

From: [Larry and Ginny White](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#); [Mayor](#); [Conklin, Nikki](#)
Subject: Oppose Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:40:22 AM

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I have learned that the Complete Green Streets Guide contains a proposed bike trail in the Sauk Creek Greenway. This is despite the fact that **no greenway restoration plan has yet been developed**. For months, city staff have been assuring concerned residents that we'll be able to weigh in on the development of a plan. Including a controversial bike trail in the CGSG now contradicts what city officials have been saying.

I oppose a bike trail in the Sauk Creek Greenway for several reasons:

- There is already a nearby north-south bike route on Westfield Road connecting Old Sauk Road with Tree Lane.
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- An All Ages and Abilities bike trail would need to be paved, thus reducing water infiltration and increasing stormwater runoff.
- Elderly and disabled users of wheelchairs, walkers, and canes would feel unsafe and risk injury if sharing a path with bicycles.
- A 10" to 12" wide trail would require removal of even more trees than is already predicted to address stormwater runoff and provide vehicle access for future maintenance. Loss of tree canopy adversely affects carbon sequestration and habitat for animals, birds, and native plants.
- Trails in fragile green spaces lead to fragmentation of vegetation and endanger whole ecosystems.
- Madison is losing green space at an alarming rate. Constructing an unneeded, unwanted bike path in Sauk Creek Greenway would mean that the city values bicycles over protecting endangered green spaces.

Please amend the CGSG to **remove any and all references to a bike trail in Sauk Creek Greenway** and make my comments part of the official record. Thank you.

Regards,

Ginny White
71 Oak Creek Trail
608-821-0056