

## Stinson, Joleen

---

**From:** chad buchen <chadbuchen1983@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:53 PM  
**To:** Land&WaterResources Mail  
**Subject:** Outrageous Park fees!

### **This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

To the Dane County Executive and Members of the Dane County Board,

I am writing to express serious concern and frustration regarding the continued increase in Dane County park related fees, dog registration costs, and daily use charges. At some point, county leadership needs to explain why Dane County residents are continually being asked to pay more while county executives and upper level officials continue receiving six figure salaries funded by taxpayers.

The reality is that Dane County is increasingly turning basic outdoor recreation into something only wealthy residents can afford. Families who simply want to take their dog to a park, enjoy county trails, or participate in outdoor activities are being nickel and dimed at every opportunity. Annual dog registration fees, park permits, and daily use fees continue rising while many working class residents are already struggling with inflation, housing costs, food prices, and property taxes.

Dane County leadership often speaks publicly about inclusion, accessibility, and equity, yet the county's actual fee structure says the exact opposite. The message being sent is clear: if you are not upper middle class or wealthy, Dane County parks and recreation are becoming less accessible to you every year. Even owning a pet is increasingly being treated like a luxury reserved for people with substantial disposable income.

What is particularly disappointing is Dane County's treatment of veterans. Dane County remains one of the few counties in Wisconsin that appears unwilling to meaningfully support disabled veterans through reduced or waived park fees comparable to what Wisconsin already provides at the state level. Wisconsin recognizes the sacrifices of disabled veterans by providing free or reduced access for veterans with significant service connected disabilities. Dane County, however, continues imposing excessive fees while simultaneously claiming to support veterans publicly.

If Dane County truly cared about veterans, its fee structure would reflect that commitment. Instead, the county continues prioritizing revenue collection over meaningful appreciation for those who served this country. Veterans who already paid a personal price through military service should not have to continue paying inflated county recreation fees simply to access public spaces funded by taxpayers.

The county also owes residents a transparent explanation regarding exactly where these increased revenues are going. Residents are justified in questioning why fee increases continue while county leadership compensation remains extraordinarily high compared to what many taxpayers themselves earn. People are tired of being told there is never enough money unless it involves expanding government administration or executive compensation.

Public parks are supposed to serve the public, not become another financial burden placed on working families, seniors, and veterans. Dane County needs to reconsider these increases and start prioritizing affordability, accessibility, and fairness for ordinary residents rather than continuing policies that increasingly favor the wealthy.

**Thank you, for your time and consideration in this matter.**

**Respectfully,**

***Chad Buchen***

**From:** [Kim Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Land&WaterResources Mail](#)  
**Subject:** Park fees  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 27, 2026 11:50:27 AM

---

!-----|  
This Message Is From an External Sender  
This message came from outside your organization.  
!-----!

Use of a Dane County park is based on total cost - park fees plus gas to get there. When gas is high, trips are fewer and then the park fee divided by use is pretty high. Doesn't it make more sense and will bring in more money to charge everyone a little bit than to charge a few users a whole lot? Maybe \$5 or \$10 a year hiking fee or \$15 parking sticker would bring in the needed funds.

And fees need to compliment each other. If you have a parking fee then it should include a discount on the other fees. If you buy two parking stickers, need a discount because the owner would only be driving one car at a time. A dog park or horse trail fee should get a discount on the parking fee.

Also look for ways to reduce costs. I'd start with ending the weed killer you spray. I don't even want to use a park where little signs tell me it's not safe for dogs or children. Stop paying people to spray it.

Ad some fund raising events like dog shows, horse competitions, kite festivals, allow food trucks to park at some parks for a fee.

A low single day use fees will bring in funds from people who live farther away. This will attract more users to the parks but doesn't really require more investment because these users might only use the park a couple times a year but those fees would add up.

Sincerely,

Kim Hunter

**From:** [Lynn Wallace Intertek](#)  
**To:** [Land&WaterResources Maji](#)  
**Subject:** Dane county fee increase  
**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2026 8:56:31 PM

---

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

As a Dawn County resident, I oppose just a non resident fee increase. I have traveled around the state, county and world and appreciate all types of parks and the pride local people give to there park. Let's us (Dane Country residents) return the favor and share the increase in fees for residents and non residents.

Lynn Wallace  
5326 Cooney Weston Pl  
Madison, WI 53711

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

You'll be amazed where you find Intertek.



Total Quality. Assured.

---

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email may contain confidential or privileged information, if you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient then please notify us by return email immediately. Should you have received this email in error then you should not copy this for any purpose nor disclose its contents to any other person.

<http://www.intertek.com>

**From:** [Candyce Ver Burg](#)  
**To:** [Stinson, Joleen](#)  
**Subject:** Public Input re Dane County Parks  
**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:38:53 PM

---

**This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

Hello Joleen Stinson,

Yesterday I read that you were looking for public input re Dane County Parks +. While I'm not able to attend meetings, I would like to add my thoughts on a couple of issues.

The idea of doing more with less funding is a non sequitur. Raising Dog Park fees somewhat with non-residents paying more seems reasonable; however handing off yet another increase in cost of living to a public struggling to get by with higher gas & inflation these days just adds to the woes.

IMO it would make sense for the Land & Waters Resources, Parks Department in particular, to request funds from the bloated Conservancy budget to brace up the actual care & maintenance of these areas. (IDK why they can give \$6.41 million of land to the Ho Chunks, have a bloated Conservancy budget, an under funded land maintenance budget & be -\$15M in total budget! This formulary needs to be reviewed by professionals who know how to balance the budget.)

So in trying to help you do more with less \$, I encourage Dane County to train the prisoners who help pick up trash at these dog parks, et al. to be able to identify & remove the bad weeds in these areas. They would learn about "tending the garden" as a life lesson, knowing what are the good plants we want from the bad weeds we don't.

That being said, I have a couple of pictures from the Capital Springs Dog Park I took this morning. I may have to send these photos in 2 batches for technical purposes. Basically these showcase various bad patches of Burdock, Nettles & Wild Parsnips. Also included is a photo of the entrance area of the regular dog park that I wish was a mowed lawn area that could accommodate picnic tables in the shade of these mature trees .

Thank you for your kind attention .

Candyce VerBurg 608 852 6672

Yes it's too big so I'll try to send these photos in 2 batches.

**From:** [Mark L Olson](#)  
**To:** [Land&WaterResources Mail](#)  
**Subject:** Permit suggestion  
**Date:** Friday, May 29, 2026 11:47:11 AM

---

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

I noticed on the news last night you are evaluating permit fees. My suggestion would be to create a pass similar to the DNR Conservation Patron License. A buy all permit that allows purchasers to do basically anything at any park, ride the trails, play disc golf, launch a boat. I'd pay for that, \$150 maybe \$200 a year.

Just a suggestion.

Mark Olson

Mlolson1@wisc.edu

**From:** [Parks Mail](#)  
**To:** [Stinson, Joleen](#); [Land&WaterResources Mail](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WebTrac Comments  
**Date:** Monday, June 1, 2026 2:59:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Forwarding to LWRD inbox as well for records of fee comments.

Thanks



**Paul Eder**

**Administration, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department**

5201 Fen Oak Drive #208, Madison, WI 53718

Office: (608) 224-3730 | [website](#)



---

**From:** daneparkreservation@rectrac.com <daneparkreservation@rectrac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 1:07 PM  
**To:** Parks Mail <dane-parks@danecounty.gov>  
**Subject:** WebTrac Comments

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

This WebTrac customer has sent a message for your consideration:

Name: Gene Larson

Household ID:

Please reply via: Email

Email Address: [genelarson972@yahoo.com](mailto:genelarson972@yahoo.com)

Phone Number: (920)858-2979

Comments: \$40 for a dog permit ? that is way too expensive, I am retired on a fixed income. I am 63.

Your fee for seniors starts at age 65. Regardless of age i am still retired and on a fixed income.

Reduce your minimum age like the rest of the world

DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. This is an automated email sent to you by the WebTrac system.