

Craig, Sondra

From: Billy Bergeron <castlelacrossewi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 10:29 AM
To: zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org; ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Strong objection to allow camping in our City Parks

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Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your service. Below is the definition of a City Park. No where is camping for homeless individuals mentioned in the plan for these public spaces. It is a huge mistake for La Crosse to be labeled a safe haven for the unhomed. To use public tax dollars to clean up and keep our parks safe from hazardous waste is unacceptable from those that pay taxes to maintain parks and public spaces. We cannot allow a homeless tent village, what opponents are calling "camping" as we recently had in Houska Park, which cost millions of dollars to clean and make safe. Camping in any City park is unhealthy at best, dangerous to public safety at worst. There are other alternatives for these individuals. Please keep our public parks safe for our families and children. There is great concern that our Parks & Recreation Department is not funded to clean up these campsites as well as concern for their safety in doing so. It is a small minority that opposes the "no camping" ordinance. I feel certain it is a much greater number that wants to keep the ordinance in place and find another solution to the camping issue.

Wikipedia Definition: Urban Park: An urban park or metropolitan park, also known as a city park, municipal park (North America), public park, public open space, or municipal gardens (UK), is a [park](#) or [botanical garden](#) in [cities](#), densely populated [suburbia](#) and other [incorporated places](#) that offer [recreation](#) and [green space](#) to residents of, and visitors to, the municipality. The design, operation and [maintenance](#) is usually done by government agencies, typically on the [local](#) level, but may occasionally be contracted out to a [park conservancy](#),^[a] "friends of" group, or private sector company. Common features of municipal parks include [playgrounds](#), [gardens](#), hiking, running and [fitness trails](#) or paths, [bridle paths](#), sports fields and courts, public restrooms, boat ramps, and/or picnic facilities, depending on the budget and natural features available. Park advocates claim that having parks near urban residents, including within a [10-minute walk](#), provide multiple benefits.

Best Regards

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