

**From:** [Jose and Lisa Paz](#)  
**To:** [Krohn, Margaret](#); [#County Board Recipients](#)  
**Subject:** File # 2021 RES-440 – Please vote NO to Authorizing the Purchase of Yahara Hills Land for County Landfill  
**Date:** Monday, May 9, 2022 2:12:53 PM

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County Board Members,

Please vote “NO” to Authorizing the Purchase of Yahara Hills Land for County Landfill. This design has yet to be tested anywhere else so close to a densely populated area so there are too many unknowns regarding the full impact of this new experimental landfill and compost collection design to the quality of life, health and safety, and property value of so many families. Our communities deserve more answers.

We made important family decisions a few years ago to secure a safe and mutually beneficial multi-generational family living arrangement at our family home in the Township of Cottage Grove. Our home is an original Rodefeld landfill neighbor, and we live with the day-to-day burdens of living next to a landfill and were looking forward to the cap/closure of the Rodefeld Landfill in a few years. We did not know during our decision-making process, that the City of Madison and County of Dane were researching an expansion of the landfill in the Yahara Hills Golf Course. We, the Rodefeld landfill neighbors, were not invited to participate in any of those planning conversations.

Our family has lived on this property for **four** generations.

We and our neighbors have already experienced a vertical expansion of Rodefeld to the point that we have direct line of sight from our front door due to the massive landfill height, and it will continue to grow until it's closure. This extreme vertical expansion was not part of the original Rodefeld contract presented to the original neighbors.

We have many concerns of the proposed site because every day we currently live with the following concerns:

- **Unpredictable Foul Odor**

- do I open the house windows today in the morning with risk that I may return to a home filled with landfill odor?
- do I leave my car windows rolled down (we drive past the landfill every single day) and risk the chance of foul odor?
- do I mow the lawn today and risk smelling the odor?
- on cool nights, maybe I don't have to turn on the air conditioner at night, instead I can open the windows, but then if there is landfill odor tonight, I will wake up with the foul odor, so I will need to close the windows and turn on the air?
- do I schedule the Celebration of Life outdoors ( picnic, birthday, holiday gathering etc.) at my home? What if there is foul odor that day? Will it upset our family and friends?

- will the landfill use a masking odor today? What if the odor is super sweet and unnatural today? Will I get a headache?
- what is the masking vapor composed of?
- do I go cross country ski today at Yahara Hills or is the odor unbearable from the landfill across the street?

This unpredictability of foul odor is extremely stressful. With the current landfill situation, we were willing to take on this continued stress, because we know there is a landfill cap/closure date approaching for the Rodefeld Landfill contract.

We had **no idea** that another 40 years of landfill activity was being proposed for our area across the street at Yahara Hills Golf Course.

After all the years of the current landfill operations, we are still experiencing days of foul odor. A reporting system just implemented this month is a neighborly gesture after all these years without one, however, I feel we neighbors should not shoulder the odor reporting burden alone. Each morning when I walk outside to fetch my newspaper, I can tell you immediately if there is odor that day. Each day when I get into my vehicle and drive to my office near Agriculture Drive, I can tell you how far out the odor reaches that day.

Why are there no dedicated Odor control County Staff working on site of Rodefeld landfill so they would easily note when odor is foul and out of control?

- **increase in litter when driving – currently we experience litter which floats off garbage trucks on Hwy 12&18**
- The proposed new location of the landfill will **take away from existing cross country ski** location at Yahara Hills Golf course.
- **home values**
  - our neighbor's home did not sell quickly in the hottest home sale environment ever and sold well below the asking price after price drops. A contracted buyer chose to break their contract/purchase to offer and lose their deposit instead of purchasing the home. We experienced Realtors knocking on our door asking about how we felt about the Rodefeld landfill and odors. My neighbor's home value was protected by the Rodefeld Landfill contract. If I ever have to sell this home, will potential buyers and the Dane County community look upon my neighborhood as "the landfill" negative neighborhood? Most Cottage Grove homes were selling within weeks if not days and with multiple offers, most over asking.
- **negative community perception of our neighborhood** – odors, litter, and the open countryside is being slowly erased.
- **Environmental impacts** – methane gas in our neighborhood, testing of water wells, soil testing. How do we gain access to these reports? Who will tell us if any community members health issues are burdened by exposure to methane gas, landfill litter, water wells contaminants, etc..?
- **Reduction of open green spaces and farmlands** – many hundreds of acres in the

surrounding 1-mile vicinity of our home have already been transferred from farming land to the Rodefild landfill, County Offices, and has transferred from farmland to solar farm installation and another 100 acres + farm just slated for a new site for solar farm development.

The Yahara Hills Golf Course is a 10-to-15-minute drive from the State Capitol Square, after the cap off of the Rodefild Landfill, the area could be an excellent location for additional sports activity adding to the quality of life of Madison and Dane County residents. When you cap off the Rodefild Landfill expand the outdoor recreational use – it is a perfect East Side location for continued golf, and other healthy lifestyle activities such as cross country skiing, winter sledding/tubing, running, hiking, walking, disc golf, soccer, biking, pavilion rentals, etc..

Please do not deplete more healthy green space from our area!

Lisa Murray de Paz  
Cottage Grove