

From: [David Seth Gevers](#)
To: [Vilas Master Plan](#)
Cc: [Park Commission](#); [Urban Design Comments](#); [Evers, Tag](#)
Subject: Vilas Park Master Plan Comments
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:36:40 PM

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Dear Alder Evers and Parks Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the following comments on the proposed final design for the Vilas Park Master Plan:

1. There is too much surface parking. The purpose of the park is not to provide parking for the zoo. Available street parking is not taken into consideration in the parking counts particularly along Vilas Ave. Please reduce the amount of surface parking.
2. The design of the parking and bus loading area on the lake side of the zoo is too big. The waterfront area is being converted into a huge parking lot in this design. We should be protecting the viewshed and value of the lakefront. It is not clear why the bus loading needs to take place in this location.
3. There should be three playgrounds in separate areas of the park (as there is now) provided in the plan. There is no reason to remove a playground that gets extensive use from participants from around the city. Please add back the beach playground into the plan.
4. The reinserted (previously removed) west playground (Van Buren Playground) should be a full playground with equipment like it is now, unless it is on an effigy mound and then we should find another spot for it.
5. The effigy mounds throughout the park area need further study and protection. The proposed new entrance to the zoo parking lot likely goes right over burial mounds. This lack of equity, inclusion and history has been pervasive in this process.
6. The added open-sided shelters are not a good use of space and restricts the casual use of the park areas. I understand the desire to raise funds through park rental fees but this is a fundamental misunderstanding of how the park is being used.

Thank you,
David Gevers
Former Vilas Neighborhood Association President 2014-2015