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**Subject:** Public Response to Transportation Comm. West Area Plan  
**Date:** Saturday, January 13, 2024 8:20:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Response to City Transportation Commission, 1-12-24.docx - Google Docs.pdf](#)

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## **Executive Summary for Neighborhood Response, Sauk Creek All-Ages and Abilities Bike Path Transportation Commission Meeting 12.13.23**

More than 300 Madison residents signed petitions and 87 area homeowners wrote letters opposing a bike path in the Sauk Creek woods area out of concerns for the environment and inappropriate City Planning Division activity. Twelve residents testified to this opposition at a recent Transportation Commission meeting, a week after 15 others provided comments in opposition at the previous week's Planning Committee Meeting. No one spoke in support of the proposed paths at either meeting.

The Friends of Sauk Creek is urging the Transportation Commission, all other city agencies and the city council to remove from the West Area Plan the ill-conceived plans for multiple ADA all ages and abilities paths in the environmentally fragile creek area. Because residents did not have an opportunity to rebut their opposing views to the City Planners' inaccurate and incomplete statements to the commission, the Friends of Sauk Creek is issuing the following letter to the Transportation Commission.

The following document explains five key points from the Friends of Sauk Creek:

1. There is no gap in bike connectivity in this area, as city planners claim.
2. The city's surprise plan to put multiple bike paths in the narrow, hilly creek area will create unneeded costs during a time of deficit budgeting in Madison.
3. City Planners say they have successfully engaged the community but residents show disturbing examples of how they feel minimized and marginalized.
4. The creek's terrain which is not ADA-friendly could require costly and environmentally damaging workarounds called switchbacks, as described by a city engineer at the meeting.
5. While city planners testify that the bike paths have support "in general", the planners cannot show any specific requests by Madison residents for multiple bike paths proposed in Sauk Creek Greenway, indicating that this effort is fueled by bicycle advocates who work in city hall and not by the Community they are bound to serve and represent.

For the most recent media report in the Capital Times, visit [https://captimes.com/news/government/madison-trees-residents-protest-a-silent-deforestation/article\\_7258379c-a99f-11ee-8200-0f5cac376a2a.html](https://captimes.com/news/government/madison-trees-residents-protest-a-silent-deforestation/article_7258379c-a99f-11ee-8200-0f5cac376a2a.html), and " 'Silent Deforestation' hits a nerve", by Steve Elbow, Cap Times Opinion Editor, "It's been quite a while since I've gotten as many letters on one subject as I have since Alison Garfied's Jan 3 article....

Signed by Friends of Sauk Creek representatives:

Toni Brown and Greg Grigoriev, Mike Schmidt and Sharon Schoolmeesters, Cindy and Don Schott, Ginny and Larry White, Sue and Rick Stark, Bharani Nagaraj, Eric Fisher and Anne Petersen-Fisher, Benny and Jenny Iskandar, Michelle, Simon, Frances Sharpswain, Jim and Gwen Long, Debra Oakes, Tom and Ellen Foley, Sara and Seth McGaughy, Jayne and George Meyer, Ingrid and Brandon Jordon-Thaden, Britta Wunderlich-Herr and Paul Herr, Sabine and Steven Lamer, Alison TenBruggencate and Tony D'Alessandro, Louie Cornelius and Pris Boroniec, Rev & Mrs Ted & Deb Drewsen, Randy R Bruegman and Susan L Bruegman, Larry and Karen Sipovic, Michael Notaro and Dawn Marie Zimmerman

For more information, contact Friends of Sauk Creek Communications Volunteer, Gwen Long at [gwenlong6@gmail.com](mailto:gwenlong6@gmail.com)