

## Craig, Sondra

---

**From:** Jacobson, Rich <rich.jacobson@krausanderson.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** Houska Park-Camping

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rich.jacobson@krausanderson.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**\*\*\* 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. **\*\*\***

La Crosse City Council Members,

I am writing this email regarding your revisiting the issue of allowing camping Houska Park. As a boathouse owner, this will be a **SERIOUS** mistake for many reasons and should not be allowed.

The main reason is the personal safety not only of the boat owners, boathouse owners, dog park patrons and people who fish and use the bike path, it is also for the safety of the "campers". Houska park is a remote area with poor lighting and hard for the police to patrol due to its layout and obstructions. The year or two that camping was allowed, the dog park was not used, the campers wandered around day and night and caused significant damage. In addition they broke into several boathouses and set up residence, confronted my elderly neighbor and even stole his bicycle right in front of him. The restrooms were used as drug and sex "houses" and trash and other items were found all over the park.

In addition to being hard to patrol, it also is difficult for the "campers" to have accessibility to services they need (medical, meals, bus transportation, etc.). There was a constant line of people going back and forth over the swift creek bridge, bathing in the fast current and numerous fights in the parking lot by the dog park. Not a safe situation for anyone

I do sympathize with the "campers" and understand they need a place to go, but camping in a park that the city has just spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix up does not make sense for anyone.

If anyone from the City Council would like to speak in more detail regarding Houska park, feel free to reach out.

Thanks

Rich Jacobson  
(612)670-3267