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**Subject:** Pheasant Branch Watershed Study survey  
**Date:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:41:01 PM

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Thank you for your hard work on the Watershed projects. This is a very complex issue. The Pheasant Branch Watershed survey did not have much room for public comments so I am sending you my questions/comments regarding the project in this email.

How can we provide meaningful public comments when there is no Project Plan for the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration in the August 1, 2022, 393 page, Pheasant Branch Watershed Study?

Page 58. One page only. *"The project information used in this study is planning level information; the design project will use design-level information."*

1. Will the Sauk Creek Greenway project follow regenerative stormwater conveyance practices, that includes trees in their projects plans to stabilize the banks?

2. It appears Greenbriar Apartments owns the section of land between the already completed SC Greenway segment and the 1 mile proposed project (see attached picture below, Red roofed apartments bottom right).

What is the cost to taxpayers and plan for that section of the creek which appears to be on private property?

3. How will the contracted loggers accomplish selective forestry on this project when they have not on previous Watershed projects? (See before and after pictures below)

Is it a conflict of interest for contacted loggers to determine which trees to remove? Will the "Do NOT Cut" trees be marked before the loggers arrive?

4. What will be the total **loss of carbon credits** when the mature trees are removed? Along with the trees that were removed in previous projects, and proposed projects throughout the city? How will the loss of trees affect bats, birds, deer, other wildlife, and sound barrier from the Beltline noise?

5. Why hasn't there been any maintenance of the creek channel or retention ponds in the past? Many neighbors have put on their own waders and removed fallen limbs and dams on the creek over the years, that city crews never cleared out. It would have been a much less expensive option.

Even without any maintenance of the creek, in the 2018 deluge, there were no houses flooded from rising creek water along the creek; no Sauk Creek Neighborhood focus groups (Pg 279).

6. What exactly are the plans for reconstructing/dredging the "broken" retention pond in Sauk Creek Greenway, by Sauk Creek Dr and St. Lawrence? It is shown as outside the Greenway Project Area on the Project Maps. Although it has been "broken" for over 15 years, it is on all of the watershed maps as a retention pond. It does not collect any street water. We don't hear anything about the plans for this valuable non-functioning retention pond. It could be incorporated into a Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance system.

7. Who is funding the proposed single track bike path that the neighborhood does not feel is a

good fit in this location? We hear that the Bike Federation is pushing hard for these paths that the neighborhood community does not support.

The neighborhood has repeatedly suggested **the other proposed Walnut Grove Park mountain bike trail for the schools' Mountain Bike teams be located in Mineral Point Park** providing easy access for Vel Phillips Memorial High School/Jefferson Middle School, and nearby John Muir and Stevenson Elementary School students and their families. It would really increase use of that park. With adequate parking, rolling hills, and other amenities.

8. The \$4million dollar budget for this one project seems to be the same since 2018. Is that really an accurate budget in 2022? Page 58 *The Sauk Creek Greenway was budgeted for reconstruction prior to the August 2018 flood event and prior to the watershed study.*

9. The answer to the incredibly undersized, poorly planned Menard/Pet Smart area and Target Mall area retention ponds, seems to be to just push all of the water towards Sauk Creek faster. With new building being planned SW of Menards, these commercial areas will still continue to have flooding with high rain storm events.

From the Survey pg 46: "**Solution Caution** - *If this solution (Draining Target pond under Beltline into Sauk Creek) could be implemented, it would send stormwater downstream faster. Computer modeling indicates the sections of the Sauk Creek Greenway just downstream of the Beltline culverts do not have capacity for the additional stormwater that would come from this solution. The flooding experienced in the Target Area would be moved downstream to the properties adjacent to the upstream sections of the Sauk Creek Greenway. Therefore, if aspects of this solution are to be implemented, the design should account for the capacity of the downstream Sauk Creek Greenway sections. Any back of the creek would cause more flooding in residential areas.*

Page 49 *"Reason for Exclusion - The sections of Sauk Creek Greenway just downstream of the beltline and Target Area Pond are not large enough to convey the additional capacity from the improvement."*

Page 58 3. *Menards Parking Lot – Flooding approximately 1 to 2 feet deep a. Solutions that Benefit Area - The local conveyance system (series of culverts and channels) along Commerce Drive was replaced with a box culvert for the full length. This greatly reduces the inefficiencies in the system. b. Flood Reductions Observed - The ponding in the Menards parking lot is reduced. (Not eliminated)*

These commercial areas need larger ponds!! Menard' pond is basically non-existent. Dredging and deforesting Sauk Creek is not the answer!

Focus Groups: Page 279: There was no focus group for Sauk Creek Neighborhood, because here was no flooding along Sauk Creek.

Thank you very much.

I look forward to reading the design level plan information when it becomes available.

As you know, the community wants to retain the woods as best as possible. It is a true jewel, and beloved walking area, in the NW Madison area.

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References:

3. Before and after greenway “restoration” projects. 4. What was the carbon credit loss in these and other watershed projects?

From the Study *"The greenway is heavily forested, one of the few forested areas in this watershed. The infiltration parameters for the forested area were revised; this resulted in some reduction in the modeled peak water surface elevations"*



This had been a lovely woods, sound barrier, wild life & bird refuge. No longer for the neighbors.



Before City Engineering "restoration" project, Beltline to Tree Lane



AFTER 2018 City Engineering removed 90% of trees, installed a one block raised concrete "Bike Path to nowhere". Now area is full of weeds.



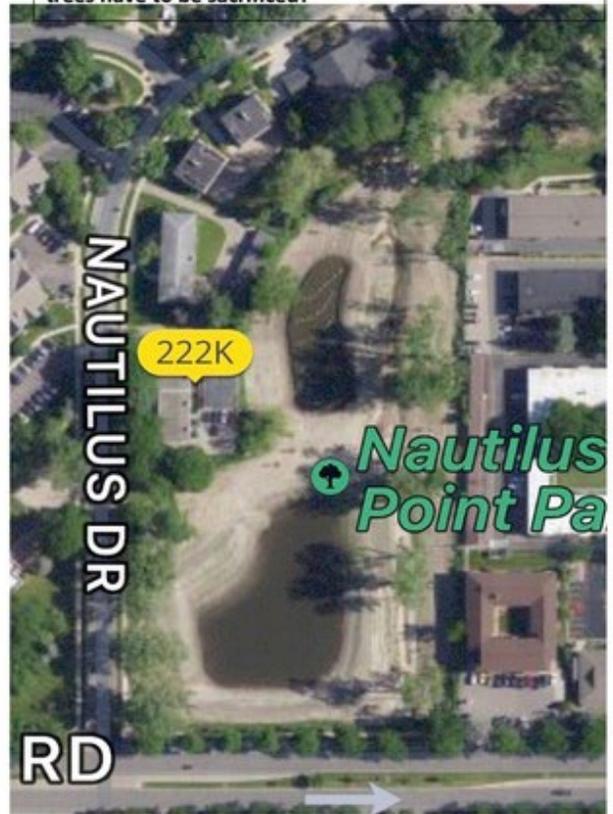
This had been lovely wooded area.



BEFORE Nautilus Point Park, On Mineral Point Rd across from Oak Wood Village.



AFTER City Engineering "Restoration" put in 2 retaining ponds and removed 90% of trees. Why did so many trees have to be sacrificed?



2. Greenbriar Apartments have a section of creek running through their private property. What is the cost to taxpayers to acquire that land?



6. What are the plans for the retention pond in the middle of the project that has been “broken” and not maintained for over 15 years? It has not been maintained or acted as a retention pond in the 15 years that we have lived here. The City engineers are aware of this pond but I see it outside the red Greenway Project Area.

7. Propose the new Mountain Bike path in Mineral Point Park, near 4 schools.



