

**From:** [Aparna Dharwadker](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#); [Conklin, Nikki](#)  
**Subject:** strong oppositioin to bike path in Sauk Creek Woods  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 9:22:46 AM

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Dear city officials:

As a resident of the Sauk Creek neighborhood with the greenway behind my home, I am writing to register my strong opposition to the paved and lit bike path the city proposes to construct in Sauk Creek Woods. In a meeting with the Mayor last Fall, we were told that the Woods are not a recreational area, and the main problem they pose is of storm water management, so they involve Engineering rather than Parks issues. The proposed bike path contradicts both the Mayor's statements: it does turn the Woods into a recreational area, and hence involves the Parks division. At the Open House at Rennebohm Park last week, I was also told by a Planning division member that the bike path would provide a "safer" mode of transportation for elderly residents than the roads in the neighborhood—an argument I can only describe as ridiculous, because it is not the function of green spaces to be alternative modes of "transportation."

Over the past year, the City has made **no effort to contact Sauk Creek residents directly**, explain the issues posed by the Woods clearly, lay out specific plans, or invite feedback. We do not know what the City is planning to do, or when. The area behind my home has numerous dead trees that have not been removed for more than a decade, so I have seen no signs of active maintenance in the area. Now the City is evidently considering a plan that will destroy the ecology of the space, disturb wildlife habitats, seriously affect our privacy, and pose safety risks. We in the neighborhood see no rational reason for any of this, and it is the City's responsibility to bring us actively and directly into the discussion. The decision-making process has had little transparency so far, even those it will affect our daily life.

I request you to take this email actively into consideration in today's meeting of the Transportation Commission.

Sincerely,

Aparna Dharwadker

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