

From: William Lien <harlie12@tds.net>  
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:35 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: Delores Harrison <deeh1942@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Reindahl Park Encampment

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

I understand our Congress not getting anything accomplished with gridlock. I understand our state legislature not even meeting for 18 months. But if the axiom "all politics is local", then I will assume that after not hearing from any of twenty alderpersons on my e-mails regarding the encampment in Reindahl Park, I am left to guess nobody wants to discuss a no win situation, are afraid to respond, or would prefer spending your time promoting a full time council. Either way, what good is an all alder e-mail if it only works for alders, but no reason to communicate back to the people you represent. I'm sure many people would come in person to your public meetings, if we knew this issue would be discussed before 1:00 am. If I wasn't a 15 year gardener in the community gardens, I would have no business or need to go to Reindahl Park. But since our fees pay for our garden, and we are self sustaining, I feel our voices should be considered over non sustainable park users. I don't mean the soccer or cricket teams, youth football etc.

We also pay our water bill of over a \$1000 per garden season. Sunday and Monday June 6th and 7th, I watched in disbelief as two different campers used our garden hoses to take a shower, scrubbing with bar soap and washing their hair. Perhaps since they have been provided amenities that have never been provided to our garden, (porta potties) it should be proposed to provide a hot water heater so they can enjoy a warm shower. I also noticed Sunday the splash pad open. I saw a portapotty close by. Are the public restrooms available at the splash pad closed due to the campers. The idea of families and their children using outdoor porta potties due to the encampment is disgusting on too many levels.

Since the May 9th date, the newspapers both mentioned how the campers cleaned up their area. There was an improvement for a couple of days. Now, I ask any 5 of 20 alders whether advocates or not, to drive by this week and tell anyone that the sight is not deplorable or befitting a third world country. RV campers and vehicles on the park grass area, three dumpsters, a large RV parked in the parking lot by the soccer fields, two more in the shelter parking area, people sleeping on the other side of our gardens using make shift tents, and on the bike paths.

Sure it is a complex problem, but as a 65 year old who toils 5 days a week for 4-6 hours a day, I wonder why the campers should be any where near our gardens and possible temptation to help themselves. Too many people already think a community gardens is just that, open to any and all. There are many more tents today than on May 9th. I didn't think that was supposed to happen. We cannot drive on the grass, nor would we want to . . .

I have called the mayors office twice a week. They say call the Park Rangers. The Park Rangers say due to inaction from Mayor/Council, they can do nothing.

There have been three too many deaths since this experiment started. Fortunately, none were innocent children or other legitimate park users who pay for the right to use the park for their activity. I sure hope something unthinkable doesn't happen at Reindahl on your watch due to Madison not being able to enforce normal park rules everyone else must abide by. I suspected a rat when the sewer project was rammed through with misinformation, but this really is out of hand.

Unless you see the situation on a day to day basis, how would you know how things are going, right? But you and your families probably just go to other parks for a day of fun and relaxation this summer.

Thanks again for listening.

Bill Lien  
608-345-7781

**From:** bmccarthy13@icloud.com <bmccarthy13@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Tents in Reindahl Park

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Barbara McCarthy  
**Address:** 350 S. Hamilton St. Unit 404, Madison , WI 53703  
**Phone:** 608-417-9425  
**Email:** [bmccarthy13@icloud.com](mailto:bmccarthy13@icloud.com)

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

**Message:**

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the tents and trailers at Reindahl Park. I am a gardener at the park. Today, people put up a tent quite close to one end of the garden. Foul language and yelling lasted the whole time followed by gunning their van. They use the hoses to access water that we gardeners pay for. Trash is spread throughout the site while the three large dumpsters remain empty. We have many Asian, Hispanic and Hmong gardeners. The Asian woman who gardens next to me expressed her fear about coming to the garden and said her son told her not to come. I waited until she was done gardening so we could leave together. She said there was a big fight among the campers a few days ago. Gardeners are not allowed to drive our cars into the park area but these campers are doing so. Every gardener I have talked with is upset, angry and in some cases afraid.

I have been supportive of the tent living and understand the need for it. But the behavior of the campers has changed my support. Please find another solution for the campers. This situation is unacceptable and unfair to those of us who respect and follow park rules. We want to enjoy our time in our gardens and the campers are making that impossible. Please know that we pay for our garden plots and they are a source of outdoor pleasure. We know each other and have created our own garden community. The campers have made it difficult to find the same level of enjoyment. A big concern is what will happen to our gardens when they are full of vegetables. We already experience thefts. Will there be more with the campers living so near?

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** Mark Wetter <mawettergumweed@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 6:54 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Okeefe, James <JOkeefe@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Reindahl Community Garden and economic impact of homeless encampment

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Everyone:

Since the water at the Reindahl Community Garden was turned on in early May, many of our gardeners have reported seeing people from the homeless encampment, just to the E of Reindahl Garden, coming over to the garden and using Garden's faucets to shower, clean their clothes, or fill large containers of water to haul back to the encampment. On several occasions I have seen a man with a wagon filling two large plastic tanks and taking them into the encampment. Presumably, the residents of the encampment are using some of this water for cooking or consumption, although technically the water at the garden is non-potable.

We pay for every gallon of water we use at the garden, and we do everything we can to limit our water usage since our water bill is our largest yearly expense. Many of our gardeners are economically challenged and depend on their plots for a large part of the yearly subsistence. We at Reindahl Community Garden are especially aware of this and for the past two years we have waived our plot fees for families that were unable to pay due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 so they could continue to grow food for their families.

Over 70% of our gardeners pay the minimal plot fee (\$15/plot for 2021) and in most normal years we barely break even between our income and our expenses.

It is unfair to expect Reindahl Community Gardeners to shoulder the expense burden of having an ever-increasing number of residents of the tent encampment using the Garden's water resources. Since the City has failed to enforce the removal of the homeless encampment after the expiration of temporary permissible encampment (TPE) permit on May 10 and has apparently no one has done anything to stem the increasing number of people now encamped in Reindahl Park I am asking the City to pay at least one-half of Reindahl Community Garden's water usage bill for 2021.

Looking forward to your positive response.

Mark Wetter

Reindahl Community Gardener Coordinator

[mawettergumweed@gmail.com](mailto:mawettergumweed@gmail.com)

[reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:reindahlcommunitygardens@gmail.com)

**From:** reporting@cityofmadison.com <reporting@cityofmadison.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 9:56 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** [All Alders] Reindahl Park No Camping - Enforce Laws/Regulations/Ordinances

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Joe Smith

**Address:** 4871 Canter Cir, Madison, WI 53718

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Hello,

I am against the lack of enforcement of cars, trucks, campers, and overnight camping in Reindahl Park.

The pandemic orders are expired. These laws should be enforced.

I garden in Reindahl Park and now I am limiting the time myself and family use the park.

Thank you,

Joe

**From:** Ryan Hartkopf <ryanhartkopf@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, June 12, 2021 3:27 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; county\_board\_recipients@countyofdane.com; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Rental assistance and homelessness

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

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway, Madison alders, and Dane County Board members,

Why do we have \$10,000,000 in rent money sitting around collecting dust, but we can't house 50 people living in Reindahl park? Surely there is a way to reallocate some of those funds toward folks who have lost their residences entirely?

Sincerely,

Ryan Hartkopf

<https://www.channel3000.com/over-10-million-in-rent-assistance-is-still-unclaimed-in-dane-county-how-to-find-out-of-you-qualify/>

**From:** jclausius@charter.net <jclausius@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Reindahl Park Encampment

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

From: [jclausius@charter.net](mailto:jclausius@charter.net)  
To: "[mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mayor@cityofmadison.com)", "[eknepp@cityofmadison.com](mailto:eknepp@cityofmadison.com)", "[jokeefe@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jokeefe@cityofmadison.com)"  
Cc: "[district17@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district17@cityofmadison.com)"  
Sent: Wednesday June 16 2021 8:32:55PM  
Subject: Reindahl Park Encampment

Dear City Officials,

As a former alder and 30 year Madison resident, I feel justified in speaking out against the campers illegally occupying Reindahl Park. However, I want to make it plain that I have complete empathy for the homeless in our city. Madison officials and residents alike have a long history of providing shelter and assistance for our homeless.

That being said, let's talk about some of the prevailing attitudes with the Reindahl situation. I make it a point to visit Reindahl Park every few days, including the parking lots and the access roads. In the community garden area, I've stared down several campers who seem to have a sense of arrogance and entitlement to be there. Some of these people and their supporters now talk of organizing meetings and constructing bathing facilities in the park. **There is almost a feeling that the park is about to turn into another "Occupy Madison"!** Then there are the campers who act like they are camping out at Devils Lake for the summer.

Our new Alder, Gary Halvorsen inherited this entire situation and was rebuffed in his attempt at the May 18th city council meeting to remove the illegal campers. I support his efforts to locate and develop alternative sites and housing for our homeless population. However, these type of plans take a great deal of time and money. Some elected officials also seem more concerned with the feelings and welfare of the campers than the rights of local residents and taxpayers being shut out of their park.

Until February, 2021, Reindahl Park was a billboard for diversity on Madison's east side. Black, Brown, Asian and all residents felt safe gathering there to play, picnic and enjoy a beautiful Madison Park. In addition to the existing splash park, future plans are to add a branch library aka the Imagination Center and a fully accessible playground for underserved residents.

**The bottom line is that we want our park back!** Please enforce all city ordinances prohibiting the illegal activities now in progress at Reindahl Park. The campers refusing to move into proper shelters need to be moved to a non-park location. An example would be the vacant Sports Pub property. That location is fully accessible, has a water supply and interferes with no one.

I was a member of the Parks Commission and an advocate for the Madison Parks System my entire tenure on the Madison City Council. **Please give Reindahl Park back to the east side!**

Sincerely,

Joe Clausius  
18 Clarendon Court  
Madison, WI 53704