



## Sierra Club Four Lakes Group

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TO: City of Madison Plan Commission  
FROM: Sierra Club Four Lakes Group  
Date: May 15th, 2020

RE: Item #60351 on the May 18th Agenda: Support for Proposed Revisions to Madison General Ordinances Chapter 37, Stormwater Management System and Erosion Control Ordinance

The Sierra Club Four Lakes Group supports the proposed revisions to Chapter 37 of Madison's ordinances - Stormwater Management System and Erosion Control Ordinance. Climate change and its repercussions including heavy rain events and severe flooding will continue in the future. We need to adjust and plan accordingly.

Overall, we recognize the need to protect and enhance natural features that serve as green infrastructure like our wetlands, parks and other permeable spaces. And we need to build on these natural assets by adding engineered green infrastructure in our community. Our comments on recent plans and projects in our community, recognize the increase in flooding and severe rain events and the roles and value of green infrastructure brings to our community, including:

- Comments on the Dane Co Parks and Open Space Plan,
- Comments on the Dane Co Climate Action Plan, and
- Recent comments on the Oscar Mayer Special Area plan redevelopment project.

We support **revisions that help to build resiliency, minimize damage and pollution, and manage water where it falls to the extent possible.** We support stormwater standards and management techniques that utilize sustainable practices and green infrastructure to reduce runoff and increase permeability and infiltration.

**Specifically, we support the City stormwater ordinance and its proposed revisions that:**

- Recognize and promote a watershed approach to stormwater management;
- Recognize the changing weather patterns to include larger storm events;
- Focus on water infiltration and retention using the principle of managing water where it lands;
- Expand the consideration and support for green roofs;
- Expand water requirements for new and redevelopment projects;
- Recognize that long term maintenance for green infrastructure is needed to ensure its functionality and effectiveness by requiring maintenance agreements for these features.

### **The value of our parks and open spaces**

When we manage our parks and open space lands, we need to ensure that they are valued not just for their recreational uses, but also as natural, ecological assets, and as green

infrastructure. They are invaluable for protecting groundwater recharge areas, for helping slow and abate runoff. The wetlands serve to slow and filter pollutants including sediments. And they serve as habitat for a diverse range of plants and animals.

Finally, we hope that these or similar changes will be adapted across Dane County and its watersheds. We also urge the City of Madison to remain open to future revisions and respond to the changing and extreme weather patterns as well as additional progress in green infrastructure techniques.

Should you have any questions, please contact Liz Wessel, 238-9934 or lizard59sc@yahoo.com.

*The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Sierra Club Four Lakes Group supports 5000 plus members and activists in a nine county area of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Rock and Sauk Counties. We promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/four-lakes>.*