

From: jjswisc@gmail.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Legislative File No. 65316 - OPPOSED
Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:02:41 PM

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Joe Smith
Address: 4871 CANTER CIR, Madison, WI 53718
Email: jjswisc@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Hello,

I garden at the Reindahl Park Community garden. Many people use the park space for leisure respectfully obeying the park rules. The overnight camping in the park is very unwelcoming to the community members that do not camp in the park.

I respectfully disagree with any postponement of ending the camping. The camping should end on May 9th.

Thank you,

Joe

From: elle.honerbaum@gmail.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Reindahl Park Encampment
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 7:57:34 PM

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Elle Honerbaum
Address: 507 West Wilson Street, Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-574-7272
Email: elle.honerbaum@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

My name is Elle Honerbaum, and my address is 507 West Wilson Street, District 4. I support any measure that prohibits or halts the closing of the encampment in Reindahl park. We cannot continue to hide our cities' unsheltered citizens. Desire by some community members to use a small portion of a large city park recreationally does not trump the needs of our unsheltered neighbors. A compromise on next steps needs to be reached before further action takes place. Please acknowledge and care for the shared humanity and shared housing needs of our unhoused communities.

From: [Pearl.](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Common Council meeting May 18th
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 11:10:00 PM

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As a social worker who worked in mental health and transitional housing for thirteen years as well as with other unhoused populations living outside, I have an experienced perspective. The second eviction of a homeless encampment, this time at Reindahl park isn't the whole story. We know that this is a community, a society problem, an us vs. them problem, and a "not in my backyard" problem. After volunteering my time at McPike Park, helping with the move, and then volunteering time at Reindahl park, I have come to learn the stories of many of the individuals and experiences they have told me of others in similar circumstances. They have explained the problems they have faced such as why the shelter system does not work for them.

The city has publicly and privately pitted the needs of under-served and minority needs against each other in a false dichotomy. I/We are tired of the use of these tactics against the people living at Reindahl Park and other unsheltered populations when we know it is possible to meet the needs of all user groups of the parks and other lands. We need to stop pitting one part of a community against another, pitting neighbors against neighbors, one special needs group against another with different needs. We need to stop pinning those that use the shelters against those that don't. I'm very disappointed looking at both the eviction orders at McPike Park and Reindahl Park in which the city suggested that Outreach teams should be the ones to enforce such orders. This puts outreach workers in a bad position as they know the possible implications of uprooting a community to a possible worst situation such as Starkweather Creek. This breaks down trust, pitting helpers against those that they're trying to help. Both parties know that places like Starkweather Creek are inaccessible and dangerous. Starkweather is a marsh and wooded area full of ticks, mosquitos, standing water, stinging nettles, and other hazards. Nobody would be heard if they yelled for help and it's inaccessible to outreach teams and emergency vehicles.

With the rental housing eviction ban soon being lifted, we as a city cannot send our current and future influx of homeless to live in a floodplain, hidden away in a swamp. We also need to stop thinking that decision makers have the answers to an issue most have never experienced. We need to start listening to the people who survived living outside during the polar vortex. More shelters, transitional housing, and "affordable housing" for some, isn't the solution. If those were, we wouldn't have people on the street. We need to stop thinking about putting everyone in one box, with one solution.

Much of our unsheltered population are intelligent and resilient and would simply like to be heard. Many have ideas of what would work for them, if only given the opportunity and to be heard, and many of these ideas fit other already established solutions across the U.S. and worldwide. I hope that the people living at Reindahl who have developed a community will be able to stay and feel safe until the city brings everyone to the table to develop a solution that fits the unique and complex needs of this population.

Please support Prohibiting the eviction of temporary encampments in Reindahl Park.
Sponsors: Juliana R. Bennett

Thank you!

PEARL

she/her/hers

"Be the change you wish to see in the world" - Mahatma Gandhi

From: [Rebecca Bedell](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Concern about sweep of homeless neighbors at Reindahl Park
Date: Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:34:34 AM

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Dear Alders,

I'm reaching out as a concerned citizen on the near east side about the dispersal of homeless encampments planned for today / tomorrow at Reindahl Park.

I strongly oppose the City forcing the homeless people to move. Given the pandemic still going on, the CDC warns against dispersing homeless encampments without adequate shelter facilities ready to take them in, and I know that the existing shelters are often overcrowded. The City's ongoing struggle to settle on a new permanent men's shelter makes this clear. (And the recent failed vote — though I agree with concerns about sequestering the shelter far away from downtown & essential services).

Given all this, it doesn't make any sense to jostle struggling neighbors around from place to place for what — just for the appearances of keeping the park clear? To enforce ordinances? That strikes me as a valuing of land and technicality over the lives of our community members, and it sickens me how much of our city willfully ignores the needs of our neighbors most in need.

I believe we should let our homeless neighbors stay where they are. Until the city is ready to adequately house, support, and care for every one of them, it helps no one to harass and pester them as if they are a pile of dust that we're just sweeping back and forth across a room.

Thank you. Sincerely,

--

Rebecca Jane Bedell
Coordinator of Residential Programs, Pres House, Madison WI
MFA, Poetry, UW-Madison '19
B.A. English, Princeton University '17
rebeccajbedell@gmail.com
she / her / hers

From: [Sophie Wolbert](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Don't evict people from their homes at Reindahl Park tomorrow!
Date: Saturday, May 8, 2021 7:01:59 PM

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Dear Alders and Mayor Rhodes Conway,

I am a lifelong Madison resident and I stand with my houseless neighbors who are living at Reindahl Park. It is unbelievably cruel to evict these people from their homes during a pandemic when they have no permanent housing to go to. You have a duty to house the most marginalized members of our community. Please stop the sweep that is scheduled for tomorrow. Use your empathy.

Sincerely,

Sophie Wolbert
she/her/hers
wolbertsophie@gmail.com

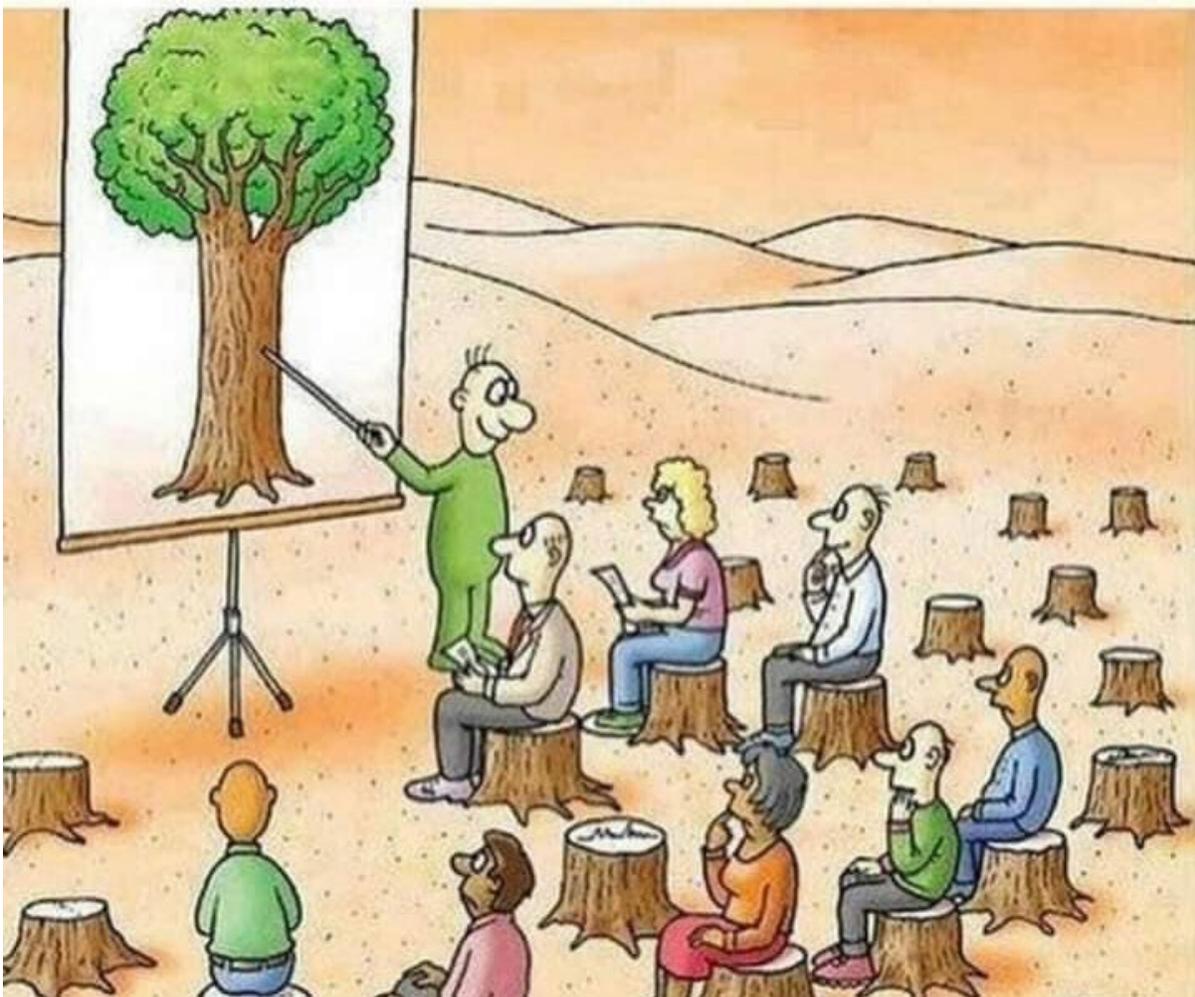
From: [Jon Becker](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: emergency encampments for persons who are homeless and the protection of our parks for future generations
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:29:32 PM
Attachments: [REINDAHL-Potential Building Sites-2020-10.png](#)

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Council Members:

You are pondering provision of guidance to parks staff regarding emergency use of city residential parks for encampments by person who are homeless. Please consider including language that eliminates siting impacts on the ecology of our parks, including essential habitat.

First, a cartoon:



The relevance of this cartoon will I hope become clearer as your read on.

I've heard that some of you, after touring Reindahl Park (which is east of my apartment's backyard), were unaware that the main encampment was in a woods that was that park's only old growth woods (by WDNR definition). Some of the oaks are over two hundred years old. This is the only acre in the 90-acre Reindahl park that was not plowed during European-American occupancy. The woods is visible in the first aerial photo of the area (1930s). The woods almost certainly has been there since the French colonial period. This

Reindahl park woods likely was there even when these lands were the home of the Ho-Chunks.

But your failure to see the Reindahl woods as an important eco-cultural site not surprising, given its recent depredation.

Due to 2018-19 decisions made by the council and city parks and library staff, as well as sewer district staff, a sewer reliever pipe was routed through the Reindahl woods, with trenching 40' deep by 40' wide. Almost 40 mature trees were cut down, despite a promise to the community by the MMSD that trees would be protected, and [substantial opposition by the community](#). Then a path was paved over the refilled trench, [despite community opposition](#). Neither trench nor path was in the park master plan.

Before:

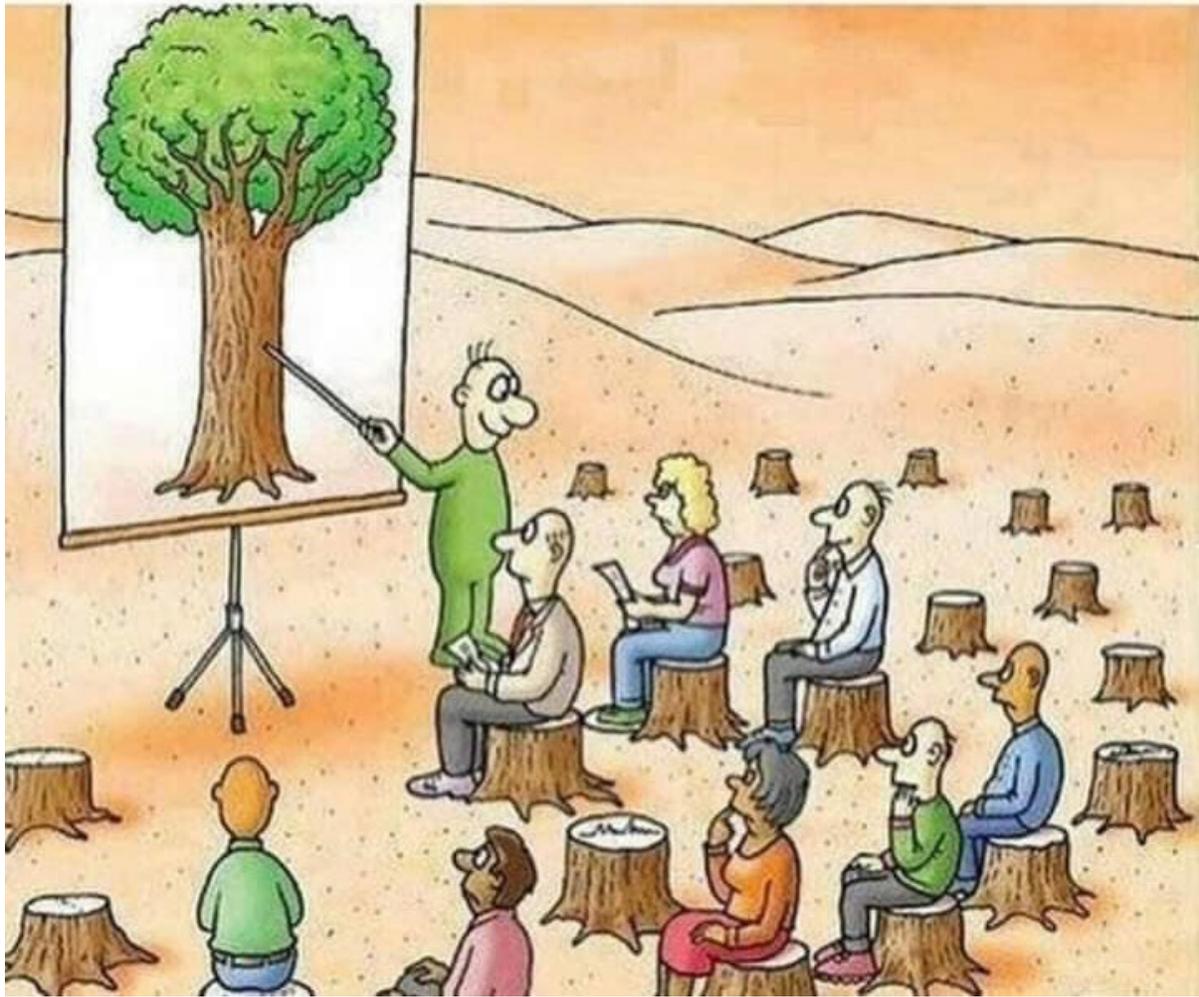


After (what you saw):

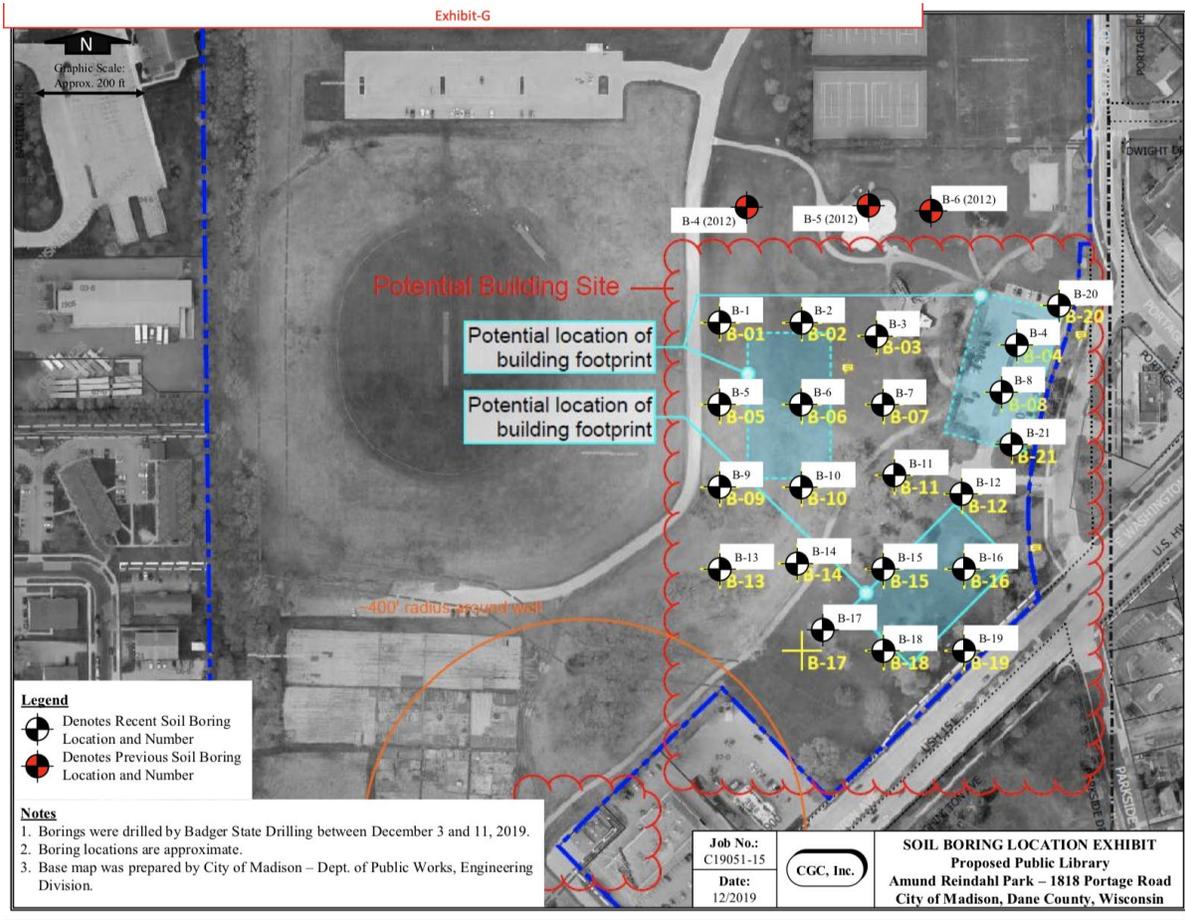


There were other route alternatives, for both the pipe and the path. The ecological impacts could have been avoided (and expenses reduced).

Staff argued that routing the trench through the old-growth woods was necessary, to avoid constraints on potential siting of a new library (Imagination Center). One of the arguments made for siting the library inside the park was to allow co-location of park offices, in support of environmental education of youth, including experiences within Reindahl woods. Does the relevance of the cartoon now make more sense?



Yet the three library facility sites now under consideration are not near the old growth woods (though more park trees will have to be cut down):



This Reindahl library facility is now proposed to be 30,000 SF. That is an increase from the original proposal of 20,000 SF and is 1.5 times as large as Pinney. The most expensive response to the design RFB was selected (the winning bidders having narrowly prevailed because of local business points).

Some local alders, past and present, advocated for putting a stand-alone library inside the park. First, an ordinance had to be passed, allowing cultural facilities to be built in parks. The council voted to approve this ordinance. The Pandora's box has been opened. Will your neighborhood park be the next target?

Using the condo-style approach, on a site adjacent to the park, would have allowed housing above the library, or a mixed use development (as at Pinney and Sequoya PLs). A stand-alone library inside the park precludes leveraging additional affordable or low-income housing for our community. Housing is not allowed in parks.

City library staff said at public meetings that stand-alone siting avoided land acquisition costs. But municipal land ownership ordinarily does not have to be acquired for the condo-style approach. That's one reason why the condo-style approach costs less than a stand-alone library (while also generating offsetting property tax revenue for the long run).

The old growth woods in Reindahl Park is about an acre in size. Yet it is home to many critters. Tree roots lie mostly near the surface. Just repeated walking or mowing over the roots can compress the soil and damage the trees.

The damage done to Reindahl woods by the council, city staff, and city leaders can only be repaired by the remaining trees themselves. This will take hundred of years, and even then

will succeed only if the newly paved path is removed. Trees must be replanted, and the understory must be restored. Root systems must be allowed to reconnect. The soil and its microbes and bacteria must be regenerated. The parks department must stop routing pop up trail bike paths through the woods, and cutting the understory down, sometimes almost all the way to the soil.

The encampments in this woods also did damage. There are 89 other acres available at Reindahl for encampments. Setting protection of our parks against the provision of encampment sites creates a false dilemma. Helping the homeless doesn't require damaging our parks or destroying the habitat that they provide.

When the council provide guidance to parks regarding the closure of emergency encampments, please include language requiring protection of key park habitat.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jon

Jon Becker
PO Box 8574, Madison, WI 53708

From: [Sara Andrews](#)
To: [Knepp, Eric](#); [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); news@wkow.com
Subject: Further information on Eric Knepp's Blog Post 05/14/21
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 1:56:45 PM

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

Dear Alders, Mayor, and Mr. Knepp, and Media,

I was dismayed by the blog post on the City of Madison website posted by Mr. Knepp and have some further information I feel you should have.

My ask to all Madison alders, and the Mayor, is to support Alder Juliana Bennett's updated resolution regarding Reindahl Park encampments at the common council meeting this coming Tuesday. This would demonstrate the ongoing commitment to amicable solutions that work for all parties.

I have been on site with outreach workers, advocates, and residents prior to the eviction notice and have been in multiple meetings with those groups post notice as a Madison citizen who has volunteered with and cares about this group of unsheltered individuals and housing issues on the whole. I have also attended the most recent meeting of the City County Homeless Issues Committee where the committee voted to have more time (30 days) to find solutions without the threat of removal and their request was denied. This lack of this action by the city leadership has contributed to recent tensions and the presence of advocates in the park.

1) "I also ask advocates who have prevented the clean-up of abandoned tents to allow City staff to continue to work to keep the park clean."

I have spoken to staff from Paul Davis after being present in the park on Tuesday when they arrived in the park to begin cleanup and have this information in writing.

"We were described an empty park full of garbage"

This is not what they witnessed when they arrived. After Monday and Tuesday they reported that:

"Our understanding is that if they ever **actually** have a park full of random abandoned contents we'll clean it up."

"We don't expect to be involved again unless there's **actually** something to be cleaned up"

What advocates were preventing was the removal of property that was designated as unclaimed at camps and on the ground but was actively in use. To that point, one tent had been blown over and was considered abandoned, and while park staff was there on Tuesday and the occupant of the tent returned to the tent for use. Some of the people living in Reindahl work or are elsewhere for short periods of time or

sometimes days and are not always present to protect their property.

There was a community managed volunteer cleaning project over a week before the intended eviction date. All known abandoned property, not claimed by residents, was removed at that time. City elected officials participated in this cleanup effort so the city was aware that it had occurred before they brought in a contractor.

2) "I am hopeful campers consider utilizing this clean and spacious City shelter as an option for shelter."

Residents of Reindahl, and other encampment areas in the city, have time and time again, said AND demonstrated by living outdoors over a Wisconsin winter, that they will not use the shelter and have already considered this option. This option has been offered over and over by outreach workers. This is not a solution for this specific group of unsheltered people currently at Reindahl. The temporary camping location they were offered is a marshy area near Starkweather Creek. This area is currently full of ticks and is an area with a high presence of mosquitos over the summer. It is not fit for any person to camp in and it is offensive that it was even suggested as a temporary solution.

I happen to own a house very close to the Starkweather creek and even at the distance of several blocks mosquito presence makes it difficult to even take a walk in my neighborhood during the height of mosquito season.

3) "We ask that advocates give space to allow these conversations to occur."

Advocates and outreach workers have been pushing for conversations and alternatives for the last month and a half - including myself. Meetings in the park occurred every week after the eviction notice was posted with residents and outreach staff who continually told us the city had no alternative location for them to move and believe they would not be removed again in a matter of months. I personally invited Alder Halverson (District 17) to attend and I know other alders were invited as well. At no time did any city staff attend these meetings.

4) "I have concerns that continued encampments at Reindahl will interfere with planned programming at this critical community park— affecting use of the park shelter, athletic facilities, splash park, and community gardens."

I recognize that some of these concerns are valid, however; Reindahl park is extremely large at 90 acres. The athletic facilities and community gardens are in heavy use already this year with many garden plots happily planted and growing and many soccer games each weekend with full parking lots. The Splash Park is a significant distance from the camp itself by what I would guess is several blocks. The Park Shelter is also a significant distance from the encampment.

While solutions acceptable to the city and the residents are being developed the residents need to be made aware that there is no chance of forcible removal by the police, and that a good faith effort is being made for a resolution without the impending threat of the removal of their

bathroom facilities or personal property.

A true resolution that is not a hopeful wish that people will use facilities they have refused to use up until this point and not an offer to move to a swamp.

Thank you for your time,

Sara Andrews
3318 Ridgeway Avenue (District 12)
Madison, WI 53704

608-957-2392

From: [Merikay Payne](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: May 18 meeting
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 11:54:56 AM

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

May 14, 2021

Dear Alders,

We garden at Reindahl Park and travel past the homeless encampment frequently. Encampment is a term to be used loosely. It is a homeless dump. Cars, tents, mountains of trash, a dumpster, port-a-potty, small children, and adults gather in the refuse.

Dane County Health should review living conditions at the encampment. Anyone afraid of COVID should also be afraid of bacteria and small rodents in the area. Yesterday as I drove to the garden, the residents gathered around a large tree, using axes to make firewood.

I would suggest homeless people are a concern to all Madison residents. Madison government should be giving the campers rules and guidance, rather than the reverse. I would like someone in your office to send me the number of homeless beds available in each of Madison's geographic north, south, east and west areas. Or please refer me to someone who can provide that information. Also how many Madison parks allow homeless encampments?

Following are ideas how to deal with homeless encampments.

Sheltering

- Camps moved to campgrounds with facilities
- Housing candidates accommodated by equal distribution throughout Madison's geographic areas

Access services

- Madison provides transportation to camp or housing, if no car
- Madison provides daily Madison trips to and from campground
- Madison recruits volunteer organizations to provide transportation

Residents as unit

- Madison ordinances established for encampment residents to follow
- Social workers interview campers to document needs and refer campers to appropriate services
- Residents work together with social workers toward self-governance

COVID

- Campers transported to vaccination locations
- Campers refuse vaccination

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Merikay and Henry Payne
810 Redland Dr.
Madison, WI 53714

From: [Eric Piotrowski](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please fund solutions for people facing homelessness
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:43:12 PM

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

I would like to express my support for Item #26 from Alder Julianna Bennett, prohibiting the eviction of temporary encampments at Reindahl Park.

The idea of kicking people out of rented hotels without a solid plan for permanent affordable housing is not something I support. I would like to see the county pursue solutions to homelessness focused on cooperative housing, tiny houses, and other more sensible options.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kind regards,
eric:p

--

Eric S. Piotrowski
Writer / Teacher / Polymath
he / him

<http://www.fbsp.org>

**"The true human ideal is to show kindness to those who are foolish and help those who are evil."
-- Bankei Yotaku**

From: [Lucy Gibson](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Prohibit the eviction of homeless people from Reindahl Park
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:49:07 AM

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

Hello, alders,

I want to support item #26 for tonight's City Council meeting, prohibiting the eviction of homeless people from temporary encampments at Reindahl Park.

Last night I listened to the City County Homeless Issues Committee meeting. I heard testimony from several people who are staying or have stayed at Reindahl Park, as well as from a variety of social workers who work with or have worked with them. The testimony made clear that the only other place being held up as a possible place to move the people from Reindahl Park is to a location on Starkweather Creek that has ticks and is swampy and has more mosquitoes.

I'm glad the City and County have a homeless issues committee, because it makes it sound as though the city and county are serious about ending homelessness, but hearing that the city is again planning to "sweep" the homeless out of another park and send them...somewhere...gives a strong impression that the city and county are still seeing homeless people as some sort of flotsam that can be swept around from one area to another.

Some of the testimony at the meeting last night was that the CDC recommends NOT moving people out of encampments, but keeping them in the same place as much as possible. For COVID vaccination purposes, some testimony indicated that it would be harder to make sure people get their second vaccination if they can't be found in the same place where they got their first vaccination. Also, individuals from the Reindahl encampment testified that they have been able to establish a sense of community among themselves, and it will again be broken up by moving them.

I understand the city wants to use the park for a variety of purposes, but it's a fact that we are in a housing crisis, and have been for a long time, only now it's worse than ever. It's important to have recreational opportunities for all Madisonians, but dealing with this crisis for the actual human beings who are homeless is actually *more* important. It's like the "elephant in the room" scenario, when games of softball and soccer are used as an excuse to pretend that there is somewhere we can send homeless people so they'll be out of sight, and out of mind. There's no such place. That's the problem with homelessness: it's always in front of everyone, and it's extremely "inconvenient" for the people who are experiencing it. It's inconvenient for us housed people, too, but we can't fix the inconvenience by just moving those inconvenient people around.

It's really time to stop our practice of trying to minimize the homeless issue. Our society has a serious problem with this. We need to put our resources (tax money) into seriously changing what's going on, and we need to make some changes in real estate taxation and practices, which are a big part of what's causing the problem. ALL new housing should include units for people of low to NO income. Too many units touted as "affordable" are only affordable to people who are not only working, but have a relatively higher income than someone working for minimum wage. ALL subsidized housing should include mental health and substance addiction services.

I was impressed by the services that are available for homeless people, and believe they should be *increased* and considered as a permanent necessity. It was clear from the conversation last night that quite a bit of the programming is temporarily funded. We need to base this kind of funding in permanent funding sources, not set it up so that it will go away after a year or two.

Please think about how we can do that.

In the meantime, I think the city should not shy away from doing publicity for the need that exists. A lot of us out here aren't adequately aware of what makes people become homeless, or aware of the full humanity of homeless people, or of the harm that will come to society if we just let this situation go on and on.

I'm sorry I've gone on so long with this, but I really want to emphasize that homelessness is probably the biggest issue facing the city and county at this time, and we need to be more serious about, and put more resources into, eradicating it. After listening to the meeting last night, I have the impression that the city and county are still fiddling around the edges of the problem, thinking we can put it kind of on the back burner and make almost everything else more important.

Thanks for your time. I really, really appreciate that alders do so much work for the city.

Lucy Gibson

From: [DAVID PROCKNOW](#)
To: [All Alders; Common Council Executive Committee](#)
Subject: Re: No time for the homeless...
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 12:07:15 PM

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

On Friday, May 14, 2021, 11:07:56 AM CDT, DAVID PROCKNOW <dtprocknow@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

This is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!

Enough is enough...YUCK!

I demand the IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION AND PROSECUTION of any and all PANHANDLING and/or TRESPASSING HOMELESS within this city.

I demand the IMMEDIATE REMOVAL AND EVACUATION of any and all HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS receiving PUBLIC ASSISTANCE within this city.

I demand the IMMEDIATE REMOVAL AND DESTRUCTION of any and all HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS and UNREGISTERED RV'S within this city.

Absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS!

David A. Procknow

From: [Taylor Tai](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Reindahl Encampment
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 8:44:00 PM

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

Hi there!

My name is Taylor, and I am a graduate student living here in Vilas. I'm writing to ask for you to **do everything in your power to prohibit the eviction of the TPE in Reindahl Park** during Tuesday's Common Council meeting. Most people living in Reindahl Park have only recently been displaced by the city from other encampments (e.g., McPike) and are rightly mistrustful that they will be allowed to live at Starkweather Park until October. Even if they are allowed to stay until October, **there is no sense in forcing folks with few resources to move yet again to another encampment that they will be evicted from** in a matter of months.

Moving people from park to park is traumatizing and cruel. It contributes to mental health crises (these folks are struggling through covid like the rest of us), breaks up communities (these folks build friendships and connections with their neighbors just like you), sets back long term projects (these folks have jobs and are hustling to make ends meet just like I am), and drains Madison's resources for short-term "solutions" rather than long-term care (Madison can afford to house its <1000 person homeless population).

Reindahl is a big park, and the encampment covers only a small corner. Allowing those without housing to stay there in peace -- as that is their preference in lieu of stable indoor affordable/free housing -- should be an easy choice to make. I will be at the common council meeting on Tuesday and hope to see my city make that decision.

Best,

Taylor Tai (she/her)
Graduate Worker
Gratton Lab, UW-Madison
taylortai.com

From: [Bill Lien](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Reindahl Park encampment
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:04:04 PM

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While homelessness is a complex problem, allowing unsupervised encampments in public parks is too simple to succeed for long. Two murders and a drug overdose equals three deaths in seven months at Reindahl Park. I don't think three deaths in every city, town, village and county park in Dane county is an acceptable number.

I am a community gardener for 15 years at Reindahl. We work hard at growing more than vegetables. Interacting with different cultures and sharing in a single goal has made me a better citizen. Theft has always been an issue, and the campers don't help alleviate that problem. Many gardeners are older, come alone to tool, and do not feel comfortable knowing they are watching every move.

We tolerated the experiment for many months. Time for them to follow Madison and government ordinances.

I don't think I could camp at Olbrich or Elver Park just because I like it there.

Children and families use the park for soccer and the splash pad.

The shelter has been over run by homeless charging phones, selling pot. We know from reserving shelter for garden potlucks. They even got in line to eat. We now use the parking lot.

Time for advocates to put them in their yards or rotate among all county parks.

Thank you for listening to my view.

Bill Lien
608 345-7781

From: [Carol Hermann](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Reindahl Park
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:21:08 AM

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Good morning,

I am asking the city to stop any action to evict the people living in Reindahl Park. Given the city's recent decision not to move forward with the shelter for unhoused men, it appears that people experiencing homelessness are stuck between a rock and a hard place. There is more than enough space at Reindahl Park to meet the needs of our community until a better solution can be found.

Thank you,

Carol Hermann

From: [Jessica D](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Reindhal park evictions
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 6:50:00 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Jessica and I live in Syed Abbas's district. I support ANY and ALL measures that prohibits or halts the closing of the Reindhal park encampment. It would be a disgrace to consider the comfort and needs of families who would like to use park resources this summer over those who are unsheltered and who our city continues to ignore. What about their comfort and needs?

Housing security should be at the forefront of our minds since some of our most vulnerable citizens are heavily impacted. Yet we failed to make secure housing a priority when certain Alders voted NO on the East side mens' shelter. Why do we continue to uphold the status quo and protect the interests of the privileged? The project \$\$ should have been secured, with discussion on ideal location to follow.

Madison also continues to invest in MORE unaffordable housing, like the Galway project at 1st and E Wash. We are in a housing CRISIS and there is discussion about potential use of TIF money for parking lots? And not one unit designated as affordable? This continues to perpetuate the inequities that we all 'talk' about addressing.

So, for those of you who have the power, DO something. We are in the midst of a movement that demands we get our priorities straight! Let's start by prohibiting Reindhal park evictions.

Thank you,
Jessica

From: [Scott Morrison Melman](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Resolution Prohibiting the Eviction of Temporary Encampments in Reindahl Park
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 12:51:15 PM

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Dear Alders,

I am Scott Morrison Melman, living at 511 S Shore Dr in District 13. I'm writing to ask for your support for the Resolution Prohibiting the Eviction of Temporary Encampments in Reindahl Park during Tuesday's upcoming Common Council meeting. Most of the people living in Reindahl Park have only recently been displaced by the city from other encampments, many from McPike Park. They are being told they can resettle (for who knows how long) at Starkweather Park, where conditions are much worse. It is more mosquito prone, flood prone, and harder to access and navigate by disabled residents and emergency responders. Moving people from park to park is traumatizing and cruel; it contributes to mental health crises, sets back long term projects (one resident is attempting to establish a business), and breaks up communities. These people have it hard enough already, especially during the pandemic. It also drains city resources that could be spent building a long term support system for Madison's homeless community.

I know all this because I've spent much of the last week at Reindahl Park getting to know some of the people living here. They're just doing their best to survive, and they are reasonable and respectful. It's a big park, and they are occupying a small corner. They want neighborhood residents to use the park too, to get to know them as neighbors instead of fearing them as others. The city needs to take care of its most vulnerable residents. And until that happens, it needs to at least let them be, and not just push them out of sight. For some, it's a matter of life and death.

I'd be happy to talk more about this; my phone number is (609) 902-9052. I will be speaking at the common council meeting. Thank you for your time. Please do the right thing and use your power to defend the powerless.

Best,
Scott

From: [Jakob Gingrich](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Stop the eviction of the encampment at Reindahl Park
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 2:39:36 PM

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Hello Alders,

I'm a Madison resident, and as someone who cares about my community, I strongly urge you to VOTE YES for the Resolution Prohibiting the Eviction of Temporary Encampments in Reindahl Park. I support any measure that prohibits or halts the closing of the encampment in Reindahl park. We can not continue to hide our cities' unsheltered citizens. Desire by some community members to use a small portion of a large city park recreationally does not trump the needs of our unsheltered neighbors.

Thank you,
Jakob Gingrich
701 W Main St, Madison 53715

From: [Noah Reinkober](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support Agenda Item #26
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:22:37 AM

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Good afternoon, Madison Alders! My name is Noah Reinkober and I'm just writing to encourage you to support Item #26 on tonight's Common Council Agenda. I will be unable to speak at tonight's meeting but I have registered my support for this item as a concerned citizen. You will have a chance tonight to prove to your constituents whether or not you truly care for our homeless population, a protected class in this city. I believe that the encampments in Reindahl Park should be allowed to remain as they are. It is not the ideal living situation for anyone but it is currently the only stable option for a very vulnerable population. We've been told that the encampment prevents other community members from using the park but we have documented evidence proving otherwise. There is plenty of space for everyone to coexist. Rather than thinking of where to push our homeless community members next, I urge you to change your efforts to focus on actual housing and wrap around services for this population. I support agenda item #26 and if you want to be on the right side of history in this matter, you all will too. Thank you.

From: [Nicholas Davies](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Yes on 65316 (Prohibit evictions from Reindahl Park)
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 10:38:38 AM

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Dear alders,

For people coping with homelessness during a pandemic, space at Reindahl Park is the absolute minimum assistance we could possibly give them. It's just space to exist, without food or shelter or any other necessities.

Yet the city threatens to take away even that, evicting them from the park and presenting them with no viable alternative. We would take away what little stability they have. All of this cruelty, and for what? To spare housed residents the discomfort of seeing those who our system has failed?

It's especially at times like these that make me recall that this is all stolen land. Our "right" to expel people from it by force is derived from similar crimes of past generations. And yet we would take this step now, at a moment when Palestinians are being systematically and violently unhoused and displaced using our tax dollars.

Where exactly do we expect these human beings to exist? This Council has just indefinitely delayed plans for a shelter. We are still in a pandemic with no firm end date, and we're shuffling around a group of people worst-served by our healthcare system.

I support item 65316, and I also recognize that it's not enough.

Thank you,
Nick Davies
3717 Richard St