

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 416 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]

BEGIN 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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to: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district2/>

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: 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: Michael W. Coenen <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Lerner, Sarah <SLerner@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison redesign

Sarah,

I am a long time shore fishermen and lifelong Madison resident. I spend more time fishing from the James Madison Park seawall than anyplace else in the city. This is a very special place on Lake Mendota, the action of the waves crashing against the seawall keep the bottom clean. This provides important Walleye and gamefish habitat. If the seawall was removed the shoreline would silt in to a gradual taper similar to the beach.

This would cover the off shore rock structure that draw gamefish and minnows to this spot.

The seawall is in relatively good shape and I don't believe the city should spend money demolishing it in any redesign of the park. As for people who don't feel secure walking there, they need to realize it is only 2 to 3 feet deep depending on lake levels, not a real hazard.

I realize I'm kind of a invisible Park user because I generally fish at night. I have been fishing here for over 40 years. Like I said a very special spot for someone who doesn't own a boat.

If it were to be Rip Rap it would become exactly the same as the unkept mess behind Lincoln School. It is full of invasive weeds and junk tree saplings. This is not safe to walk on, effectively ending my access. If the talked about fishing access piers were installed. I am afraid they will destroy what is special about this spot.

Thank you,

Michael W. Coenen

From: Julia Sheahan <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2018 6:26 PM

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

Subject: James Madison Park Master Plan

Hello Board of Park Commissioners and Ledell Zellers,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the James Madison Park Master Plan. I currently live in the Nakoma neighborhood, but I used to live on North Butler right next to James Madison Park (basketball side) and I love this park.

I strongly oppose expanding and moving the parking lot. There is plenty of parking available nearby the park, and moving the parking lot as planned will destroy the beautiful view of the lake for people using the sidewalk on Gorham Street. It will also reduce overall green space in a park where green lawn space is at a premium. In the summer I often saw the park's lawn very full of sunbathers and other people enjoying the park.

I do support renovating the James Madison Park shelter, as it could be much nicer, but more parking lot and other re-arrangements are not needed, are bad for the park, and are a very bad use of taxpayer money.

Thank you,

Julia Sheahan

■ Hiawatha Cir, Madison, WI 53711

From: Jonathan Bartnik <[REDACTED]@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2019 3:50 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: James Madison Park(ing) Jan 9: Please Reconsider

Dear Parks Commission,

I've been a resident of the Isthmus for 5 of the past 6 years, and James Madison Park has functioned as my living room and my front yard. Please reconsider your plan to cut down old growth and put in additional pavement.

I recognize that part of the justification is to create access for people from other parts of the city, but parks should first and foremost serve the neighborhoods where they are located. I do not own a car, which makes most of the city's outlying parks inaccessible to me; and as I mentioned above, the park serves as an extension of my one-room studio, which is all I can afford to rent to stay on the Isthmus.

I'd rather see funds intended to pave over James Madison reallocated to improve or develop parks in areas that lack them, or to improve our public transit system so we don't need to build any more parking, ever.

And it's not like we don't have enough parking nearby: whenever friends visit me from out of town, I usually suggest they store their cars alongside James Madison, as there always seems to be spots available. Failing that, there are garages on Butler between Mifflin and Johnson, and at Pinckney and Dayton.

I encourage you to not approve of this plan, and instead call for new plans that leave James Madison intact while adding other access amenities, such as decent crosswalks on Gorham, or slowing traffic on Gorham and Johnson to make both of these streets less dangerous to cross.

-Jonathan M. Bartnik
[REDACTED] East Johnson Street #306