

From: Toni Brown <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:08 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Parking Lot

I am a Madison resident and would like to voice my concern over the parking lot proposal for James Madison Park. Don't we have enough surfaces in the city that have been paved over? The Tenney-Lapham area is a beautiful and historic neighborhood, please leave the park and green space alone.

Thank you,
Toni Brown
[REDACTED] Oak Creek Trail
Madison, WI 53717

From: Aaron Patterson <[REDACTED]@epic.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:14 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: vote NO on expanding the parking lot at James Madison Park!

As a Madison city resident for many years I disheartened to hear that the city is planning to replace a significant amount of green space is one of our most important parks with a large parking lot. This is unsightly and will ruin the park as a venue for pickup sports games like soccer, ultimate, football, etc.

In the future we will have self-driving car services which will reduce the need for parking downtown. We will still need green spaces and public parks. The parks commissions should plan for the future.

Aaron Patterson
[REDACTED] N Owen Dr

From: Riley Anderson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: In Opposition to James Madison Park Plan

As a long time resident of the neighborhood and a frequent user of the park across all seasons, I oppose the proposed parking lot addition in the strongest terms. To do such violence to this signature of Madison, the unbroken green expanse that greets you as you enter downtown on Gorham, in favor of a marginal number of additional parking spots in an area replete with parking options, is short-sighted and at odds with the values of the resident community. The argument that this will increase contiguous green space misses the point; this plot of grass, in its exact dimensions and location, is loved by the community just as it is, and once chopped up and paved with asphalt and populated with cars it will no longer be our park.

If loitering in the current parking lot is the spooky problem behind this drastic misfire, there are certainly solutions that do not irreversibly scar the face of the park. I lived at [REDACTED] N Butler, across the street from the current parking lot, and would argue that any loitering-related issues would simply be displaced to a new parking lot, or, more likely, to the new basketball court.

I love this park. I love that plot of grass. It is, hands down, the most valuable plot of land on the isthmus for anyone who likes recreational sports or sunbathing in the summer, which is to say, virtually everyone who lives nearby. If someone is keen on driving to James Madison, the extra block or two that they are required to walk from their parking spot is no deterrent. Convert regular parking spaces to handicap spaces in the existing lot; it would also help with the current loitering problem.

I was simply sick to my stomach when I saw the Isthmus article illustrating the proposed footprint of a new parking lot. That 8 trees might be cut down in favor of asphalt is insult to injury. I've chosen to live in this neighborhood in no small part due to that plot of grass. I urge the city to listen to the community, to try and understand how precious this piece of land is to the people who enjoy it every day. Land is the most finite of resources on an isthmus, and while I understand that the infrastructure is being pushed to its limits, this short-sighted plan sets a dangerous precedent: that any piece of land, no matter how precious to the community, is liable to be prostituted for parking.

Concerned,

Riley Anderson

From: Joe Dewitt <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:38 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison

I live in downtown Madison nearby to the park, and have spent 10 years of my life here including college. These kinds of changes make it increasingly likely that I'll be leaving Madison for a bigger city in the near future. Truly the park will be ruined by these changes. Thanks for nothing.

--

Joseph Dewitt
(920) [REDACTED]

EMAIL STRING

From: Gregory Gelembiuk <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:51 PM
To: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: James Madison Park Master Plan

Hi Ledell,

I have great respect for you as well. I was disappointed to hear that you were retiring as alder - and wish you success in all your future endeavors.

I added the statement about the basketball courts to my e-mail at the last minute, prompted by comments from someone else. I recognize that basketball courts are retained in the plan. I have some concerns about the perception that the courts attract "unwanted" individuals. I do generally support structural design arrangement to reduce problem behaviors (a key theme of problem oriented policing), but it's a complex topic (which can intersect with racial equity issues, etc.).

I am opposed to the parking space plan. I and many others really value the extent of the existing grassy expanse. That's the primary reason I sent the e-mail.

Best,

Greg

From: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Gregory Gelembiuk
Cc: Park Commission
Subject: Re: James Madison Park Master Plan

Hi Greg,

As you know (I think) I have great respect for you and your analysis and perspective. That said, I'm disappointed in this email. While there may be disagreement over aspects of the proposed JMP master plan, from the beginning, there was commitment to retaining both basketball courts and to retaining parking since this is a community park used by a diverse community from across the city. Keeping the amenities that make the park attractive to a diverse community was an important value throughout the planning process.

Best,
Ledell

Alder Ledell Zellers
608 417 9521

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From: Gregory Gelembiuk <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:19 PM
To: Park Commission
Cc: Zellers, Ledell
Subject: James Madison Park Master Plan

Dear Parks Commission Members,

I am writing in opposition to the James Madison Park Master Plan. I'm a resident of the near east side, and I use James Madison Park regularly.

In particular, I'm strongly opposed to the installation of the proposed parking lot. I've virtually never seen a shortage of parking along Gorham St, and there are public parking ramps not far away. I think my own views on this reflect the general sentiments of most people in the area. Please listen to what people are saying! Moreover, as someone else noted "*this really just sounds like an excuse to get rid of 'those people' playing basketball.*"

END EMAIL STRING

From: John Martin (gmail) <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:52 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Please think of an alternative to the James Madison Park[ing Lot]

I'd be okay with it if, to offset it, there were a greenway connector to another park.

By the way, Olbrich Neighborhood Park needs attention. The mulch pile slated to block the park view of the renovated Garver should be moved to block Olbrich's green shed-tent. And the HVAC in the new hoop houses generate a low hum (e.g. <https://russellbarthhasablog.wordpress.com/2012/07/09/killing-people-slowly-with-low-frequency-sound/>) that wakes me up at night despite earplugs.

Thanks,
John Martin
[REDACTED] Lindbergh St, Madison, WI 53704

From: Jeffrey P. W. <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: No extra parking for James Madison Park

As a long-time downtown resident, I am opposed to any additional parking in James Madison Park, and any healthy tree removal. I consider this park a sacred spot on the Isthmus and don't want it paved any further. I support the rest of the proposed plan, but not the parking. There is a parking ramp a block and a half away that I know many folks use when visiting the area. Thank you for considering my input.

Jeffrey P. Worthen
[REDACTED] West Gilman Street

From: Katy Brown <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:26 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Parking lot in James Madison Park

Hello,

I know it's last minute but as resident of Madison I would like to express that I am strongly opposed to a parking lot encroaching on the land of James Madison Park and all future plans of this nature. The environmental impact considering the floods we have experienced in the past year is being neglected as an issue. This plan also operates on the premise that more parking is desperately needed, but this has not been proven either for the area or the city as a whole. Many lots sit empty most days, and the slight cost to convenience is more than made up for not just materially but aesthetically as well.

Thank you,
Katy Brown

From: Kayne Neigherbauer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:43 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park

Just writing to express my (almost late) opposition to any addition to parking at James Madison Park. There are plenty of parking options in the area, sidewalks, public transport, bike lanes, and b-cycle if residents want to visit the park. Our parks should be used for open space and enjoying the outdoors and parking should be left to the street or nearby structures.

Thanks

Kayne Neigherbauer
[REDACTED] Holborn Cir
Madison

From: Eric Staats <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:49 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison park redesign

Hi,

I appreciate the effort to continue to enhance Madison's excellent parks and outdoor space. I recently saw the new design for James Madison, and I want to express my feeling that the proposed parking solution would be a step backwards for the park.

Part of what makes James Madison special is the large open space, starting from Gorham and going all the way to the water. It's a really striking expanse, and unique to the downtown area, as far as I know. The parking lot and basketball courts remove that, and I think that's a shame.

I'm not opposed to the idea of more (or more centralized) parking, but looking at the plan, it seems that much of the paved area will be a road for cars to enter/exit the parking lot. It seems to me that you could get more parking and preserve more green space by going with a traditional rectangle lot with a single entrance/exit.

I know you considered many factors when drawing up the current plan, and I hope this email is one more you consider.

Thanks,
Eric

From: Kaitlin Marquardt <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:51 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposing James Madison Parking Lot

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to James Madison park since I cannot attend the meeting tonight. I am a long term Tenney-Lapham resident, I have lived directly across from the park for 7 years. There's never a shortage of street or other parking.

I would like justification for why we would be paving over more green space and removing 8 trees in a city with flooding issues. I think this will seriously detract from the natural beauty of James Madison. Particularly since the parking lot will be between the street and the lake.

I think this park plan is also racist, since it was apparently meant to prevent loitering by the basketball courts by increasing visibility of parking. And the majority of people there are black. James Madison is not far from Madison's first black neighborhood.

The majority of residents do not want these changes. Please stop moving forward with this proposal and present better options.

Thank you,
Kaitlin Marquardt

From: John Jacobs <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 6:00 PM

To: Cheeks, Maurice <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Moira Harrington <moira@aqua.wisc.edu>; Ragland, Nancy <ntragland@gmail.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Do NOT approve James Madison Park plan

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners,

Please do NOT approve the plan for James Madison Park with a long, inefficient parking lot that will spoil this iconic, landmark park in the very heart of our state's Capital city.

Yesterday I was horrified to learn that the plan will add a large parking lot in the viewshed to Lake Mendota. Folks I've spoken with since yesterday are also dismayed at the plan. I'm sure many other Madisonians will be upset if you wreck the personality of one of our city's finest assets by following the current plan.

Today, I heard of an alternative plan that would relocate the shelter to the west end and keep the parking lot there as well - perhaps in a slightly different configuration. As a former Mendota rower, this makes a whole lot of sense to me.

When I rowed at Mendota, I'd frequently use the parking lot behind Gates of Heaven for our morning practices. While the existing lot is way across the park from the boathouse, it worked out fine for me.

Relocating the new shelter to the west end would allow a west-end parking lot to efficiently serve Gates of Heaven and the new shelter. Locating the shelter to the west end would also separate two activity centers - the boathouse and the shelter - thereby providing a better, safer experience for users of each center.

A public dock - probably associated with the shelter- should not be near the rowing dock. These are incompatible.

A west-end shelter would also allow **more greenspace in the middle of the park**. This sounds like **a winner!**

Don't ruin James Madison Park with a large, inefficient parking lot along Gorham Street.

Improve James Madison Park. Please don't approve the current plan.

Thank you.

John Jacobs

From: Wally Graeber <[REDACTED]@slowfoodmadison.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 6:04 PM
To: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposing Parking increase for James Madison Park Master Plan

Dear Commision and Alder,

As a student of Landscape Architecture and user of James Madison Park I am writing to voice my concerns for the half acre of new parking in the three versions of the Park master plan.

I am unsure what studies you took a look at which showed that the street parking was insufficient for vehicular users of this site. I am unsure what tactics have been used to increase safety interest he existing parking area. But please do share with the public how the new "improvements" will outweigh the reduction of green space in the park.

Before removing multiple healthy 50+ year old trees, introducing new curb cuts along a busy route, and disturbing the park for a year, I would highly encourage a rexamination of the reason & "benefits" behind bribing this part of the master plan to fruition.

There are many neighborhood & city supporters of a healthy, accessible, & a water quality improved park. I do not believe this plan positively works on any of these attributes.

Wally Graeber

From: Emily Reynolds <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 6:15 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park parking lot

Hello,

I am unable to make the public meeting tonight though have attended public meetings for the Master Park plan in the past. I wanted to reach out and formally express my dismay that the James Madison Park Master Plan continues to include the creation of a large parking lot in the park. Yes, yes, we know that the planners don't think it's that big a parking lot. It is.

Who is asking for this parking lot? Where are the documented public appeals for a parking lot to be added in the location being proposed? I know there are some disgruntled people who work close to the current parking lot and basketball courts who have to deal with seeing a lot of things they'd rather not see, and hearing loud music all the time, not to mention the sound of basketballs. But that's the result of there being basketball courts there, not parking.

Adding additional impervious surfaces to a park that is at repeated risk of flooding makes absolutely no sense, especially when considering that most cities are working hard to encourage their residents not to drive in their central downtown areas. Adding parking spaces actually increases the amount of cars on the road, rather than simply giving existing cars a place to park (<https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2016/01/the-strongest-case-yet-that-excessive-parking-causes-more-driving/423663/>).

I live right across the street (at [REDACTED] N Hamilton) from the proposed area where the new parking lot would go. I walk across that street most mornings to get to the bus stop. It is a hectic, dangerous, terrifying intersection, and increasing the total amount of cars and ALSO creating MORE confusion by adding more places for cars to go is going to get someone killed.

And since I live right across the street, I can tell you: there is a surprisingly ample amount of street parking, right there, on East Gorham! It is not hard to find a space at any time of day!

If you want to accommodate disabled park patrons, put a small new parking lot dedicated for that purpose RIGHT next to the new shelter, not a couple hundred feet away from it (?!).

Nobody wants this. It's bad for the environment. It's bad for the community. It's bad for pedestrians. It's bad for bicyclists. It's bad for the city. Look at the master plan again and focus on the parts that are good in multiple ways--specifically the new proposed wetlands on the shore and the other flood mitigation proposals. This is where your energy needs to be, not on paving over beautiful open green space to create a parking lot literally nobody wants. We all know that the very first thing you're going to do out of the plan if this gets approved is put in a parking lot, because it's cheap and fast. Please, don't do this. Be thoughtful, and careful, and listen to your community.

It is rare to see wide open green space downtown in a city. Don't ruin that, please.

I am copying my alder on this email. Thank you,

Emily

From: Anna Wall <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 6:19 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park Renovation

Hello,

I live two blocks from the park. Please do not put a parking lot along Gorham! I see that some changes need to be made overall, but I don't think the new parking lot is necessary. I think it would be damaging to what makes James Madison so special, all the green space it provides. My friends are fellow park goers and also oppose the parking lot.

Please consider modifying the plan and giving the public more design options.

Sincerely,

Anna Wall

From: Ed Feeny <[REDACTED]@tds.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:20 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison park

I just saw the Isthmus article about adding a parking lot to James Madison Park. I would like to say that green space in the downtown area is precious. A parking lot is not needed there, and would be detrimental to the park. Please do not approve this proposal.

Thank you,
Ed Feeny

From: dmoriarty <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:04 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park parking lot issue

Dear Parks Commission,

I appreciate the thoughtful work that has gone into the James Madison Park Master Plan (which I just learned about).

I am greatly concerned about the proposal to move the parking to the more prominent location along Gorham Street. I have never found parking near the park to be a problem. Having lived near this park in the past, I appreciate the unique aesthetic aspects of this park and am familiar with its varied users and uses at different times of day and at different times of the year.

My concerns can be summarized as follows:

- 1) For many visitors from out of town, and the tens of thousands of people who interact each day with the park by driving by it, this design trades a view of the lake through a greenspace (and the amazing sunsets) for a view through a parking lot. A grassy berm view is also now enjoyed by people in the park looking back towards Gorham Street. Although it has been suggested otherwise, this fundamental visual insult will not be effectively mitigated by the parking lot surface being somewhat lower than the sidewalk. Please don't turn James Madison Park into the same unsightly "parking lot next to the lake" that Law Park used to be.
- 2) Parking lots mean permanent lighting fixtures and glare, along with headlights shining into residences and into traffic. The impacts to habitat and quality of life are significant, but almost always overlooked in Madison (a lake-based city with no lighting ordinance).
- 3) Because salt will inevitably be applied to the parking lot surface and cars will also bring it in, this plan will lead to the permanent poisoning of the soil underneath and surrounding the parking lot. Parking lot salt was responsible for a number of large trees dying near Vilas Park Tennis courts a few years ago.
- 4) I am concerned that crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) rationale seems to be in play on this parking lot issue. I would caution decision makers that application of CPTED principles is highly subjective, and it is regularly employed as an opaque and therefore inarguable justification for all kinds of projects, often at the expense

of greenspace, and often appealing to racist biases and fear of crime. In any event, the answer to the question of whether a legitimate, formal CPTED analysis was actually done and actually supports the proposal that is being pushed is almost always "no".

5) I love Madison for its greenspaces and parks. In general, I feel that Madison Parks Department does a great job of aesthetic design, maximizing use, and habitat protection. I am concerned that the Parks Department will lose a lot of credibility and effectiveness into the future if such a high-profile mis-step is executed.

6) It is likely that a parking lot more visible to traffic on Gorham will rarely be available to those wanting to visit JMP by car, as it will be constantly filled by drivers shopping downtown, visiting nearby restaurants, or visiting friends in adjacent apartment buildings.

7) Let's design for the future. Cars are on the way out.

Thanks,
Dan Moriarty

From: S Lilyestrom <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:18 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please Reconsider Parking at James Madison Park

Hi,

Please, please, please, do not build a lakefront parking lot where we currently have a park.

I can't really explain how much I object to this as a frequent park user (and I get there by bike, bus or uber, and am totally ok with this).

To be honest, I thought I was reading an Onion article:...

Thanks,
Joe

From: Marta-Laura Suska <[REDACTED]@googlemail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:29 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: James Madison Park

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing you regarding the plan of turning beautiful green space in the James Madison Park into a parking lot. I am appalled by the proposed changes which would encourage cars instead of bikes, ruin the esthetics of the park and reduce valuable public green space. It also seems like an entirely unnecessary use of money while there has yet to be a lot done to make bike paths safer and keep the lakes clean.

As someone who walks the park daily, I strongly oppose the parking lot in James Madison Park.

Best,
Marta-Laura Suska

From: Layla Merrifield <[REDACTED]@districtboards.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 8:30 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison park

I'm opposed to the plan to ruin James Madison's views and green space with an expansive strip of pavement and parked cars. It would be a travesty to pave over an iconic, beloved park. I've played with my kid, rowed crew, and celebrated toddler birthdays in the park over the past 18 years, and I've made do with parking on the street. I hope the city can come up with a more creative solution to visibility concerns without killing the park.
Thanks.

Layla Merrifield
[REDACTED] Pleasure Drive
Madison

From: Pat & David <[REDACTED]@tds.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 7:40 AM
To: Park Commission
Cc: Zellers, Ledell
Subject: Comments on James Madison Park Master Plan

Good Morning,

We are a family residing in district 2, between James Madison and Tenney Parks. We treasure our Parks and open space.

We would like to take this opportunity to weigh in on some aspects of the city's proposed design of James Madison Park presented in the Master Plan. Specifically, any net increase in paved or car-accessible areas should not happen. New net increase in impervious surfaces should be avoided at all parks, but specifically at James Madison which sits ON the lake. The proposed design does not meet the goals of the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Plan, particularly with respect to the new parking area adjacent to Gorham Street which we think is the most concerning of the design. Parking has always been an issue, but this is a neighborhood park easily accessible by foot and bicycle (and boat!). Encouraging more sustainable forms of transportation to the Park should be the focus for James Madison Park. Minimize parking to only those requiring special access - handicap parking and the bare minimum parking needed for the Gates of Heaven.

Thank you all,

Pat Smith & David Panofsky

From: Kelda Helen Roys <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Park Commission; Zellers, Ledell; Cheeks, Maurice
Subject: NO to more parking at James Madison park

I read with dismay the city's proposed changes to the master plan for James Madison park. My family and I use this park frequently, often traveling by car. We have never, ever had a problem finding parking within a block of the park, even during peak use of the park and Gates of Heaven. There are so many reasons that this is a backwards-looking proposal that should be rejected outright.

We don't need more parking. There is ample parking in and around the park, in the current lot, on the surrounding streets, and in public parking ramps very close to the park. Over the long term, with increasing demand for public transit, autonomous vehicles, and ride-sharing, private automobile use should actually go down and be discouraged. Cities are moving away from cars as younger people don't want to rely on them - both because of climate change and because of the expense/lifestyle limitations that come with car ownership. This isn't a remote suburban park that people drive to - it's 3 blocks from the capitol square in the heart of the city, where we desperately need MORE green space and public recreational space. The park is filled during the summer with people picnicking, playing catch, hanging out with friends - there isn't unused space; whatever is paved over will be missed and make the park less useable, less attractive, more crowded, and less functional. .

Second, the impact on our watershed must be considered. Given the recent flooding, paving more land right next to the lake seems foolish. If anything, we should consider ways to reduce the amount of pavement and non-permeable surfaces.

Third, this park is frequented by many bikers and pedestrians. My children's daycare often walks to James Madison. The last thing I want is for our preschoolers to have to cross a huge parking lot and deal with increased traffic dangers and exhaust to access the city's most important downtown park.

Please look towards the future, not the past, when updating James Madison's master plan. I urge the commission and our city staff and elected leaders to revise this plan to eliminate the parking lot, and preserve and enhance the park - one of Madison's gems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelda Roys
[REDACTED] Seneca Pl
Madison WI 53711
608-[REDACTED]

From: Rebecca Minnich <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 12:11 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Proposed Renovation of James Madison Park

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any increase in the parking lot area of James Madison Park. I understand that the shelter is in need of renovation after nearly thirty years, but there is no lack of nearby street parking for those who want to visit the park, so the parking lot expansion addresses a fictional problem. In fact, the new lot will likely drive people away from the park because it will create an unsightly marring of the view of the lake from the sidewalk. There is nothing less inviting than a mass of parked cars greeting pedestrians as they approach what should be a place of beauty.

From an environmental standpoint, what kind of message does a bigger parking lot send when we urgently need to cut greenhouse gases to save our planet's future? Why not expand bike parking racks to encourage a more environmentally responsible way to get to the park? I am outraged, as a citizen of this city and a regular visitor James Madison Park, that the city is considering essentially destroying it. I urge you to revise the renovation plan to eliminate from it any increase in parking space.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Minnich
[REDACTED] Prospect Place
Madison, WI 53703

From: Katherine Rankin <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 12:39 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park

Dear Parks Commission -

Gene and I strongly object to the proposed plan for James Madison Park; particularly the array of parking at the sidewalk. For all of our years living in Madison (Gene, since 1940, me since 1970) we have relished driving by or walking by James Madison Park and seeing the lake and its many moods. A line of parked cars is going to destroy that glorious view and the sense of the city opening up to beauty. It's like a breath of fresh air in the middle of the City. We even relish the sight of hundreds of people on their blankets enjoying the outdoors on a sunny day. Also ruining the beauty of the park would be the array of basketball courts, playground equipment, the outdoor cafe and other active recreational components, all stuffed into a too small space. We understand that the Parks Division wants to be all things to all people, but there is just not room enough to do that in this little park. The Parks Division for decades has virtually ignored the importance of beauty and passive recreation. The essence of James Madison Park is the stretch of grass, the people sunning themselves and the view of the lake. That is all the public needs to make the park what it should be.

Gene and Kitty Rankin

--

Katherine Rankin
Preservation Consultant
[REDACTED] Ridge Road
Madison WI 53705
608-[REDACTED]

From: Jen Ahlstrom <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 2:38 PM

To: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: James Madison Park (not parking lot)

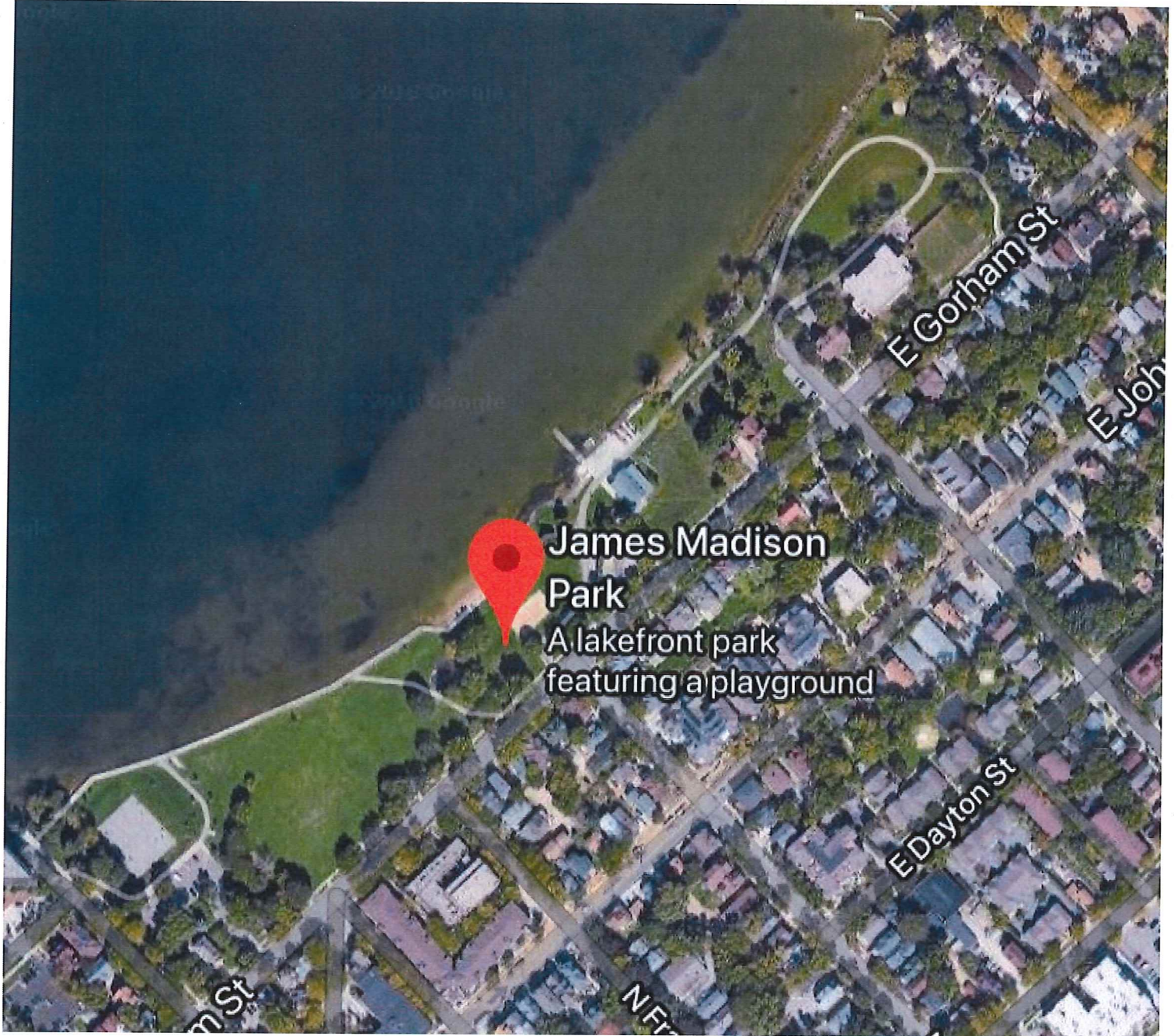
As a resident of Madison for 20 years, with 1998-2005, and 2014-2017 spent living with just a couple of blocks of James Madison Park I cannot believe that the city isn't even considering a single improvement option that does not convert a large section of the open park space into a parking lot.

Given how poorly enforced parking regulations led to the current lot being an extension of the employee parking for the office building on E. Gilman the current lot would be more than sufficient if the 2 hour limit were ever enforced.

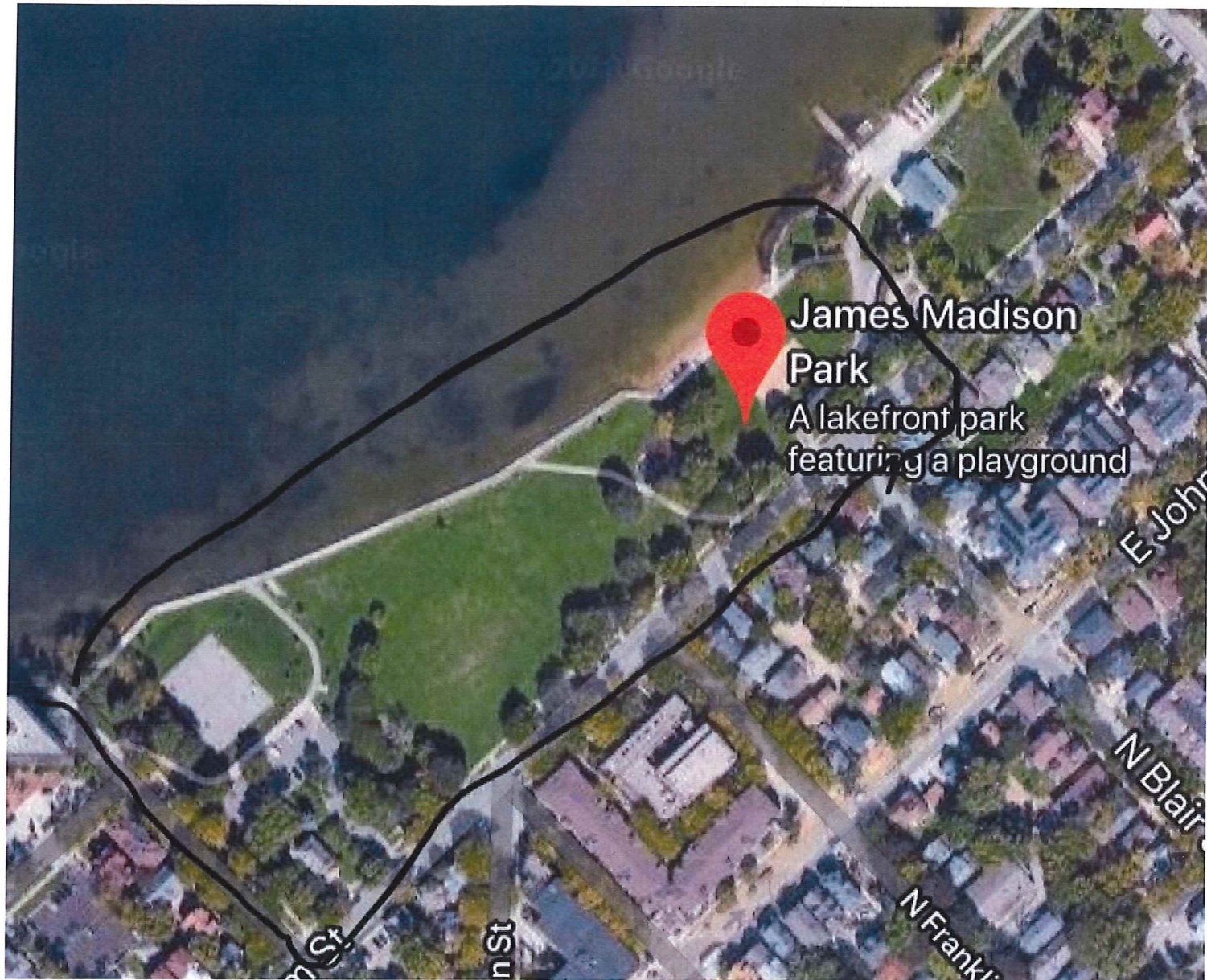
While the percentage of park land to be converted seems small in scale in the various drawings, one should note that the borders of "James Madison" when the park is commonly discussed or referred to by park users is far smaller than the true borders of the park itself. "James Madison" in this sense runs from the basketball courts to the shelter - and is the heavily used portion of the park. This plan not only removes useable park space in the most heavily used sections of the park it also removes the vast majority of shade trees in the park.

Please listen to the park users and neighborhood association-keep the green spaces - don't pave paradise!

James Madison full overview:



“James Madison” :



Thank you,

Jen L. Åhlström

From: Michelle Hagenbaugh <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>

Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 3:07 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: James Madison Park - Please NO PARKING LOT

Hi,

I just read an article that said there are plans to convert 20,600 square feet of James Madison Park into a parking lot. This is very upsetting. There is no need for a parking lot. This park is very loved by the community and very busy during nice weather. People walk or can park in the parking garage that is just a few blocks away. Please do not destroy part of this park for no reason.

Thank you,
Michelle Hagenbaugh

From: Matt Coppens <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 3:15 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: James Madison Park re: enhanced parking

As a resident who frequents James Madison Park, I can't stress enough how poor of a decision it would be to update the park with additional parking. This is one of the few area's I visit to escape traffic, to run and catch a Frisbee, or to lounge and do much of nothing. Placing a parking lot here will do nothing but degrade the use of the park, force people to be on top of each other, and will take away from the charm.

I know that there was a meeting for public comments on the 12th, however I was unable to attend.

Please reconsider this addition and focus on the needs: larger lakeshore front, enhanced concessions, better facilities including a gazebo.

Many thanks for your time, and hope the addition of my voice here is heard.

--

Matt Coppens

From: JOHN DAVID LAKE <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>

Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 3:35 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: new parking lot

Hi park commission,

I lived near James Madison Park for six years and the idea to reduce the amount of green space for parking lot to "open up" the park is in my opinion is a bad one. I've noted that much of the reasoning behind the parking lot being built are the very reasons that made James Madison a distinctive center of Madison culture and the reason why the park is so well preserved. It is true that the park is marginally inaccessible, but there are two parking garages within a two block area. If there is to be an expansion of parking volume I would think that preserving the dwindling greenspace downtown and increasing the size of current structures would be a better choice. Madison is known for greenspaces, but also it's pockets of solitude that are afforded with the design of the park. This part of Madison was once home to a thriving African American community, what remains like the green space is ever more marginalized and will also be negatively affected. I fear like around the capital the transformation of a public space to increase accessibility and surveillance serves one segment of our community more than it will another and further a growing divide in the neighborhood. where once all citizens could come together and enjoy the beauty that lake Mendota is. It dismays to think it may be transformed into something more sterile and less like Madison.

thank you for your time,

John Lake

From: Sallie Anna Steiner <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 6:18 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: No huge parking lot at James Madison!

A simple request from your constituents:

Keep James Madison Park's green space and recreation space intact! No huge parking lot additions!

Sallie Anna and Krystian

[REDACTED] E Gorham Street Apt [REDACTED]

Madison WI 53703

From: Marcie Waters <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 7:22 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: No New Parking Lot in James Madison Park

Hello,

I just heard that there is a plan to add a parking lot to James Madison Park. There is no need for the parking lot, and to decrease the green space in the park would be a major mistake. As a frequent park user, I do not support the proposed plan.

Thank you,

Marcie Waters

From: Daniel Buckleitner <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2018 9:39 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park Master Plan

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the planned changes to James Madison Park, specifically the proposed changes to the parking lot. Moving and expanding it at the expense of the shade trees is short sighted. Will that parking lot still be useful in 50 years? Probably not, but those trees will be. Solve the downtown parking issues by consolidating into structures, preferably underground.

As an on-again-off-again resident of Madison for the last five years, one of the reasons I keep returning is the livability of our beautiful city, especially its green spaces. As minor as this sacrifice of a few trees may seem, it is a step in the wrong direction. I am aware that the window for input on the park plan may have closed, so thank you for considering my opinion.

-Dan Buckleitner

From: Alice Horein <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 12:19 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: More trees less pavement

I was shocked to hear that James Madison Park is being renovated to expand the parking lot and cut down some of the older trees in the park. The last thing downtown Madison needs is more pavement. That park is a blessed green space in the neighborhood and doesn't require more parking as there are parking garages within walking distance and plenty of street parking. Not to mention it is mostly occupied by its neighbors. I hope you will protect the trees and open grass and allow the neighborhood to continue to enjoy the openness of James Madison Park.

I trust you have heard all of this before but as a resident of the neighborhood (just off Johnson st.) I am against the proposed projects.

Sincerely
Alice

From: Kathleen Otterson <[REDACTED]@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 8:22 AM
To: Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Proposed Changes to James Madison Park

December 14, 2018

Dear Alder Zeller and members of the City Parks Commission,

I am writing to express my dismay at and opposition to the proposed "improvements" to James Madison Park on East Gorham Street. After reading the following in the Isthmus newspaper, I am left to wonder about the wisdom of the plan.

"Expected to run parallel to Gorham Street, the lot will convert 20,600 square feet of green space to pavement — nearly doubling the current parking lot footprint. This will translate into roughly two and a half blocks of continuous road and parking lot, with entrances and exits cutting through the Gorham Street bike lane. According to the city's park tree removal assessment, eight trees would be removed to accommodate the lot, including five trees over 50 years old, and the only two that support a hammock."

I work on East Gorham Street and traverse that corridor on a daily basis. More often than not, JM Park is full to overflowing with people picnicking, swimming, playing football or frisbee, trying to walk a tightrope, or just hanging out. This despite the fact that there is only a tiny parking lot that is often full if there's an event at the Gates of Heaven synagogue. Clearly, people who want to use the park find places to park, if they come by car; and many come on foot or by bike.

The removal of five trees over 50 years old is really upsetting, particularly since so many street trees in that area have already been taken down because of the Emerald Ash Borer. Is the City really comfortable destroying even *more* of the precious downtown tree canopy - for a *parking lot*?

Finally, I'm very concerned for the many cyclists who use Gorham Street to commute to and from downtown. Adding two more entrance/exits which will cut through the bike lane seems like a bad idea in a spot where traffic (including bike) is moving quickly coming down the hill from the east.

All in all, this is a bad plan and a poor use of City resources. We should be preserving every inch of our green space, not eliminating it. I hope the Parks Commission will reconsider this ill-advised plan.

Thank you,

Kathleen Otterson
[REDACTED] Cherokee Drive
Madison, WI 53711
608. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@charter.net

From: Rose Stone <[REDACTED]@att.net>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parking at James Madison BAD IDEA

I am writing in opposition to the proposed parking lot to "improve " James Madison Park. This park represents one of the few green spaces for downtown residents and even fewer opportunities for folks to access our lakes. A parking lot would not only take away valuable and much used space from the community but the aesthetics of an asphalt lot with cars blocking the beautiful view is obscene. Please don't destroy this downtown treasure by parking cars on it. Thank you for your consideration, Rose Stone, Madison resident and home owner for over 40 years

From: Sean Treacy <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Paving James Madison

Hello!

I live just a few blocks from James Madison park. It's my favorite park in the whole city. I would be extremely angry and sad if you paved any of the beautiful grass there.

Find places to build parking elsewhere--and NOT on our green space.

Sincerely,
A concerned citizen.
-Sean Treacy

From: Dan Probst <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: DO NOT PAVE JAMES MADISON PARK

I am writing to say I think paving over a large section of James Madison Park is a terrible idea. DO NOT DO IT.

As a longtime resident of Madison, the choices the city makes with parks seems to consistently be at odds with the public's desire for using them.

Please instead desolve the current parks department and remake it so it will enhance the cities great parks instead of harming them.

Regards,
Dan Probst
[REDACTED] E Main St
Madison WI 53704

From: Alexander Harding <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 7:08 AM
To: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park Master Plan comment

Hello,

Please forward this if this is not the correct address for sending comments.

I am a Madison resident.

I have absolutely no issue walking 5 minutes from the nearest City parking ramp (Capitol Square North Garage)! I think it's absolutely unacceptable that the city plans on removing greenspace in order to add parking.

The response from the city [here](#), in my opinion, is an argument built on quicksand. Parking is 5 minutes away. Only 5 minutes by walking. Let me reiterate that. The city plans on adding greenspace, detracting from existing greenspace in the park, when ramp parking is only a 5 minute walk away!

The other argument, "It greatly improves shoreline access, stormwater runoff management, water quality, and habitat" no matter how hard you try, I guarantee that impermeable concrete improves none of these, and that there are better solutions out there. A stormwater collection basin would be really cool to separate traffic from park users where the parking is in the current plans.

Instead of adding parking directly to the park, I would like the City to consider making finding parking and walking to and from the park <-> parking easier. Improve parking discovery for park users with signs directing park users to ramps. Check and make sure that crosswalks are acceptable and improve if needed between the park and the parking ramp. If the park needs to be more accessible for disabled users, improve access and make parking close by/in the park - I don't mind that at all - but that's only a couple spots needed, not 20+!

I think adding one of those flashing light things installed on Williamson recently would be a perfect application to improve pedestrian crossing of Gotham at Hancock, and make traveling to/from the parking ramp easier.

In my ideal solution, the City would remove ALL parking except for disabled people, and would direct people to park at the city ramp or on the street.

Thank you for reading my comments on this matter.
Alexander Harding

From: The Sheahan Family <[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2018 5:00 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park Plan feedback

In regards to the plan for James Madison Park, I do not think paving green space is a good idea. A park should have as much green space as possible. I also disagree with the plan for more parking in the park. There is a parking ramp nearby. I do not think a parking lot will decrease loitering. It could increase loitering as people find it a free convenient place to park especially at night. I do not think any trees should be cut down in James Madison Park, especially the older trees.

Thank you,
Helen Sheahan
[REDACTED] Valley Stream Drive
Madison WI 53711

From: Amy Aschenbrener <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 1:52 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Parking Lot Proposal

Hello,

I've just heard about the proposed changes to James Madison park, and I have to say I and many of my peers think it's a bad idea. Madison's green spaces are one of my favorite things about this city, and it would be very saddening to see those beautiful old trees be cut down just for some extra parking. It also doesn't make much sense to make the park smaller in an effort to allow more access to it. Considering the severe flooding this past summer, green space should be even more valuable now.

These proposed and unnecessary changes would really take away the appeal and value of the park, and I truly hope these changes don't go through.

Amy Aschenbrener

From: Parks
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 7:38 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Parks Contact Submission: General Parks Questions

Contact Information:

=====

Name: Ben Lester
Street Address:
[REDACTED] W Main, Unit [REDACTED]

Madison, WI 53703

Phone:

Email: [REDACTED].com

Comments / Questions:

=====

Subject: General Parks Questions

Comments / Questions:

Hi, I don't support the proposed changes to James Madison Park that would involve paving the currently grassy area of the park. We do not need more parking. Even if additional parking offers benefits in the short term, this is not a long term solution. Adding more greenspace is the better option, so that people are encouraged to use other forms of transportation.

It strikes me as ironic that a park of all places is going to be turned into a refuge for cars. In my mind, James Madison Park serves as a refuge for pedestrians who want to escape the bustle of the city while being close to downtown. Don't bring the bustle to the park.

From: John Jacobs <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 7:52 AM

To: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Questions re James Madison Parks master plan

Dear Ms. Lerner,

1. Could you please tell me when the public first had access to the graphic included with Parks' response to Abigail Barnes' op-ed in Isthmus? I saw it at as a slide at the parks commission meeting last week and thought it did a great job of proving Ms. Barnes' point. Was the commission meeting the first time the public had a chance to see it?

It's evident from the graphic that not only will the open greenspace (trees are greenspace) available for recreation be significantly reduced, 600 feet of shoreline that's currently accessible to people, will instead be filled in with plants and a high maintenance swamp.

2. You've used 700 police calls to the park as justification for the expanded parking lot and road which infringe on the greenspace and the view across the park and which narrows the central recreation area significantly. But the notes from the Urban Design meeting indicate that only 81 police calls were associated with the Gates of Heaven area. Are there other calls for the parking lot and basketball courts or are these included in the 81?

Thank you .

John Jacobs

From: S Lilyestrom <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 8:14 PM

To: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva <district5@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; URBAN ASSETS LLC <[REDACTED]@urbanassetsconsulting.com>; [REDACTED]@urbanassetsconsulting.com [REDACTED]@ksd-la.com; [REDACTED]@eua.com; Planning <planning@cityofmadison.com>; Cheeks, Maurice <district10@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: James Madison Park

Hi,

1. thanks for your work on james madison park

2. please reconsider the current plan and the prioritization of parking and automobiles over green space. here are the reasons why:

- park green space is already full on any given nice day, this does not indicate that access is an issue. moreover, it indicates we need *more not less* green space

- the recent public outcry shows insufficient public outreach, despite the city's damage control attempts to say otherwise

- the plan will not do anything to make gorham safer for biking, and if anything, it makes biking more dangerous. this is another example of the city saying cars > bikes

- as a park user, i am ok biking, bussing, driving and parking on adjacent roads, or uber to the park (and have done all of these). I do not value dedicated lakefront parking.

- the parking lot structure will create unusable green space between parking lot and road

- with few downtown and even fewer lakefront parks, we should not be increasing parking at them

- parking will create a safety issue for runners on the sidewalk. I've almost been hit by cars in Tenney Park multiple times while running; this set up where we have parking routes pass over pedestrian paths feels similar.

- open spaces were clearly prioritized over parking on the survey in the master plan. how did we end up with more parking?

- bike access and infrastructure was not a part of the survey, or seemingly considered at all

Thanks,

Joe
