53703	
5	Marsha Cannon	53703	
6	RICHARD ELATON	53715	
7	Daniel Hammersting	53503	
8	Edward Dunn	53703	
9	Erin Holmes	53703	
9	Chris Kelly	53703	
10	Megan Slinka	53703	

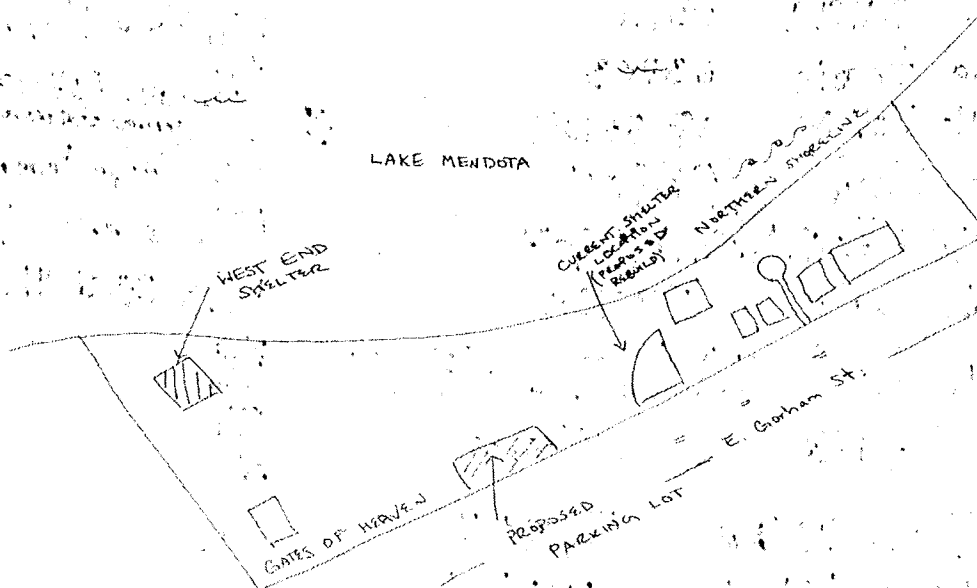




Sign below if you do not support the proposed parking lot in the James Madison Park Master Plan.

NAME	ZIP	EMAIL (OPT)
1. Nate Kornetzke	53703	
2. John Adam Woodford	53711	
3. NICHOLAS A. PUGTZ	53703	
4. Sam Naim	53703	
5. Natalie Peeschel	53703	
6. Kevin Gunzenhauser	53704	
7. Kyle Carrick	53703	
8. Ryan Bibro	53703	
9. Jordan Ellerman	53703	
10. Ted Waldbillig	53711	

Mon pm 9-24 @ Christ Presb Church.

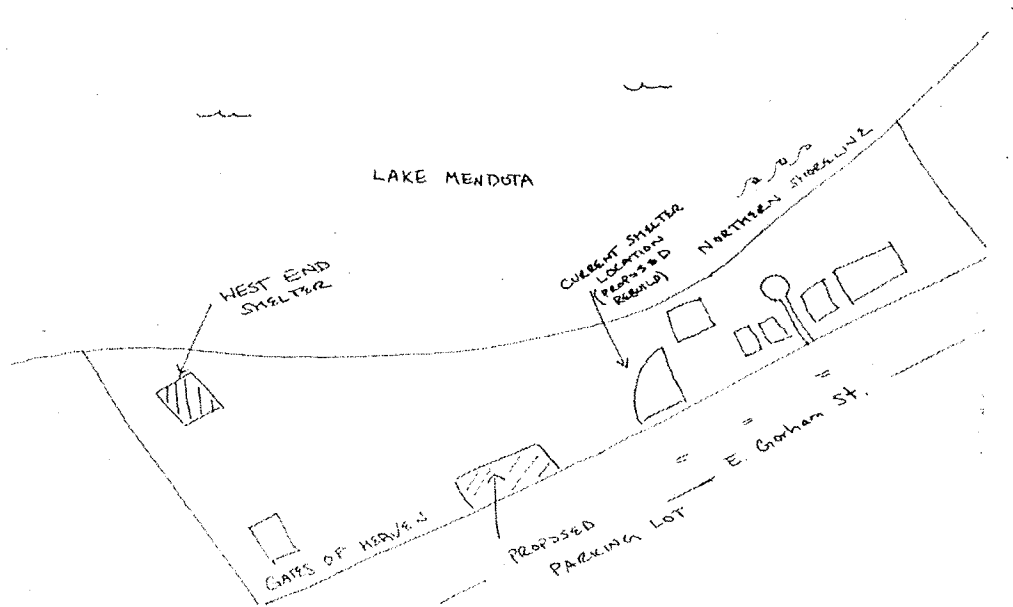


Sign below if you do not support the proposed parking lot in the James Madison Park Master Plan. Name Zip

- | NAME | ZIP |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. <i>Mr. [unclear]</i> | 53703 |
| 2. <i>Ethan H.</i> | 53716 |
| 3. <i>Brigga [unclear]</i> | 53534 |
| 4. <i>Jessica Wallis</i> | 53704 |
| 5. <i>Brittany Feuerspel</i> | 53703 |
| 6. <i>Amy Inkonglad</i> | 53711 |
| 7. <i>Gina Stuessy</i> | 53562 |
| 8. <i>Abel Keith</i> | 53715 |
| 9. <i>Arienne Tang</i> | 53562 |
| 10. <i>Miss [unclear] [unclear]</i> | 53703 |
| 11. <i>Emmanuel C.</i> | 53703 |
| 12. <i>Stacy M.</i> | 53714 |
| 13. <i>Sam H.</i> | 53703 |
| 14. <i>Stephanie Courtney</i> | 53703 |
| 15. <i>Calla Angle</i> | 53703 |
| 16. <i>Julia Stege-Reinmann</i> | 53702 |
| 17. <i>Joe Truesdale</i> | 54904 |
| 18. <i>Craig Dinsman</i> | 53711 |
| 19. <i>Karllyn Hapfensperger</i> | 53593 |
| 20. <i>Christina Gorman</i> | 53703 |
| 21. <i>Pat Gorman</i> | 53718 |
| 22. <i>Savannah JOHNSON</i> | 53703 |
| 23. <i>Michelle Lemach</i> | 53711 |
| 24. <i>Ethan Fassbender</i> | 53711 |
| 25. <i>Tejas Prakash L</i> | 53705 |
| 26. <i>Ashvit Katturi</i> | 53703 |
| 27. <i>A. [unclear]</i> | 53713 |
| 28. <i>Sandra Lokongai</i> | 53711 |
| 29. <i>LE MERCIER Manoa</i> | 53711 |

Name	Zip Code
31. Rachel Raslee	53711
32. Marisol Garcia	53711
33. Halima Hodzic	53703
34. Maggie Donm	53704
35. John Smith	53704
36. Kelsey Kunovich	53703
37. Sarah Galle	53703
38. Amanda Davidson	53711
39. Ira HAFSE	53703
40. AJ DELLINGER	53704
41. Natalie Aldrich	53726
42.50 Samah Abdullah	53703
43.51 Brezi Perdue	53704
44. Robert BERTER	53533
52	

41. Kirk Long	53705
42. Matt Burns	53713
43. Blaise Westring	53716
44. Kyle McFarlane	
45. Jen AHLSTROM	53704
jen.ahlstrom@gmail.com	
46. Ustyn Franklin	60174
47. Colleen O'Brien	53713
48. Elizabeth Wertstein	53703
49. DAVID ZOPPO	53713
50. KARI MEISSEN	53703



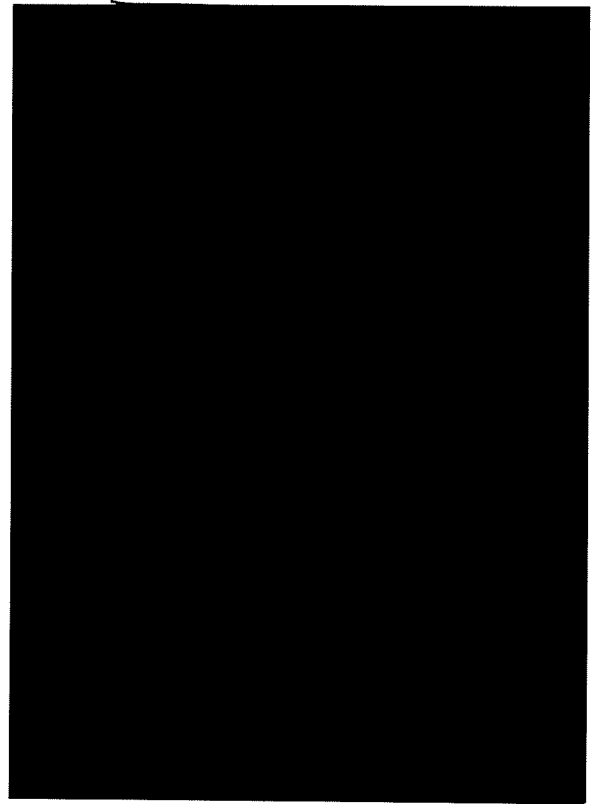
Sign below if you do not support the proposed parking lot in the James Madison Park Master Plan.

NAME

ZIP

EMAIL (OPT)

1. Michael Martino 53703
2. Paige Stock 53703
3. Jakob Gnirke 53703
4. Emma Kvatterud-Johnson 53703
5. Harrison Perlstein 53703
6. Benjamin Raffel 53706
7. JOHANNA VAN NOORDEN 53703
8. Annie Schlager 53703
9. Lukas Gnirke 53703
10. Abigail Berns 53703
11. TANN OKROLEY 53703



☐ indicates both signature and full survey

AND ADDITIONAL FULL SURVEY RESPONSES
W/O SIGNATURE FORM THAT DO NOT
SUPPORT THE NEW PARKING LOCATION
PROPOSED:

1. NICKI HADGEN 53704
2. BRYAN SCHAUVE 53703
3. NO PREFERENCE [REDACTED] @Hdmail.ca
4. AARON BRADY 53704
5. CONNIE NADLER 53703
6. 53703 S.
7. 53703 S.G.F.
8. 53703 C.N.
9. D.P.
10. 53703 W. CANNA
11. ERIN QUINN ROBERTS 53719
12. DILLON MITCHELL 53703
13. DEAN NELSON 53703
14. JUSTICE 53704
15. STEVE MICHE
16. AMBER NABIGUT 53711
17. DEBBY JAMES 53703

James Madison Park Park(ing) Day September 22, 2018 2PM-5PM. 41 Full Survey Responses:

1. Do you support new parking space in the park?

[YES]	7
[NO]	33
[NO PREFERENCE]	1

2. Do you support the new parking lot location proposed for the James Madison Park Master Plan?

[YES]	1
[NO]	39
[NO PREFERENCE]	1

3. Do you support a natural stormwater filtration buffer along the north edge {northern shoreline}?

[YES]	41
[NO]	0

4. A. Do you support a public pier and natural stormwater filtration buffer to replace the current concrete wall? The buffer would separate boat traffic from the sand beach and boathouse docks.

[YES]	28
[Yes – No Pier]	1
No Pier	1
[NO]	1

Or alternate question: B. Do you support sand beaches to replace the concrete wall?

[YES]	9
[NO]	0
Unsure	1

5. Would you like to see the Master Plan propose a new shelter at the west end of the park nestled in the trees at the base of the hill?

[YES]	28
[NO]	4
[NO PREFERENCE]	8
No response	1

6. A. Do you support lake and shoreline views from Gorham Street that are unobstructed by a shelter between the boathouse and the Gates of Heaven?

[YES]	29
[NO]	2

Or alternate question: B. Do you support unobstructed lake and shoreline views from Gorham Street between the boathouse and Gates of Heaven?

[YES]	8
[NO]	0
[No response]	1
No preference	1

Additional comments:

1. The size and openness of the park is part of the appeal. The money made from off-site parking supports the city.
2. Flooding + Farm-run-off pollution need to be guarded against.
3. The proposal would be a TRAGEDY!! I am a life long resident and do not approve of any new concrete.
4. Just finding out about this – as a Madison resident I find this notion absolutely abhorrent.
5. No reduction in green area.
6. Angled parking on street would be great!
7. I live down the street at [REDACTED] N. Franklin Street and don't want it to change! I love the park!!
8. No parking lot as it would reduce the area of the park thereby increasing crowding. That would make the park less enjoyable. It would also decrease green space, which decreasing green space is positively correlated with depression rates.
9. The new parking area is atrocious! It appears to be 1/3 of the current park. I've lived in Madison my whole life and have never felt that James Madison Park was lacking so much parking it needs to repave the amt being suggested. I was and am appalled with the area that is requested. We need more green & to keep our precious trees. Please create an alternative. I propose angled parking along the street. I use this park frequently w/ family & friends and never have had issues parking.
10. Question 3 (Do you support a natural stormwater filtration buffer along the north edge?) comments:
 - a. Indeed!
 - b. Prefer west end.
11. Question 4 (Do you support a public pier and natural stormwater filtration buffer to replace the current concrete wall? The buffer would separate boat traffic from the sand beach and boathouse docks.) comments:
 - a. No pier/use existing @ Edgewater.
12. Question 5 (Would you like to see the Master Plan propose a new shelter at the west end of the park nestled in the trees at the base of the hill?) comments:
 - a. Or East End.
 - b. Put parking between Gates of Heaven & Shelter.
 - c. No shelter at all.
 - d. Would like daytime only restrooms.
 - e. Prefer to keep the same shelter. Like the greenery that grows on top.
13. Question 6 (Do you support lake and shoreline views from Gorham Street that are unobstructed by a shelter between the boathouse and Gates of Heaven?) comments:
 - a. Leave open!!
 - b. Please leave maximum open space & view.

Comments on the James Madison Park Draft Master Plan dated December 12, 2018

- I like the overall landscaping plan and the layout of active and passive activity areas in the park. I especially like the interpretive boardwalk and emergent wetland area with a living shoreline. However, I foresee increased maintenance issues with these features.
 1. This type of shoreline will catch and hold lots of floating debris both natural and manmade. This area will require a concerted effort by the parks department to keep it looking as intended. I propose that volunteer groups be enlisted to help maintain this area as an educational tool for the general public. The volunteer efforts could be undertaken and documented in a manner that educates the public about natural processes and the effects of environmental pollution on our lakeshore parks.
 2. The boardwalk must be strong enough to withstand high water; strong waves; ice heaving and ramping in the winter; and ice shoves in the spring. If this is deemed not possible, the boardwalk should be designed so it can be removed in the fall and put back in place in the spring. The land areas directly under the boardwalk will tend to accumulate debris deposited by wind and wave action so having the individual boardwalk sections easily removable would facilitate in removing debris and trash that will build up under the boardwalk.
 3. All rip-rap and large rocks utilized along the lakeshore should be natural glacial cobbles and boulders to better simulate a natural glacial lakeshore. Please do not use crushed or blasted limestone anywhere in the park as it has a harsh and manmade look.
- I worry about the park access road and associated parking stalls. These amenities could end up being used for unwanted activities associated with drug sales or sexual pickups so advanced surveillance cameras need to be installed in the park to monitor park use at all times. I would prefer that this central city park be free of any pavement areas for vehicular traffic and parking and that future redevelopment on adjoining blocks along Gorham Street incorporate some shared parking structures that could become available to the public during the day.
- I will be glad to see the old concrete bunker shelter gone. However, the schematic placeholder shelter concept shown in this master plan is the ugliest modern building design I have ever seen! I would much prefer a structure made with natural stone or real brick and perhaps some real stucco walls that are colored with muted natural earth-toned colors. A building that has an earthy natural look that blends into the park much like some of Frank Lloyd Wright's work vs. an angular structure made with ugly and harsh white and turquoise walls. These surfaces are too stark and clash with other aspects of the master plan. The new park shelter needs to blend with the natural landscape. The schematic placeholder shelter concept shows see-through guardrails that imply glass or plastic will be used. Please don't do this! The glass or plastic will become dirty and scratched with graffiti in short time and will be impossible to keep looking nice (just like all of our fancy new expensive bus shelters on State Street). A better guardrail

system would be stainless steel top rail and posts with stainless steel aircraft wires stretched between them.

- The sun canopies on the placeholder shelter roof are too angular and ugly. If made of tinted plastic or glass as implied, this roof will look dirty in no time and would not be able to withstand snow and ice loading. Instead, plant canopy trees around the shelter so that they can eventually grow to shade the rooftop area. Also a system of poles with fabric sun shades stretched between them in the summer would be an attractive way to partially shade the rooftop area until the trees reach their mature height. Some white or burr oaks would look nice surrounding the new shelter. Remember to provide enough tree friendly topsoil and subsoil so that the tree roots can be healthy and help the trees to grow to be huge canopy trees as intended.
- Surrounding the placeholder shelter concept, the numerous stairs and the patio area bordered by steps with no railings are not handicapped accessible and hazardous for anyone else. This would be especially true in the winter when snow and ice would render the stairs unusable unless salted regularly. Make this park a salt-free zone! The shelter area needs to be designed with access by safe and handicap accessible sidewalks and patio areas keeping any outdoor stairways to a minimum.
- The elevator cubical partially blocks the view of the lakeshore from the shelter rooftop. The elevator seems like a waste of money for a one story building. But if deemed necessary, put an elevator and stairway in the northeast half of the shelter and cover the larger elevator and internal stairs box with a secondary observation deck roof that has a ramp down to the existing rooftop level.
- The restrooms at the shelter should be large enough to provide clothing changing areas for swimmers. Will the new shelter have a shower area for rinsing off lake water after swimming? Perhaps an open air showerhead on a pole near the beach could work out better. The outdoor showerhead could be designed to provide a brief stream of warm water that then shuts off for a set period of time before resetting again for the next user. This would keep people from over using the shower area for extended time periods. The shower could be triggered by motion sensors and be timed to only work during set hours.

Ron Shutvet
Madison WI

From: jane okrolej [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 09, 2018 6:15 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park

Board of Park Commissioners,

This is ruining the natural beauty of a park for a parking lot. I have lived in Madison since 1953.