

From: [Stephanie Edwards](#)
To: [Evers, Tag](#); [Knepp, Eric](#); [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Urban Design Comments](#)
Subject: Entrance to Zoo (proposed change)
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:54:11 AM

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Good morning-

We want to register our complete opposition to moving the entrance of Vilas/Park Zoo from the Drake/Randall Street intersection. The four-way stop is ideal for slowing down traffic and designed to handle traffic and pedestrians from four directions.

Campbell Street is a completely residential area without the ability to handle large amounts of traffic. It is without consistent sidewalks to allow for safe pedestrian traffic as well. Bear Mound is a sacred site, already compromised paving over effigy mounds and repeated street building. We request a complete topographical and below ground survey of existing archeological sites in and near the Zoo, Vilas Park, and "Dinosaur" park so that no more damage can be done to these historically significant sites.

We submit our opposition to moving the Zoo Entrance from the Drake/Randall intersecion. We request a survey of the Zoo/Vilas Park land, of all archeological/First People's sites, be begun and completed, prior to any construction.

Thank you-

David Steingass
Stephanie Edwards

1510 Drake Street
Madison

From: [Ka'tya Fassett](#)
To: [Park Commission](#); [Evers, Tag](#); [Knepp, Eric](#); [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Urban Design Comments](#)
Subject: agenda item 64455 - master plan comments
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 10:23:15 AM

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Lack of parking for Vilas Zoo is a big problem negatively impacting the residents of the Vilas neighborhood, and I don't see that this issue has been addressed in a satisfactory way in the Vilas Park Master Plan.

The primary entrance to Vilas Zoo is on the North side, yet very few parking spaces are planned near that entrance. It is the beginning of March (several inches of snow are still on the ground) and we are in a pandemic, but even now at this early point in the season parking on weekends on streets surrounding the zoo is a problem. I live a few blocks from the zoo, and yesterday (Saturday, March 6th) I had trouble getting my car out of my driveway due to cars parked beyond the curb and crossing over the area that is my driveway. This is unfortunately a common problem for me on weekends during the 3 seasons when the zoo is busiest. Visitors to the zoo clearly need places to park their cars and they are desperate to squeeze into any spot they find. I do not understand how it's possible that those involved in making decisions for the park master plan are not addressing this issue. Perhaps committee members should walk around the Vilas neighborhood on a sunny Saturday/Sunday to see for themselves that more parking for the zoo is necessary. (Please note that if the North entrance to the zoo is meant to be more of a walk-up entrance and parking is to be focused on the South end of the zoo, the main entrance should be on the South end near the larger parking area. That is only logical.)

In addition to the above comments regarding parking, I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed change to the location of the Vilas Park Zoo parking lot entrance from the corner of Drake/Randall to Drake across from Campbell. My reasons are these:

- (1) The stretch of Drake St along the edge of the park is currently quiet and shady and I think it adds to the serene feeling of the park itself; to put a parking lot entrance in the middle of that peaceful street would be a shame.
- (2) It concerns me that mature trees would need to be destroyed in order to make the proposed entrance change.
- (3) Increased traffic on the narrow circular street around Bear Mound Park would be a problematic side effect of moving the entrance across from Campbell. Bear Mound is a sacred site. In addition, residents who live in the houses around the mound park their cars along the circle on the one-way street. Therefore heavy traffic there would be both dangerous and culturally insensitive.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Ka'tya Fassett
1528 Vilas Ave
(608) 886-6551

November 11, 2020

Dear City Parks Commission and Alder Tag Evers-

I was unable to be part of the Zoom meeting on Monday night. I am writing to express the thoughts I would have shared.

1. Parks and parkland are primarily for the preservation of green space within a city. Do not take away viable park land for parking. That said, there IS a low land marshy area near the current entrance that could add to parking options (given proper drainage) without compromising space for people.
2. It is imperative to maintain a thick tree and low brush barrier between the street/home and the park. This is a home to wildlife, which is important in the city. This barrier also helps to mitigate the loud (often raucous) sounds of people yelling, car horns, motorcycles, etc. as they cruise through the park drive.
3. Close the drive! Cars whizzing through this "cut through" to Park Street are dangerous to pedestrians. Observe the hundreds of people who walk there, run there, bike there now, during the pandemic. The drive...the whole park...is at its best use patterns right now. This "cut through" is also a spot for midnight fights and drug use.
4. Finally, do not change the entrance location. The four-way stop is a safe location. It is meant to handle the traffic. With much of the traffic coming from Park Street, there will be a huge backup with a turn-in at Campbell Street. And people using GPS will use the Vilas Circle to find the entrance, shifting traffic to a street never intended for that.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Edwards
1510 Drake Street
Madison WI 53711

November 11, 2020

Dear City Parks Commission and Alder Tag Evers,

I was unable to be part of the Zoom meeting on Monday night. I am writing to share the thought I would have shared.

I am opposed to the new entrance to Vilas Park across from Campbell Street. Congestion at the current entrance on Randall not only will continue but will be magnified by the new construction. Negative aspects will increase with destruction of animal habitat (tree removal, road construction, woods destruction) all of which endangers existing wild populations. (I know of one nesting pair of cooper's hawks in Vilas Park. The nest exists in a mature tree that will be removed for the new entrance.)

The proposed new entrance divides the woodland buffer on Drake Street into two parcels, each one will be rendered almost too small to remain effective. Parks exist in large part to provide open space, grass, and woodland foliage. Please recognize this crucial importance for both park visitors and animals in your plans.

Sincerely,
David Steingass
1510 Drake St.
Madison 53711

David Steingass
1510 DRAKE ST
MADISON WI 53711-2212

From: Lee Lazar <llazar@associated.cc>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opening of Vilas Park Drive

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello to the Parks Commission,

It has come to my attention that the commission is going to be voting soon on the re-opening of Vilas Park Drive to auto traffic. Please note that as a neighbor it will inconvenience me, but for all the people that use it to access the beach, zoo, fishing, arboretum, and more, it should be open. There will be a large group of Vilas Neighborhood citizens that petition to keep the street closed for their own selfish reasons. They are lockdowners who aren't taking the needs of the masses that drive down the street into consideration. We know that this area is frequented by citizens of Madison and thousands of Wisconsin visitors from outside our community. It is important to re-open the street to vehicles to support the accessibility of area destinations and alleviate increased traffic on adjacent streets. This will be especially important once the pandemic subsides and overall activity increases again. Thank you for your consideration of this communication.

Lee Lazar
Vice President
Associated Agencies, Inc.
1701 Golf Rd., Suite 3-700
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone: (847) 427-3487
Cell: (312) 402-8237
Fax: (847) 427-3430

From: Kathy Gerhardt <gerhardtkathryn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: vilas park drive reopening

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

please reopen vilas park drive once again. the traffic on drake street and other side streets have increased and disturb the peace and quiet and safety of our neighborhoods where we live. i suggest you open a bike/pedestrian path not directly adjacent to the road to increase safety. I am also disappointed that you plan to enter and exit the zoo from Drake and Campbell. That is not a flow through of traffic as we have now. that will be a bottle neck.