

ATTACHMENT B - Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge
Received Correspondence

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Misc. Comments

Categories: Red category

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The Survey Monkey questions were too limiting and did not afford me an opportunity for thoughtful analysis of the project, so I hope that these following comments can be of use as feedback this far into the project.

I attended the presentation by the three finalists and was disappointed by all three. In part, I believe that the guidance they received was simultaneously too detailed and too broad. Each presentation attempted to provide too many activities/services in an unrealistically small space. Each had its good points, but all missed issues that are certain to surface.

It appears that the criteria each finalist tried to incorporate into their planning actually contradicts the project "Vision," of a lakefront that provides a memorable experience unique to Madison, meets the "character and values" of Madison and fosters a sense of civic pride, while including innovative and iconic features that are regional attractions, creating a "must-see" destination.

Project criteria included: Equitable Access, Sustainability, Community Connections, Culture (i.e, Ho-Chunk), Lake Access, Public Space, Public Art. This list cannot reasonably be accommodated in such a limited physical space.

My comments on the plans:

Lake Monona. Some of the proposed uses required by the planning Criteria, such as 'public art' or 'culture' or 'public space,' could be better provided in areas of central Dane County away from waterfront or on other areas of Lake Monona shoreline.

This project is limited to one section of a lake shoreline on a body of water that does not exist as a separate entity, either environmentally, politically or culturally. What proportion of 'sustainability' can the project reasonably be expected to provide, given the multitude of competing criteria?

Lake Mendota and Monona Bay have areas of lake access and lakefront activities. The San Damiano property in the City of Monona could provide a significant portion of the environmental and cultural aspects of the Monona Waterfront plan process. Olbrich Park could provide the requirements for 'public access,' and because of its size and location, would be an ideal location for public arts – concerts, theater, etc – that would not compete with other lakefront users, and undermine the project Vision.

Lake Access. The top priority for any design should have been access to the lake. The lakes are central to the character of Madison. Thus, the project should focus on those uses that a lakefront offers to the public that other spaces in the central Dane County do not. The Vision and plan should focus on these uses, such as quiet places for fishing or reading and reflection away from the 'city,' but next to the water, built amenities such as boathouse, boat/equipment storage, dock or other requirement for boating on water or on ice, and audience space for on-water activities such as the ski show.

Crowd Density and Competing Uses. What is the proposed maximum population which the lakefront can reasonably be intended to serve? How much space will each of the proposed uses require so as not to overlap and interfere with other, competing uses. Dane County population is projected to increase by 20 percent by the end of this decade and perhaps

600,000 by 2040, and it's not clear whether these state projections take into account the certain inflow of climate refugees? A crowded public space with overwhelmed undersized infrastructure not adequate for competing uses will not achieve the project's Vision.

Access. Population projections include an increasing proportion of older citizens whose needs must be included in any planning for city amenities. Reasonable transportation access by persons of limited income, limited mobility, small children or the elderly or with limited mobility did not appear on the plan. City parking on the Isthmus does not meet current needs and the bus system, especially with the BRT redesign, will be a major disincentive for many of the target populations to access the lakefront. The lovely presentations showed an unreasonably limited number of people using the waterfront, there's no way visitors will be able to move comfortably, safely, and enjoyably along the waterfront in any of the three designs.

Maintenance. Maintenance of the built environment should be a major design factor given Madison's climate. What type and degree (daily, annual, short-term/ long-term) of maintenance will each use, material and design item require? What special maintenance challenges will be required by waterfront and extreme weather for the various built portions (design, materials, etc.). Because of the long design and construction horizon for this project, any plan must go beyond the initial design and construction phases, and must consider long-term costs, use issues and environmental, population, fiscal and political changes.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 1:17 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Waterfront project

Categories: Red category

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This is not practical for runners and cyclists. Wooden boardwalks, winding paths can cause hazards for people that use these trails/paths every day.

For example, some designs include a wooden boardwalk. I'm sure that'll be pretty, but it's uneven and slippery AF when wet -- hazardous and totally not practical for runners and cyclists.

We need flat, wide, blacktop paths.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:01 AM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Lake Monona Waterfront Design
Categories: Red category

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

To Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee,

The Capital Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc, a major stakeholder in the Madison Chain of Lakes, is writing to share its feedback and concerns regarding the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge and the associated proposed changes to our lake. We are excited to see so much attention go into improving our city's greatest natural resource and are also concerned for the lack of consideration given to one of its main constituents - the fish and the anglers who recreate on this lake all year long.

We hope to see you include these considerations as the project moves forward.

As stated, the goal of the project is to formulate a "visionary, inclusive, and environmentally focused master plan for Madison's foremost public lakefront." Each of the three plans contain some very positive material regarding the living shoreline, water quality issues, and stormwater runoff management. That being said, we are concerned the project misses a few fundamentally important points related to the lake itself, the actual natural resource. Lake Monona has undoubtedly gone through a lot of change over the decades, all at the hands of humans. At the same time it has become a world recognized fishery, where anglers travel from far and wide to recreate and fish on the lake. We as a club have specifically worked to stock and grow the population of our state fish, the muskellunge, to the point that the Chain of Madison Lakes is now recognized globally as a trophy fish destination. Just this year, the Madison Chain of Lakes will welcome the Professional Musky Tournament Trail on June 10th, 2023, only because of the trophy fishery we have helped build.

At the same time the lake has many issues, one of which we see top among them all - water quality. By the time the peak of summer comes, the lakes are plagued by huge algae blooms with thick sloppy weeds encasing nearly the entire shoreline under consideration in this project. There are a few components of each proposal that take this into account - that is undoubtedly a positive. Improving the water quality and reducing the urban runoff from the city should be, in our opinion, one of the main considerations for this project. Beyond beautiful gardens, beaches, and artificially constructed shorelines, we want to emphasize that the main issues we and the lake's angling constituents see is the poor water quality on the lake.

Additionally, throughout the proposals there is little to no mention of the existing fish habitat and population management. The work considered along the shoreline from Olin Park to Law Park is critical fish habitat and needs to be part of the conversation when major renovation and construction is on the table.

We have outlined some of the most salient points we would like to communicate below:

- Any major renovation to the Lake Monona shoreline should consider, as its top priority, the improvement of water quality and the preservation of fish habitat.
- Any action results in a reaction in all ecosystems so any proposed Lake Monona shoreline alterations should be seriously weighed against the possible reactions in all the existing ecosystems, including local muskellunge and other fish populations.
- Any alterations to the existing Monona shoreline should improve purification of rain, water runoff into lake Monona, not make it worse.
- Resist temptation to substitute concrete structures or landfills for unique and irreplaceable shorelines that currently provide healthy fish habitat.
- Respect the current balance of nature in Lake Monona including existing fish habitat rather than diminish it
- Any Lake Monona shoreline proposal should detail how the project would improve the fish habitat, not destroy or take away from it.
- The proposed sites from the Olin Park Boat Launch to Law Park are existing prime spawning habitats for fish that should not be destroyed or reduced.

Thank you for taking the time to read our thoughts. We have shared this letter with our club members in hopes they can amplify our thoughts. We are excited by the environmental focus of this project, but want to make sure you, the City of Madison, is taking into account the current positives our lake offers for fishing as well as the need to drastically improve the water quality,

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On behalf of the Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Waterfront design comments.

Categories: Red category

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

I just finished the survey and had a few more comments.

Equity: Traffic-calming on John Nolan Drive will cause many drivers to re-route themselves to Park Street and create congestion in the multi-racial, multi-ethnic renaissance of new residential, cultural and commercial development around S Park Street. How can traffic be managed to avoid an inequitable impact to S Park St?

Existing Residential High-rise: Even recognizing that these are conceptual proposals, none of the proposals meaningfully addressed the interface with existing, under construction and planned high-rise residential buildings. Some of the buildings simply disappeared in the proposals, others lost their lower floors. Clarity will be needed here soon or there may be a lot of unproductive anxiety among potentially impacted residents.

Maintaining the soft/wild character: The soft/wild park and shoreline concepts are delightful. Care must be taken in design that the Mad City Ski Team and Ironman don't disrupt the soft/wild nature of the new park. The Mad City Ski Team currently dominates the evening shoreline 5-6 evenings/week with equipment, vehicles, noise and high speed wakes during their daily practices and Sunday performance. The existing park is far better suited to Ironman Competitions than the new waterfront proposals. How will these activities fit into the new soft/wild park and shoreline without disrupting it?

Destination Restaurant: I am skeptical of a destination waterfront restaurant. Such venues in public spaces typically end up with disinterested management, poor traffic, mediocre food and sticky tables and floors. What about a design that includes an easily accessed and managed food truck circle rather than a destination restaurant?

Thank you for all the good work on this project,

[Redacted]

[Redacted signature block]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Resident Input Lake Monona Shoreline Plans

Categories: Red category

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

None of the three plans discuss preserving or improving existing irreplaceable healthy fish habitat. The entire area considered from the Olin Boat Launch to Law Park already provides excellent fish habitat. Please do not rob this from future generations or diminish it. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources local Fishery Biologist Dan Oele, Capital City Muskies Inc, Yahara Fishing Club, and the Clean Lakes Alliance deserve additional input and serious consideration moving forward.

None of the three plans adequately addressed improving Lake Monona and the Madison Chain of Lakes water quality. Why? Improving Lake Monona water quality should be a cornerstone for any Lake Monona shoreline plans. Madison lakes are some of most unique and treasured assets, please do not diminish them with more concrete or landfill.

[REDACTED]
Sun Prairie, WI

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2023 11:04 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Comments on Waterfront Design Proposals

Categories: Red category

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Comments on Waterfront Design Proposals

In response to proposals for waterfront development that show a sand beach on Lake Monona: the illustration of a nice beach looks great and a clean beach would be an asset, but the reality is that the beach would have algae, "sea-weed," and dirty water/sand like other beaches on Lake Monona and would not be used. If you've gone to Olin Park's beach or other beaches on Lake Monona on a summer day, you've probably seen how empty and uninviting they are. Online reviews (of their usefulness for swimming) confirm this.

My suggestion is to adapt the large circular boardwalk lagoon in Agency Landscape + Planning's design proposal to be an enclosed swimming pool nestled within the Lake Monona waters but with one sandy beach side and waterside facilities. The advantages are as clear as pool water is compared to lake water: cleaner water, known water depth, full surrounding deck. The pool would look in part like an infinity pool, very "Instagramable" and a great complement to Goodman Pool. The sandy area would be easier to maintain and be as popular with adults as Gage's Marina beach in Lake Geneva. Bonus points if you can figure out how to make it a smooth hockey rink in the winter.

If you've ever watched most kayak renters at Lake Monona (or rented one yourself), you'd notice most row out to the middle of the lake and then back to where they started. Few, if any, get out and swim, despite wearing bathing suits. One additional advantage of a pool is that a part of the deck surround could be a kayak parking (and locking) ramp. This would make the pool and its facilities a destination for kayakers who want to swim and eat; with the synergy making both activities more attractive.

[REDACTED]
Madison Resident

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2023 7:35 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: what happened to fishing in Lake Monona?

Categories: Red category

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I think the designs for Monona are wonderful if I were a business looking to attract tourist, but I am not; I am a fisherman that prizes lake Monona for fishing and you seem to be ignoring the value this lake holds for Wisconsin fisherman that pay taxes, fees, and more taxes to use the waters, and then get ignored when it comes to commercial businesses. It is bad enough that business lobbies buy our voice in Washington, and the trickle down effect seems to have made its way into Madison lately too.

Access to ice fishing at Brittingham is terrible with the rock edging, you need to provide marked walkways onto the ice, Destroying fishing habitat for nice pictures is a terrible use of taxpayer money.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2023 4:29 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lake Monona design challenge....

Categories: Red category

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

As a member of the Yahara fishing Club, I have queried the membership about their knowledge and involvement in the "design Challenge" process. To a person, NOT ONE person I asked was remotely aware of this project.

In reviewing the webpage, I see where several "stakeholder" presentations and meetings were held: Waterski team, Clean lakes alliance, Brittingham boatsbut not contact with a large user base: recreational fishermen (persons) .Please explain why what seems to be a logical and primary contact was neglected ?

1. Have I overlooked an outreach effort to communicate with the organized fishing public ?
2. Do you have contact information for this entity (Yahara Fishing Club?)
3. Are you aware of their club mission of advocacy for fishing ?
4. Do you intend to include the fishing public as the process moves forward ?

Please reply to these questions and cc the individuals above

Thank you
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows

[REDACTED]

From: Madison Parks
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

Categories: Red category

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Madison Parks <parks@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

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

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 6, 2023 at 5:21 PM
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: <lakemononawaterfront@cityofmadison.com>

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

From: [REDACTED]
To: mononawaterfrontproject@cityofmadison.com
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 09:55:58 -0600
Subject: comments

I watched the videos but instead of doing the survey, I'm sending this email. I liked the ideas of James Corner Field Operations the best. They have lots of experience doing other projects and I also liked they informed us that this will be very expensive.

I feel due to the cost partly, changes should be minimal & priorities set to do the highest priority stuff first & then see if we can be satisfied with those results before doing more.

Keep it simple, in other words. We don't want the final result to turn that area into a Madison Disneyland.

Due to my age & health, I may not be able to walk in the area unless there are ample places to sit down. I once was able to walk entirely around Monona Bay but not anymore.

I'm also not sure that John Nolan Dr. should be narrowed. Where will commuters enter Madison to go to/from work instead? Not everyone has a schedule that allows them to ride share. It won't make sense to narrow the drive, have traffic jams & then pay to widen, say, Park Street. Those who want to canoe or boat in the area can't bring those items on a bus.

Residents shouldn't assume we'll have to pay for the changes. Not only will there be future costs due to climate change, improvements to S. Madison, rapid transit but also due to war in Ukraine, inflation, etc. I'm low income so I don't have \$ to pay for this.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2023 5:21 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

Categories: Red category

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

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

From: [REDACTED]
To: mononawaterfrontproject@cityofmadison.com
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2023 09:55:58 -0600
Subject: comments

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2023 7:46 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Dog Swim Area

Categories: Red category

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I hope that you include a dog swim area in the proposal for lakeshore development.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront

Categories: Red category

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

They all look great at this time. The biggest concerns I have are with the aquatic environment and the lake bottom. There have been years of contaminant accumulation and both items should be covered in every plan

Provisions should be mean for all type of watercraft access especially those with non-motorized craft.

He's of access to the general walking public should be encouraged with non-obtrusive parking nearby. Do not ruin the lakefront views that will be publicized across the world with surface parking.

I survived the Frank Lloyd wright convention Center discussions and this will continue the the improvements to Madison lakefront

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:11 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Costs?

Categories: Red category

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

Was looking for costs of redesigns??
Curious?

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: A comment on proposed plans

Categories: Red category

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

Greetings –

I attended last week's presentation of the proposed designs for the Lake Monona waterfront, and I loved the creative ideas for transforming this space. I am writing to share a concern about one aspect of the proposed designs.

I live in the Union Transfer condo building at 155 East Wilson, in a lower-floor unit that looks out on the lake. The reason we bought the condo was its beautiful lake view; that view is what makes our condo a desirable place to live. It appears that as presented, two of the proposed designs (Corner's Law Park North and Sasaki's Law Park Ledge) would eliminate that view entirely and would instead have us looking into the backside of a hill of some sort. As you can imagine, this change would have a devastating impact on our condo and on other neighbors who would experience the same thing.

For this reason and others, I favor the Agency Landscape design and hope that it will be selected. If either the Corner or Sasaki design is selected, I hope that there is some way to modify this aspect of their plans so that we and other homeowners can avoid this significant adverse impact.

Thank you for all of the work you have done on this inspiring project, and thank you for considering my concerns.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 10:14 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Lake Monona Project

Categories: Red category

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

I love that this planning is happening. In particular I love the Sasaki plan because it covers so many aspects to improve our community and lakefront. While I didn't see specific details as to the types of docks that would be used in any of the plans, please consider that different types of water craft such as kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, etc. have unique needs for docking. For example, a kayaker is challenged by a typical pier, especially a higher one, as is used currently at Law Park. There are commercially made docks that are available specific to each type of craft. I urge you to look into these and add them to whatever plan is chosen moving forward. I am a kayaker and launch at Law Park as an Ironman swim course volunteer. Trying to get in and out at the regular boat docks or that narrow strip of sand, or climbing across the rocks has always been a nuisance. The following are some examples of such docks. I suggest that seasoned paddlers be interviewed to help select a design that would provide the best experience.

<https://www.kayakdock.com/>
<https://thedockdoctors.com/kayak-launches/>
<https://www.accudock.com/floating-docks/kayak-and-paddle-sport-docks/>
<https://www.yakport.com/>
<https://carolinadocks.com/kayak-and-canoë-docks/>

I would be happy to provide any assistance or guidance at the appropriate time in the process.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Lake Monona Waterfront Design Comments

Categories: Red category

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

I'd like to comment your Lake Monona waterfront design proposal.

While I like the fact that the area around the Monona Terrace will be improved/upgraded, I am extremely concerned about the proposed plan around the Olin Park area. My concerns are as follows:

1. I am deeply concerned about the proposed 'beach' on the plan. Creation of a beach will destroy prime existing fish spawning beds along the Olin Park area shoreline. Not only will underwater spawning areas be lost, but in order to construct the beach all forest vegetation in this area will most likely be removed. Trees in this area support prime habitat for fish, birds, and animals, as well as provide bugs for fish and bird life living in this area.
2. I am troubled by the proposed 'marsh' areas identified on the Olin Park end of the project. What does this mean? Will lake bed be filled to create shallow marshy areas? No marsh currently exists in these areas. I am opposed to any lake bed filling or disturbance in this proposal. Under the State's Public Trust Doctrine, the bed of Lake Monona is considered public waters of the State. Filling lakebed will obstruct navigation, and damage critical fish habitat.
3. Building a boardwalk or walkway over the lake is also a bad idea. Again, under the State's Public Trust Doctrine the lake is considered waters of the state. Construction of a walkway or boardwalk over the lake should not take place for the same reasons as described in number 2 above. In addition, construction over water will be very expensive and it likely will have very expensive long term maintenance costs. Ice heave which is common on Lake Monona would likely also cause structural issues or pile jacking problems to anything built over water.
4. In general, I am opposed to any filling of the lakebed or any changes to the shoreline which would take place with this proposed project. There was already a huge loss of lakebed due to lakebed filling when the Monona Terrace was constructed several years ago.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: public presentations 1/26/2023

Categories: Red category

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

Addendum to note from a few minutes ago:

A chief reason for attending the in-person forum was the hope to see three dimensional modeling of the design ideas. Lacking that, the presentation had nothing to offer that wasn't more readily available online.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jan 27, 2023, at 11:20 AM, Lake Monona Waterfront
<LakeMononaWaterfront@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in the Lake Monona Waterfront planning initiative.

Madison Parks is no longer receiving Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee applications. The deadline for application submissions was **noon, February 23, 2022**. Parks is compiling received submissions for review and consideration by the Mayor's Office. The Common Council appointment process is anticipated to occur in March 2022.

For more information on the **Design Challenge** and **Request for Qualifications**, please see the project webpage: [Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge](#)

Regards,

Mike Sturm
City of Madison Parks Division

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:20 AM
To: Lake Monona Waterfront
Subject: public presentations 1/26/2023

Categories: Red category

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

I attended last night's presentation and found it to be the worst-organized city presentation I have ever attended. The room was tremendously over-crowded, with dozens in the hall because the sardine tin would hold no more. The screens were too small to see. The sound quality was terrible. I could hear the Hmong interpreter squatting next to me better than I could hear the presenters on stage over the PA. I left after five minutes to go look at the storyboards, as there was no point in staying in the room.

I watched the presentation at home this morning. While it was much better than the in-person event, the video was either very low resolution or out of focus much of the time. I had to constantly adjust the volume. Overall, I was highly unimpressed by this forum.

The storyboards from Agency Landscaping were all hat and no cattle; in other words, style over substance. I found the same to be true of the oral presentation. The gimmick of being a news program 100 years in the future seemed to be a way of telling us they really didn't have the substance but wanted to impress us with the show. That being said, there were some good ideas hidden in there. Do they have the means to carry them out? There was no way of knowing.

Sasaki seemed to be more intent on presenting a vision than a plan. They made multiple references to a "trail for all speeds", a terrible concept that has been shown to be unworkable. In other portions, they referred to up to four different paths. It was hard to know if they knew what they were talking about. The best element of their presentation was their reference to public bathrooms. If you want people to spend time in a space, bathrooms are essential; but can we maintain them?

James Corner Field Operations made it clear that they have the skills, abilities, and track record to carry out this project. They were the only group that inspired confidence in their ability to actually construct the vision.

All of the presentations emphasized restoring marshlands and increasing public access. Those of us who lived here when there were more marshlands also recall that still water draws mosquitos. How will we reconcile bringing more mosquitos to the downtown area with asking people to spend more time in that area?

All of the presentations appear to hinge on narrowing and slowing John Nolen Drive. While I agree that it is the major impediment to uniting downtown with the lakefront, where do you envision this traffic going? Or is the plan to make John Nolen Drive essentially a parking lot; with bumper-to-bumper traffic moving at 5 mph and poisoning the air as well as the water? (Or do you plan on us all driving electric vehicles, which may help the air quality but not the congestion?)

The online survey is currently inaccessible. I received a "504 Gateway timed out" message and then:

We're sorry!

It looks like we've slipped.

We're working hard to get you back on track. Sorry if you lost your place, but we should have things up and running in a moment. Thanks a bunch for your patience!

I will continue to try to complete your online survey.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



March 30, 2023

Mr. Michael Sturm
City of Madison Parks Dept.
330 E. Lakeside St.
Madison, WI 53715

Hello Mike-

We are writing on behalf of the Yahara Fishing Club, a 501(c)(3) organization, and its 170 members. The Club's specific purposes are to introduce and educate youth and adults in the Madison, WI area to fishing skills and techniques by providing fishing opportunities, resources, and equipment. We support conservation projects and scholarships, and local projects that improve the quality of the fisheries, the habitat, and access to fishing in the Madison area. In this letter we provide comments on the Design Challenge/Lake Monona redevelopment plans. We are pleased to see the process put forth to provide input on this important project Plan.

The Club wishes to focus upon three points of concern, summarized below.

1. In each of the proposed designs, there is substantial loss of habitat or proposed alteration of a natural, biodiverse habitat to that of an unnatural habitat, that is likely to alter key aspects of this diverse ecosystem. We refer you to letters independently submitted by Jim Krause, Kurt Welke and Phil James regarding details.

2. It appears that the substantial physical alteration of target structures (roads, bicycle/walking paths, creation of beaches with associated landfill, artificial islands etc.) in the proposed plans may alter local, dynamic water flow into and out of Monona Bay. Any such disruption of water flow in this subsegment of Lake Monona may impact public health via increased fecal coliform outbreaks, cyanobacterial algal blooms, or other issues that have occurred in Monona Bay in the recent past. It is important that the unique water flowage mechanics coupled with the tremendous local aquifer system need to be preserved for future generations, and failure to appreciate this point may likely lead to unintended consequences of an implemented Plan.

3. This point refers to the Public Trust Doctrine (PTD) and Public Rights Features (PRF), as the Committee needs to be fully aware of the spirit, intent, and primacy of existing law. The PTD states navigable waters are held in trust for the citizens of the state and that citizens have the right to navigate and enjoy recreational activities in such waters. It explicitly limits encroachment and filling of waters where public uses would be destroyed or impaired with the purpose of protecting water quality and aquatic habitat. The PRF include:

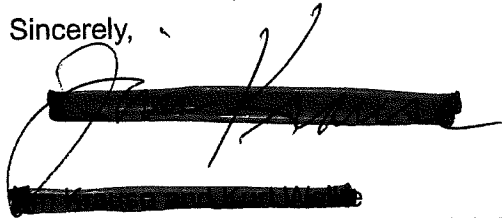
- fish and wildlife habitat for breeding, nesting, nursery and feeding
- physical features of lakes that ensure protection of water quality

- reaches of bank, shore and bed that are predominantly natural in appearance.

Elements and features of the Design Challenge, especially those lying below the ordinary high water mark, appear to conflict with the trust doctrine and impact PRF's. To this end, many may not be legally permissible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a thick black horizontal redaction bar. Below the signature, another thick black horizontal redaction bar is present.A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a thick black horizontal redaction bar. A thin horizontal line extends to the right from the end of the signature.

On behalf of the Yahara Fishing Club Board of Directors



March 14, 2023

Dear Mr. Sturm,






I am writing as a member of the Yahara Fishing Club to give my comments on the current plans to redevelop the Lake Monona shoreline. Overall I am happy to see that there is an emphasis on restoring and maintaining a natural shoreline, and I am sure some marshland habitat would be healthy for the lake. However I have several concerns with the implementation as presented in the three finalist designs.

First, I am strongly in favor of providing accessibility to shore fishermen. Currently, the entire shoreline under consideration is accessible to fishermen, but each of the plans presented vastly decreases shore fishing access to only a couple locations. Obviously fishing will not be allowed from boardwalks or trails unless expanded platforms are provided for that purpose, and I believe there should be many more than proposed, perhaps every 100-200 feet. .

Second, infill and marsh development seems driven mostly by where it will look nice with little regard for the current lake structures and ecosystems such as fish spawning areas and important weedbeds, which I'm sure the DNR would be able to describe. Let's not bury an already functioning habitat to make something "look natural". Also, none of the plans seem to make much mention of the other side of the road, but the shallower, warmer-water triangles might be a better place biologically for some marsh development.

Third, all of the plans introduce new bridge structures over the entries to Monona Bay. The existing bridges already limit boat access, especially in high water years. I hope that any new structures would provide passage at least as high and wide as what currently exists.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope that you will give serious consideration to increasing the shoreline access for fishermen over what any of the three finalist plans present.

March 16, 2023

Mr. Michael Sturm
City of Madison Parks Dept.
330 E. Lakeside St.
Madison, WI 53715

Hello Mike-

I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Design Challenge last evening in which I provided a public statement on some of my thoughts regarding the 3 proposals on the table for the Design Challenge. Herein I want to provide some remarks to ensure that these in written form can be provided to the Selection Committee. I am writing as a City of Madison resident, but I am also a member of the Yahara Fishing Club and I sit on their Board of Directors. For what it's worth, I have been involved in wildlife habitat restoration since the early 1960s, and I have had a career in healthcare and mental health research as a medical school professor since obtaining my PhD in Biochemistry at UW-Madison.

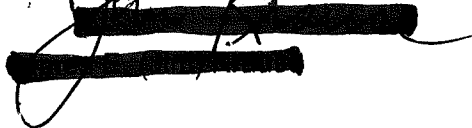
I have read all the Design Challenge documents and viewed the videos posted on the City website. Please realize that my thoughts and suggestions come via my lens as a lifelong environmentalist and as a healthcare professional. I summarize my thoughts in the 3 bullet points below, similar to what I presented last evening.

1. Rhetorical question as to whether the 'Designers' and City have paid attention to 2 prior City Plans, and principles therein: 1) City of Madison Stormwater Master Plan, and 2) Comprehensive Management Plan for Monona Bay, 2006? I do not see many of these principles apparent in the varied presentations. If not, I suggest these should be required reading by all involved in the Selection Process.

2. Awareness as to the Water Flow Dynamics in the Monona Bay, along with the Design area targets, the impact on pollution, on blue-green algal blooms, and fecal coliform outbreaks, and related public health issues. I want to bring attention here to the concept of water turnover in this extended riverway ecosystem, "upstream" issues that need solving as in remediation of the PFO(A)S contamination of Monona via Starkweather Creek and the Firefighter 2 training sites at the airport, its impact on fish and the human consumption in Lake Monona, and immune system effects as shown in public toxicology reports, and several other related potential unintended consequences of each of the 3 Development Plans.

3. Tremendous loss of ecosystem habitat, much of which seems unnecessary and may result in further urban pollution.

Thanks for your consideration,
Sincerely, and with all due respect,





March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

This plan will remove good fishing space for anglers. Please change to accommodate our needs as well.

~~K. H.~~

~~[Redacted]~~



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison WI 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

We as conservationist are worried
that reconstruction of John Nolen Drive will
destroy fish habitat and spawning grounds



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

Dear Committee Members,

I respectfully submit the following comments as you evaluate designs for the Lake Monona Waterfront:

- 1) Safeguard existing spawning sites
- 2) Implement conservation of important weed beds
- 3) Support, preserve, and enhance angler opportunity rather than limit access to just a few spots.

I have fished Lake Monona since 1976. I am an active member of Yahara Fishing Club since 2017. I have purchased my 2023 Madison Parks Permit and look forward to using it all season long! Thank you!!

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]
[Redacted address]
[Redacted phone number]



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

MAIN ISSUE THAT I RECOMMEND IS TO PROVIDE PARKING
TO ACCESS LAKE, AND NOT DISRUPT FISH HABITAT.

ON ANOTHER NOTE, PROVIDE AN ACCESS TO THE ICE
BY THE PORTA-POTTI AT BRITTINGHAM PARK (W. WASH + PARK ST.),
GOING DOWN RIP-RAP IN WINTER IS DANGEROUS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

3/9/23

I believe there must be a brain drain going on at city hall. Isn't there enough places to throw money away before this piss poor idea came up? What is wrong with you people. We don't need to be carrying up frontage on Lake Monona just to please some airheads who have nothing better to do.

Sincerely



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison WI 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

Whatever you do, do it to improve
the water quality and enhance the
fishery of the lake.

~~_____~~



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison WI 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

It is important to accommodate a shoreline that fosters a more natural, fish-encouraging environment. At least part of the shoreline should address this.

~~_____~~

March 9, 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St.

Madison, WI 53715

Dear Mr. Sturm

I understand the parks department is seeking comments on the proposed development of the park area from along the Lake Monona shoreline from the Convention Center to around Olin Turville Park.

I understand there are three different proposals for this development but I could not find specifics on the City of Madison website so I don't have comments regarding each one.

As a fourth generation Madison area resident, an aquatic biologist, and an aging life long angler I have a few general comments. The shoreline along should remain as natural as possible. Especially along the south shore of the newly acquired medical building property and stretching around to Turville Bay. Don't remove trees that fall in the water, etc.

As an aging angler it is desirable to have ample parking and some what easy access to the lake. Gone are the days I can paddle my kayak half-way across the lake to go fishing. I see access to fishing along the convention center as non-existent. There is little to no parking, and one has to drag fishing gear a long distance. You only have to look at Monona Bay during the ice fishing season to see the problem. The access is alright if you can find a place to park Don't do this on the south side. I also see access to Turville Bay as difficult for shore anglers and ice fisherman. The former owner of the plumbing company used to plow the snow and allow parking in the back of the property. This is no longer the case. I think the city screwed up when the area was further developed by not getting an access.

Another issue is armoring all the banks. Again just look at Monona Bay and many other parks around the lake. Much of the shoreline is armored with big boulders. These make access very dangerous both in the winter when they are icy and summer when they are slippery with slimy algae.

I fear too much planning is done for apartment dwellers in downtown Madison whose idea of a good time is sitting on a patio, drinking their craft beer, and saying "ain't nature grand". Lets not do this with this opportunity.

Yours truly





March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

This is not Lake Michigan - we are surrounded by homes & businesses. The lakes are over used already. It's dangerous on the lakes. Don't need any filling in of our lakes in any matter. No marinas. More people will be using our lakes & parks because of more big apartments all over Madison, Monona, Middleton, etc. They all added extra use of our lakes. We need to upgrade our water safety with what we have. Not add any more use. My son was fishing Lake Mendota last summer in his boat in University Bay. Facing shore he was swamped from behind by 2 high speed boats that didn't even realize they did it. He lost his glasses & phone but was able to get back in his boat & bail out the water and got to shore. When planning please ask the fisherman for their perspective along with other people who use jewels of our great city. Our lakes



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

I Hope you include The many people
that fish on Lake Monona when
you entertain ideas for your plans

~~Mike Sturm~~

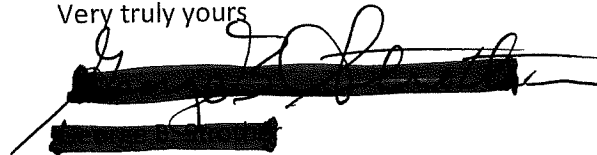
George B. Strother
26 Schroeder Ct. #300
Madison, WI 53711
March 21, 2023

Mr. Mike Sturm
Madison Parks Dept.
330 E. Lakeside St.
Madison, WI 53715

I am a long-time member of the Yahara fishing Club (and a former president of the Club) of Madison, and a resident of Madison for almost 65 years. In the process of, and as a part of, recently receiving information about the City's plans for improvement/redevelopment of the downtown Lake Monona shoreline, I have recently been encouraged by the Club's current leadership to contact you to express the interests and outlook of Club members in regard to the project. Club members have told me that they would like to see the City devote even greater attention to the goal of developing more and better options for shore fishing from the public areas bordering the lake, and I am of a like mind on that subject. While many of our Club's members are able to access the waters of the lakes using their fishing boats, canoes, and kayaks, many of our members (as well as many people in the area having an abiding interest in fishing) must rely upon the availability of public areas dedicated to lakeshore access throughout the Madison area, and thus there is great interest in improvement of the lakeshore areas throughout the City in order to create new and better options for fishing. Thus, I write to you on behalf of, and at the urging of, many friends and fellow Club members who have expressed to me their interest in the subject, particularly in view of the City apparently being on the verge of implementing a plan for improvement of public shoreline areas bordering Lake Monona. It is hoped by our Club members that creation of new shoreline fishing areas, and improvement of existing areas, will be given the utmost priority in formulating and implementing plans for public lakeshore access in downtown Madison

Thank you.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George B. Strother", is written over a thick black horizontal redaction bar. Below the redaction bar, there is another smaller black redaction mark.



March 2023

Mike Sturm, Architect

Madison Parks Dept.

330 E. Lakeside St

Madison Wi 53715

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

Lake Monona shore plans, hopefully, will include a spot for small watercraft - kayaks, canoes, etc. A 10ft. plus wide gravel or sand gentle sloping area not more than 20yds. from vehicle access would be preferred. Parking less than a 1/4 mile away would also be nice, without having to pay 3 dollars an hour.

[Handwritten signature]
~~_____~~

~~_____~~

~~_____~~



March 2023
Mike Sturm, Architect
Madison Parks Dept.
330 E. Lakeside St
Madison WI 53715

Recommended readings;
Tomorrow By Design
Philip H. Lewis Jr.
A Sand County Almanac
Aldo Leopold
Video: Dr. Seuss
The Lorax



3-14-23

SUBJECT: Monona Design Challenge Comments

Hello Mike! I have downloaded the PDF's on your Architectural designs and reviewed your proposal to the City of Madison. I appreciate the thought, energy, and work you and others have put into this proposal project over the last 14 weeks and beyond for our City of Madison. There are many perspectives, interests that people have as well as opinions we have on development in urban or rural spaces. I have no problem with your architectural expertise in the design, but where you are proposing to do this, I see many challenges. The Causeway is a main artery coming into our city. The view is the "Best" and should remain green and uninterrupted. Rivers there on John Nolan need to focus on the "roadway," Not what is going on along the lake shore! The pathways we have in place there along lake monona are a great access for everyone in our community as they are right now. The view is stunning, parallel, so is the functionality of the pathway is sustainable and maintainable for the city to clean up after people. Our history with lakes, rivers, and marshes as humans worldwide is not a great legacy. We tend to buy the land and encircle the surrounding area and develop and create obstructed views of the waterway. Then we love it to death by over use and spoil the entire area instead of cherishing and protecting the area for future generations of people to enjoy and protect. A breakwater on lake Monona of the length and size on our lake could have dire negative impacts on the aquatic environmental habitat community's. I speak for the fish, aquatic insects, mussels, weed beds, the lake bottom, ducks, coots, swans, geese, loons, bald eagles, and other shore birds, and mammals that use the property shoreline. I do not support a disruption of our current lake monona shoreline along John Nolan Drive. The proposed area is a fish spanning grounds and a major fish migration pathway into Brittingham Bay. Have you ever looked out there in the Fall



Madison Bikes

Madison Bikes, PO Box 260244, Madison, WI 53726-0244

Madison Bikes
PO Box 260244
Madison, WI 53726-0244
info@madisonbikes.org
www.madisonbikes.org

Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee

3/23/2023

Re: Bicycle-centric feedback on the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge

Madison Bikes (MB) is a local advocacy group that envisions a city where anyone can ride a bicycle conveniently and comfortably to any place in the city and neighboring communities year round. We have closely followed the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge. Board member Aaron Levine presented to the Ad Hoc Committee in November. More recently, we hosted a community meeting to collect feedback from the bike-riding public about how the ALP, JCFO, and Sasaki designs may impact bicycling in the area for people of all ages and abilities. This letter summarizes our findings.

Overall, **JCFO** was the favored design. They were the only firm to put the entire length of John Nolen Drive (JND) on a “road diet,” which they describe as a first step essential to all other safety changes. This change will also lower traffic noise that currently falls between a vacuum cleaner and an interstate highway and makes polite conversation impossible. The noise levels *must* be lowered if any costly causeway redesign is to realize its full potential. We were pleased that JCFO’s “green boulevard” concept closely matches what City engineers are already proposing with their [JND causeway reconstruction project](#). However, the proposed lane reductions and absence of dedicated northbound left turn lanes at North Shore and Broom would be a significant shock to today’s traffic patterns, shifting traffic to alternate routes like Atwood, Park St, and Monroe St. Those routes lack protected bike paths and could become more hazardous for bicycling.

JCFO also penciled in an underpass near Broom and North Shore, a critical crossing that Madison Bikes enthusiastically supports. They were the only firm to mention the importance of connections to the UW campus and Brittingham Park. We especially support their wide separation of bikes, peds, and fishermen on the level, protected path around Monona Terrace (a design that Sasaki also proposes). JCFO’s most grandiose improvements near Law Park could provide bikers and peds an alternative to the “hairball” intersection of JND, Blair, and Williamson St. On the downside, JCFO’s Broom St parking circle creates a new path/car conflict, and the Hamilton overpass is likely pedestrian-only and unusable by bikes.

Sasaki’s design came in second. Their causeway separation was both practical and aesthetically pleasing. We appreciated that Sasaki detailed each JND crossing, highlighting safety improvements like “No Turn on Red” signs and eliminating slip lanes. They offered innovative

ideas such as an earthen berm for noise protection (JCFO has a similar feature in one rendering). We liked what appears to be a bathroom and bike storage near Broom St. Although it doesn't apply to bicycling, we thought Sasaki's ecological ideas were the most realistic and appealing. And, although their Hamilton overpass would accommodate biking, it requires everyone to go up 30'+ to the overpass, down 25' to Hamilton, and then up at least 15' on Hamilton to get anywhere. This "up / down / up" pattern afflicts the ALP overpasses as well. Many bicyclists will opt for the street crossings.

ALP's design was the least well-received. We liked the causeway separation and that ALP prioritized elements of their design like improving safety at intersections and building an underpass near Broom and North Shore. But their design forces bikers passing Monona Terrace to choose between a 2/3 mile at-grade tunnel shared with car exhaust and noise or a difficult 5.7% grade to reach Monona Terrace street level. Most bikers will ignore the signed routes and follow the lakefront through the pedestrian-only area, leading to conflicts. The ALP Hamilton overpass shares the same issues as Sasaki's, but ALP repeats it on King St. Finally, ALP quizzically included an JND overpass at Wingra Creek where we already have two underpasses.

A few themes were common to multiple designs:

- All designs **separate usage by speed**, with faster, more direct paths for bikers and runners and slower, more leisurely paths for walkers and joggers. The City's current JND reconstruction project has two design options that also create separation.
- All designs emphasized a need to **connect the lake to Hamilton St**. That approach to the Capitol is beautiful, but its 6.3% grade is beyond what most bikers would do willingly. However, a Hamilton connection would be a terrific way for bikers to reach the City's new [W. Wilson Street cycletrack to King St](#) for a gentler 3.7% climb to the Capitol. We approve of connecting the lake to Hamilton St, but would prefer it be with an underpass.
- JCFO and Sasaki both **widen the path around Monona Terrace**, something we enthusiastically support. This is a standalone improvement that could be built in the short-term and work with *any* of the long-term designs.
- JCFO and ALP call for **an underpass near Broom and North Shore**, a feature that would instantly become the busiest and safest JND crossing. Madison Bikes enthusiastically supports the idea, but we were disappointed that neither firm took time to actually work out any details. Underpasses must be intuitive to reach since, unlike overpasses, they aren't visible from a distance. They also must be wide, well-lit, dry, ice-free, and at an accessible grade.

But there were also common flaws and omissions:

- **Impractical overpasses**. Successful overpasses have a natural rise in terrain on one or both sides. When an overpass connects two points at the same grade – e.g., from the lakefront to Hamilton St – it feels like a capitulation to vehicular traffic, as if bikes and peds are second-class citizens. An overpass is also a very visible reminder of tax dollar spend, which can be a public relations risk if usage is light.
- **Narrow paths**. On the causeway, all design renderings suggest a path width of 10'. That is the same as today and is much too narrow for the volume and speed of today's mix of bikes, e-bikes, scooters, one-wheels, and joggers/pedestrians. The City's JND

reconstruction is considering 10', 14', or 16' paths. We feel 14' is minimum for this corridor, a width in line with the latest guidance for busy two-way bikeways from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)¹

- In the downtown portion, there was an almost singular focus on **connecting the lake to the Capitol**. That's an important connection, but many bicyclists are headed elsewhere and prefer level routes. JCFO was the only design to even mention the UW campus, possibly the #1 destination for riders on today's Capital City trail.
- No design considered placement of a **passenger rail station**.
- There was scant mention of **mass transit / BRT** connections.
- There was little consideration of **bicycle parking** (perhaps that's taken for granted).
- Near Olin Park and on the causeway, the designs show few places where people can move between paths. E.g., a bicyclist who wants **to stop and explore** will have difficulty doing so.
- There was no apparent consideration of **prior work** like the [John Nolen Drive Master Plan Collaborative](#), [Lake Monona Waterfront Preliminary Report](#), and various [Neighborhood Plans](#). For example, the Master Plan Collaborative has an excellent, technically-researched proposal for an underpass between Broom St and Blair St that would integrate the lakefront with the 3.5-acre Brittingham dog park and tennis courts, as well as connect Bassett St and Bedford St neighborhoods. This proposal is a win / win / win and it would have been nice for the Challenge designs to have incorporated it.

The Capital City trail along JND is perhaps Madison's busiest bike artery. In nice weather, over 4,000 bikes pass Monona Terrace each day. One final piece of public input is the importance of **keeping that artery open during any construction** *without changing the grade* – i.e., reserving lanes of JND for bike / ped detours, rather than sending people up to the State Capitol.

Madison Bikes wants to thank Madison Parks and Friends of the John Nolen Waterfront for spearheading the Waterfront Design Challenge, and to the Ad Hoc Committee for its oversight. It's been an exciting process and we're happy to have a chance to share our thoughts. If you have any questions or would like more detail on any of our points, please reach out. You can also find our raw public engagement notes and see a visual bike-centric comparison of the proposals at <https://tinyurl.com/mb-challenge>

Respectfully,
The Board of Madison Bikes

1

https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WP_designing_for_small_things_with_wheels_FINAL_Marc_h1-2023.pdf (table on p. 14)

F.O.O.T. Comments of Three Final Designs for Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge

Eight members of Friends of Olin Turville (FOOT) met on March 27, 2023, and as part of our regular meeting, we had a substantial discussion regarding the three final proposals for the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge, specific to their impact on the northern portion of Olin Park. Members commented on their likes and dislikes among features of the three final designs, and made suggestions. Comments from several additional FOOT members were received by email after the meeting and are incorporated here as well.

The most salient common questions, concerns and suggestions were:

- Most questioned the practicality and visual impact of proposed floating wetlands & boardwalks. Wouldn't they have to be removed each winter due to ice shove activity in spring? Wouldn't they impede views of downtown?
- There was consensus that excavating the natural lakeshore of Olin near John Nolen to create a canoe/kayak learning course is not recommended. Prefer leaving that area and its natural shoreline as is.
- If a new beach is to be established (not all want one), best location is on the point where houses are now located. That area has best bottom conditions and water flow.
- If a nature center is to be established, limit the footprint of any new construction – re-use the existing building (former State Medical Society building) if possible and emphasize outdoor spaces. Better still, eventually build a new structure further from the lakeshore, replacing existing former state medical society building which sits too close to shoreline.
- State-established dock line should be shown on all drawings; it will not be a simple matter to override this legal development limitation.
- Likewise, existing lake bottom contours should be shown on final designs – they impact location and practicality of many design elements like beach, wetlands, and boardwalks.
- Several members (but clearly not all) would strongly favor a bier garden or similar outdoor eating/drinking venue on the north shore of Olin, taking in the Capitol views.

Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge Comments

Submitted by [REDACTED]

General: I strongly feel there are many design elements among the three master plan submissions that are detrimental to the overall aesthetics and enjoyment of this lakeshore on Lake Monona for both humans and wildlife. I choose to list design concerns without naming the individual design firms. The three firms had many similar design elements.

Many of the proposed design elements appear to be very costly to design, construct, and maintain. When will cost estimates be made available for these various design elements? Costs will have a huge impact when deciding which design elements may eventually become reality.

The three concept plans all have a Disneyworld feel to them. The artistic renditions portray a perfect city lakeshore where man is living in harmony with nature. But these fanciful artistic creations don't show the downsides of many of these proposed alterations to Lake Monona and its lakeshore.

Artificial vs. Natural Wetlands: The proposed additional marshy areas along Law Park and extending out over the lake along the causeway don't make sense as there never was a marsh or wetland area in those locations prior to building of the railroad corridors and initial causeways over Lake Monona. The original shoreline wetlands along this part of Lake Monona were west of the railroad causeway and extended from the vicinity of the north end of Lake Court on Lake Monona clockwise around the existing Monona Bay to the vicinity of the intersection of Bedford and North Shore Drive. Most of the original shoreline along Law Park before the railroad corridor was constructed was a cobble and boulder strewn shoreline with a sandy bottom. There never was a marshland or wetland area on Lake Monona along the shoreline at the south end of the Monona Causeway. From that location and continuing eastward all the way along the new and old portions of Olin Park and continuing around the shoreline of Turville Point Conservation Park to the southern tip that park where it meets the rail corridor again. This entire area of lakeshore has always had a sandy shoreline with natural deposits of native glacial cobbles and boulders covering most of this shoreline where higher elevations of glacial deposits have been slowly worn away at the lakeshore.

Proposed design elements such as weed beds floating on artificial platforms at the water surface don't make any sense either as each summer the natural submergent weed beds in this area of Lake Monona already provide plenty of habitat and food for fish and other aquatic life. In fact, these weed beds are so prolific that the county has to chew away at them each summer with large weed cutter machines and remove the cut weeds from the lake. If they didn't do this, the weed beds can become so thick during some summers that they impede all types of boating activity.

Proposed manmade wetland shorelines along Law Park would be hard to construct and maintain due to the deep water along the entire length of Law Park. Floating weed bed mats along this shoreline will bob up and down unrealistically and be destroyed by the large waves that frequent this shoreline during storms. This is why the shoreline consists of mostly rip-rap now.

If the city wants to restore a nearby wetland in this area Lake Monona , the portion of Wingra Creek within Olin Park could use some design concepts to consider as part of a master plan for this area. There exists a large neglected wetland along Wingra Creek near where the creek enters Lake Monona. This wetland is partially filled in with decades old fill materials from the demolition of old buildings in downtown Madison deposited in this wetland area. But most of it is still a natural wetland that has just been neglected. I propose that the city survey this wetland and make an assessment as to the potential to restore this area. I can imagine removing much of the imported fill and even opening up a larger area of standing water in the center of this area by removing some of the natural muck deposits that exist there. Design a self-guided nature trail and boardwalk area for this wetland to allow people to intimately experience this wetland on foot.

Canoe/Kayak Learning Course: The canoe and kayak course in a plan design element proposed for the northwest corner of Olin Park west of the new Parks Department office building would be a huge mistake. This area of land along the shoreline between the O'Sheridan Street lakeshore and the new Parks office building consists of natural glacial deposits of sand and gravel that were left near the end of the last ice age as the glaciers receded from the Madison area. During construction of the John Nolen causeway in the 1960's a large natural hill on the causeway right of way at this location was leveled and used as fill for the new causeway. This hill was over 30 feet high, taller even than the glacial hill that the newly remodeled Parks Department building at 330 E. Lakeside Street was constructed on.

The fluctuating water levels of Lake Monona would quickly destroy any attempt to create an artificial water play park for humans at this location. The small water channels separated by wetland vegetation covered islands would be destroyed by the yearly fluctuating water levels of 5 feet or more. The water in these narrow waterways would become stagnant and clogged with weeds due to lack of a fresh water supply being available to flush these artificial waterways out occasionally. In addition, large masses of floating lake weeds and algae tend to be blown in by the wind and pile up at this location to decompose each summer. No one would have fun kayaking through this mess. Leave this area a natural lakeshore as it is now and the many loons that frequent this shoreline in the spring and fall will thank you. There are already many streams, creeks and rivers in the Madison area that provide excellent canoe and kayak adventures in a natural setting.

Beach Concepts: Do Madison residents really need or want another beach on Lake Monona? The lake often has poor water quality and existing beaches are sometimes closed for days or weeks due to unsafe levels of bacteria and other organisms in the water. The beaches shown in the proposed plans do not show the curtain wall barriers in the water that surround existing beaches so that the beach water can be isolated from the lake water. The beach water is then continuously filtered and cleaned with expensive pumping and filtering equipment. Any proposed beaches should be displayed on the plans with a similar barrier and filtering system to realistically show how the proposed beach would look.

At various proposed beach locations along the shoreline of Law Park, the water depth rapidly increases as you travel away from the existing shoreline. These proposed beach locations would not be safe for children or inexperienced swimmers. The beaches proposed along Law Park would also experience larger waves on windy days that would erode away beach sand along the beach shoreline and pull it into deeper water.

The beach location shown in one design element along the Olin Park shoreline east of the causeway and near the existing sailboat pier area would have maintenance and water quality issues. That area of Lake Monona tends to regularly experience accumulations of large floating mats of lake vegetation and algae that pile up along this shoreline.

The best location for a new beach on Lake Monona would be along the shoreline at the small group of residential properties just east of the new Madison Parks office building. This area of shoreline has a nice sandy bottom that gradually gets deeper as swimmers move further from shore making this area safer for groups of swimming children. Also, the wave action at a proposed beach along the shoreline of the residential area is much less pronounced than the wave action a proposed beach at Law Park would have as the prevailing summer winds are out of the southwest. Madison should be careful about sighting new beaches on Lake Monona. Most Madison families now avoid using the existing beaches due to ever increasing water quality concerns. The existing single Madison public swimming pool at Goodman Park just 2000 feet away from the Olin Park lakeshore is heavily used by Madison residents. Perhaps money could be better spent on constructing a second Madison public swimming pool in Madison instead of creating additional beach area on Lake Monona that might be rarely be used.

Dock Line and Lake Bottom Topography Issues: The three design firms need to explain how the existing dock line law would affect various proposed design elements that extend out past the existing dock line. Some of the design elements that appear to be extending beyond the existing docking are various piers or waterwalks out over the lake; artificial floating vegetation mats of various sizes; and boat hull shaped islands filled with vegetation or used as platforms for entering the water.

All plans should show the location of the existing dock line relative to the existing shoreline and nearby plan elements. It would be helpful to also show the topographic lines of the lake bottom on the various concept plans along with the numbers indicating the water depth at those locations. The three design firms need to describe the materials and construction of any proposed design elements that are shown extending past the existing dock line further into the lake. Are these design elements supported on piles or somehow anchored to the lake bottom with anchor weights and cables and supported near the water surface with flotation devices? Any design elements that are shown to extend beyond the existing dockline would require that the city to ask the State Legislature to re-examine the existing dock line law and seek to have it changed? This would be a very difficult endeavor.

Winter Weather Issues: I expect the proposed piers and waterwalks will be removed and stored over the winter, as are most existing piers on Madison lakes. It will be very costly to install and remove these design elements. Where would Madison store all these additional pier and waterwalk sections? You would probably need a new large storage area for the pier sections for all the proposed piers and waterwalks. Piers that are not removed in the fall can be damaged by extreme ice heaves during repeating cycles of very cold weather followed by warmer temperatures during the winter. Piers and other structures near the lakeshore can also be damaged by moving ice flows in the spring as the ice is beginning to break up. High wind days in the spring can begin pushing the ice across the lake as a large mass. The force of the wind and the kinetic energy of the moving ice can cause the ice to be pushed up onto the shoreline. Huge piles of ice can accumulate on the lakeshore by this process. I personally witnessed huge piles of ice over 6 feet tall on the Olin park lakeshore by the existing Olin Beach area and all along the northern lakeshore of Olin and Turville Parks one winter in the 1980's. There have since been occasional ice heave and ice shove events at other locations on the Lake Monona shoreline in more recent years.

Safety and Practicality of Over-Water Design Elements: All of the various proposed piers and "waterwalks" appear to be constructed close to the water surface and show no railings of any kind. How is this considered safe for use as a public walkway over the lake? If these structures are supported by pontoons, periods of high wind can make these walkways unsafe to use due to the pier sections bobbing up and down with the waves and no railings to hold onto. Wouldn't there be ADA requirements for the safety of handicapped fishermen and visitors in wheelchairs? Also, wouldn't the proposed waterwalks be required to have at least one bridge section to allow boats to enter that part of the waterway that is otherwise blocked off by the waterwalk? Lake Monona is a navigable waterway and restrictions to boat access of any part of the lake would violate federal law.

If the floating waterwalk sections are anchored in place by concrete anchors attached to the pier sections with steel cables, These cables would eventually become tangled with hundreds if not thousands of fishing lures that inadvertently snagged onto the cables by unsuspecting fishermen?

How will you keep bicycles off the piers and waterwalks? Who will regularly clean aquatic bird poop off all the piers and waterwalks. There will be a lot of it and you can't depend on the rain to wash it off regularly.

Large walkways out into the lake would need to have lighting for better visibility both so boats don't accidentally run into the floating walkways after sunset and so people can see where they are walking on a pier or waterwalk without railings at night. Then there are those foggy days and nights when lights probably won't help save the waterwalk from fog blinded boaters traveling faster than they should in hazardous conditions.

What are all these proposed over water design elements constructed of? How are they anchored in place? How do they behave in various weather conditions? For safety reasons, how will these objects out on the water be made visible to boaters especially during foggy conditions and after dark? I expect the ongoing maintenance costs for these design elements could be costly. The three competing design firms should provide existing data on similar design elements that have been utilized in other cities. This data should include approximate construction and maintenance costs, as well as input as to how they might have done things differently. Cities chosen for comparison should experience harsh winters and have larger lakes susceptible to high wind conditions as Madison does.

The existing metal fishing pier on the south end of Law Park is supported by pontoons and anchors to the bottom. The pier sections are hinged together to allow the pier to move up and down with the wave action. This existing fishing pier creaks loudly as waves move its sections up and down. A similar large floating waterwalk could become much noisier than this existing small fishing pier. Therefore, any new piers should be designed and constructed to be more stable and silent when shifting up and down with wave action. Just want the sound of water lapping against the pier please. No squeaking allowed.

Ped/Bike Overpasses: There are multiple pedestrian or ped/bike overpasses suggested at various locations in the Law Park area. These overpasses will have safety concerns during during storms of any kind. Only the brave will ever venture out onto these overpasses during storm events. The metal railings will make good lightning rods but people walking over the overpasses will be taller than the railings so good luck walking in the rain on these overpasses. The overpasses will need lighting for safety after dark and may therefore affect the aesthetics of the

lakeshore at those locations after dark. Significant reduction in natural rainfall and natural light can affect the growth of plants underneath the overpass bridges and ramps. Overpass structures often detract from the aesthetics of the area below them.

Riprap and Railroads: The existing blasted limestone riprap over the causeway does not look like a natural lakeshore. The City should use natural rounded glacial cobbles and boulders as the visible rip rap along the causeway and all lakeshore areas that will need riprap shoreline protection. The existing Monona Bay shoreline is an example of the use of natural glacial cobbles and boulders as a riprap shoreline. Also use glacial cobbles and boulders that are predominantly igneous or metamorphic rocks as they are much more durable than limestone cobbles and boulders. The existing blasted limestone riprap can be repositioned at lower elevations as the shoreline is modified and the new natural rounded glacial cobbles and boulders placed on top of the older riprap.

Have a discussion with the two railroads that cross the lake at the causeway to come up with a more attractive way of maintaining the slopes of the railroad bed fill. More material was recently added to these railroad beds and all the brush and small trees were totally removed leaving a mostly barren rail corridor over the lake. The Union Pacific corridor causeway also has the remains of the beds of two sets of tracks that existed parallel and just to the east of the current single set of tracks. This old fill could be partially removed to transform this area into a lakeshore wetland as a tradeoff for placing more fill into the lake on the east side of the causeway to widen the ped /bike corridor area.

Need a True Long Term Master Plan for the Northern Portion of Olin Park: I am bothered by the limiting boundaries and overall scope of this design challenge. A true long term master plan should call for the city to eventually purchase the residential properties near Olin Park between the new Parks Department building and Wingra Creek as they become available for sale. This area could then become additional parkland that would tie both portions of Olin Park together. The newly remodeled Madison Parks building that once was the headquarters of the State Medical Society is being put to good use for the short term future of this park area. However, a better long term master plan would be to remove this structure and construct a new larger multipurpose park building further from the Lakeshore. It would be nice to see the glacial hill at this site fully restored where the existing building was built into this lakeshore glacial hill. A building set back from the lakeshore could provide a much improved lakeshore experience with additional land available between the building and the lake for a more people to enjoy.