

**From:** [chris.gomez-schmidt](mailto:chris.gomez-schmidt)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** West Area Plan; Sauk creek greenspace  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 2:50:45 PM

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Hello transportation commission members,

I am writing to express my perspective about the Sauk Creek greenspace that is part of the West Area Plan being discussed this evening.

I am concerned that this topic has turned into a misplaced argument between neighborhood residents and some City of Madison bike advocates.

I think one misperception has been around how residents view this space. For the Sauk Creek neighborhood, the Sauk Creek greenspace is at the heart and center of our neighborhood. It isn't a space that is perceived as dividing residents of Sauk Creek or the larger network of neighborhoods. Instead this natural area is valued for its existence as a haven for tree cover, native plants, and wildlife, an urban oasis in the midst of the built environments that surround it.

I think consensus exists that it is necessary for the city engineers to address water flow and erosion issues. Ecological restoration work is also needed as city greenspaces have never been managed by the city for ecological health or ecological diversity.

What I still haven't heard is who speaks for the value of keeping natural areas as natural as possible. Given the city's Nature Everywhere initiative and evidence of the increasing threats of climate change, preserving the small ecological islands that exist in the city cannot be an afterthought to development.

Thank you for considering these points in your deliberations and discussion.

Sincerely,

Chris Gomez Schmidt  
Sauk Creek and City of Madison resident

**From:** [Josh Stirling](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Reinstating the Sauk Creek Path - North/South  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 3:02:36 PM

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Hello Transportation Commission,

As a Madison resident that actively uses bike paths through the community regularly, I am in support of reinstating the North-South Path for Sauk Creek.

I live on the east side and bike commute to Fitchburg to work 2-3 times a week. I do this because I have safe access using the South-West Commuter Trail and the Badger State Trail. Having separated and protected multi-use paths is the main reason I feel safe and comfortable commuting 10-miles. On my rides, I see walkers, joggers, commuters of all ages and lifestyles. I am shocked at how many children I pass who are either walking or biking to and from school.

I may not live or commute right next to Sauk Creek, however, I see the significant impact these projects can make in the long run for the community. As I understand it, the addition of a multi-use path is NOT the reason for any tree removal, so the environmental impact of this would be minimal. Because of this, I join the many others in favor of bringing this plan back to benefit the community nearby and throughout Madison.

Thank you,

Josh Stirling

**From:** [Scallon, Peggy](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:02:25 PM

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I oppose any bike path through the Sauk Creek Greenway.

Peggy Scallon

**From:** [Dolister, Sandy](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 84377 Oppose Any Bike Path in the Sauk Creek Greenway - It Doesn't Make Sense  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:14:35 PM

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Dear Transportation Commissioners.

I am writing to object to the inclusion of the east-west bike path, or any bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway. I am a 36-year resident of the Sauk Creek subdivision and have a property that is adjacent to the greenway. I frequently walk the entire neighborhood –

1. The bike path is not needed -there are other areas to serve the biking community
2. The plan will destroy much needed tree canopy
3. The city is facing a budget deficit and should be spending money on more important matters
4. The process has been difficult and not transparent – we need some changes to Sauk Creek, not a bike path

**Please do not move forward with this ill-conceived bike path.**

Best regards,

Sandy Dolister  
13 East Geneva Circle  
Madison, WI 53717

**From:** [Mark Shahan](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 84377: Support Bike Paths in the Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:17:38 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to maintain the East-West bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway as part of the West Area Plan and to add back the North-South Bike Path in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

The East-West path could be part of a low stress east-west corridor through the neighborhood that could link with a proposed overpass of the Beltline. The overpass of the Beltline has been on the Transportation Improvement Plan for ~25 years and is something for which I have advocated almost as long. Having the East-West corridor mapped out could help the overpass of the Beltline score higher so that it can be built sooner rather than later.

A low stress East-West corridor between Old Sauk Road and Mineral Point Road is needed because Old Sauk and Mineral Point Roads are not low stress routes even taking into account when the widened sidewalk is completed on Mineral Point Road. I personally commuted to my job West of the Beltline on Old Sauk Road for two years. I am an avid cyclist who would be classified as a type A (assertive) cyclist, but even for me Old Sauk Road could be challenging. The interchange with the Beltline was particularly challenging with all of the ramps and a substandard width bike lane under the Beltline. A lower stress route with an overpass of the Beltline would have been heartily welcomed, especially, in inclement weather.

Contrary to what has been said about the proposed North-South path, it is not a path to nowhere. It would connect Old Sauk Road to Randolph Drive which connects to Mineral Point Road providing a lower stress route than anything in the neighborhood between Old Sauk and Mineral Point Roads.

It is my understanding that there will be a North-South path through the greenway no matter what because the City needs access to the greenway for maintenance work. The only question is whether the path will be paved as a multi-use path or left as a gravel road for maintenance work. People think a gravel path will have more water infiltration than a paved path but this is not true. Packed gravel paths are about as impervious as pavement but they require much more maintenance than paved paths. If you doubt, this ask the UW about the erosion problems with the Temin Path and the DNR about the erosion problems with the Military Ridge Trail. By contrast, I have never seen a washout of the SW Path.

It is also my understanding that the tree loss would not be driven by the North-South path if it were to be built. Most of the trees are being removed because they are in bad condition or are invasive species. Removing invasive species will actually benefit the greenway.

But the real losers if the North-South path is not built will be the neighbors of the greenway. A paved path and a greenway are not mutually incompatible. To those who doubt this, I suggest you look at the SW Path. This path goes through wooded areas and areas that have been restored with prairie plants. My wife and I have been instrumental in those efforts,

planting native plants on the section from Midvale Blvd. to the Beltline overpass. The explosion of wild flowers through the year, particularly, in the fall are spectacular. It brings people to the path to see the Monarch butterflies that often make this section a stop on their migration in the fall and you often find Bird watchers on the path.

My advice is build both the East-West and North-South Paths and then be prepared to roll up your sleeves to help replant native plantings. I would suggest an Oak Savanna habitat.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Shahan  
607 Piper Drive  
Madison, WI 53711-1338

**From:** [Liz Jesse](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support for a Bike Path Through the Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:19:00 PM

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Good Afternoon,

Please reconsider the creation of a bike path through the Sauk Creek Greenway.

The city is committed to creating a network of protected and off-street bike facilities. An East-West path in the Sauk Creek greenway will help establish a low-stress west side route that doesn't involve busy Mineral Point Rd or Old Sauk Rd.

Some type of path has to be created with this project, why not make it a bike path? I believe that safe bike facilities and saving lives is more important than a few trees.

Thank you,

-Liz Jesse

5126 S Hill Dr, Madison, WI 53705

**From:** [Friends of Sauk Creek](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Elderly oppose a bike path too.  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:30:48 PM

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Dear Transportation Commissioners:

I'm writing you to ask that you should rule to remove the East-West bike path through the Walnut Grove Park and Sauk Creek Greenway that is shown in the West Area plan for the following reasons:

To begin with, Walnut Grove Park is roughly 20 acres and there is a dense steep wooded bluff area that the proposed path would go through that would require switchbacks zig zagging through the woods. It would require the loss of additional trees on the bluff to make that path accessible to all ages and abilities. Accessible paths need to have less than a 5% grade. Trees are so important to stop soil erosion, among many other things.

We are able to walk the current hiking paths through the Greenway with our hiking poles and access Walnut Grove Park without any problems, even at our ages, 89 and 88!

A terrain map (that we could not include) shows the steep bluffs on the west store of Walnut Grove park that the bike path would destroy..

ALSO:

This tree destruction conflicts with the one of the mission statements for the Parks Open Space Plan 2023 that states that Parks should:

" Preserve and expand our urban forest resources through a well-planned and systematic approach to TREE maintenance, planting and natural area management.

Last but not least the Parks Open Space Plan 2023 states that "Steep Grades May make accessi=ble paths unfeasible in some parks."

Therefore, please remove the consideration of an east west bike path, or any bike paths through Walnut Grove Park and Sauk Creek Greenway from the West Area Plan. We truley enjoy the current peaceful greenway paths to hike and enjoy nature.

Thank you.

Stan and Zoe Richardson

314 Sauk Creek Drive

Madison, WI



**From:** [Ted Losby](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 84377 Oppose Any Bike Path in the Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:30:49 PM

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We are writing to object the inclusion of the east-west bike path OR any bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway for the following reasons:

1. The Sauk Creek Greenway is the major portion of the 16% canopy in District 9. The city-wide goal of 40% and a current coverage of 23% why would the city even consider decimating the Greenway?
2. Cost to taxpayers! (Fed and State grants are matched by City taxpayers!
3. Why is the city imposing a wide paved path on the important storm channel restoration project?
4. Light pollution from trail lights.
5. Climate issues
6. Loss of Quiet Refuge - what about walkers? Bikes are not allowed on other nature trails in Madison.

Sincerely,  
Kathy and Ted Losby

**From:** [Nancy Shook](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** bicycle / pedestrian paths  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:42:16 PM

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[You don't often get email from nshook9@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Dear Transportation Committee Members, and Madison Alders:

Please support bicycle / pedestrian paths, especially those connecting existing bike routes, and to give alternatives to existing high traffic roads. I have been an avid bicyclist for more than 50 years in Madison, and have seen the benefit to the improved bicycle routes first hand.

I also lead and participate in three different bicycling groups made up of retired men and women, most of us over 65, and even some 80 years old and more. We regularly ride on Madison bike paths, as well as those in Middleton, Verona, McFarland, Waunakee, Sun Prairie, Sauk City, and Janesville. Many of the older bicyclists are not comfortable traveling in traffic and on unprotected bicycle lanes. Some of our members live at Oakwood, and many of us bicycle on Mineral Point Road, High Point Road, Old Sauk Road, and other busy streets for short stretches to get between bicycle paths. Please support a bicycle path through the Sauk Creek area, and to bypass Fish Hatchery Road, traveling from Wingra trail to the Cannonball Trail. Connecting the existing paths and adding new ones will make it so much safer for not only bicyclists, but also pedestrians, people with physical disabilities, and parents with small children to travel.

I know you have heard from people concerned about the parks, greenways, trees in the areas suggested for paths. I sympathize with people who are worried about the effect of the changes on their private land, or local parks. However, I have found that almost unanimously, people who most appreciate the paths after they are constructed are those living near to them, who can use them the most! Fear of change must not make public policy on public land. In my lifetime, I have seen people oppose the wonderful statewide bike trails (Elroy-Sparta), and the local trails (Capitol City), and then become the strongest proponents supporting them after they are constructed, appropriately landscaped, and become wonderful city and neighborhood assets.

Getting bicycles off busy roads makes more people willing to bicycle, reduces the number of cars, and gives people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to bicycle, walk, or wheel for exercise and pleasure.

Please support bicycle / pedestrian infrastructure everywhere you possibly can - it will pay off in appreciation of people living here, and those who visit our city and county. for example, Middleton has amazing trails through woods, along the Pheasant Branch Creek and through prairie areas. Janesville has lovely bike paths through neighborhoods and along the Rock River. The Great Sauk Trail has become a local tourist attraction appreciated by everyone.

Please continue to improve Madison's wonderful bicycle infrastructure - we love it!

Thank you,  
Nancy A Shook

**From:** [Catherine's iPhone](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Article 7  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:43:32 PM

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I wish to register my opposition to constructing a bike pathway through the Sauk Creek Greenway. It would be of extremely limited value to a small percentage of the population of the Westside. Construction would be costly for the presumed result. Its presence would destroy the habitat for many woodland creatures and most of all, the serenity of the greenway itself.

I do acknowledge the necessity of reconfiguring flow for the benefit of drainage, but I strongly oppose any bike path.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Hankerson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bonnie Roe](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission; Tishler, Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE #7 Bike Path through Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 4:50:11 PM

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Dear Transportation Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to number 7 on your agenda. Specifically, I oppose any added bike paths to the Sauk Creek Greenway. I have yet to see a cost estimate on this project, but similar projects have cost the city \$2 million and more in matching funds and this just doesn't make any sense with the size of our current structural deficit.

The Alder of the District has recommended removing this path from the West Area Plan.

Surrounding neighbors obviously oppose this project, and you have heard many of their reasons. This project does little to add to the bike network, as there are many safe paths in this part of the City. The grade is steep, a lot of trees would need to be removed, and I thought we were a city committed to improving our tree canopy? I don't see any reason to spend money on putting a bike path in a mature and established neighborhood.

In fact, all projects requiring new spending should be put on hold until we can find a way to get out of this deficit. Please send a message to the Common Council that we don't need to spend money on this unnecessary path.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe

**From:** [Abby Novinska-Lois](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the Bike Path Through the Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 5:56:48 PM

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Dear Transportation Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Bike Path Sauk Creek Greenway bike path. As a public health professional, I am acutely aware of the significant benefits that safe, accessible bike paths and pedestrian areas, particularly those in green spaces, offer to our community's mental and physical health.

Regular physical activity is crucial for maintaining good health, and safe bike paths encourage more people to engage in cycling, which is an excellent form of exercise. Additionally, access to green spaces has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being. By providing a safe and pleasant environment for walking and cycling, the Sauk Creek Greenway bike path can help residents incorporate more physical activity into their daily lives and enjoy the mental health benefits of spending time in nature.

Moreover, bike paths reduce air pollution by encouraging people to use bicycles instead of cars. This is not only beneficial for individual health by reducing exposure to pollutants, but it also contributes to the overall improvement of air quality in our community.

I am concerned, however, that some of my fellow neighbors view this project as a choice between bikes and trees. We can and should plan for both. Reducing our dependency on cars and increasing city density are essential steps toward creating more green spaces and enhancing the quality of urban life. A well-planned Madison that prioritizes sustainable transportation options and green spaces can accommodate both the need for safe bike paths and the preservation of trees.

As a 29-year-old, I have spent much of my life experiencing record-breaking heat. Climate action is imperative, and providing safe, sustainable transportation alternatives is a critical component of that effort. In our growing city, investing in bike paths like the Sauk Creek Greenway is an essential step toward reducing our carbon footprint and promoting a healthier, more sustainable future.

I strongly urge you to support the development of the Bike Path Sauk Creek Greenway,

recognizing its potential to enhance both public health and environmental sustainability.

Thank you,

Abby

**From:** [lynn hummel](mailto:lynn.hummel)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Saul Creek Bike Path Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 6:00:49 PM

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I oppose any pike bath through the Sauk Creek Greenway.

1. The Greenway is a special city resource with very large trees, wildlife, walking trails and with great educational potential for teaching young and older alike about plant ecology right within the city limits.
2. There are good bikeways on all four sides of the greenway. There is not enough greenway space in Madison to create space for those who don't want to rider a bike on a city street. In making a bike/ pedestrian path through the Greenway you will destroy a woods that is cherished by a great many users. Even using the best engineering available the bike path will devastate the woods.
3. No real data supports the need for an east-west path. It is disingenuous to say that you need a path from the west so that uses of Walnut Grove Park can get through. Paths already exist! It takes me 4 minutes to walk (or walk my bike) from the west side of the Greenway to Walnut Grove Park. There are no frustrated crowds on the west side waiting to get through.
4. With huge budget problems facing the city do you really want to spend a lot of money in the Greenway when it could go to a bikeway that really needs it?

**From:** [Brian S.](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Sauk Creek greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 7:09:05 PM

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I'm still not sure a paved path in Sauk Creek greenway is good but I'm also curious to see what sort of paths the City engineers can design. I think there could be a middle ground.

**Brian**



**From:** [Bonnie Roe](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Please OPPOSE #7 Bike Path through Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 7:10:20 PM

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Transportation Commissioners,

My apologies, I had registered to speak at your meeting, but something has come up and I won't be able to give my remarks. I did send my thoughts to you all in an email.

I was planning to give my support for the change at Segoe/Laub reflected in the plan, and I oppose the Road Diet on Mineral Point, which would remove parking, cause MPD to have a more difficult time getting out (therefore more lights and sirens), the grade, the blind spots, and losing a lane... I think it worked well on Odana, but this isn't Odana.

I hope you see this message before I waste your time calling my name to speak.

Have a good meeting,

On Wed, Jul 31, 2024, 4:49 PM Bonnie Roe <[bonnie.roe@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.roe@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Transportation Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to number 7 on your agenda. Specifically, I oppose any added bike paths to the Sauk Creek Greenway. I have yet to see a cost estimate on this project, but similar projects have cost the city \$2 million and more in matching funds and this just doesn't make any sense with the size of our current structural deficit.

The Alder of the District has recommended removing this path from the West Area Plan.

Surrounding neighbors obviously oppose this project, and you have heard many of their reasons. This project does little to add to the bike network, as there are many safe paths in this part of the City. The grade is steep, a lot of trees would need to be removed, and I thought we were a city committed to improving our tree canopy? I don't see any reason to spend money on putting a bike path in a mature and established neighborhood.

In fact, all projects requiring new spending should be put on hold until we can find a way to get out of this deficit. Please send a message to the Common Council that we don't need to spend money on this unnecessary path.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe

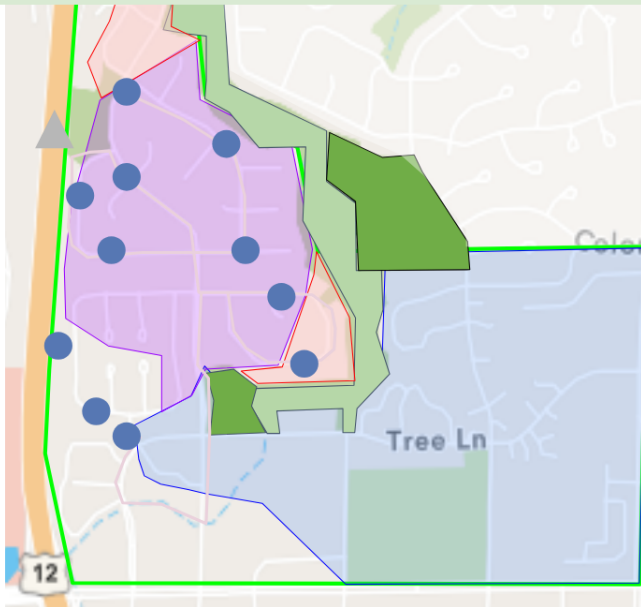
**From:** [Craig Weinhold](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** West Area Plan / Sauk Creek greenway paths / transportation benefits  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 31, 2024 7:48:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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In my written comments, I described how Sauk Creek greenway paths would improve transportation, especially for schools. Here is a map in support of that:

## Impact of paths on Muir Elementary School reachability



This map shows how the 1½ mile walk/bike radius from Muir Elementary School would change with the paths.

- Muir Creek Attendance Area
- Today's 1½ mile bike/walk radius
- Today's yellow bus stops
- area expanded by east-west path
- area further expanded by north-south path

By my calculation, Sauk Creek Greenway paths would allow 90% of Sauk Creek students to no longer need yellow bus service. 100% of Middle and High School students from the area would no longer require special busing.

-Craig Weinhold

**From:** [Tatyana](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 84377 Oppose Any Bike Path in the Sauk Creek Greenway  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:59:47 PM

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Dear Transportation Commissioners.

I am writing to object to the inclusion of the east-west bike path, or any bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway for the following reasons:

- It has not been made clear that a bike bath is needed, or wanted by the residents in the neighborhood, whom would have the most to gain or lose from it.
- There are other great bike paths already in the neighborhood.
- During this time of climate change and greater chance of flooding, we need more trees, not less, in order to ensure a healthy habitat.
- With the \$25M+ budget shortfall, city funds should be spent on higher need priorities than projects that have limited use and are opposed by the community.
- Finally, flood control and erosion can be addressed in less environmentally destructive ways that would not necessitate the clear-cutting of thousands of trees.

Thank you!

Tatyana Warrick

Sauk Creek resident