

**Elsen, Nikki**

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**From:** Jared Elsen <elsenj734@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:55 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** CIP Funding

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Respected Council Members,

My name is Jared Elsen and I currently reside in Stoddard with my wife and two children. Although, I think it's safe to say we practically have partial residency in La Crosse due to amount of time spent at the wonderful parks, pools, shops, and trails.

Our family relocated to the area in June of 2020 to be closer to both sets of parents. Being teachers in rural Iowa for the years prior, my wife and I needed a sense of belonging in the new area. That's when we ran into a few ORA volunteers when hiking at the Hixon Forest as a family, and I began to get involved more in mountain biking, hiking, and the trail maintenance side of things.

This has been such a positive component of our lives and has allowed us to have even more things to do as a family. With that being said, I am writing to express my concern over the removal of CIP funding for our trails. Not only do our trails benefit the surrounding areas by allowing our trail users a free option to get outdoors, destress, and enjoy quality time away from electronics, they have a huge impact on the local economy. The trail systems have so much opportunity to bring in tourists who will spend money at our local shops, hotels, and gas stations.

I am asking you to please support funding for the trails in the CIP.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jared Elsen & Family