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From: annewalker@homelandgarden.com <annewalker@homelandgarden.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 12:02 PM

To: Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Brian Benford <brianbenford00@gmail.com>;

Stouder, Heather <HStouder@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: (Fwd) Lighting, Yahara River Corridor

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

My apologies if you are getting this e-mail a second time. The e-mails registered as having bounced.
Best, Anne

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Marsha, Brian, Heather

As you all know, many of us have been finding solace in nature this last year. There is an ever greater desire to connect to our natural world. Me too! I have been walking the path along the Yahara River quite a bit this past year, often at dark. Part of the beauty of the space is being lost to overbright lighting. The State Historic Society's lighting is blinding. Some of the lights are so bright and situated in such a way that for pedestrians and bicyclists, it presents a blinding hazard. In addition, the light's, reflected in the river, trespass into the public space. While I do understand that this is a state building, I would ask that the City work with the State to implement Best Management Practices for shoreland lighting.

The same is true of the Marling. The lighting, including the bollards along the sidewalk, are trespassing into public space along the parkway. They are reflected in the river, visible from the opposite shore.

Burr Jones is also an example of lighting needing some retrofitting. While I understand the desire to play disc golf in the evening hours, that desire does not change the very unique location the field occupies along our riverway, a landmarked historic asset.

We can and do need to do better. At the rate we are going, the loss of the night sky in the isthmus could be a very real eventuality, with the City helping to lead the way. The Yahara River Parkway is an important ecological corridor, worthy of consideration, worthy of Best Management Practices for lighting both for safety and ecology in mind.

With the proposed re-development at 1st and E. Wash, this is an important opportunity to get it right, and, to implement the necessary retrofits for best shoreland lighting along the length of the Yahara River Parkway. The Yahara River is an important connection for people and for frogs, and turtles, birds and fireflies. Fireflies and migrating birds, turtles and insects need the dark to make it in the City. As well, the bright lights of a big city are not worth the loss of our night sky. It's important to get it right for both our species and many others.

Best,

Anne Walker