

Andrew Beyer

From: Andrew Beyer
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:08 AM
To: Andrew Beyer
Subject: FW: Washington Park

From: John Kaliebe <bajakal@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 3:04 PM
To: Ryan Thurow <RThurow@watertownwi.gov>
Cc: John Kaliebe <bajakal@att.net>
Subject: Washington Park

Hello Ryan,

I hope you are adjusting to your dual role as City Forrester and Park Supervisor and that you are not inundated.

What I saw after Maranatha played their double-header it looked like they were confused as what to do with putting the tarps back on the infield. When I saw Julie the following day, I went over to talk with her regarding this (mud around home plate/batter's box). During our conversation I mentioned to her about the bus(es) parking on Richards Ave. I didn't know who to bring it up to since there is no Park and Rec. Director. She suggested I bring it to your attention. I'm not asking you to fight our neighborhood battle, but maybe you can be of some help.

I have brought this up to every Director (John, Cindy, Randy and Kristine), spoke before the Public Safety and Welfare Committee once, to our alderperson and years ago with the Athletic Directors of the Watertown High School and Maranatha. With all of these positions there is a revolving door and when the next person takes over, things get lost in the shuffle or it is forgotten about. What has been done in the past was the city put up a pedestrian crossing sign and painted the curb yellow by the crosswalk. I also requested and was granted no parking in front of our house from the corner of Richards Ave. and Thomas Ave. north to our property line (80') At the time we were told the city would not put up a No Bus Parking sign. We have also politely asked the bus driver(s) to move their bus which has been greeted with, "I'm legally parked", with a hand gesture and vulgar comments. Two years ago a driver told my wife to "f off"! After she told me that I went over to talk to the driver which didn't go well. He ended up moving the bus after I told him I was going to report him. While driving away, he flipped me off.

The issues are the safety of the people walking across the street (especially children/families) to and from the park and after school (because of the height and length of the buses), buses parking within the yellow line/too close to the crosswalk, the high rate of speed vehicles travel on Richards Ave. and the noise of the diesel engine and the smell of diesel when the buses are running. When walking across the street, one has to stop in front of the bus and poke their head out to see if any vehicle is coming from the north. By that time, you are in the middle of the street (that's where the curve in the street starts).

In our neighborhood we have over 30 children (from infant to middle school) between Western Ave. and Sunset Ave. and Richards Ave. to Charles St. (4 square block area). There are also a lot of dog walkers in

the area/around the park. As for the engines running while the games are being played can affect 3/4 houses. Speaking for my wife and I (since we live right across the street from where they park) we can hear the engines run and smell the fumes with our windows closed. We cannot have our windows open on a nice day because the noise and smell are worse (especially if the wind is from the west). The bus drivers can leave their engines running anywhere from 1 hour to 5 hours (for one game or a double header) and also depending on the temperature (for the heater or the AC to be on). This is irritating to say the least.

After explaining all of this, we had a "handshake" agreement with all of the parties involved, that a coach bus (usually for Maranatha games) or a school bus (for High School games) would NOT park on Richards Ave. at any time and that they should park on Sunset Ave. or in the Webster School parking lot if there is no school. They could only drop off the players and equipment before the game and pick up after the game.

In your position, what can you do or what would you advise/recommend us to do to resolve these issues (again). Please send me a reply. Thank you.

John Kaliebe