From: Ben Johnson
To: JCAC
Subject: Willow Creek Master Plan Comment
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Attachments: image001.png

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I would just like to register a comment on the Willow Creek Master Plan. If there is video of the meeting I would like to tune in if possible.

First of all, the plan on the power point looks beautiful. I love the idea of having access points for people to get down to the water and the pretty bridges. The one thing that concerns me is the lack of wild spaces. Working at the WI Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (WVDL), I walk by the creek all the time. I love the creek even though I know it is just a glorified drainage ditch. But despite that, there are so many creatures that call it home. I am afraid that making it a pretty place for people will make some of the more sensitive creature move away. Despite mostly only being by the creek during daytime hours, I have seen foxes, mink, and beaver near the creek. So many birds nest here or stop over during migration. Softshell, painted, and snapping turtles all lay their eggs on the banks of Willow Creek. These are a few animals I think might not return after the construction of the new creek. My hope is that you amend the plan to include some wild patches with lots of trees that people can't easily access to give these creatures a place to feel safe. Include trees and bushes right along the water the way there are now so wood ducks and kingfishers still have access. And keep the marshy dirt path to the east of the outlet.
Being so close to a natural area like Willow Creek gives me (and many co-workers and others at UW) so much joy and peace. The plan as it is, is very pretty. I just hope you can keep it a little wild too.

Thanks for your consideration,
Ben Johnson

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