

Craig, Sondra

From: Danielle Deml <ddeml9607@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 7:29 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Homelessness and Camping in La Crosse

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Danielle, and I reside on 19th Street South in District 7. I am reaching out to express my concerns about the future of homeless encampments and the potential designation of parks as locations for these camps.

I previously contacted my council member, Mac, but have yet to receive a response, so I am now addressing this issue via email in hopes that my concerns will be heard.

While I understand and appreciate the importance of addressing homelessness, I am deeply troubled by the proposal to include parks, such as Erickson Park near Spence Elementary, as potential sites for encampments. The recent expense incurred for cleaning up Houska Park raises concerns about the financial implications of relocating encampments back to such areas. Additionally, the marsh area, which has become less accessible due to safety concerns, will likely require substantial funds to restore.

As a mother, I find it disheartening that our community's parks—vital recreational spaces for our children—are being considered for such use. The closure of Erickson Pool this year has already significantly impacted children who rely on this facility during the summer. The prospect of losing additional parks to this issue exacerbates my concerns.

It appears that the current approach may only serve to shift the problem rather than address it effectively, leading to increased cleanup costs and diminished safety and enjoyment of public spaces. This situation contributes to a growing sense of instability and dissatisfaction among residents. It is disheartening to see a decline in the quality of life for tax-paying citizens and their families, while our taxes continue to rise and the focus seems to shift toward bike lanes and accommodations for the homeless.

I urge you to consider the concerns of your constituents and reconsider the current plans. It is crucial to find a balanced approach that addresses homelessness while preserving the quality and safety of our public spaces.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Danielle