

From: [George Jesien](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Proposed Mountain Bike trail in Walnut Grove Park
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 4:08:23 PM

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I strongly oppose the plans for developing a one mile mountain bike trail in heavily used Walnut Grove Park. Although, I have to say that I strongly support having trails built in more appropriate sites. Have been an ardent mountain biker in the past and both of my children are ardent bikers at this time. Specific reasons include the following:

- A lot of effort and cost (\$75,000) for a relatively short trail. Cost comes out to approximately \$42 dollars per yard. Is this short trail – less than a mile worth the risk and disruption to residents and existing utilization of this small park?
- The current path is a multi-use path currently used by dog walkers, elderly people walking (some with mobility impairments and auxiliary devices such as walking sticks) , small children going to the swings and playground area, soccer players and their parents and other fans, tennis and basketball players. In short the park is used by many across the age range
- To create a mountain bike trail with challenge elements and adventure features is inconsistent with the other users. Most challenge mountain bike trails are single use and designed to be used primarily by mountain bikers.
- Have seen numerous parents teaching their children on how to ride a bike with and without training wheels on the current paved path.
- Keeping bikers off the conservancy path will be difficult. It will seem very attractive and offer it's own natural features and challenges.
- Bikers could cause distractions to players as they go by the tennis courts and also potentially disturb the numerous dogs in the dog park. The proposed trail is an accident waiting to happen with all of its liability risks.
- The path will be fairly close to the back yards of numerous residents who have enjoyed their current privacy and quiet.
- A much better alternative would be to save this current financial resource for a more extensive trail to be developed in Elver Park where the cross country trails are not much used other than in winter, offer many hills and potential features and would provide a much longer, safer and I would argue much more used mountain bike trail. Elver park is in a densely populated diverse community that would welcome such an addition to their park.

George Jesien
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From: [George Meyer](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Walnut Grove Single Track Trail Improvement 2022
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 4:51:15 PM

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Good afternoon. I am on the Board of Directors of the Tamarack Trails Homeowners Association. Tamarack Trails borders Walnut Creek Park on the south. We are stunned to see that this proposal is on the Common Council agenda this evening.

The Parks Department held its meeting to explain the proposal to the local community only last Thursday. Based on the information that they heard for the first time a great majority of the citizens that spoke expressed specific concerns over safety conflicts that the current proposal would have on current park usage. Citizens were encouraged to submit comments to the parks staff. The parks staff repeatedly indicated that they would evaluate carefully the information that citizens would send in. The Tamarack Association is in the process of preparing their comments at the present time.

So we are stunned that this proposal is on the agenda for the City Council meeting tonight. Taking action tonight will make a mockery of the Park's Department public participation process. We request that you table action on this item this evening.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

George Meyer
Treasurer
Tamarack Trails Homeowners Association

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: #71 Walnut Grove Single Track Trail-OPPOSE
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 7:33:47 PM

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Mayor and Alders:

Agenda Item #71-71037 Walnut Grove Single Track Trail

As a regular user of this neighborhood park, I ask you to **REJECT** the plans and specifications that have been submitted.

This is not the correct location for the bike trail. Contrary to the description in your agenda, this is not an "improvement". The plans represent a NEW trail which will have negative impacts on the existing uses and features. The neighborhood residents oppose this proposal.

Thank you.

Janet Hirsch
District 9

From: [Ellen Foley in Madison, Wi](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: We oppose the Walnut Grove dirt bike trail
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 8:47:55 PM

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Hello, Alders,

A growing number of residents of the Tamarack neighborhood oppose the Walnut Grove Trail due to safety issues. Sixty-three of us met with three members of the Parks Department last week and we are surprised this is on your agenda tonight after we gave these city representatives details about the opposition. I am listening to your meeting and we will continue to take action against this hastily announced trail that is too big for our nearby park. Many elders walk in this park and the dirt bike trail with jumps crosses the walking path in three points. This is dangerous for our neighbors in addition to the many children at the playground and many dogs that could be hit. We are all talking to each other right now as you are meeting. The city parks employees told us they only get to decide. I thought they worked for you and the mayor. Please let me know so I can update our active Facebook page. One of our neighbors is saying this is institutional elder abuse by the parks department.

Thank you, Ellen

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From: [Larry and Ginny White](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: NO to Mountain Bike Path in Walnut Grove Park
Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 10:54:55 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Alders:

We support the idea of building more paths for bicycle and mountain bike riders. However, the unpaved mountain bike path proposed for Walnut Grove Park is ill advised.

Currently, Walnut Grove Park offers multiple amenities: tennis and basketball courts, children's playground, sports fields, dog park, paved walking path, and pavilion. It is used by everyone from young children to elderly and disabled adults. We have four major objections to adding an unpaved mountain bike path to this mix:

1. Walnut Grove is a relatively small park of just 20.25 acres. An unpaved mountain bike path would be incompatible with the topography, design, and user base of the park. Such a path would serve only a select group of biking enthusiasts, not the diverse group of current users.
2. Fast-moving mountain bike riders could endanger children, elderly and disabled people, dog owners, and others who use the park.
3. The park adjoins the Sauk Creek Greenway, which already has serious soil erosion problems. Our Tamarack Housing Association spent \$220,000 last year to create a bioswale to mitigate problems with stormwater runoff into the greenway. An unpaved mountain bike path could exacerbate such problems.
4. Madison has larger, more suitable parks that could more easily and safely accommodate a mountain bike path. Elver Park at 250 acres—ten times larger than Walnut Grove Park—is an obvious choice.

For all of the above reasons, we urge you to reconsider siting a mountain bike path at Walnut Grove Park.

Respectfully,

Ginny and Larry White
71 Oak Creek Trail
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