

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 11:16 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: Camping in City parks

From: Todd Holtz <todd.holtz@parkbank.bank>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 10:57 AM
To: ZZ Council Members <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Camping in City parks

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

I understand that the City of La Crosse is considering additional ordinances restricting camping in city parks. I am writing in favor of additional restrictions and policing of public areas throughout the City.

I have a life-long appreciation of nature and the outdoors and consider myself a camping and hiking enthusiast. A couple of the rules of such activities are "leave no trace" and "pack it in, pack it out," concepts that have been lost on the "campers" we are referring to in the parks. Houska Park was designated as a campground, and according to WIZM news on June 7, 2023, "had to be closed...and much of the garbage-filled park was cleared by bulldozers." Houska Park is now surrounded by a fence and unusable by anybody. As a representative of a business that shares a city block with Burns Park, I know that our employees spend some time every day picking up garbage left behind by these campers.

My years of camping experiences include meeting many people who have similar interests, are friendly, share wonderful experiences, are respectful of others, and usually willing to help any way they can. My experiences with the City park campers are quite different. I have witnessed countless occurrences of public urination, viewed drug use and sex acts, and am accosted regularly. News reports by WKBT and WXOW on May 17, 2023, stated that activities of students at Polytechnic School had to be modified due to safety concerns by parents and employees. Kids had "recess taking place in a supervised parking lot" rather than in public, taxpayer provided green space as they were accustomed to. At a meeting with Mayor Reynolds on June 1, 2023, many business representatives stated employee and customer concerns about safety while going to and from those businesses.

City parks are meant to be safe, enjoyable atmospheres for individuals and families. They should reflect the wonderful opportunities of outdoor splendor of our community and put our best foot forward to visitors, tourists, and potential residents. Too many resources have been expended to accommodate a select few, negating the needs of the larger number of people that help provide the green spaces and services in the first place. Your support of restricting camping in all City parks would be for the greater good.

Thank you for your time.

Todd B. Holtz
Vice President
phone 608-793-5511
todd.holtz@parkbank.bank
NMLS: 1416144
Park Bank NMLS 405996
La Crosse Office, 700 State St, La Crosse, WI 54601

[Apply online now for a Park Bank Home Loan!](#)



[Click here for more information about our Kasasa rewards accounts.](#) Kasasa is a trademark of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.

NOTE: This is not an encrypted email portal. Do not send private, personal information via this or any non-encrypted email. To send applications, tax forms, or other personal, private information, login to your internet banking and use the MESSAGES option or call your local Park Bank office; Holmen: 608-526-2265, La Crosse 608-782-2265, Sparta 608-269-2265.