

From: Kathryn Howarth Ryan <ryan.katiehowarth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: item 6455 3/10/21 meeting

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Hello Commissioners:

I would like to register some feedback on the Vilas Park plan. There are many aspects of the plan I support and there are some I oppose. I think the shelter design as shown on the plan is a wonderful update from the current building and the addition of a community room would be welcome, especially for those who rent the shelter. The window views of the park from the shelter would be terrific. I am also glad that the parks department chose to keep tennis and basketball while adding pickleball. And allowed the sledding hill to remain.

1. I have written before to voice that I would hope Vilas Drive would remain open to vehicles one way. I see many people just parking and enjoying the view, families that park and unload their picnics to enjoy the park, or fishermen with their gear in a nearby car. I believe it enhances accessibility to the park to leave the drive open. I know the plan calls for closure of the drive from the shelter lot to the parking lot at the courts and I would hope this might be reconsidered. Even if the drive is open just for certain days, weekdays or weekends for example, it would allow greater accessibility for the diverse group of park goers in Madison.

If it is possible to also have a shoreline walking/ biking path (with a physical divide between them) would be ideal in my opinion.

2. A playground close to the Vilas beach would be a good addition, especially considering the current playground near the mound is going to be "decommissioned." The other two playgrounds are terrific; I would like to see Madison put a third one in the future plan. There was discussion about streamlining maintenance of the park, and I wonder if a playground at the beach designed with low maintenance in mind would be possible. Efforts to save money elsewhere in the maintenance might be researched, such as removing one of the new open shelters perhaps.

3. A commitment to keep the entire lagoon open would enhance the park's usefulness with a shoreline to enjoy, and a beautiful view back to the trees by the water. Allowing part of the lagoon to fill in takes away a feature with significant interest visually and experientially. (I have the impression this is also a maintenance expense issue rather than recreation and aesthetics, and wanted to register that the lagoon adds a lot to the park.)

Thank you for the opportunity to offer a response to the plan.

Kathryn H. Ryan

From: Margo Reeder <mjreeder@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 6:57 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas Park Master plan

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Dear Board of Parks Commission,

We are writing with comment about the Vilas Master Plan. Parts of the plan we support, including upgrading the play structures (keeping the woman in the shoe), and changing part of Vilas Park Drive to pedestrian traffic only.

Our major opposition to the plan is changing the park entrance to Drake and Campbell. We strongly oppose the proposal to move the park entrance the corner of Campbell and Drake St and prefer to keep the entrance at the 4 way stop at Randall and Drake which is a longstanding intersection. Moving the entrance to Campbell street will undoubtedly increase the traffic on Campbell and around Bear Mound Park. Park as users leaving the park will be more likely to go straight and around the circle. The zoo attracts a large amount of traffic on weekends and special events- a new entrance on Campbell will create traffic jams for users turning left or right into the parking lot from Drake. Other traffic going straight will then veer around turning cars, making the intersection unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. The current 4 way stop into the zoo is a controlled intersection, and improvements to that intersection are a safer solution than moving the entrance to Campbell Street. The city has cited safety as a reason for changing the entrance but we have not seen any evidence that the current intersection is unsafe. The new street entrance will also lead to the loss of several trees and green space including old oaks and undergrowth which separate the park from the adjacent neighborhood.

No alternatives to the Campbell street entrance were proposed in any draft plan or ever discussed with the community. At every community meeting in this planning process, our neighbors have consistently expressed their opposition to the Campbell/Drake St entrance. Vilas Neighborhood Association also opposes this plan. The people who live here see every day how people come and go from the park and how traffic varies throughout the day. Some of us have small children. Our concerns have never been addressed by the city at any community meeting which is incredibly disappointing. It is clear that an early decision was made to not have meaningful public input on the location of the entrance, even though that change will have the largest impact by far on the neighborhood. We understand that a traffic study assessing impact on both car and pedestrian safety was never performed and question why such an important decision was made without any real traffic data. We are disappointed than more study was not done before proposing such a large traffic change, especially one that will impact car, pedestrian, and cyclist safety in our neighborhood. We strongly oppose moving the entrance to Campbell/Drake St and ask for this change to be removed from the Vilas Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Margo Reeder and Justin Chasco
1502 Drake St

From: KATHARINE H ODELL <khodell@wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: my comments on the Vilas Park plan

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

As a resident at 1415 Vilas Avenue, I would like to make a few comments regarding the Vilas Park renovation plans to be discussion on 10 March 21. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the meeting.

Addressing here only parts of the master plan, in general, I FAVOR:

1. Maintaining Park and zoo entrance at Drake and Randall.

Creating a new entrance at Campbell:

- requires substantial construction to make a large entrance to the park, able to accept incoming and outgoing visitors, with strollers, etc. Such construction would certainly necessitate archeological excavation to locate Native American artifacts,
- requires the reducing parking along Drake (south side) and likely Campbell (if Campbell is too enlarged as well).
- requires removal of at least two large trees and understory, in the already small strip of land between the south border of Drake St. and the Park land along the Drake St. corridor. These trees provide shade and ambiance and help to shield the park from residents along the north side of Drake.
- requires a longer walk to the Zoo, a hassle for young children and their parents
- Traffic at a Campbell- Drake- will become more congested, as people let passengers off and then circle around the neighborhood to find parking. Thus it is not clear that an entrance at Campbell would offer significant improvement over the current arrangement.

2. Maintaining the existing trees on S Randall, to lessen the impact of car fumes and noise for the homes there, as well as proving some privacy for them. The trees also provide a shaded area for park visitors to picnic.

3. Maintaining existing parking as is on S. Randall. More parking would be unhealthy and unsightly, and perhaps dangerous, as well as compromising the lives of residents there.

4. Considering the use of a shuttle to and from the park; possibly, on weekends, which have the greatest traffic numbers, the shuttle might be stationed at St. Mary's Hospital surface lot be a possible option.

5. Use the shelter at Tenney Park as a model for a reconstructed Vilas Park shelter. The Tenney shelter has indoor and outdoor space, as well as kitchen and bathrooms.

6. Ensure as few man-made structures in the park as possible. More parking (west of tennis courts) and storage structures means less open spaces for visitors. More storage suggests we are creating an open air gym.

Thank you considering these comments.

Katharine Odell

From: Jane Elder <jane@janeelderstrategies.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comments on Vilas Park

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am attaching comments I submitted in December during the planning process, as I am not certain my concerns would have been forwarded to the Commission.

I am encouraged that the most recent public presentation indicated that the two playgrounds would remain in the plan (I would happily support a third playground at the beach area).

I am discouraged and concerned about the proposed Campbell St. entrance (details are in my attached comments).

I am concerned about plans for tiling under the open space (the expense, and the increased rapid pulse of nutrient-rich water into the Lake Wingra basin).

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my concerns.

Jane Elder

1438 Vilas Ave
Madison, WI 53711

Jane Elder and Bill Davis
1438 Vilas Avenue
Madison, WI 53711

Attached:

December 3, 2020

Eric Knepp, Parks Superintendent
City of Madison Parks Division, City-County Building, Room 104
210 Martin Luther King Jr, Blvd, Madison WI 53703

Dear Superintendent Knepp:

I regret that a schedule conflict prevented us from attending the November 16 presentation on the draft master plan for Vilas Park. We have reviewed the slides on the planning website, and in the absence of a recording of the presentations from that evening, are sharing our feedback on our best understanding of plans for the park.

We moved to our home on Vilas Avenue in 1986, in part, because of the proximity to what is now called Bear Mound Park, as well as Vilas Park, seeking access to as much green space within walking distance as we could find in a city neighborhood. These parks are one of the primary reasons why we have stayed in the neighborhood for more than 30 years. As such, we are eager to convey the things we value about these parks as plans for significant changes are in the works.

Values and experiences we hope can be protected and conserved:

1. Trees, open space, views, and natural design (grass, informal natural plantings) given priority over hardscape, concrete, asphalt and structures;
2. Quiet in the heart of the city where you can feel the wind off of Lake Wingra on your skin on a warm summer day, a crisp fall day, a sparkling winter day, and a fragrant spring day;
3. Views of Lake Wingra, and walkable access to the shoreline;
4. The sound and sight of ice skaters in a pool of light on a quiet winter's night;
5. The spring wildflowers that line the walking/biking path in April and May, and basswood blossoms in the canopy;
6. A simple place for children to play in small clusters in the two playgrounds;
7. An informal place for families to gather and picnic and play in the shade of the trees on the western edge.

Concerns

1. **The consolidation of two playgrounds into one—please reconsider.** When we were parents of a little one, we appreciated the option of two playgrounds. For very small children, the “shoe” playground offered equipment that was well suited to little children. This passively discouraged

older children from dominating the space and offered a place for parents/care providers to sit while watching their children. As our son grew older, he preferred the more physically challenging equipment at the other playground, and not being around toddlers and little ones who didn't understand sharing, or rules, etc. as much as older children did. One very nice option was if there were aggressive children or shouting parents at one site, we could easily move over to the other site and still enjoy time outside without the anxiety of dealing with a stressful situation (a really big blessing for a child with anxiety issues). Smaller areas are easier to keep an eye on busy children as well, and the two areas have a different feel and different views.

- 2. Tree conservation.** We are concerned that mature trees may be destroyed in the construction or re-design process. With the expansion of hard surfaces in the tennis court area, we are personally concerned about the loss of healthy trees, some of which were planted for commemorative purposes, and one of which, in particular, means something very special to us. Please spare the "Bridge maple" and the adjacent basswood tree from destruction. The Bridge maple was purposely relocated (at our next-door neighbor's voluntary expense) from Bear Mound Park to Vilas Park when it was determined that oaks and hickory trees needed to be given priority over this tree and other commemorative or memorial plantings on the Bear Mound park site (with the exception of the one extraordinary maple cherished by neighbor Virginia Heimerl which does not pose a significant threat to adjacent oaks, and is simply glorious in the fall). On trips to Vilas Park, the Bridge maple reminds us of treasured neighbors (it was a tribute gift to honor Burneatta Bridge), provides shade to those waiting to use the tennis courts, and there's no reason to kill it for more concrete.
- 3. Historical commemoration**

We could find no reference in the park plans regarding protecting and providing further interpretation of the plaque (near the tennis courts) noting the trees planted by the Great Army of the Republic to honor local heroes from the Civil War. Given the park's history, and honors bestowed by generations past on Madisonians who served with distinction in the Civil War, what plans are in place to protect this remembrance and restore the grove of trees planted to honor them? (Admittedly, the remaining crabapples are not thriving.) I fear the stone and plaque will be excavated and removed along with the trees to make way for more concrete.
- 4. Construction during the pandemic. Dear God, please don't.** We desperately need our green space and quiet during the pandemic. The construction on and around Bear Mound Park was a terrible loss of neighborhood peace, quiet, and natural space during 2020. PLEASE don't do that to Vilas Park in the summer of 2021 when we are likely to continue to need to gather outdoors and grapple with ongoing stresses of the pandemic, even if vaccines are beginning to reach the wider population. Please give the neighborhood a summer without massive trucks, back-up-beepers, and constant disruption of places for relaxation and outdoor enjoyment. Please.
- 5. Hydrology, water quality, climate resilience.**

Parking and pavement.

Given the hydrology of the site, and many areas that are easily saturated in the spring and after big storms, will the proposed expanded parking use permeable pavement? We are concerned about how more hardened surfaces in the area will reduce water retention and infiltration currently held, in part, by unpaved areas of the park.

Water quality.

It was difficult to tell from the online materials what the specific long-term plans are for integrating park management with protection and restoration of Lake Wingra, and overall stormwater management in the neighborhood watershed. While there has been considerable discussion of aging infrastructure, it seems that the larger question is overall environmental quality and its interface with long-term public use and enjoyment of this special place. As noted, we are skeptical that more hardened surfaces and less open space will help reduce concentrated runoff into the lake. We already see erosion and gullyng from uphill runoff—just check out the downhill side of the bike path after a big rain. What are the plans for soggy soils and erosion-producing rain events in the park?

Climate. Across the nation, forward-thinking communities are considering ways their parks and greenspaces can be part of the climate solution. By protecting hydric soils, limiting the use of concrete, protecting and restoring habitats and healthy trees that can naturally store carbon, and retaining greenspace that can reduce urban heat-island effects, Vilas Park can contribute to climate solutions and also be a welcoming public place. I'd love to see more details on tree protection, restoration and the wetlands interface with Lake Wingra in the plan, and how City park planning overall is addressing climate solutions.

6. Traffic. Please no entrance across from Campbell Street.

There is something defining about that narrow band of trees along Drake Street that says, "on the other side you will find a lovely place to explore." Chopping up that green wall will re-define the distinction between park and city street and will create just another street/curb/paved entrance that will have little distinction, grace, or beauty, and will almost certainly increase traffic on Campbell street and the Vilas circle. Surely the current lot can be re-designed for better traffic flow instead of ripping out a band of mature trees and creating more confused driving around the now even-more-narrow Vilas Circle while hopeful visitors look for the elusive parking place. If we really want to improve access to the Zoo and Park, let's put a bus stop at Drake and Randall so that more people can arrive easily by bus. Please put a sign at the intersection of Randall and Vilas that points people to the zoo/park, so they don't get lost on the circle as many, many do. We have literally made copies of maps on how to find the Zoo and Park from the Circle to help bewildered families trying to find their way to the zoo or park. There has to be a better way.

7. Finally, what is the hurry? Our city budget is strained, and there are many other pressing priorities for our public tax dollars right now. While things may be aging, the park isn't really broken. So many people have used and enjoyed it this year, just like it is. So, let's be careful not to break it in an attempt to fix aging infrastructure. Take the time to make wise decisions for this community treasure, for the neighborhood, and for the future generations who will cherish it like we do. If you must re-do things, take time, phase in projects, so we don't put a big hit on the City Parks budget during a pandemic and recovery period.

We genuinely appreciate our Madison and Dane County parks, and the efforts to safeguard them for future generations and the health of our local environment. Like many other people, our attention is focused on navigating our way through the current public health emergency and its vast ramifications. We regret not having the time and resources to be more deeply engaged in the planning process to date

and expect that other neighbors and community members are equally challenged to provide meaningful input into an important process in these times. So again, please take the time so important voices are not left out.

Sincerely,

From: Patrick Godar <godar.patrick@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 11:15 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Written comments regarding Vilas Park Master Plan on tonights agenda

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

I live on High Street, one block from the Mills and Wingra Drive intersection. I fully support the plan to increase parking and move entrances to the park, and to not allow through traffic while increasing pedestrian and bike paths along the shoreline.

Vilas Park is a treasure for the whole community and should be shared with as many people as possible. Those not wealthy enough to afford a home in the neighborhood should still have access to the park. All should be able to enjoy what only neighbors experienced during the pandemic when the park did not allow through traffic.

I fully understand neighbor concerns about traffic, but that is the price we pay for being able to walk a few blocks to access this treasure. While no neighbor would likely say they are biased, consider that the majority of home-owners in these neighborhood associations are white, while this park belongs to all residents regardless of color. A lot of white privilege is tied to this process and needs to be recognized.

Those neighbors who feel they cannot bear the traffic increases have plenty of time to sell homes that are at a record high in value and locate to areas that are not next to major public attractions.

Please vote to approve this visionary plan for the park that will allow all of Madison's residents access.

Patrick Godar

From: Eileen Hornberger Thompson <eileenlittleredt@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:47 PM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Vilas Park Master Plan / #64455

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

Vilas Park Master Plan comments Re: Drake St, Campbell St. Zoo entrance and exit

We oppose the proposed Zoo entrance / exit to Drake Street and Campbell Street. We need to look at alternatives, rather than adding another large intersection on Drake Street. Please do not support the current Vilas Park Master plan with this proposed Zoo entrance/exit change – this needs to be removed from the plan.

1. Increased traffic around Bear Mound Park - An additional intersection at Drake Street and Campbell St would create more problems than it solves. This entrance and exit would bring more unwanted traffic to one way streets around Bear Mound Park between 1400-1500 Vilas Avenue and throughout Vilas neighborhood – Oakland St. to Campbell St.

Bear Mound Park (formerly Vilas Circle Park before 1998) is a culturally and historically significant designated Park. Not only is there the Bear Effigy, but the former Marker Tree and its conical mound make this a sacred Native American land (documented in August 1888 by TH Lewis, and again by CE Brown in 1920's)

Designated by Parks Commission in 1997 as “Special Facilities” Park (along with Forest Hill Cemetery, Olbrich gardens, and Henry Vilas Zoo) .

2. Adds to Neighborhood traffic - Currently, Visitors and their cars are **contained to primary roads** moving directly toward the zoo or park while avoiding smaller roads in the already confusing corridor between Monroe St., Regent St. and Randall Avenue. Roads will be more confusing to visitors going to the Zoo or Park. Visitors already disobey one way signs around Bear Mound Park. Cars will try to enter from Monroe Street to Oakland Ave and the north side of Campbell Street adding to the existing confusion that occurs. For example the one-way section of Vilas Avenue, Oakland one-way block, or cars will want to enter onto Campbell St. from Monroe St. from the northern side of Bear Mound Park.

3. Alters the existing barrier between residential homes from the Vilas Zoo and Park areas is detrimental to homeowners. This area not only provides a physical barrier, but also reduces noise for all these neighbors. The Oak trees, other trees, and understory provide important biodiversity and habitat for birds and wildlife, which is diminishing. Children enjoy playing in this magical wooded area. These Oak trees can live to more than 100 or even up to 200 years and are not near their end of life. Oak trees and others work in symbiosis to protect each other

during storms as described by Hugh Iltis, Professor of Botany University of Wisconsin–Madison.

4. **Construction of the proposed new entrance/ exit for the Zoo adds additional unnecessary destruction to sacred land** that was inhabited by Native Americans. Vilas Park was the site of a large prehistoric and historic-era Native American village. An ideal place for Ho-Chunk village situated near all the lakes, and protected by a ridge. The hill on which Bear Mound Park located is one of the last remaining pieces of the geologic ridge that once connected to Monona Bay.

5. **Minimal benefits** are obtained with moving the entrance/ exit . This is a major urban park, and traffic will always be an issue. However, cities should be designed for the people and neighborhoods, not for cars.

6. Look at alternatives : other than redirecting traffic to a new entrance/ exit
Consider widening the current entrance to include an exit, adding traffic medians and bumps, possibly a traffic light at S. Randall Avenue and Drake Street .

7. Lastly, this **process was not transparent** in regards to this proposed entrance/exit to Drake St. and Campbell St. Neighbors were uninformed about the proposed entrance/ exit change until a word- of- mouth meeting with Parks Superintendent that was set up on November 9, 2020 by Alder Tag Evers. The change was not discussed in all the prior Vilas Park Master Plan discussions, and particularly with Ho-Chunk Nation Heritage preservation officer , Bill Quackenbush.

There are many great ideas on the Vilas Park Master Plan but PLEASE REMOVE the proposed Zoo entrance and exit on Drake Street and Campbell Street from the Vilas Park Master Plan.

Regards,
Craig and Eileen Thompson
311 Campbell Street
Vilas Residents 27 years

From: Christine Kirsch <cm_kirsch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Jeff Huebner <jeffahuebner@yahoo.com>
Subject: Agenda Item #64455

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

Dear Parks Commission,

Regarding the Vilas Park Master Plan Entrance:

I am writing to oppose the proposed zoo entrance at Campbell and Drake Street. Reading my neighbor's comments, there are already valid concerns raised about cutting down mature trees and respect for burial grounds. I would like to add concerns about pedestrian safety to the list of reasons to oppose this entrance.

We live across from the zoo on Drake St. and I have had the opportunity to observe how people access the zoo for a number of years. Many people park in the neighborhood north of the zoo. Depending on where they park, they walk along Randall, Campbell, Garfield or Grant. They all have to cross Drake St. They will also likely walk along the zoo side of Drake St. and need to cross the proposed car entrance at some point. The proposed entrance at Drake and Campbell will certainly increase car traffic - it does not make sense to increase traffic on an arterial that intersects known pedestrian pathways.

My understanding of the traffic pattern for the new entrance is that there will be a left turn lane into the zoo at Campbell. These cars will, of course, still need to yield to any pedestrians walking across the entrance. Thus, there will be vehicle backups. Backups will presumably be alleviated by turning the parking lane into a passing "escape" lane on the right. Cars use Drake St. as an arterial to get to Monroe St. When these drivers are stuck in the traffic waiting to enter the zoo, they will get impatient. Once they enter the "escape lane" they will speed up to get on their way. They will be speeding up right at the intersection of Drake and Campbell where pedestrians are trying to cross the street. Moving the car entrance to Campbell will create a very dangerous situation for these pedestrians who are likely families focused on their kids, backpacks, wagons, etc. and not walking defensively across a busy street. I am very concerned that a pedestrian will be hit by a car at this intersection.

I encourage the commission to design the Drake St. side of the park to be pedestrian and bicycle friendly with an emphasis on creating a beautifully landscaped setting that is visually appealing with grass, mature trees, gardens, picnic spaces, etc. Consider putting the motorized entry in the back via Orchard and develop a partnership with the hospital to use some of their parking structure on busy weekends. We should be trying to maintain and even gain green space and not allocate the front of the zoo to pavement and parking.

Further study is necessary on pedestrian behavior before moving the entrance to Drake and Campbell. We should be trying to reduce automobile traffic that crosses pedestrian pathways rather than increase it.

Respectfully,
Christine Kirsch
Jeff Huebner

From: Toni Brandeis <tbstreckert@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Opposition to Agenda Item 64455 in Vilas Park Master Plan from a neighborhood resident

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

Dear Board of Park Commission Members,
Thanks to the thorough work of our Vilas neighbors, we have become aware of the proposed changes to one of the Zoo exits which would impact the atmosphere and traffic patterns of the Indigenous people's sacred site, Bear Mounds Park. The proposed changes would disturb the serenity and respect due to this ancient venerable spot-one could hardly imagine a change like this proposed in the Arlington National Cemetery or other burial sites. Yet this one is far older and more vulnerable. As a culture, we are starting to come to terms with the systemic racism and cultural and economic neglect of marginalized peoples of color and from other traditions. There is a direct link to the Ho-Chunk community and by association to related Native American nations which have such a rich history in this area; a history, though the prevalence of these ancient burial mounds, is unique in the world. To further despoil them though a short-sided developmental fix is a moral and ethical wrong; we as a community should know better by now.

The other reasons for opposing Item 64455 have been well researched and explicated by others in the Vilas Community. As residents of the area to be impacted, I will summarize them below as stated in earlier documents; there is no need to reinvent the wheel, though we hope it will turn in the direction of responsible civic action.

The choice is yours.

Toni Brandeis Streckert
David Streckert
2112 Jefferson Street
Madison

We support greater protection of the mounds, archaeological sites, and cultural resources in Vilas and Bear Mound Parks. The City of Madison should do more than what is

minimally required under the law to protect mounds and cultural resources (per Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Heritage Preservation).

We ask that you:

1. Remove the proposed Zoo entrance/exit (Drake Street and Campbell Street) from the Vilas Park Master Plan to avoid additional degradation to a known burial mound site (Site DA-1193/BDA-0574) and adverse impacts to Bear Mound Park (DA-0185/BDA-0412). This entrance/exit change was in all three preliminary Vilas Park plan options, yet it was not discussed with the Ho-Chunk Nation Historic Preservation Officer Bill Quackenbush during planning meetings.
2. Require the Vilas Park Master Plan to include an archaeological identification survey of Vilas Park, in its entirety, as a prerequisite to any further park feature planning or ground disturbing activities. The identification survey should be conducted in partnership with the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Heritage Preservation, the State of Wisconsin Office of Historic Preservation, and other Native American consultants. All parties should know what cultural resources are or are not present so planning decisions can be made in an informed and respectful manner that values the indigenous cultural heritage in this area.

Vilas Park is located within the Lake Wingra Mounds area, encompassing one of the densest known effigy mound grouping locations in North America; special consideration is necessary in Vilas Park due to its location along the shores of Lake Wingra and the former Dividing Ridge, once home to mound groupings that extended from Bear Mound Park and the Vilas Park Mound Group southeast between Lake Monona and Lake Wingra.

3. We believe that the Lake Wingra mounds, cultural resources, and archaeological sites in Vilas and Bear Mound Parks should be cherished and celebrated by the City of Madison Parks Department (including planners and landscape architects) and by neighborhood residents.

Thank you for your consideration,

From: L. G. Damashek <lgdamashek@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vilas Park final draft Master Plan

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

Dear Board of Park Commissioners:

I encourage you to reconsider the recommendation regarding the Lagoon and encourage you to maintain the entire lagoon area as open water instead of creating half of it as a marsh lagoon.

The ability to skate on both sides of Vilas lagoon in the winter is a very special experience. Only being able to skate on half of the lagoon will make you feel like you're a hamster on a wheel - endlessly circling. Having both lagoons available creates an adventure; skating under the bridge and having variety in your skating path and views.

Also, please consider re-installing a fireplace in the warming house – it creates wonderful connections and memories.

I also encourage you NOT to cut down the precious mature trees on Drake Street near Campbell Street. The view from the "Old Woman in a Shoe" playground and the new picnic shelters will be much nicer without looking at cars whizzing by.

In addition, the increased traffic that would affect the Bear Mound from having an entrance on Campbell Street would be very harmful. The Bear Mound is a special sacred place as well as a sledding hill in winter. Increased traffic would ruin its character as well as be unsafe for the kids sledding.

Vilas Park north entrance at Drake and Randall should be sufficient! (along with the south entrance on Vilas Park Drive which can accommodate fire trucks as well as school buses!)

Please make these two changes to the Vilas Park final draft Master Plan.

Thank you-
Linda Grengg Damashek

From: Linda Anderson <lelaideanderson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Zoo

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

Please don't do anything that would adversely affect Bear Mound Park or any other archaeological site in the area around the Zoo and Vilas Park. To many sites have already been destroyed. Just one example: the mound in Burrows Park. Only one-half remains. The rest was destroyed for the park shelter.

Linda E Anderson

From: jjrichter@charter.net <jjrichter@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: 3/10/2021 Agenda Item #14 Quann Dog Park request #64149 "Christmas In July"

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to object to the request to close Quann Park for a 5K race on July 16, 2021. (Agenda Item #14 Quann Dog Park request #64149).

I take my dog Jill to Quann Park daily. The park is within walking distance from our home in the Capitol View neighborhood. Quann is already closed more than any other dog park due to Alliant Energy Center events. I appreciate having access to part of the park during those events, but it is a much smaller space (7 versus 30 acres) and it will not likely be accessible due the route of the runners. I pay for our use of Quann Dog Park. There are many other places to hold run/walk events that would not involve closing a dog park. In fact, next door on the AEC grounds would be a better lit alternative with power sources at Willow Island for the light displays.

I also object to the application because:

- It doesn't appear to be a fundraiser and is being organized by someone out of state for profit.
- Using amplified sound after 9:00 will be a disruption to the Capitol View, Bram's Addition and Bay Creek neighborhoods.
- Clean up in the night is not going to be thorough due to the limited lighting.
- Tear-down in the middle of the night will also be a sound nuisance to neighbors if equipment is used.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Jeff Richter
2109 Cliff Ct.
Madison, WI 53713

From: Cindy Schlichte <cindy@toolshed.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: VPMP

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Dear BPC -

Thank you for your thoughtful questions regarding the Vilas Park Master Plan this evening.

A couple follow-ups to the meeting on Wed, March 10 regarding VPMP agenda item #64455.

1. Playgrounds : Does a natural playground require the same level of maintenance that a traditional playground requires? I favor a playground at the beach over the far west (cheese playground).

2. Open Air Shelters : The focus on the shelter isn't money generating but rather raises concerns of who can afford to rent them and have access to make a reservation.

BUT, as Alder Evers spoke tonight, I prefer 3 playgrounds over the two open air shelters. Allow people to picnic where they please and place picnic tables in various locations.

3. I currently favor a re-location of the entrance on the north side due to problems with the current entrance/exit but agree that a traffic study is in order.

Finally, I think the suggestion to refuse the plan based on the Campbell Street entrance when the true equity part of the plan is the removal of the beach playground in favor of the western playground is misguided. I would respect that decision if it also included 3 playgrounds in the plan with the addition of the beach playground.

Regards,
Cindy Schlichte
513 S Randall
