

**From:** [Pris Boroniec](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Item #77560 Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 1:43:58 PM

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Dear Transportation Commission Member:

RE: Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 13 Transportation Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan**. I am against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded (5000+ trees) and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway for the following reasons:

First, there has been a lack of transparency and public input on the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway as part of the West Area Plan (Plan). As neighborhood residents, we have just recently been informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Plan without any substantive detail or discussion of the need, location, route, size or other issues and challenges involved in adding a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway-- an area that is periodically subject to high water runoff. In essence, there has not been true public engagement in this process. As the neighborhoods have learned about the proposed inclusion of a bike path, surveys have reflected great concern and opposition to its addition.

Second, in a period of climate change, the construction of a bike path will result in the removal of hundreds of trees, which will cause the loss of carbon sequestration, oxygen production and habitat for wildlife, birds and native plants. In the case of the Sauk Creek Greenway proposal, the value of a path is questionable. There is no "areawide destination" for which access can be substantially improved by a bike path. In essence, it is a "bike path to nowhere" in terms of providing more convenient, safer and quicker access to West Madison area destinations. It merely connects one side of the Greenway to the other side at the expense of removing hundreds of trees. There are currently bike lanes on Old Sauk Road and High Point Road within a short distance of the Greenway. In addition, Farmington Way and Westfield Road have speed bumps to control traffic speed and improve safety. There are also traffic crossing lights on both Old Sauk and High Point Roads to allow residents to cross the roads safely.

Third, I have lived in the Sauk Creek neighborhood for 35 years. I was the 2nd Neighborhood President and served on the Sauk Creek Board for many years. We worked closely with the City Engineering Department, the Parks Department and other city entities to address water control, erosion, and storm water runoff issues. Over the years, a lot of water control problems and issues resulted from paved surfaces at the larger stores, such as Menards and PetsMart, which did not have adequate storm water control protections and which feed into the Sauk Creek Greenway. The addition of paved bike path will only contribute to the impervious surface area in the Sauk Creek Greenway and only add to the City's and neighborhoods' efforts to address stormwater control and runoff issues.

Finally, in the 35 years that I have lived in Sauk Creek, the call or need for a bike path through the Sauk Creek Greenway has not been a priority issue. Area residents have access and use the

existing paths through the Greenway for walking, bird watching and other recreational activities. It is a beautiful and attractive area with thousands of trees, wildlife, birds, plants and walking paths.

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a bike path from the West Area Plan, which goes against the **City's Civic Engagement, Equity and Stewardship Values**.

Thank you,

*Louis Cornelius*  
*13 Sauk Creek Circle Madison, WI 53717*