

From: Brent Denton <bdenton@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 5:11 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Haen Family Park - Dogs in Park Update

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Hello BPC,

I became aware of the Dogs in Park Update, Legislative File No. 68112, earlier this week when I was out walking around my neighborhood, and was shocked that now both of my local parks have become Dog Free without any local input. I am specifically concerned about the transition of Haen Family Park to Dog Free status, when Sauk Creek Park - just two blocks down the street - is also Dog Free. The neighborhoods along High Point road, from Old Sauk to Mineral point, are full of dog-owning families that have respected Sauk Creek Park as Dog Free and enjoyed the ability to spend time at Haen Family Park in lieu of Sauk Creek, but I cannot expect their Dog Free statuses to be adhered to when there are no longer any Dog Friendly parks within walking distance. I am especially concerned about this transition being made without any local input.

Upon review of Legislative File No. 68112 online, I discovered that the change in Haen Family Park's status was to accommodate the associated change in status to Hillpoint Park. While I agree with the decision to make a park with paved walking paths Dog Friendly, Haen Family Park is not an appropriate replacement, as it is not very close to Hillpoint Park and just down the road from Sauk Creek Park (which is already Dog Free). That this decision was made on staff recommendation and without any local input is frustrating and disappointing. At the very least, I would have expected this legislative item to be solicited in the regularly issued Neighborhood Updates prior to being taken up.

I would therefore sincerely petition that the decision to change the status of Haen Family Park to Dog Free be reverted, and that this item be taken up well in advance of its next annual scheduling. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to expedite this process.

Thank you for your time,
Brent Denton
920-637-0877

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Freiwald, Ann** <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 12, 2021, 11:59 AM
Subject: RE: General Park Inquiry _ Haen Family Park
To: Brent Denton <bdenton@uwalumni.com>
Cc: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>

Hello Brent.

The changes for the 2021 to 2022 cycle have been completed. I see you have submitted a request, this will be considered at the Nov 2022 meeting of the BPC.

You are free to contact the BPC about your concerns regarding the process at any time.

Thank you.

Ann Freiwald, PLA

Planning and Development Manager

City of Madison Parks Division

City-County Building, Rm 104

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Madison, WI 53703

afreiwald@cityofmadison.com

T: 608-243-2848

From: Brent Denton <bdenton@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: General Park Inquiry _ Haen Family Park

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Thank you Ann,

This is very helpful information, but I am still concerned that these changes were made without notice to the impacted neighborhoods for input. Upon review of the change request site, it does not appear that outstanding requests can be reviewed, and it is not feasible to expect citizens to submit a change request to maintain their park's current functionality if they're unaware that any change might be made. There is therefore no way to know if a submitted request represents a majority or minority opinion (as you'll only ever get requests to change and never to remain the same).

I have just personally submitted a new request at that page briefly summarizing my opinions. Can this be reviewed for action still in the current revision cycle? Please let me know as soon as possible - I would like to petition the Parks Commission if special action is required; it is unreasonable to have such a change be made without notice and be unable to be changed for a full year.

Thank you again for your help,

Brent Denton

On Fri, Nov 12, 2021, 10:01 AM Freiwald, Ann <AFreiwald@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

I am writing as you had a question on the change at Haen Family Park. The Board of Parks Commission has made changes to the dog status at that park at their November meeting.

First, some background. In 2019 and 2020 the BPC considered a change to its dog policy which banned dogs, even on leashes, from most parks. After much public engagement, Parks developed a new policy, which would allow licensed and leashed dogs in most of our neighborhood and mini parks. The BPC sought, and received a change to the Madison Ordinances. In early 2020, Madison Common Council approved the revised dog ordinance (MGO 8.19 and 23.32, File 59294). The BPC then implemented the new policy by deeming some 30 parks as “dog free” and the remaining neighborhood and mini parks as “dog friendly”. As this policy went live, we received some requests to change the dog status of some particular parks. [More info on the change can be found here:](#)

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-allowed-on-leash-in-most-madison-parks>

Parks then developed a process by which we collect request for dog status changes throughout the year, then at the November Board of Park Commissioners meeting, the board reviews all of the requests and makes a recommendation regarding which parks should have a change in status. This meeting occurred earlier this month, the BPC reviewed 16 requests for a change and adopted 8 changes. Five (5) parks went from dog free to dog friendly, and three (3) parks changed from dog friendly to dog free.

Dog Friendly to Dog Free	
	Kingston -Onyx
	Haen Family
	Quarry Cove
Dog Free to Dog Friendly	
	Heritage Heights
	Raymond Ridge
	Hillpoint
	Acewood
	Sandstone

The BPC believes that these changes maintain the balance we are seeking between allowing people to walk their dogs and providing folks who would rather not see dogs in parks a place to recreate. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

By the way, anyone can make a request to change the current dog status of a park, more info can be found here.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/play/designation-change-request>

From: bdenton@uwalumni.com <bdenton@uwalumni.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: General Park Inquiry

Contact Information:

Name: Brent Denton
Street Address:
7814 W Oakbrook Cir
Madison, WI 53717-1609
Phone: 920-637-0877
Email: bdenton@uwalumni.com

Comments / Questions:

Subject: General Park Inquiry

Comments / Questions:

Hello, can I please be directed to someone with knowledge of how the parks are being set as either allowing dogs or prohibiting them? I discovered today that Haen Family Park is transitioning to dog-prohibited status, and that this is not occurring alongside a transition of Sauk Creek Park to allowing dogs. The neighborhoods along High Point road, from Old Sauk to Mineral point, are full of dog-owning families that have relied on these two parks as greenspace to be able to gather outdoors with others (especially during the ongoing pandemic). While we can certainly understand that some parks may want to be kept free of dogs, at least one of our two parks should allow them. We used to have two parks within walking distance to be able to spend time at, and now there are none.