

**From:** Paul Noeldner

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 6:53 PM

**To:** Monks, Anne; [kcrowley@cityofmadison.com](mailto:kcrowley@cityofmadison.com); Rhodes-Conway, Satya; Clausius, Joe; Clear, Mark; [annedave@chorus.net](mailto:annedave@chorus.net); [nanragland@att.net](mailto:nanragland@att.net); [emanuel\\_scarbrough@excite.com](mailto:emanuel_scarbrough@excite.com); [madelyn.leopold@gmail.com](mailto:madelyn.leopold@gmail.com); Phillips, Rob; Mayor

**Subject:** Warner Park Bike Path Request

Dear Mayor Soglin, Alders, and Staff who are helping preserve and enhance our beloved Parks -

This is in regard to plans to improve the walk and bike paths through Warner Park, and a request to combine the best of what we have, with addressing additional needs.

I'm Paul Noeldner, with Madison Audubon and also now on the boards of Wild Warner and Friends of Cherokee. I love helping with the Bluebird Trails, Audubon Art Fair, bird walk field trips, and weekly Sherman Nature Explorer activities at Warner. I much enjoyed the Parks Volunteer dinner and just want to say Thank You for your support for the things we do in both facilities based activities and in natural areas and outdoor recreation in Warner and other parks.

This is a request to support an alternative, much cheaper plan for the bike path improvements that will keep the wonderful natural area, trees and walk bridges by the shelter while adding better access for biked and the handicapped to the shelter and natural areas of Warner Park. The better alternative is route bikes via the existing walk and bike path that comes past the Warner Park Center to the parking lot, and add a segment to connect from that point near the Warner Center directly to the shelter area and the new proposed added flat bridge west of the shelter. This only requires one expensive new bridge, rather than two. It provides much better bike, handicap, and walk access from Warner Center to the shelter and natural areas of Warner Park..

There currently is no good walk or bike path connecting Warner Center with the shelter. There already plans for filling the old hockey rink area, and routing the path along that area will keep the bike path and faster bike traffic a bit further away from activities at the shelter area where kids run out onto the paths a lot.

This alternative cheaper plan, which I understand has already been mapped by staff for consideration, also preserves the signature traditional "Tenny Park style" arch bridges that Warner Park lovers cherish. Many wedding couples use Warner Park and do photos on the picturesque bridges. My activities with Audubon, Wild Warner, and Sherman Nature Explorers often include bird walks for families and weekly kids nature groups that include the arch bridges, because they are beautiful spots to watch waterfowl, flycatchers that perch in the trees by the bridges, swallows that live in nests they build under the bridges, and frogs, turtles, and other birds and critters.

By simply routing bikes around the shelter area via the existing walk and bike path that goes near Warner Center and a new path segment for walkers, bikes and handicapped access directly from Warner Center to the shelter and new bridge west of the shelter, both experiences and both Parks missions will be enhanced.

Please pass along these comments to other decision makers. I hope you will add your support - it saves Parks the cost of a second flat bridge, which is about \$100,000 we can certainly use to enhance other aspects of Madison parks.

Thank you!

Paul Noeldner