



November 30, 2020 via email

Dear Common Council:

Friends of Lake Wingra asks the Common Council to oppose Edgewood High School's appeal for adding lighting and (and potentially sound) to their sports stadium. At this time, we believe it can harm the "Lake Wingra Experience." Our community has an equitable and accessible escape to a thriving natural environment, Lake Wingra. Largely, untouched by development, many enjoy the quiet, peaceful atmosphere. Visitors use the lake for day and moonlight paddles, shoreline parks to recreate, and paths to nature watch.

While we face growing pains as a City, we must also balance how we impact our limited remaining natural escapes. We believe preserving the "Lake Wingra Experience" successfully occurs through our active partnerships and dialogue with lakeshore landowners. This includes the Arboretum, City of Madison Parks Department, and Edgewood College in addition to groups such as Wingra Boats and the Friends of the Park and Pleasure Drive. The Common Council also adopted a Wingra watershed management plan in 2016 that built off this vision. Throughout Edgewood's process, we have not received information addressing our concerns about the proposed lighting and sound. Our requests have consistently been that Edgewood High School's stadium proposal:

- **Does not produce visible lighting at any time near Lake Wingra** (measured as 0.0 foot candles from Lake Wingra, Edgewood College Boardwalk, Vilas Park, and Wingra Park).
- **Does not produce amplified sound that is audible on Lake Wingra or surrounding parks** (measured as 0.0 decibels from the surface of Lake Wingra, the Edgewood College Boardwalk, Vilas Park, and Wingra Park).
- **Provide a better understanding of potential impacts to wildlife from proposed lights or sound systems.** A preliminary literature review and discussions with UW Madison staff and the Audubon Society were inconclusive as to the potential impacts.

We recognize the difficulties in making these assessments for light and sound impacts outside of the proposed stadium footprint. Thus, it may be necessary to complete additional studies to quantify these impacts. We also understand compromise is crucial for a thriving, diverse community. **Right now, that type of dialogue does not feel possible when we don't even know how these changes might permanently alter Lake Wingra's ecosystem and therefore the "Lake Wingra Experience."**

We appreciate you taking the time to read our thoughts.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director of Friends of Lake Wingra



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