

Cavadini, Caley

From: Heidi Inabnit <inabnit.h@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's gateway

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Mayor Kabatt,

I am writing in regards to my support of Grandma's Gateway.

I attended the last City Meeting regarding local concerns. Aforementioned, I am in full support of Grandma's Gateway given it provides access to outdoor recreational activities and in turn continues to foster a healthy community and hopefully bring others to do the same. We live near Myrick Park and continue to do so given our daily access to the trails for running, hiking and mountain biking.

The main theme here is ACCESS. Yes, access is key for La Crosse residents to enjoy the trail. Yet, we can provide access to the the trails via these trails but the larger problem I am hearing is how do we provide access to the access?

As you may know, La Crosse isn't the most accessible for cyclists.

Perhaps in conjunction to the residential concerns with parking and cyclist safety we should address networking the access trails via safe intercity trail/path/designated bike lanes that are actually rideable.

I look forward to hearing/seeing this project mature.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,
Heidi Inabnit

Cavadini, Caley

From: shhfuzz@charter.net
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 6:40 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

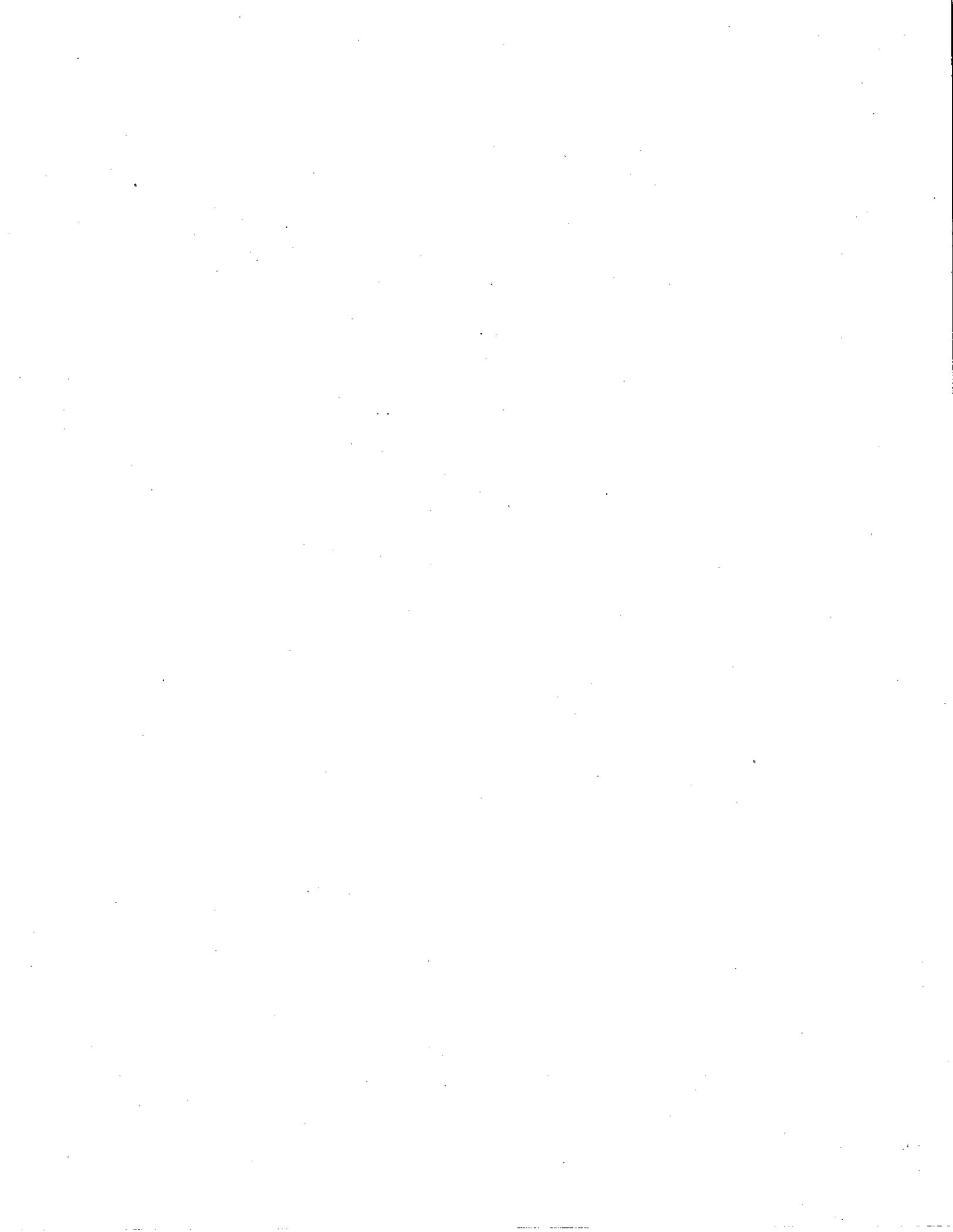
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Dear Mayor Kabat,

I have worked with ORA maintaining the trails in upper hixon forest all last summer and I think the plan they have to connect all the isolated trail systems in the lacrosse bluffs (the blufflands trail system) would be beneficial and safer to all trail users and the city

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank you. Steve Hoff



Cavadini, Caley

From: Perry, Brian T <btperry@gundersenhealth.org>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

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Good afternoon Mayor Kabat,

Just a quick email stating that myself and my three boys use the current hiking and biking trails and are looking forward to seeing what else our community can create for even more outdoor experiences. We support the proposed Grandma's Gateway.

Have a great weekend,

Brian Perry
Network Engineer
Gundersen Health System
Email: btperry@gundersenhealth.org
Phone: 608-775-9371 or 800-362-9567 x59371
Mail Stop: NCA1-10

Cavadini, Caley

From: Gabe Berendes <gtberendes@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

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Dear Mayor Kabat,

I write this morning in support of Grandma's Gateway, the proposed shared use trail on Grandad's Bluff. My address is 2401 Main Street La Crosse, WI 54601.

I am father two elementary school aged boys, ages 11 and 8.

The opportunity for them to have access to exceptional trails within walking distance of their elementary school is a huge reason that we chose to live where we have.

After finishing medical school at the University of Wisconsin, my family looked at communities in Colorado, Vermont, Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan.

We chose La Crosse because of its established recreation opportunities within proximity to residential areas and work places.

La Crosse is one of a kind.

This proposed neighborhood trail access is forward looking and will be a generational change for the city. Opportunities like this do not come often.

As a primary care physician at Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, I see daily the need for a culture change in terms of normalized physical activity and healthy living. Making neighborhood access to green spaces and places for physical activity is well proven to improve quality of life, increase physical activity, reduce obesity rates, reduce crime, and reduce stress.

These are clinical outcomes that matter to my patients, matter to my healthcare system and should matter to our elected leaders of our community.

This is not my opinion but is well backed by studies through the medical literature.

I would be happy to give a list of citations if you would like.

I have been aware of this project for several years.

My wife and I have been committed to this project from its conception.

We are financially committed to its success.

I write with more emphasis today because of the voracity of the opposition which has presented in recent days.

I appreciate their concerns but it is clear that their concerns are uninformed and misguided. Through the design work of this trail, their concerns have been addressed, despite their unwillingness to acknowledge that. The Outdoor Recreation Alliance and Park and Rec Department has continued to step up, answer questions, be respectful of all groups, but the opposed concerned citizens have not reciprocated that goodwill.

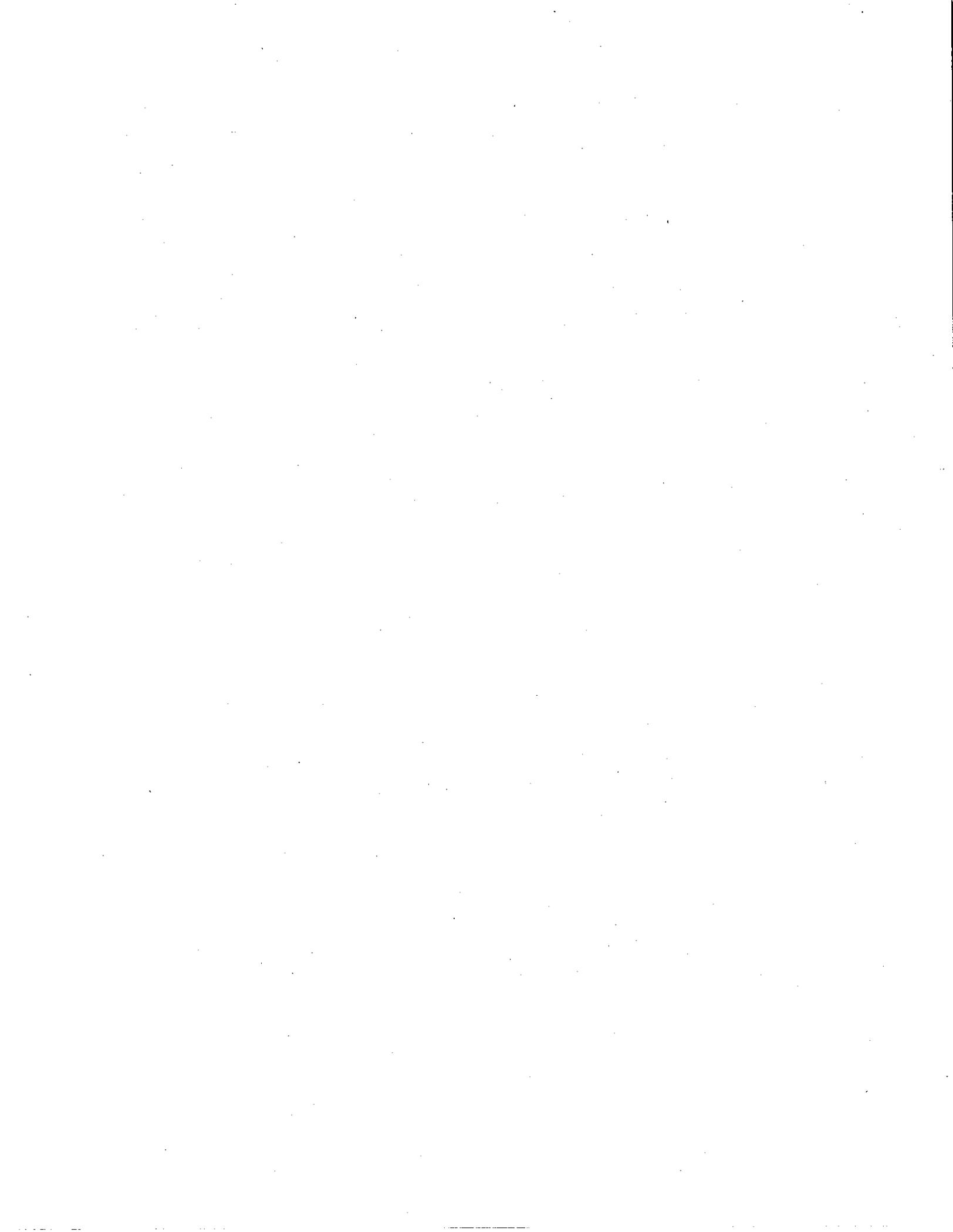
This is a community changing opportunity. This truly is a generational opportunity. This is a win for local neighbors and the city. It is a win for our natural resources and public health.

I urge you to commit your support for the project.

Thanks for your attention.

I am available for more personal interaction if you would desire. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Gabe Berendes



Cavadini, Caley

From: Robert Young <robertadamyong@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Gerloff, Christa
Cc: ashley.skoczynski@gmail.com; Christians, Roger; eileen_ski@yahoo.com; Jim Webb (jimwebb1224@gmail.com); marvin@threesixty.bz; Medinger, Paul; scleary@cmclax.com; tolsondist4@gmail.com; Kahlow, Chris; Neumeister, Scott; Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Re: 1.16.2020 Meeting Agenda

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Fellow Parks Board Members, and Members of the City Plan Commission,

I want to elaborate on my motion to deny the public request to remove public access points from Grandma's Gateway at January's meeting.

First, I have extensive background in trail building, design, construction, and methodology. I've worked from the very first stages of obtaining permission, to scouting points of interest, shooting grades with a clinometer, studying corridor placement, invasive species management and mitigation, and finally, marking intended trail down to the foot and overseeing the construction by volunteer hands. I know what sustainably built trails look like, and how they come to be. I also know the benefits they provide to a community.

Second, IMBA Trail Solutions, who designed the bulk of this project, has considerably more experience than I do. They've truly seen it all. They also helped propose a plan to create one of the nation's first IMBA Ride Centers here in La Crosse over a decade ago. A project that would have catapulted the Driftless to the forefront of the multi-use recreational trail movement happening all over the country. That proposal was shot down by naysayers who feared the amount of visitors it might generate, while places like Duluth, Chequamegon, Wausau, Copper Harbor, Bentonville, and myriad others reaped the benefits of expanding recreational opportunities.

The plans for Grandma's Gateway have been vetted. They are not doodles on a map produced by Parks staff at the behest of an outlier group of cyclists. They are part of a comprehensive and professional plan to incorporate managed shared-use trails as an extension of our Parks department. The Fire and Police Departments have shared their input and approval, and environmental groups have shared their input too, all working closely with ORA and the Parks Dept.

Offers to meet the concerns of residents of Ebner Coulee and 29th street have been met with cold shoulders and an attempt to stall the entire project. If parking or pedestrian safety were truly their concerns, those are easily addressed. There is zero chance a 3 to 4 foot wide trail on any part of the bluff will cause avalanches, dangerous erosion, or parts of the bluff to slough off into residents' homes.

My dismissing of residents' "concerns" was not out of disregard for their voice or inclusion in the project, but rather that their concerns are *already* addressed as part of standard trail design protocol. By simply choosing to not build a parking lot, the project is lessening the likelihood of anyone driving to these access points. By providing more amenities such as water, or bathrooms at other trailhead facilities, the Dept can enforce the idea that those as car destinations and 29th and Ebner Coulee are foot/bike access points.

Managing the use of the bluffs is the best way to protect its sanctity while creating the most public good from our unmatched natural resources.

Have a good week,

Robbie Young
234 23RD ST S
La Crosse WI, 54601

On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 3:47 PM Gerloff, Christa <gerloffc@cityoflacrosse.org> wrote:

Below is the link for the January 16, 2020 Park Board Agenda & the minutes from the November meetings

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

January 16, 2020 Park Board Meeting Agenda:

<http://cityoflacrosse.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=755747&GUID=30BAF7E7-3AD5-47E4-A8B5-BABEE3D3F201>

November 21, 2019 Park Board Meeting Minutes:

<http://cityoflacrosse.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=677898&GUID=32932191-32BB-479C-A174-3379ACA7FEE>

Regards,

Christa Gerloff

Office Administrator

Cavadini, Caley

From: jeff stegemeyer <jtsteg@charter.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandmas Gateway

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Mayor Kabatt and Mr. Sleznikow,

We are writing in support of Grandma's Gateway! We're excited at the prospect of more trails close to home! We use the trails at Hixon Forest and the Mississippi Conservancy trails on a regular basis.

We are so fortunate to have these recreational opportunities right outside our door! Know that the addition of the trails proposed for Grandma's Gateway will not only allow for more opportunity for getting out and enjoying our beautiful Coulee region for those of us that live here but also for the many visitors to La Crosse that are looking for these kinds of recreational opportunities.

We specifically look at walking/hiking/biking opportunities when we vacation or visit another area. I'm sure many visitors to this area look for the same.

It also seems to be a wise move to have developed trails here...instead of people wandering off on trails of their own. Too many tragedies from people doing just that.

Thank you for your support!

Jeff and Tammy Stegemeyer

Cavadini, Caley

From: David Morrison <djm54601@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:22 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: ORA trail building on Grandad Bluff

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Mr Mayor

I have lived on 29th street, at the base of the bluff at 29th and Cass St, for 33 years. It has come to my attention that there is a bit of controversy regarding building trails on this part of the bluff.

As I understand it, there are a number of goals that the Outdoor Recreational Alliance (of note, a community alliance primarily of mountain bikers but ALSO a number of outdoor -oriented enthusiasts with a variety of interests) hopes to achieve. One is to link this new trail system with existing ones in Hixon and Human Powered Trails (aka Upper Hixon). Another is offering an alternative to bikers of the need to use Bliss Road and obvious risk of injury or death due to injury from cars/trucks. Development of the Human Powered Trails has resulted in more positive word-of-mouth information about what a great place La Crosse is, and the resulting increase of tourists coming to visit us. Addition of this new trail system will further augment this.

There are voices in the community opposed to the trail building - I would like to provide my enthusiastic support for the development of the trails.

I am an avid biker and trail runner and look forward to access close to my home.

The trails that have recently been built by volunteers in Hixon and the HPT have been fantastic.

They are well constructed with a lot of thought in their development, they help PREVENT erosion, are mixed use trails (yes biking, hiking, trail running, etc) that everyone can enjoy.

I respectfully ask for your help and support for Outdoor Recreational Alliance to continue make La Crosse a more attractive, fun (and healthy) community for people with a variety of outdoor interests.

David Morrison
322 S. 29th St
La Crosse

Cavadini, Caley

From: FRANKIE SALVAGGIO <fsalvaggio@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandmas Gateway

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I am in support of keeping all access open to Hixon park and I hope you are too. Thank you for your hard work.

F_r_a_n_k_i_e_r_a_y__

Cavadini, Caley

From: Trevor Kaldor <trevorkaldor@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:02 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Please Support Bike Trails and continue the growth of La Crosse

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Dear Mayor Kabat,

I've seen a few news articles and posts lately about the great trails being worked on called Grandma's Gateway Trails. I know from experience how important trails like these can be to the economic, social and reputation growth of a city.

My wife and I moved here from Duluth, MN over three years ago. We were drawn in by the beauty and we love La Crosse!

We were really surprised though when we started trying to access the Bluffs and found few access points or ways of really "getting into" the beauty we could see all around us.

The Grandma's Gateway Trails will be a great step toward helping people be able to really enjoy the beauty and increase the reputation of La Crosse as an outdoor and nature destination.

La Crosse is a great town too, and has so much to offer. Please make sure it stays on the right track by keeping this trail project going.

Thank you,
Trevor Kaldor
Ferry St. La Crosse

Cavadini, Caley

From: Nathan and Suzanna Barnhart <nswbarns@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:14 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

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Dear Mayor Kabatt,

Hello, my name is Nathan Barnhart, and I'm a La Crosse resident. As I'm sure you are aware, society at large is struggling. It's experiencing record levels of depression, suicide, anxiety, and substance abuse. Although there is no magic bullet to address these issues, recreating outdoors can play a significant role in solving them. A recent Stanford-led study found quantifiable evidence that walking in nature could lead to a lower risk of depression. Let that soak in. The simple act of walking in nature can lower the risk of depression. It's amazing, something so simple, yet so powerful. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience the many benefits of recreating and being active. That is why Grandma's Gateway project is so important. Not only will it enhance an underutilized community resource, but it will improve the wellbeing of our community for generations to come.

Plus, there are numerous other benefits of trails systems including:

1. Increased land values
2. Encouragement of physical fitness
3. Create a family-friendly and healthy environment
4. Connects people to the environment they live in
5. Protects and enhances habitat by steering visitors away from fragile micro environments
6. They make communities better places to live
- 7) Attract new people to move into the area
- 8). Provide free recreation opportunities to folks who may not be able to afford other options

The development of these spaces are not frivolous or merely creating excellent amenities for the city; La Crosse needs them; our citizens need them. The more recreation opportunities the city can develop, the better we all are for it.

Please support Grandma's Gateway project, along with the rezoning, needed to make it a reality. Thank you for your time.

Nathan Barnhart



Cavadini, Caley

From: Eric R Giannini <eric.giannini@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway support

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Mayor Kabatt,

My wife and I moved to La Crosse in the summer of 2017. Her job offer from UW-L was the reason we began considering moving to La Crosse in the first place. It was one of several tenure-track offers she received from universities around the country that spring. What ultimately brought me on board with the idea of moving to La Crosse was the area's natural beauty and exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreation. We've bought a home just off King Street near the university, and I am thankful every day that we have been lucky enough to find La Crosse and move here together.

We hope to start a family soon and so the future of this area is very important to us. I strongly support the Grandma's Gateway plans that ORA and the City are working on, including the rezoning proposal to ensure safe and convenient public access to the new trail system from 29th Street. I write this while enjoying the view of Grandad Bluff from my home office window - it's one that never disappoints. Not every city is fortunate enough to have an energetic group like ORA to seek funds for, build, and maintain the infrastructure for the trails we have and can have in our backyard, and I hope the city and planning commission will back their efforts.

Sincerely,
Eric Giannini
608-782-3336



Cavadini, Caley

From: Margaret Ho <margyho@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Project - Thank you for your support!

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Dear Mayor Kabat,

Thank you so much for your past support for the Grandma's Gateway community trail project, and I appreciate your future support. I sincerely believe in this project and the amazing contribution it will have to the city of La Crosse in many respects, including the promotion of healthy lifestyles, safe trail usage, conservation and environmental impact, historical impact, potential for rock-climbing start-ups, and much more.

I am a relative newcomer to La Crosse, having moved here in 2016. I grew up in central Wisconsin - no bluffs there! Growing up, I always said that I would live in either Colorado or La Crosse. I visited La Crosse a few times for various athletic events, and I was always enchanted by the beauty of the bluffs. I attended graduate school in Madison, and after applying for jobs all over, I was incredibly fortunate to land one in La Crosse.

Moving to La Crosse was the best decision of my life. I have made lifelong friendships here through the outdoor community. It was a happy surprise to discover how active the trail scene is here! I fell in love with trail running on the Hixon trails.

It seems like a natural extension of the trail system to develop Grandma's Gateway and have a trail access point from the bottom of the Bliss Road/Ebner Coulee to the top of Grandad's Bluff. I feel like it would significantly enhance safety, as more people would hike up the trail rather than walk up Bliss Road with cars going quickly up and down the narrow bluff corners with limited visibility.

I'm sure there are many factors behind the decision to implement this project than I'm aware of - there always are. However, continuing to develop the beautiful outdoor resources of La Crosse will continue to draw more people like myself - a social worker; my sister, a doctor; my friend - a physician assistant - and many other educated, kind, active citizens to the La Crosse community.

Thank you again for your valued support!

Sincerely,

Margaret Ho

Cavadini, Caley

From: Keachen Abing <kabing@lacrossesd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway - Please consider further supporting this adventure!

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Hello Mayor Kabat and Mr. Sleznikow!

My name is Keachen Abing and I am a teacher, husband, and father of two. I am **SO** blessed to live in La Crosse! I grew up, for most of my young adult life, in Onalaska; however, I have chosen to raise my family here in La Crosse. After moving away for my education, jobs, and travel experiences I came back to La Crosse each time. My wife Jill and I knew La Crosse was going to be our forever home. One of the main reasons for this was our topography and access to outdoor recreation.

We are so very thankful for your support and initiatives to expand outdoor recreation in La Crosse! Having access to community forests and trails allows our family to live in-town (21st and Madison Street) while having easy access to public forests and trails. This accessibility is something we utilize as a family almost everyday of the week. Not only is this a priority for our mental health, but we believe we are doing our part in teaching our children how to play outside and be physically active as well.

Additionally, both Jill and I are teachers in the School District of La Crosse. As educators, we have the amazing responsibility to provide equity and access to resources for all of our students. This same access and equity is embodied in trail access. Grandma's Gateway will further this accessibility to trails for all La Crosse residents. In this school year alone, my colleagues and I (at 7Rivers Community High School) have taken our students for hikes on the Hixon Forest trails 12 times. I know I speak for my colleagues when I say this accessibility is vital to our student population and the ability to share outdoor education with them.

Finally, at a recent public meeting Jay Odegaard shared some key information about the two access points currently being challenged/debated. Two things really struck me from what he shared, and I believe this might need to be communicated more effectively with the Bluffside Neighborhood Association and our La Crosse community as a whole. First, he shared that these two city owned properties will be emergency access points/routes for our first responders. I truly believe this is critical to public safety on the bluff and on the trails. As this is a city park, already, and trails will be built either way (it doesn't sound like the neighbors as challenging trails being built, but just the public access points), our emergency responders need quick access to potential patients. Mr. Odegaard referenced conversations with the Fire Department about this as well. I have personally witnessed their response to a patient needing medical attention on the Vista Trail. Having a wide and accessible trail for their crew to use an ATV and an all terrain portable stretcher was critical to their response time. Secondly, Mr. Odegaard shared that these two pieces of land are city property. If these trail access points are not built there, there would be nothing to stop trail users from accessing the trails above (or the entire bluffside for that matter) through these two pieces of property. Thus, "rogue" trails would be built and utilized. The neighbors of those pieces of property would still have trail users, and potentially people parking on their streets; however, there would be no oversight, posted rules/guidelines/directions, or an environmentally sustainable trail built for their access. Mr. Odegaard shared the city would/could do nothing to stop users from walking through those city pieces of property to access the trails. I would imagine this would be more concerning and less becoming of their safety and property values than the city investing in a properly built and maintained access point.

Once again, **THANK YOU** for your leadership and all the time you put into making our city amazing! We are truly blessed to live here. In our opinions, providing more trails in La Crosse will only serve to improve the already unique and amazing city we have. Please consider supporting the Grandma's Gateway project and the trail access points at the base of the bluff.

Sincerely,

Keachen Abing
361 21st Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 385-7283

--
Mr. Keachen Abing
7 Rivers Community High School
Teacher/Advisor
kabing@lacrossesd.org

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Muhammad Ali

Dear Mayor Kabat,

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank You!

Andrew Severn

Cavadini, Caley

From: Andrew Severn <andrewsevernpt@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandmas Gateway

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Cavadini, Caley

From: Joan Parke <jkmparke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Trail

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Dear Mayor Kabat:

I am a fellow Rotarian and resident of the city of La Crosse, Joan Parke. My husband and I own several properties in the City and most recently purchased a family home on Ebner Coulee Road in August. We did so in part because of the trail access, Grandma's Gateway, that is planned for Ebner Coulee Road. My exact address is 3030 Ebner Coulee Road so I am a tax payer, unlike some more vocal objectors to the project that are Town of Shelby residents, and I live four houses up from the access point. My family is really excited about the potential to walk out our front door and have access to trails. Currently, when we want to go hiking, we have to get in the car and drive up Bliss Road or head to Hixon. My kids are too little to walk up Bliss Road to access the trails and I don't think it is safe to make our own route trail to access the trails.

I did attend the Parks Commission meeting in which many of my neighbors asked that the access points on Ebner Coulee and 29th Street be removed. I listened to their concerns which seem to be primarily about parking, privacy, bluff stability and safety while driving. Honestly, I feel strongly that their concerns do not outweigh the benefits of the access point or are the result of being uneducated about the trails. I have what I believe to be a unique perspective because I grew up on Old Vineyard Road which has several access points to Hedgehog Bluff and is a narrow road with several blind spots.

First, I know from experience that there have not been significant issues with parking on Old Vineyard Road and there are at most a few cars at a time pulled off on to the shoulder of the road. Most people access the trails on foot or bike. There is a difference between a trail head and a trail access point. A trail head has parking. A trail access point, like Grandma's Gateway, is meant to be utilized on foot or by bike. There is a valid concern about parking on Ebner Coulee and 29th Street but that could be quickly alleviated by posting no parking signs.

Second, I believe some of the most vocal residents in opposition of the trail access are concerned about privacy. If a homeowner bought a house that is secluded and in a wooded area BUT they do not own the wooded area surrounding their home, that is their mistake. They are not entitled to privacy to the extent that other residents should be prohibited from accessing the property if they do not own the land; the residents of the City of La Crosse have a right to utilize that property for recreational purposes.

Third, there was some concerns about whether or not the bluff will be stable with these trails in place. My understanding is the bluff will be more stable with the trails in place. The trail builders are specialized professionals that are experts and focus on sustainable trails.

Fourth, regarding safety because of blind spots on the road and narrow streets, I feel strongly that is already an issue and will not be worsened by the trail access points. If anything, hopefully people will slow down. I cannot believe the amount of traffic on Ebner Coulee Road and the speed at which people are driving BUT I have noticed that most of the people flying up and down Ebner Coulee are residents or their children or guests. If someone is driving on 29th St or Ebner Coulee to utilize a trail, they won't be flying up and down the road, rather they will be driving slowly to locate the

trail. In addition, the trail access points have barricades that will require that bikers or hikers slow down before exiting onto the road.

In conclusion, I think the benefits of having trail access from the Bluffview Neighborhood far outweigh the concerns of a few neighbors. I know there are more neighbors in support than against the trails although they may not be as vocal. I understand change is hard but that does not mean it is bad. The benefits that the residents of La Crosse and our youth will gain by having safe access to the amazing trails we are fortunate to have on Grandad's Bluff are more significant than the concerns of a very small population who does not utilize the trail systems and therefore places little value on ease of use.

Thank you for your time and support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me (608.712.9450).

Sincerely,

Joan Parke

Cavadini, Caley

From: A. Cristina Kovacs <crisakovacs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway_Support Letter

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Dear Major Kabatt, Representative Sleznikow et al,

I am writing to you in support of the Grandma's Gateway project.

Our family has been living in La Crosse since August 2012, when my husband accepted a teaching position at UW-L (now employed by Gundersen Medical Foundation). Originally from Romania, we have lived in 3 other states since year 2000, before finding this piece of heaven! We have a 14 year old son who attends Longfellow Middle School.

We are avid outdoor enthusiasts and spend a lot of our free time outside. We coach downhill skiing with the Mt La Crosse team, we hike the bluffs, road bike and mountain bike. Our son is on the mountain biking team as well which has been an amazing opportunity for him.

To us, the growth we have seen in this area since living here, is priceless, and we have you to thank! As a realtor myself, working with numerous incoming new hires, I am a very enthusiastic promoter of our region.

As a family, we believe that sports and nature combined can greatly impact our well-being. Being outside helps boost one's energy, improve focus and creativity, strengthen the immune system, and release tension. Being outside makes us better people!

We are parents of a teenager and constantly fight the screen addiction his generation suffers from, and sedentary lifestyle where kids spend countless hours indoors, alone, and deprived of fresh air and vitamin D. Their social skills are negatively impacted, their vision becomes blurry over time, and their self-esteem is lost. We want our child to avoid this vicious pattern!

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 40 million adults in the US are affected by anxiety, and millions more are afflicted depression-related disorders. Overall, they estimate 18% of all adults have some form of mental illness. And most of the rest of us have too much stress in our lives, especially during the prime productivity and child-rearing ages of 18-55. Mental health problems and suicide rates for teenagers are at an all time high.

Grandma's Gateway is an opportunity for people of all ages to connect further with nature, to keep moving, to heal, to make friends, to volunteer clean up the trails, to build an inclusive community, and to maybe convince others to get out and do the same! It is an opportunity to fight mental health by being active and involved. Biking has made us so many new friends, amazing people, whom we would not have met otherwise. Also, the impact it would have on the local tourism is not to be taken lightly. Too often we read about Bentonville, AR, where people flock from around the country because they've heard about the trail system there. Why not put La Crosse, WI on the map?

Safety is another reason why these neighborhood access points make total sense. We've forbidden our child to bike up/down Bliss Rd because it is too dangerous, which really limits his access to the bluff trails without us parents driving him there.

I understand some homeowners are concerned and I appreciate them sharing about it. I do also know that bicycles do not make noise, they don't emit gases, and are not destructive of the environment. They do build healthy lifestyles on the other hand, and good habits.

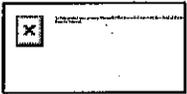
With hopes that this project goes thru to completion, I appreciate you taking the time to read my note.

Thank you for all you do!

Cristina Kovacs

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C: 608-386-4586 | Email: CK@GHrealtors.com



Cavadini, Caley

From: Gary TerBeest <beestie3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabatt,

Thank you for your past support for Grandma's Gateway. This is a great project that would be an asset to our community.

I understand no one likes change, especially when it is near your home, like the folks who live near the access point.

This reluctance and fear reminds me of when the paved trail was proposed near our home, along Pammel Creek, to run from near Hillview Home to Clayton Johnson park.

Many people - especially those homeowners who's backyard would be affected by the trail - were strongly opposed, fearing vandalism, crime, etc. as a result of the trail.

Now, having a lot on or near the trail is used as a selling point. The trail is heavily used by walkers, runners, cyclist, dog walkers and kids riding bikes to Hintgen School. I consider it a great asset and benefit to our location.

I expect the same would eventually happen to those properties near Grandma's access.

Please continue your support of the project.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gary TerBeest

3625 Deerfield Place

La Crosse

Cavadini, Caley

From: Laurie Finn <laurie@finnottes.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: We need your positive input!

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hello Mayor Kabat and Council Member Sleznikow,

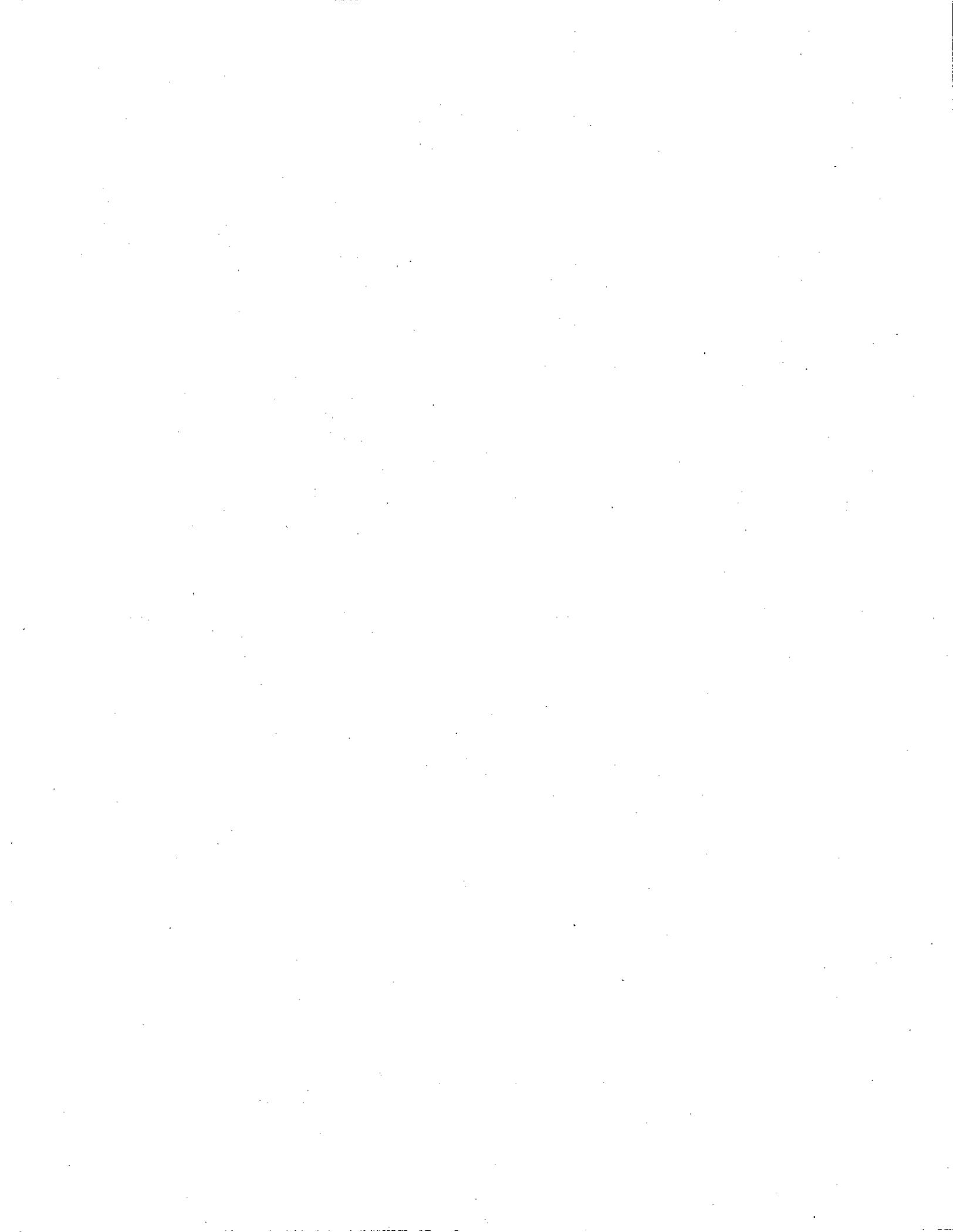
I received word that there are a few people opposing another new and exciting change to La Crosse. "Grandma's Gateway" is an innovative and important way to enliven our city. So many people only see small negatives or want no change at all. I've seen over the years the amazing, positive, and worthwhile impact that the Outdoor Recreation Alliance has brought to our city. Through hard work, tons of volunteer hours, and imaginative projects, they've brought family friendly and environmentally focused activities back to our area. This can only have a positive impact on our community and our businesses.

I am in full favor of paving the way forward in utilizing and improving our bluffsides. ORA continually strives to make improvements and to keep in check many of the erosion and invasive species problems from our back yards. Please make sure to give this your attention.

Sincerely,
Laurie Finn

High Desert-Finnottes LLC
417 Main St
PO Box 1536
La Crosse, WI 54601

608-782-3184



Cavadini, Caley

From: Neal Oeltjen <neal.oeltjen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 6:35 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: [SPAM] Grandma's Gateway

Importance: Low

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Dear Mayor Kabat,

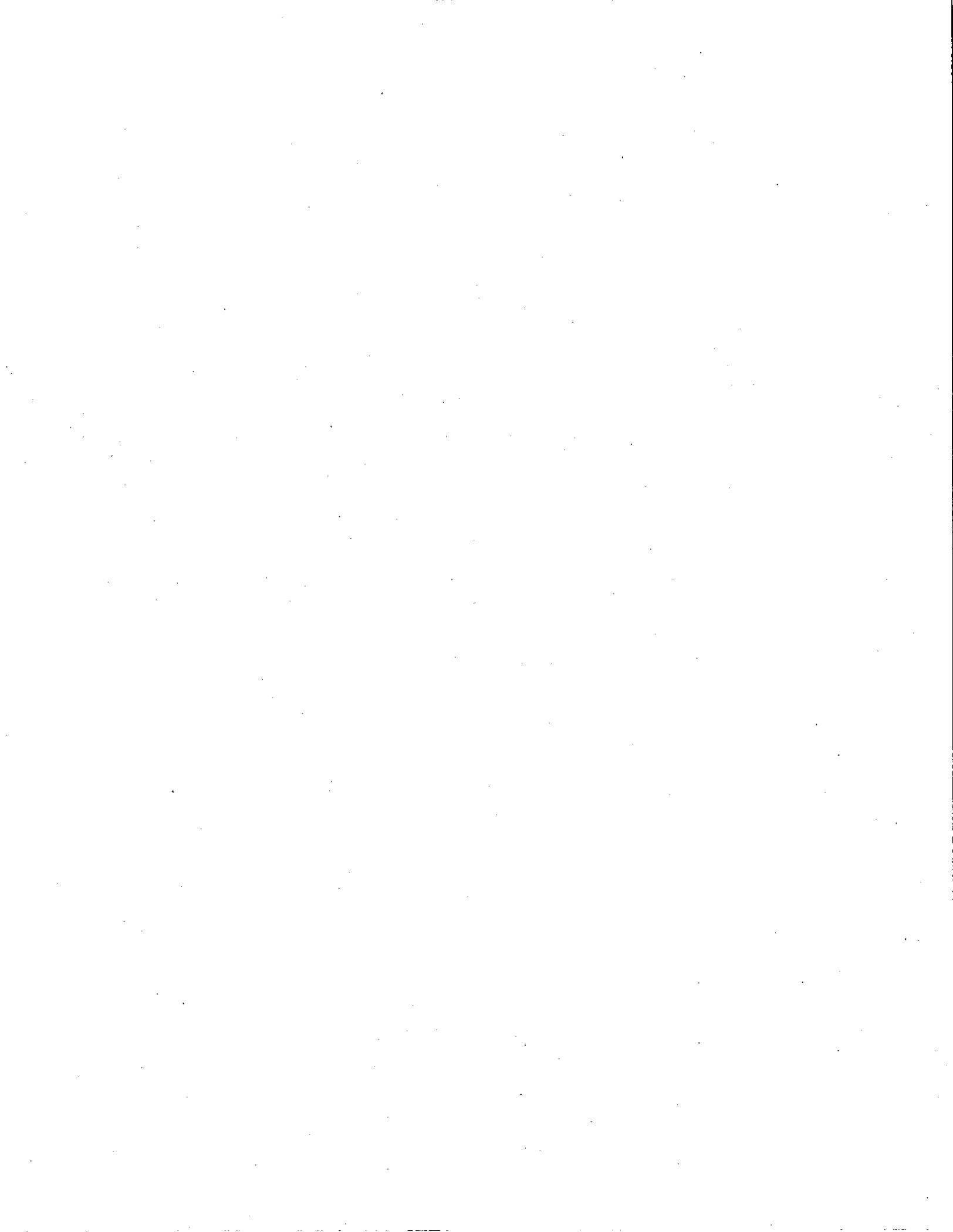
I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

I believe that opening up the outdoors to more people in the La Crosse area is a great thing! Having more multi-use trails to get people out into nature from within our own neighborhoods is a great thing! As a La Crosse citizen, I would LOVE to be able to leave from and return to my own home for my outdoor activities without having to get in my vehicle.

I think by adding the proposed Grandma's Gateway features, it will also open up all of the wonderful outdoors activities that La Crosse has to offer to more tourism for the area.

Thank you for you continued support,

Neal Oeltjen



Cavadini, Caley

From: Gail Ericsson <gaileric1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 7:13 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Getaway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

I support Grandma's Getaway trails.
I have family in LaCrosse, WI who enjoy the outdoors, and hope one day to visit Grandma's Getaway.

Gail Ericsson
Newnan, GA 30265



Cavadini, Caley

From: James Morrison <james.morrison429@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:34 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Mayor Kabat,

I want to provide my unyielding support for the recently approved "Grandma's Gateway" trail up Grandad bluff. I hope that you and your administration will continue to provide strong commitment to improving outdoor recreation options for the citizens of LaCrosse.

Like many of my contemporaries, I moved out of Wisconsin after highschool in search of opportunity. After college & graduate school, I found it in Atlanta, Georgia where I lived & worked for nearly a decade before deciding to take a substantial pay cut and return home in 2018. Our decision to return to LaCrosse was based, in no small part, on the access to recreational activities & on the untapped outdoor potential that the region offers. Simply put - If the human powered trails did not exist AND had no ability to expand, we would not have moved here.

Not every constituent sees the positive, community changing potential that recreational tourism offers. However, I believe you have demonstrated innovative thinking on this issue in the past and I trust that you will continue to do what is best for the greater good of the community moving forward. Thank you for your leadership.

Kind Regards,

James Morrison



Cavadini, Caley

From: Michael Wettstein <mwettstein@industrialautomation.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway project

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

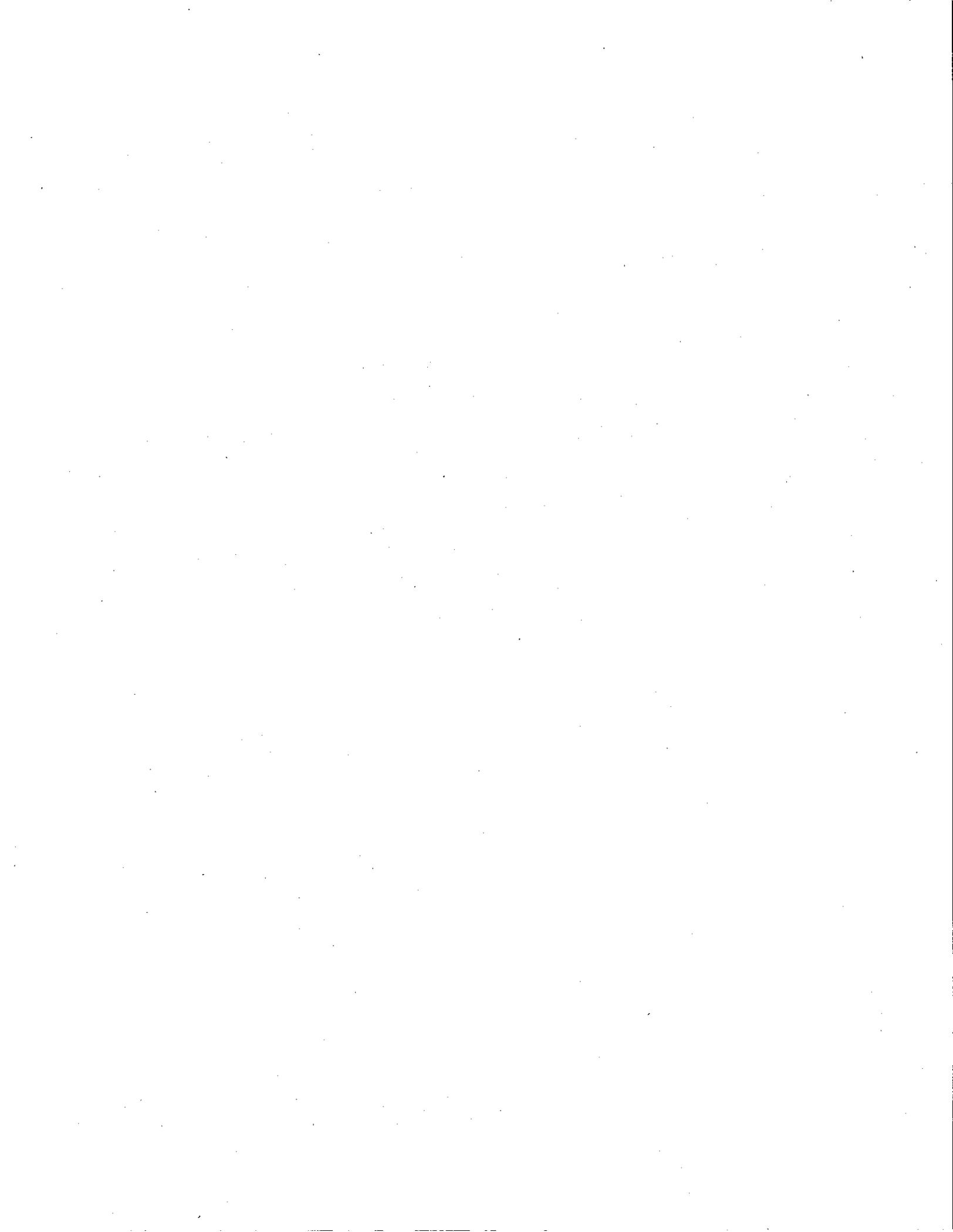
Tim & Larry,

I would like to voice my support for the Grandma's Gateway project. I have lived and worked in the La Crosse community for most all of 50 years. The Hixon forest trail system has been a constant draw for my family for all seasons. In the last 5 years, I have taken up mountain biking and coaching for the La Crosse Mountain Biking team. In addition to this team doubling in size almost every year the number of mountain biking events and public interest also continues to grow. The trails are a huge draw into this community, and in my opinion the best in Wisconsin. I would like to see trails and access points grow throughout the La Crosse community.

Thank you,

--
Michael Wettstein

President/ Owner
Industrial Automation & Engineering - Industrial Controls Systems Integrator
www.Industrialautomation.us
[LinkedIn](#)
214 Vine Street, La Crosse WI
[608-796-7807](tel:608-796-7807)



Cavadini, Caley

From: Jill Abing <jabing@lacrossesd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:12 AM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Cc: Keachen Abing
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Good Morning Mayor Kabat and Larry Sleznikow,

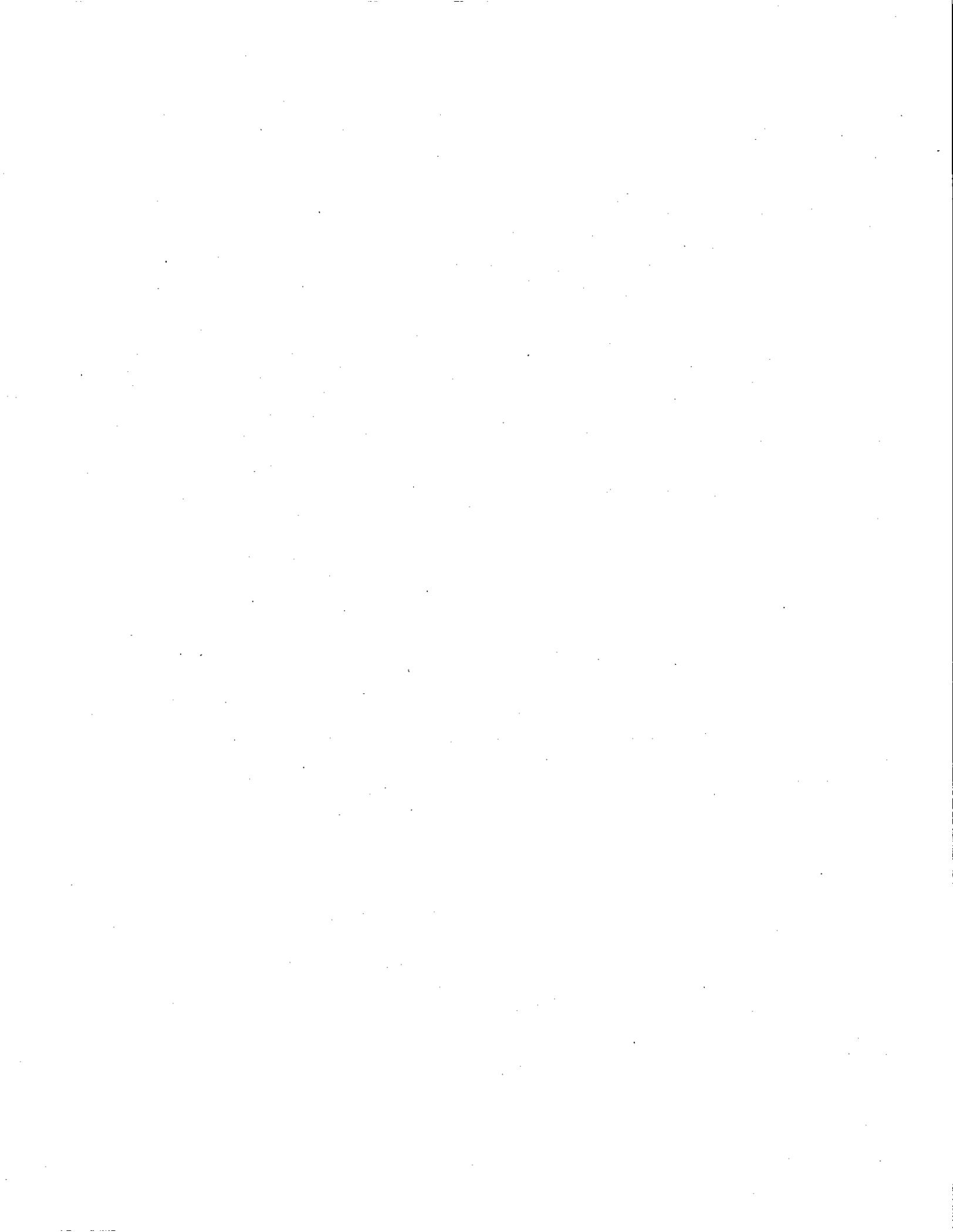
I just wanted to express my gratitude for the initiative that the city of La Crosse is taking to create equitable, open access to public, multi-use trails in the area. As a local high school teacher and parent, I realize that accessibility to trails without a car or other transportation is vital to promote physical activity and enjoyment of our natural resources in our community. My family resides at 21st and Cass St. We are so excited about the neighborhood access points planned for Grandma's Gateway at Ebner Coulee and 29th St. This allows myself and my children the ability to use trails without having to bike or hike on the extremely busy/dangerous Bliss road. This safe route and ease of access is a game changer!

Thank you for your support of outdoor recreation and access for all!

Mrs. Jill Abing

Science Department
La Crosse Logan High School
1500 Ranger Dr.
La Crosse WI 54603
608-789-7700





Cavadini, Caley

From: Glenn Larson <glenn.lrsn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway project

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabat,

I'm sure you are receiving a flood of emails and communication concerning the Grandma's Gateway project.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Grandma's Gateway trails project. My family and myself are a long time users of the existing Hixon and Upper Hixon (formerly HPT) trail system, mainly for mountain biking but also for hiking, snowshoeing and skiing. Recently I have volunteered with the La Crosse Area Mountain Bike team, to teach middle and high school kids the life-long sport of mountain biking and how to share trails with other users.

My viewpoint is that this trail system will be an asset to the city for the following reasons:

1. More trails will reduce the congestion at times on the Vista Trail, as well as provide more access points besides Lower Hixon.
2. Our city trails are a great asset in attracting new professionals to our great city. Proximity to the trail system is one of my favorite benefits of living in the GENA neighborhood.
3. These trails are a great way to get kids and their families outside for recreation and exercise. We see this on the mountain bike team, where a kid will join the team and soon their parents will be out riding with them. Increased health for all.
4. Neighborhood access is great for middle and high school kids to experience the outdoors on their own, without requiring a ride to upper Hixon.
5. Building professional sustainable trails helps conserve the bluffs, by providing users with a purpose built trail system versus the rogue trails in place now. I have put in many hours of volunteer work over the past years for upkeep on our Hixon trails.

In summary, this trail project will be great for our city, and an asset for our residents.

Best Regards,

Glenn Larson
2322 State Street
La Crosse, WI
54601

Cavadini, Caley

From: Dan Paulus <dpturbo1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Support

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mr. Kabatt,

I'm writing to you to express my absolute support of Grandma's Gateway and the access trails to it. The City of La Crosse has been very active and invested in creating recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors. I applaud you and the Parks Department - Mr. Odergaard.

I too could have been a resident filing concerns and/or complaints when the park and parking was updated near the National Weather Service - Upper Hixon. I am a resident of County Rd FA, just before the park. We have seen massive increased traffic. Initially we were a bit dismayed. Now, we smile when we see so many people and families out recreating and enjoying our natural resources. There are times I can hear adults and kids laughing and talking excitedly about how much fun they just had on that section of trail. My house is very near the eastern most side of the trails. Frankly, it puts a smile on my face.

What is happening on Grandad's Bluff with Grandma's Gateway is simply wonderful. Bliss Road is not a safe access to our trails. Our trails breed so many positive attributes for the residents and visitors. Let's make this happen!

Dan Paulus

608-780-8442

Cavadini, Caley

From: suzie howe <22showe@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 9:35 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Bike Trails

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This is important. This brings me to lacrosse. This makes lacrosse a destination. This means i eat in lacrosse, get gas in lacrosse and shop in lacrosse. More trail brings more people like me. Having bike trails increases the opportunities to engage in healthy activities for lacrosse residents.



Cavadini, Caley

From: Jillian Olson <jillianschueler@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Trail Project

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Good Morning Mayor Kabat,

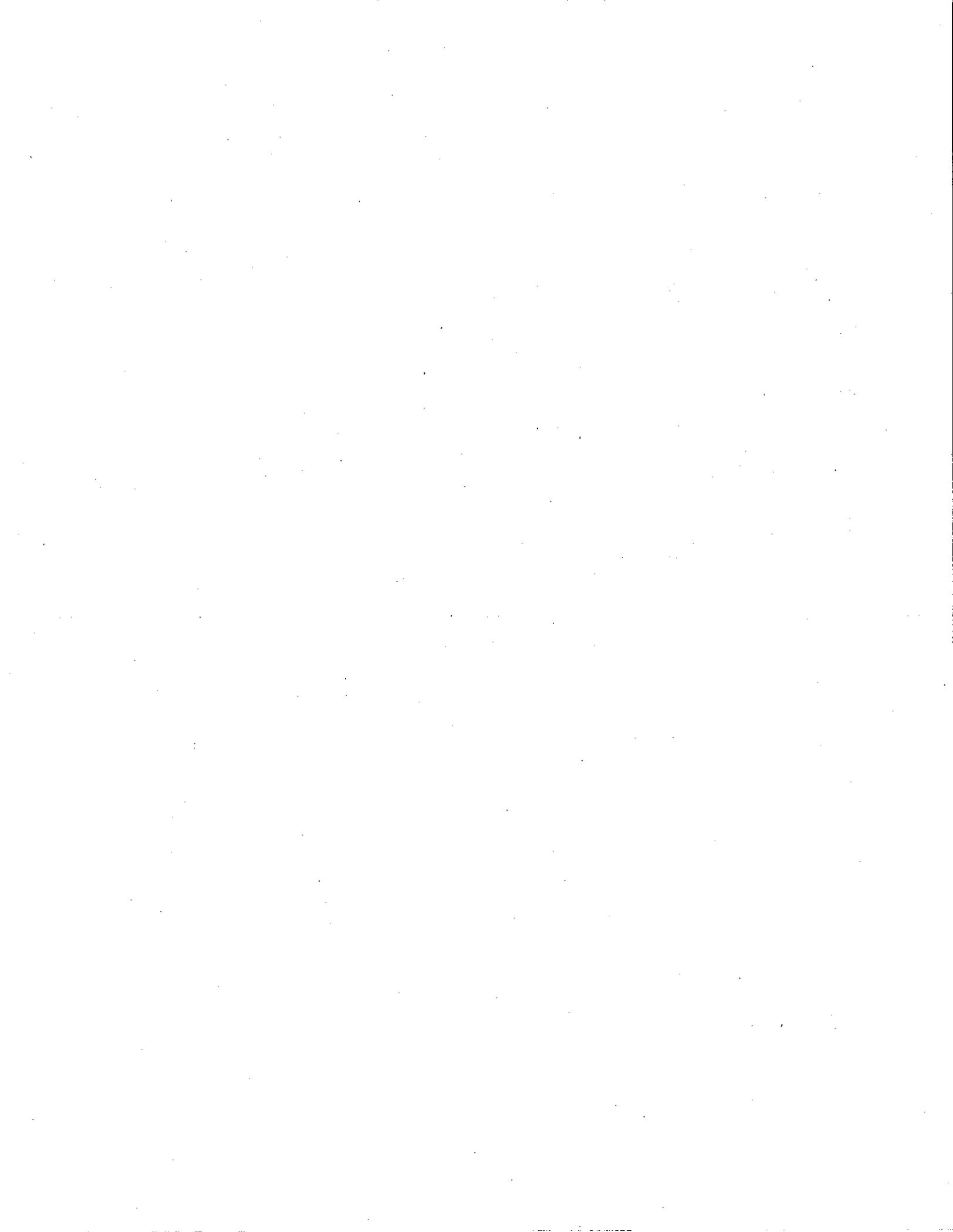
I wanted to send a quick message about the plans for Grandma's Gateway Community Trails. I can't say how excited I was to hear about the plans for this project when I learned of it this Spring at a Bluffside Neighborhood Meeting.

I'm a graduate of UWL in the field of Recreation Management and a resident in La Crosse in the Bluffside Neighborhood. My husband & I love all things outdoors - Hiking, road biking, mountain biking, backpacking car-camping, fishing, kayaking, rock climbing and really anything else we can get our hands. We also travel often and are lucky enough to spend a lot of time in a wide variety of outdoor communities. In fact, I'm writing this email from the base of Mt. Hood, Oregon. That being said, we're really proud to call La Crosse home, and enjoy the heck out of travelling to the mountains but then returning home because of the great community that La Crosse is. I mention this because our area is bursting with potential to grow tourism and all the community/financial perks that come from that through the outdoor experiences we can provide. Seeing thriving outdoor communities in other states is proof La Crosse has all the right tools to be place of interest for many. People will travel and go to great lengths to take their vacations in places that have a wide variety of culture and (outdoor) leisure opportunities. La Crosse is becoming a really attractive spot to visit! I'm also writing this from the viewpoint that I am fully in support of having additional trails right in our backyard, enhancing not only our Bluffside neighborhood, but the entire city.

I love what I've heard so far about the project. We have so many different types of trail users in this city and this project seems to provide something for everyone. ORA is doing a really great job with their 50 in 5 plan. Our city needs this for it's members and for the all the potential visitors it would bring.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration,

—
Jillian Schueler Olson
jillianschueler@gmail.com
615.838.0798



Donald Smith

762 Shore Acres Road
La Crescent, Minnesota 55947

1476 Resthaven Way
The Villages, Florida 32163

608.792.9897
ProDonald@aol.com

January 26, 2020

Tim Kabat
City Hall
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Dear Mayor.

I write to support the continued approval Grandma's Getaway Trail and 6 miles of shared use trails by the Park Board and the La Crosse City Council.

I have ridden thousands of miles of road and trails in 15 States. Some of those trails do traverse back yards and some did not have immediate neighborhood support. In some cases people are still upset. BUT I have never seen any substantive reality to the 'awfulized' concerns that preceded their approval.

This Grandma plan has not been developed in a vacuum, but rather in the best effort of good public process. It would be bad precedent to deal in bad faith with those who have carefully worked for years through the city-process and modified plans to reflect considered input.

Communities and States are moving ahead to distinguish (brand) themselves as the place for road and trail riding. We didn't have high school biking teams when we grew up and perhaps many thought it odd when skateboard parks were installed. As communities we either provide healthy activities and related facilities, demonstrating our interest in today's youth, or we don't. It's that simple.

The partnership of the City of La Crosse and ORA (and others) has presented a plan worthy of approval and voices to the contrary should be listened to and perhaps their legitimate concerns mollified in final design changes. But it would be unnecessary and contrary to the *General Good* provided to the city by not approving and installing these trails.

I'll soon be home to the Coulee Region supporting more trails and better connectivity between and within our regional communities.

Respectfully, Don.
Donald Smith



Cavadini, Caley

From: Eric Stull <eric.j.stull@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Mayor Kabatt,

I'll try to keep this as a quick read for you. I'm writing in support of the new trails and think that the connector/trail access points will be a non issue. I think many of the "old guard" of La Crosse like to throw fits when things change and its not directly in their best interest or they see themselves clashing with the younger groups who will be big users of new trails.

Myself and my the rest of my family are avid trail users. We live on 24th St North and see this as an amazing access point. The concerns about increased car traffic is inflated. Cyclists who currently drive to the trails will likely continue to drive to the lower hixon lot where they can access the Vista Trail or the Aspen Trail to get up top. Other option is to drive to the upper hixon lot where the heart of the multi-use trails are. There is no big advantage to drive directly to the bottom of the Grandma's Gateway access point. I stress "access point" as the Grandma's Gateway TRAILHEAD will be on top of the bluff. It just simply makes more sense to park Upper Hixon, Lower Hixon and you still have easy centrally located access to everything from there. These points are for neighbors who will ride or walk to these points.

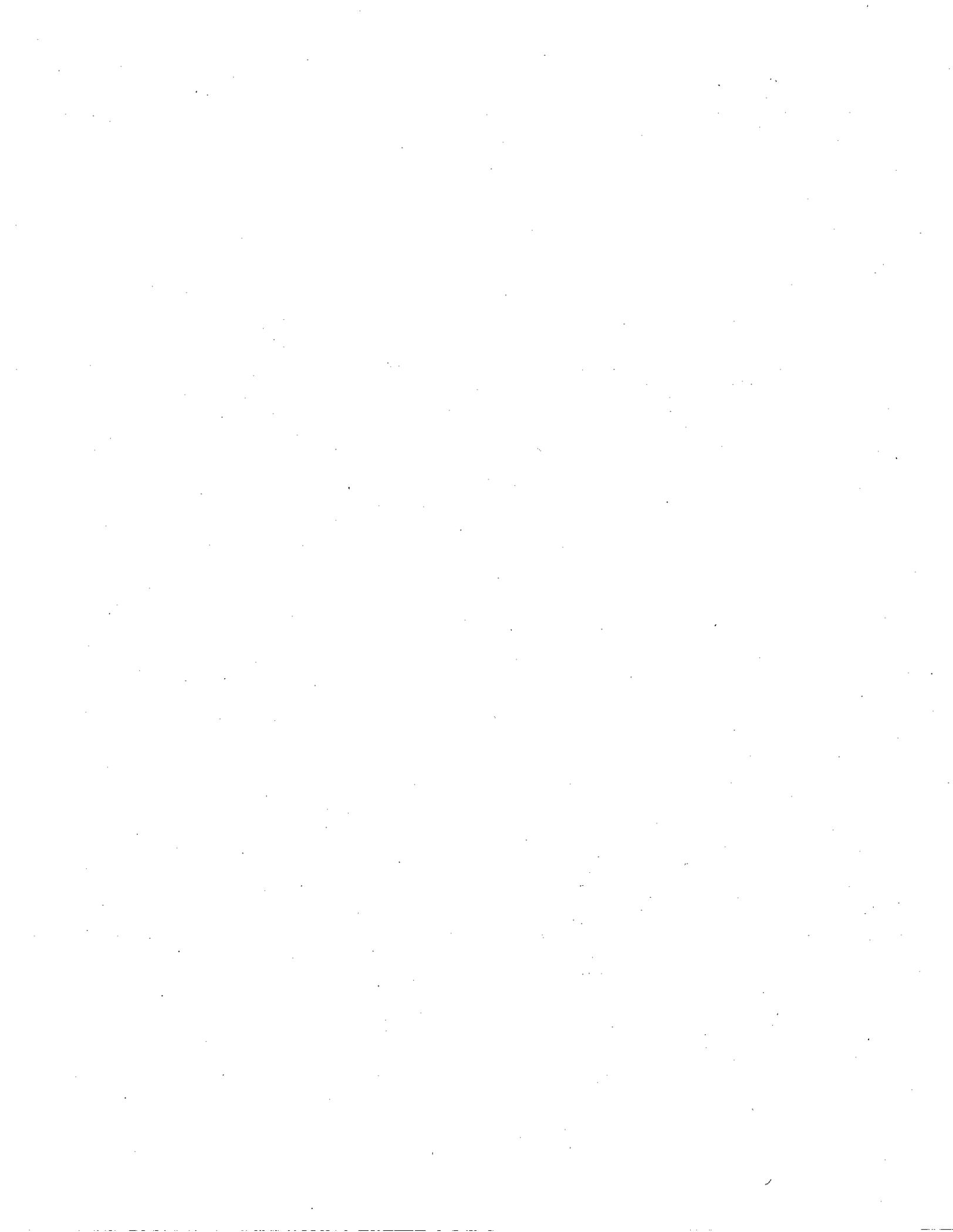
I'm a dentist at Valley Dental in Onalaska (previously worked downtown LaCrosse) and moved here 10 years ago with my wife who works for Gensler. When we were looking for areas to settle we wanted easy access to recreation. We looked at topographical maps of all of our potential cities that we could have moved. La Crosse's access to recreation of all types is a huge draw for young professionals. It probably doesn't get recognized that much but it exists. It's a big under the radar force. In my field of work I can literally live anywhere with a minimum population of 15,000 and be highly successful. We chose La Crosse because of all the things that are now coming to fruition with trail development. So please keep the momentum going.....

Look at the age range of the people who don't want the access points...Guarantee they are all 50+. Look at the demographics of those in support. Wide ranging yes, but skewed to the younger groups. **These things are what the future generations of La Crosse residents want.**

We recently had an opportunity to buy a nice house in Onalaska. 400k plus, nicer this and that. We literally had a written offer and backed out because we don't want to be further away from where we spend our free time. I kid you not...ask Kassidy Taggart our realtor. So I'll continue to live at 215 24th St North, continue to put money into my older home, and be happy to pay my 6k in property taxes because of these things that La Crosse is now giving attention to.

Keep up the great work on the trails and outdoor stuff. The last 2 years have been enormous. Thank you and thanks to Jay Odegaard for finally getting shit done! Bravo!

Eric and Jane Stull.



Cavadini, Caley

From: Alex Parsons <apadventures02@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Gateway to Grandads

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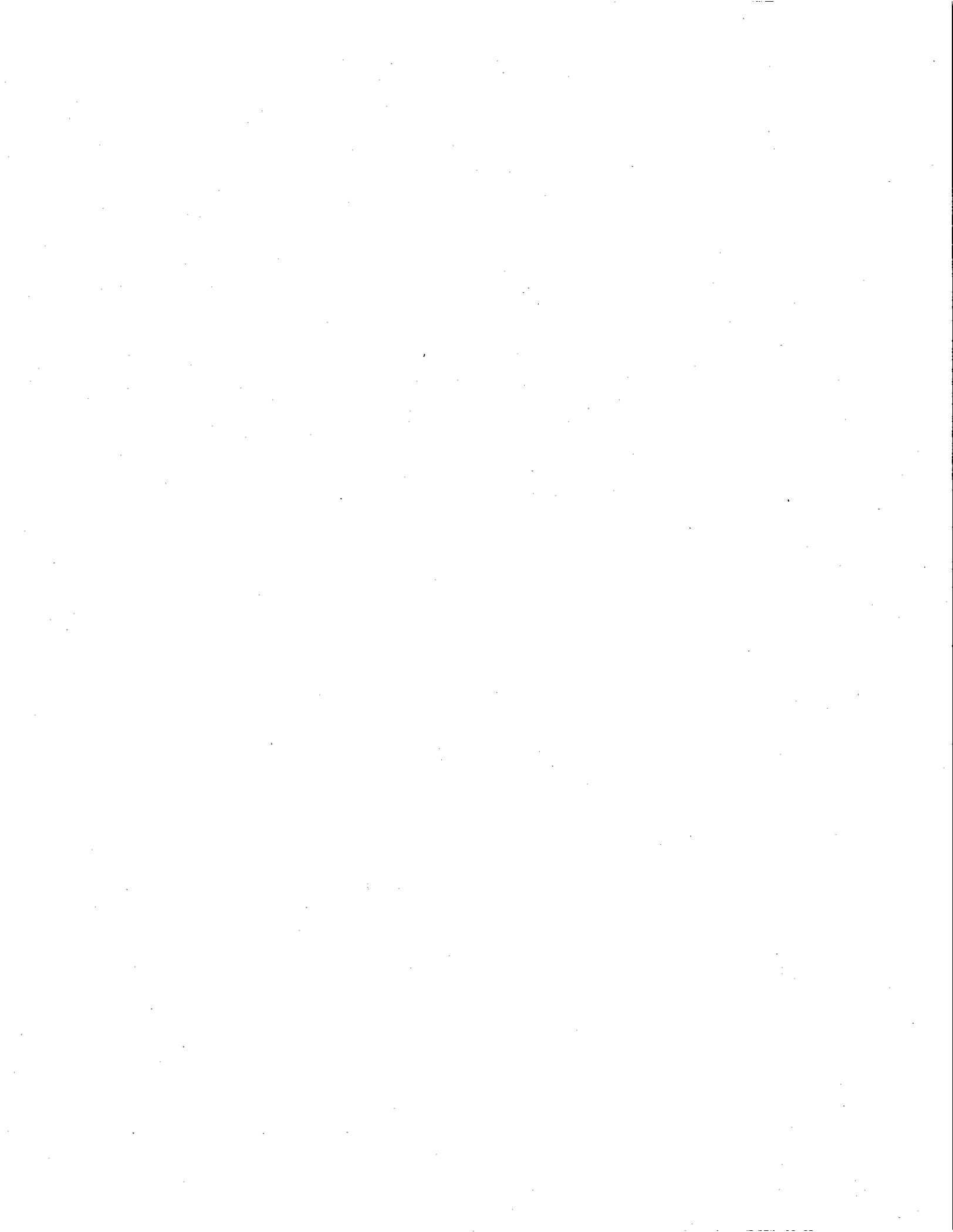
Mayor Kabatt,

Recreation opportunities are important health factors for communities. Opportunities of recreation such as local biking, walking, and hiking trails are important ways a community can cash in on the outcomes that are associated with outdoor recreation.

Creating more access to these opportunities is valuable for the younger generation who need more outdoor recreation. I believe the Gateway to Grandads will help create more access to recreation areas and inspire our community to continue to live and use these beautiful nature resources.

Sincerely,

Alex Parsons
Adventure Educator
Enagic Independent Distributor
715-571-4871
apadventures02@gmail.com



Cavadini, Caley

From: James Wise <james1wise1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 9:47 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabat,

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Wise



Cavadini, Caley

From: Jens Brabbit <brabbit.jens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabot,

Thank you for your support of Grandma's Gateway. This project will continue to provide needed outdoor opportunities for our local community members.

Sincerely,
Jens Brabbit

Cavadini, Caley

From: Eddie Hale <edwardohale@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Trail Access

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabat,

When I was a teenager in the 1980s, I had a friend who lived on 29th Street. She would sometimes invite our group over, and we would walk through her backyard and up onto the trails on Grandad Bluff. We were good kids. We didn't party or litter. We just enjoyed the outdoors and the hiking.

I remember saying to my friend, "I wish we could get to these trails when you are not home." I did not know there was a spot where the public land came right up to 29th street. I am excited that I will now be able to share beautiful, sustainable trails on Grandad Bluff with my wife and six kids.

Please give your backing to Grandma's Gateway Trail access on 29th Street and Ebner Coulee Road. Please share these beautiful spaces with all the people of La Crosse.

Thank you for the work you do.

Eddie Hale
1549 Denton Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin
608-304-2994



My daughters, Ruthie and Bethany, and me hiking the Rotary Vista Trail

Cavadini, Caley

From: Mark Moesch <mark.moesch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway excitement

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hello,

I am very excited to having the Grandma's Gateway trail system. My family moved to La Crosse 10 years ago and we have been hiking the area that will become the trail system as our boys have grown. It was fun to watch them be able to get further and further as they grew. I have always thought this was a beautiful part of our city that was far under used. I can only imagine how this trail system will appeal to hikers, bikers and runners from outside the area.

For the past 2 years, I have been meeting with ORA on Monday nights to help maintain trails. It is great to see runners, hikers and bikers come together to maintain what we have and i look forward to expanding our efforts to these new trails.

Thank you for helping move this project forward,

Mark Moesch
735 23rd Street N
La Crosse

Cavadini, Caley

From: Brumm, Mark R., M.D. <Brumm.Mark@mayo.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Mayor Kabat,

I am writing to express my support for the Grandma's Gateway plan to build user friendly, easily accessed trails for the people of La Crosse.

While we are lucky to have Hixon Forrest, accessing it problematic, especially for kids. Many if not most adults get in their cars and drive over to the main Hixon parking lot or drive up Bliss Rd to one of the side parking spots, even though these people live right here in town. Kids are really just out of luck.

Imagine the easy access points that Grandma's Gateway will open up for city residents. People will be able to walk or bike right to the trails. They will no longer have to drive.

I doubt people will drive to these trail access points, but if they do, the city can put up no parking signs to stop it from happening.

Let's make the trails accessible to all!

Thanks for your time.

Mark Brumm

Cavadini, Caley

From: Hynek, Kiel <Kiel.Hynek@trane.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mr. Kabat,

I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Grandma's Gateway project. Enjoying the bluffs is one of the biggest reasons my growing family and I choose to live in La Crosse. In fact as our current house becomes a bit crowded, moving even closer to the bluffs is something we are seriously considering. I think La Crosse has the chance to become a city like Duluth where the trails and the community feed into each other. Please continue supporting this project and others like it.

Thanks

Kiel Hynek
Drafting Technician
Trane | Ingersoll Rand
2313 South 20th St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone: 608.787.2125
Kiel.Hynek@trane.com

Cavadini, Caley

From: Warren Loveland <WLoveland@horizon-management.net>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Sleznikow, Larry; Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandmas gateway trails

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Growing up in La Crosse in summer we climbed the bluff every other day. As there were no trails we started where ever we could, making out own way or going thru yards. A designated starting point would be great. Over the years it has seemed that there have been many rescues necessary for jumpers. A well built trail along the base of the face would help rescuers. This is a park for the entire community. I don't see why people who built next to a park should stop trails in the park just because they don't want to see people in the park. Please support the proposed trails. People will continue to climb the bluff. Its better to have them on professionally designed and constructed trail. Thank you

Warren Loveland
33484 n 74th way
Scottsdale, Az
608 792 9488
wloveland@horizon-management.net



Cavadini, Caley

From: Derek Nordeen <drnordeen@saveyourtooth.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: In favor of grandma's gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Mayor Kabatt,

As a lifelong resident of central La Crosse I am in favor of the Grandma's gateway trail system. This will be an asset to our city. I truly feel any negatives are vastly outweighed by positives.

Thank you for listening,

Derek Nordeen 1408 King St.

--

Derek Nordeen D.D.S., Diplomate American Board of Endodontics

Endodontic Specialists of La Crosse, Ltd.

Facebook

2TheApex

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Cavadini, Caley

From: Rich Ellis <rjrellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Public Access to Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabat,

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway.

While there are concerns by residents that live on 29th street between Cass and Main Streets, as well as residents that live in Ebner Coulee, with appropriate discussion and planning, I believe their expressed concerns (primarily parking and increase traffic) at the recent City Counsel meeting can be addressed. Unfortunately, some residents voiced concerns with a false understanding or belief that 29th Street and Ebner Coulee Drive are private roads, which they are not.

Safe public access to city parks and recreational land is important to all La Crosse residents, while improving the health and welfare of our community.

Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank you - Rich Ellis, M.D.

Rich Ellis, M.D.
1801 Cass Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
608.787.1125 home
608.769.4377 cell

Cavadini, Caley

From: Thomas Davey <davey.tom@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mr. Kabatt,

My name is Thomas Davey. My wife and I moved to La Crosse in 2005 initially for me to complete graduate studies and become a physician assistant. We loved the area so much we decided to get jobs at Gundersen and Trane. We bought a house, started a family and have never looked back. La Crosse drew us in because of the natural beauty and the amazing opportunities for outdoor recreation. Biking, kayaking, hiking, cross country skiing, fat biking and snowshoeing are amazing here. I ask you to strongly consider approving Grandma's Gateway. I have looked over the development plan and it is solid. The people at ORA do amazing work that preserves the lands for future generations to enjoy as well. This is a boon for the economy of La Crosse as it continues to rise as an outdoor recreation destination.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Davey
608-397-5681

Cavadini, Caley

From: Nathan and Suzanna Barnhart <nswbarns@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: [SPAM] New Trails - Grandmas Gateway

Importance: Low

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabatt,

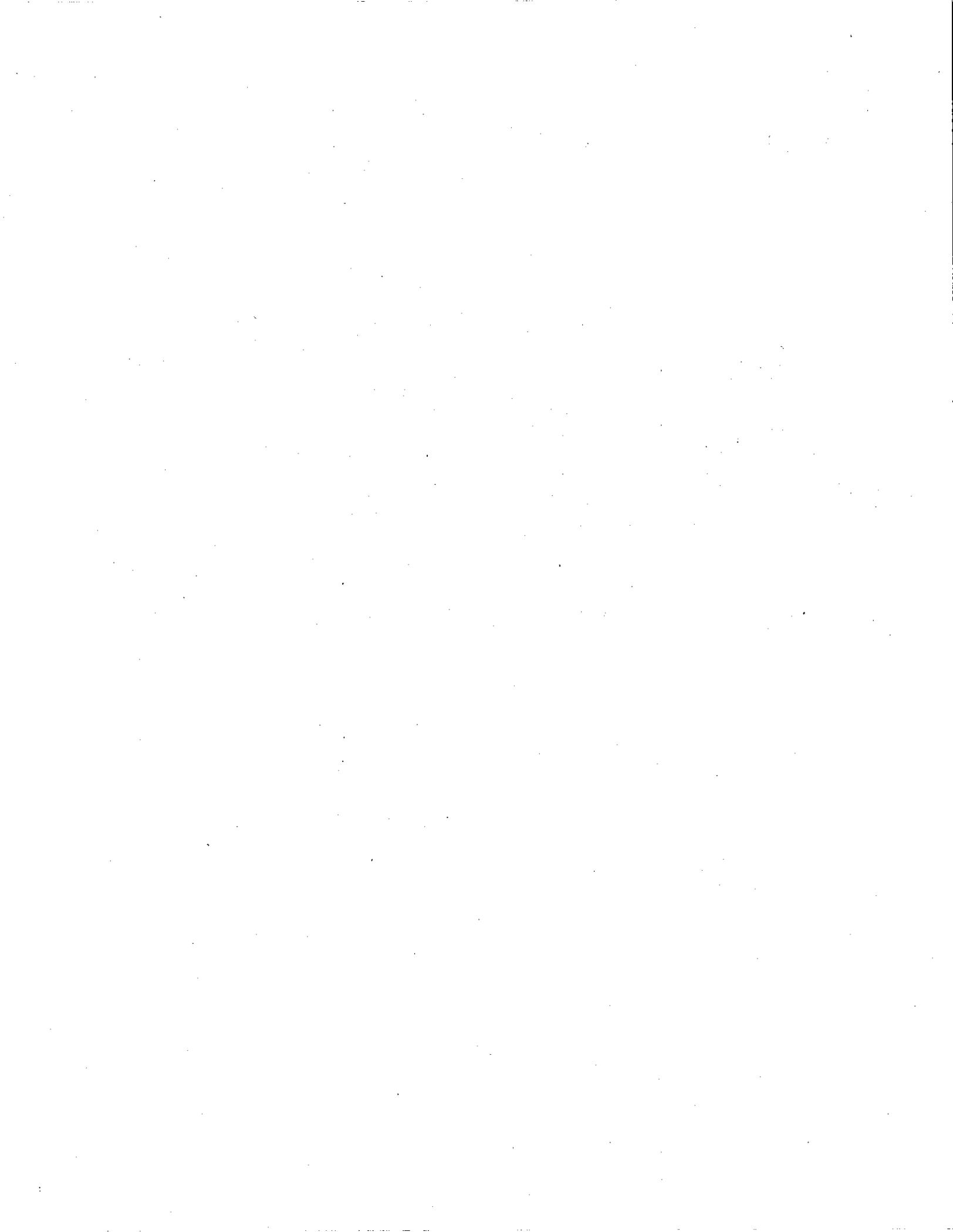
I support the development a legitimate multi-use trail system on Granddad's. As you probably already know, trails and recreation spaces add tremendous value to a community:

- Trails preserve and creating open spaces for recreation.
- Trails provide affordable exercise and recreational opportunities
- Trails can increase the property value of near by homes and businesses
- Hiking and Biking are fun and healthy family activities

This area already has social trails developed and would greatly benefit from professional trail builders who will develop it appropriately. Once completed it will be a gem that the city can feel proud of. I feel the benefits of this project more than outweigh the concerns. I know my family is looking forward to having a new place close by to recreate.

Thanks for your time.

Nathan



Cavadini, Caley

From: Mary Luebke <mary@firstexpressions.net>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:29 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: I support Grandma's Gateway

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Mayor Kabatt,

I support Grandma's Gateway and neighborhood trail access. I attended the park board meeting last week to hear what both sides had to say.

I understand the concern about **parking** in the neighborhoods of the access points however at other current trail access points like the one on Old Vineyard Rd, I don't ever see cars there. People usually ride to those points from other neighborhoods or from the Lower Hixon or Myrick parking lots. People who use the trails want a longer ride and use the neighborhood roads as a warm-up before riding up the bluff on the trail.

Other concerns were **trail erosion and loss of privacy**. If there is already a park, there are people already accessing it and property owners know there will be people wandering around. If there is no purposeful trail guiding pedestrian and bike traffic, people will naturally wander and may trespass unknowingly because they don't know where to go. Trail which is purposely and sustainably built holds up well and directs public traffic where it is supposed to go. From what I have seen, the rogue trails/ footpaths which are just worn in by use, do erode and the built trail holds up much better and is maintained.

The last concern was **safety** of bicyclists on the road. People know to be more aware around a park or trailhead and these roads are not main throughfares. 29th street could be made safer by only accessing from one direction. I would rather access a trail or have my child access from a neighborhood point than ride up Bliss road!

Mary Luebke



Cavadini, Caley

From: Nate Woolever <naterwool@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 10:52 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Project

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Greetings from the Bluffside Neighborhood.

My name is Nate Woolever and my wife and I recently moved back to La Crosse after approximately 15 years in the Madison area. I'm a medical professional who is employed by one of the hospitals located in La Crosse. When we were house hunting and considering relocation, a huge factor in our decision was proximity to the schools we desired our kids to attend, proximity to my place of work, and last but definitely not least, proximity to the Upper and Lower Hixon Forest trail systems. My wife and I have are both avid mountain bikers, trail runners, hikers, cross country skiers, and dog walkers. We thoroughly enjoy the trails La Crosse has to offer in all of those ways. Our children are becoming avid trail users as well. This led us to choose a location as close to Hixon Forest as possible, intentionally excluding Holmen, Onalaska, West Salem, and La Crescent from our searches.

I feel that the addition of the trails proposed via the Grandma's Gateway Project will be a valuable addition to the trail system in La Crosse for a number of reasons.

First, the addition of multi-use trail mileage will help mitigate the increasing user demands being placed on the existing trails of Upper and Lower Hixon. I have seen first hand the high user density of the current single route up the bluff from the city side, the Rotary Vista Trail. The addition of new local access points such as the proposed access on 29th Street and Ebner Coulee Rd will only reduce user density while providing access to more community members.

Second, we have traveled with our family to mountain bike destinations such as Duluth MN, Bentonville AR, and Copper Harbor MI specifically to enjoy the expansive mountain bike trail systems that have been developed in those locations. This equates to an influx of tourism dollars into those communities. With further sustainable trail development such as the Grandma's Gateway Project, La Crosse can expect to lure those same tourism dollars to our local economy. This is already beginning with the opening of the new trails at Upper Hixon (Nerf Herder, Jedi, Vader).

Third, investment in local trail development has been identified time and again as a top priority for luring and retaining professional talent to communities.

I acknowledge the concerns brought forth by opponents to the project. I feel that the environmental impact of the project has been thoroughly evaluated by the Wisconsin DNR, the Outdoor Recreation Alliance, the International Mountain Bike Association, and Rock Solid Trail Building. IMBA has decades of experience with sustainable, low impact trail construction techniques and Rock Solid has years of experience implementing these techniques in trail construction. Trail users will be encouraged to travel to the 29th Street access trail via bike or foot to avoid parking congestion. For these reasons, please consider my enthusiastic support for the Grandma's Gateway project including the local access points on 29th Street and Ebner Coulee Rd.

Nate Woolever, PharmD
3100 Floral Ln.
La Crosse, WI

Cavadini, Caley

From: Zach Lammers <zachlammers0@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 8:39 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

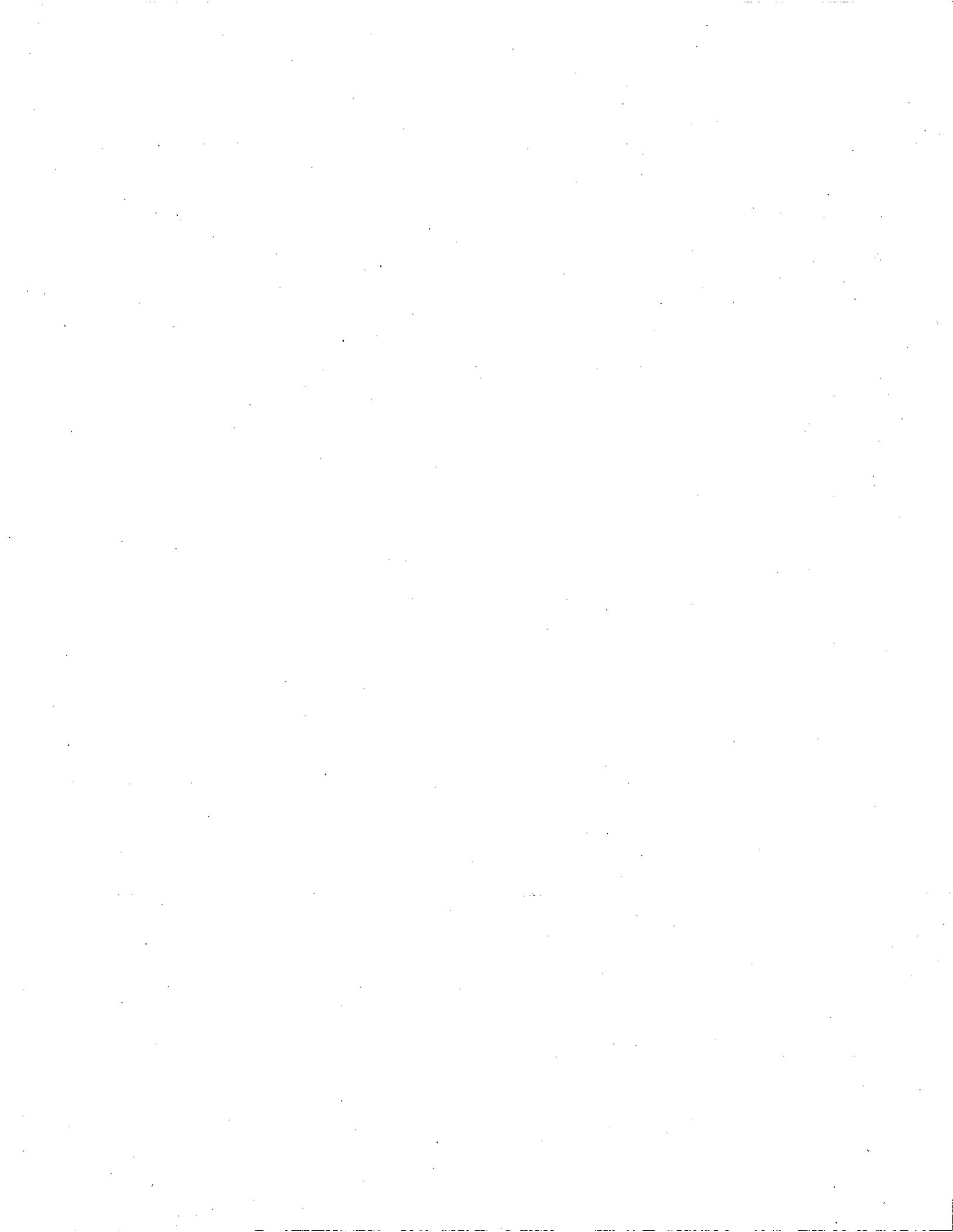
*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Good Morning Mayor Kabatt,

I appreciate your past support for the Grandma's Gateway trail action as well as all of our beautiful trails here in La Crosse. In addition, I am looking forward to the continued support you will provide for these projects to enhance recreation and preservation of our beautiful home.

Have a great day,

Zach Lammers



Cavadini, Caley

From: Katie Woolever <kdswool@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 10:16 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: In support of grandma's gateway

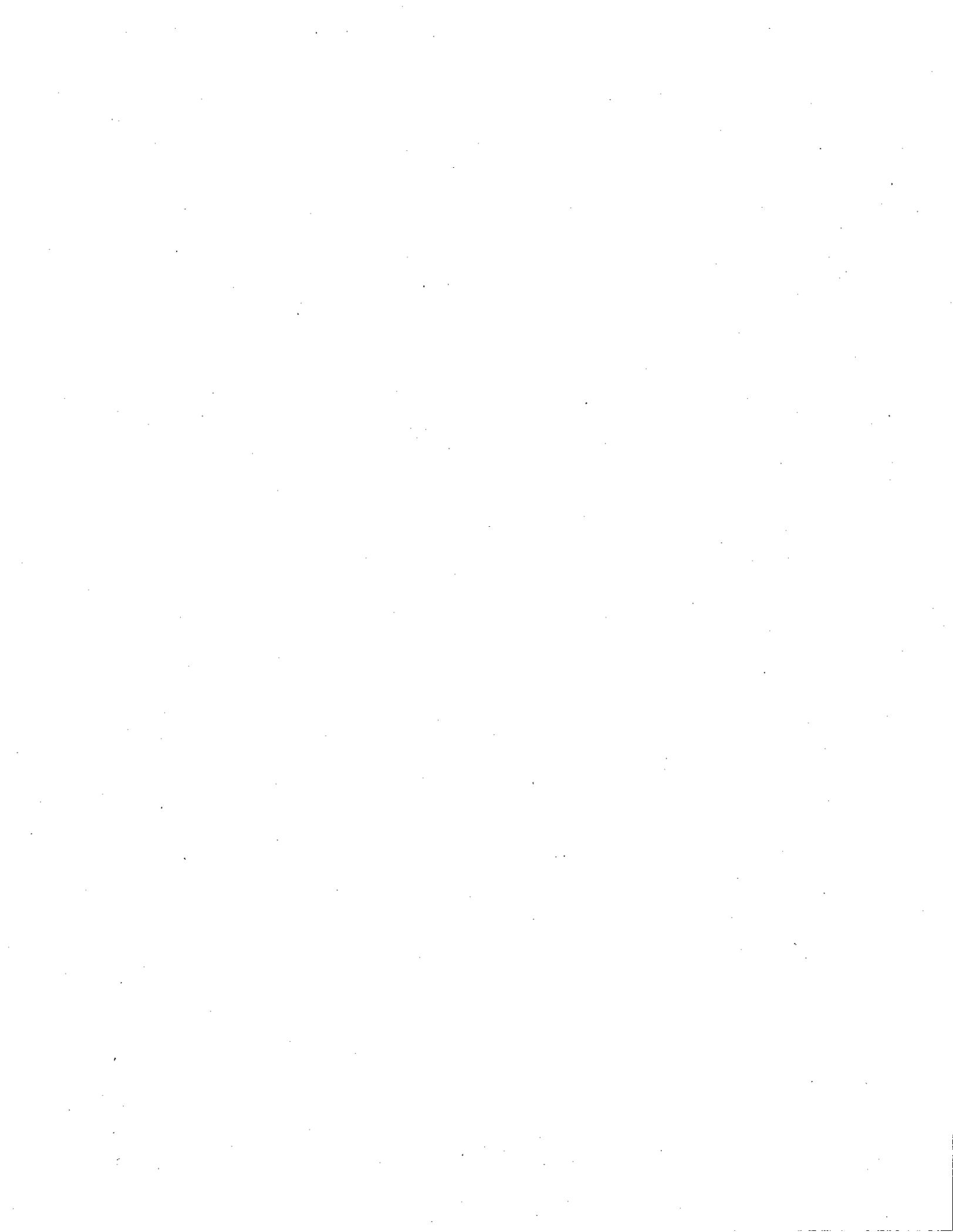
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Tim Kabatt,

I wanted to pass along to you how excited I am about the addition of grandmas gateway to our trail system. The bluffs are a awesome environment in our community. I love being able to get on a Hixon trail to run, bike or hike.

We live close to the trailhead for grandmas gateway, I look forward to being able to bike from our house to the trail head. We live at 3100 floral lane. Thank you for investing your time and energy into this project.

Katie Woolever



Cavadini, Caley

From: Amanda Hynek <hynek.a@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Bike trails

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Dear Mayor Kabat,

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank you.

Amanda Hynek



Cavadini, Caley

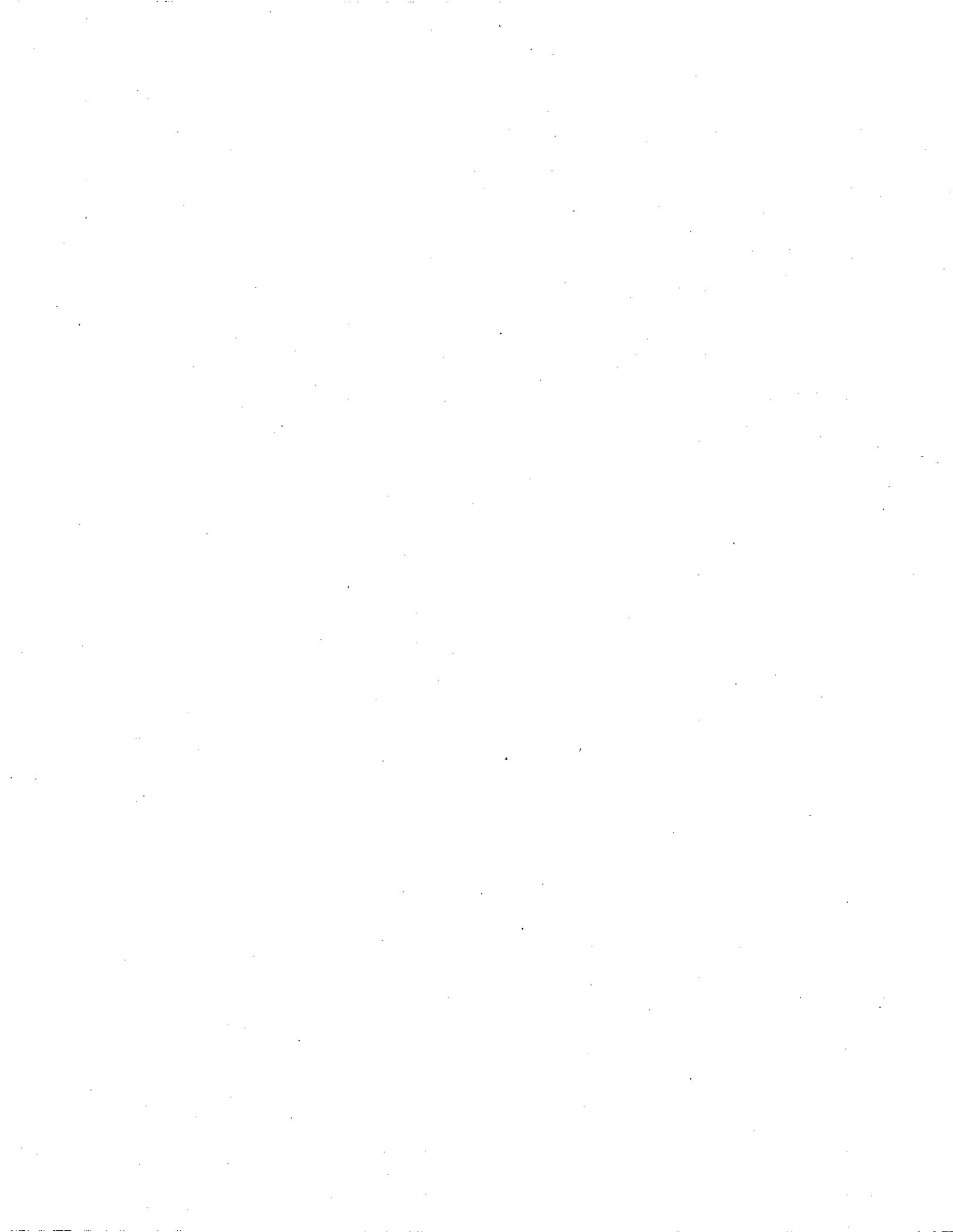
From: Dan L <danluebke@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Support for Grandma's Gateway

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Dear Mayor Kabat & Rep Sleznikow,

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank you,
Dan Luebke
Former Human Powered Trails President and Volunteer (Now ORA)



Cavadini, Caley

From: Andy Clements <Andy@caryspec.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

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Mayor Kabat,

My name is Andy Clements and I live on Rim of the City Road off of CTH FA and took up mountain biking/fat biking a few years back and am amazed at the excellent trail system we have in place and especially the awesome new trails that have been added in the past two years. I have travelled to other areas to ride but think our system is one of the best within a 90 mile radius. I appreciate the support from you and the Parks Department to make these things happen. The proposed Grandma's Gateway project would be another exciting addition to our growing trail system. I have met many new friends by volunteering on trail maintenance projects as well as riding on the trails themselves. Please keep the positive momentum going on creating more reasons to live, visit and work in our great city.

Thanks again,

Andy Clements, P.E.
Structural Engineer/ Project Manager/Owner
Cary Specialized Services, Inc.
608-790-0327 Cell
608-519-3338 fax



Cavadini, Caley

From: Clara Gelatt <cgelatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: In support of Grandma's Gateway

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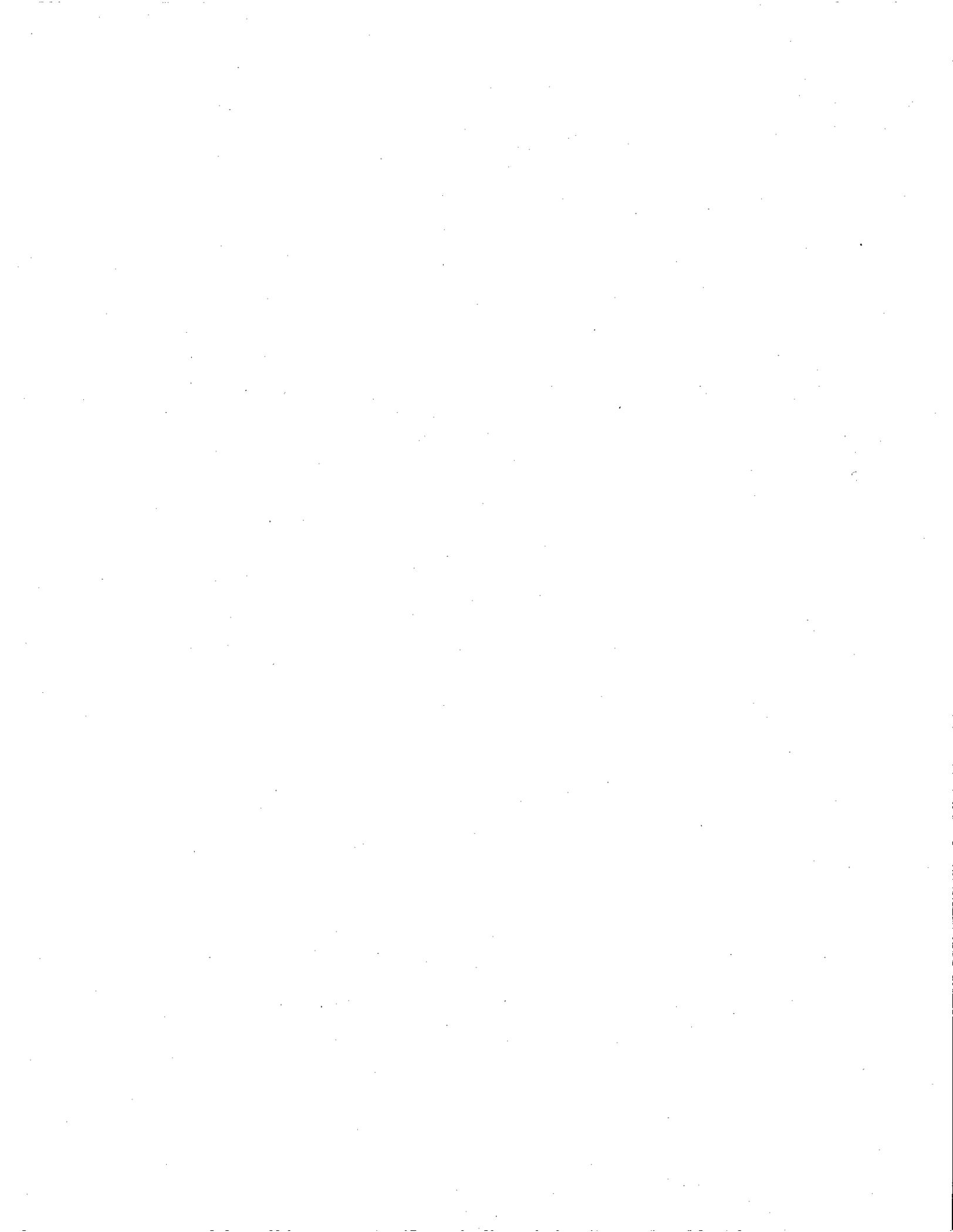
Dear Mayor Kabat

I'm writing in support of Grandma's Gateway. I live in the bluffside neighborhood and I enjoy walking and hiking my children and I would love to have better access up the bluff and I'm excited about the idea of a modern trail there. My concern if we don't have something like this is that people will continue to find their own way up the bluff, hurting the environment of the area and putting themselves in potential danger. Having safe and environmentally conscious option is the best way forward.

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway-- I hope you continue to support it!

Thank you

-Clara Gelatt



Cavadini, Caley

From: Cheri Starch <clstarch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandmas gateway trail

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Hello Mayor Kabat,
I'm writing in support of this new trail. I believe it would be a beautiful addition to the City of LaCrosse. I live close enough that I would be able to walk or bike to the trail instead of having to drive there first just to use it. I believe that would be a positive for lots of families to get out and enjoy nature while getting exercise at the same time, without having to haul their bikes and/or strollers.
Thank you for your time,
Cheri Starch

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad



Cavadini, Caley

From: Melissa Chelf <melissachelf@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 11:20 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Please support Grandma's Gateway

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Dear Mayor Kabat,

I understand the objections brought forth by the 29th St residents and hope you realize the volume of people who want to see Grandma's Gateway far outnumbers the few who oppose. I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thanks,
Melissa Chelf
124 17th Pl S, La Crosse, WI 54601

Cavadini, Caley

From: Bill Walters <leaf_of_iron@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Cc: Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Support

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabat,

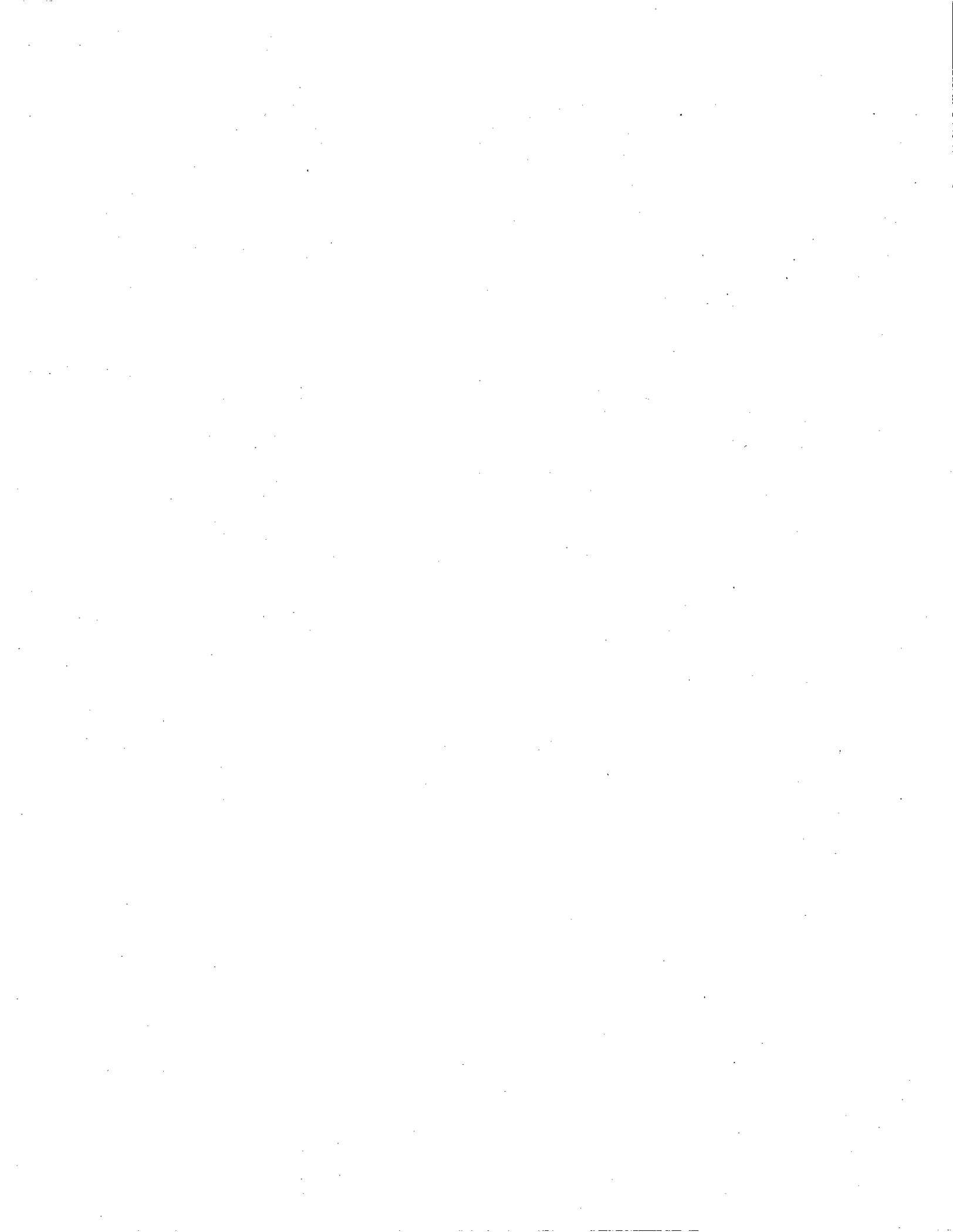
I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

I expect that I would use the trails at least once a week (weather allowing), and likely more. I plan to bike to the trail, so there would be no parking or vehicle usage issues from me.

I think the Grandma's Gateway trail project adds to the value of the La Crosse area. The trails are one of the big reasons that I live in the area.

Thank you.

Bill Walters
1621 20th St S
La Crosse, WI 54601



Cavadini, Caley

From: Scott Stine <scotts108@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway trails

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Hello Mayor Kabatt and Council member Sleznikow

My name is Scott Stine. I have lived in La Crosse for the past 20 years and during that time have regularly and frequently hiked, run, biked and climbed in the bluffs. One of the main reasons I have decided to stay in La Crosse these past 20 years are the bluffs and the trails that allow us to access their beauty. I would greatly appreciate it if you would support the Grandma's Gateway project to extend these trails through our city lands. I cannot tell you how excited I am about these trails. They will be a huge benefit to our city and it would be a shame if they were not built.

Sincerely,

Scott Stine

Cavadini, Caley

From: Evan Rasmussen <rasmusse.evan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Kabat, Tim; Sleznikow, Larry
Subject: Grandma's Gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Hello,

I'm a resident and homeowner in La Crosse and I wanted to send you both A message regarding the planned trails being called Grandma's Gateway.

I am in full support of the 2020 plans that the City of La Crosse and the Outdoor Recreation Alliance have to expand the access to trails in the Ebner Coulee area(Grandma's Gateway). I believe, and have been informed by people with a greater amount of experience than myself, that additional access points and more miles of multi use trail will bring value to the community in many ways. Of the plans I have seen, I have confidence that the new trails will be just as good and if not better than the ones that have been added to Upper Hixon in the past two years which is holding them to a high standard.

I fat bike, hike, mountain bike, and use the trails on a weekly basis. I walk, run or bike to the trails from my house, and the two proposed access points are closer to my house than the others in existence today. Easy and close access to recreational opportunities is one of the top reasons I chose to move back to La Crosse from Vail, CO three years ago as opposed to other cities. I knew I could move back from Colorado, be close to family, find a job in the local area, and also enjoy the hobbies that I'm so passionate about. I hear about my friends in other cities who have to load up their gear for a 30 min+ drive to the nearest significant trail system, and I'm grateful to have the natural resources we do in La Crosse. Their trail riding is a full day commitment and I can go for a 15 mile trail ride from my garage door.

We are fortunate to have the trail system we do already, and I'm confident that it will continue to grow and improve into the future with your support. I regularly volunteer with ORA and will be involved with this project because I see how important trails are to our community. Further connecting our community with nature and the amazing public lands that overlook La Crosse and the Mississippi River will improve access for groups that currently need to get in their cars to drive to other access points.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Evan Rasmussen

--

Evan Rasmussen
608-354-7706

Cavadini, Caley

From: Isaac Pischke <iwpischke@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway - Yes to 29th St. Access

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Hello Mayor Kabat,

I moved to La Crosse because of outdoor recreational activities, primarily trail use. I bought a home on 29th St. S, under granddads, because of proximity to trails. We had a baby and realized that sidewalks (or other traffic calming measures) are super important for a pleasant walk when pushing a stroller, so we moved to where there are sidewalks but still own our old home with hopes of moving back when our kids are able to take advantage of single track trail.

I am MOST excited that this trail system is going to have about 2 miles of green (novice) trail. This is trail that beginning mountain bikers can use, with some turns and hills but not the risk and danger of blue and black. The vast majority of La Crosse's mountain bike trails are blue and black. I'd like to mountain bike as a family, but the trails in lower hixon and upper hixon make that task too risky.

I am excited that IMBA, a world renowned and sustainable trail association has helped plan grandma's gateway. I am excited many citizens, ourselves included, have donated their personal money to help build these trails. I am excited there is planned access on 29th St. so community members can access trails safely. 29th St trail access would eliminate about 1/2 mile of extra commute along Losey Blvd or the need to use Bliss Road.

The main concerns I've heard from residents I believe are false or can be worked around: "The trail will create future washouts." This is false, these trails are sloped to not collect and reroute (or gully) water. "The trail will create rock slides" (not likely - I would think the work at the lookout would have had a much greater chance of sending rocks falling. Wisconsin winters cause rock cracking). "The trail access on 29th is dangerous." Kind of true. I believe this trail access is an important investment to the health (and wealth) of the city and believe traffic calming measures are worth the cost. The risk of being on 29th St doesn't currently stop walkers, bikers and runners from using it, but some sharrows, bumpouts, etc., should help.

This is a day and age that we need to get kids and adults outside exercising for not only their physical health but also their mental health.

Please keep the Grandma's Gateway plan, with access points on 29th (and Ebner) on track.

Thank you,
Isaac Pischke

Cavadini, Caley

From: Jan Taggart <taggart.jan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandmas gateway

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Dear Mayor Kabat,

I greatly appreciate your past support for Grandma's Gateway. Please continue your enthusiastic support of this much-needed community trail project.

Thank you.

Jan Taggart

Sent from my iPhone

Cavadini, Caley

From: Scott E Gabriel <segabriel@viterbo.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma Gateway Trail

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Good morning Mayor Kabat,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you this morning to express my support for the Grandma Gateway Trail system through Hixon Forest. My wife and I have three young children (11, 9, and 6) and moved to La Crosse 10 years ago in large part because of La Crosse's numerous easily accessible outdoor opportunities. Most weekends we are out with our kids exploring the woods, bike trails or rivers. The goals of the Grandma Gateway Trail project are ones that I am excited about for a variety of reasons. Certainly having an option for our children to hike or bike to the top of the bluff other than Bliss Road is at the top of my list. But I also believe that more thoughtful management of that area will improve both the now spurious recreational use of that area as well as the trail becoming another draw for people to visit the area. I take several weekend trips a year with friends to bike, hike and or ski and people frequently ask about La Crosse and if they should come visit for a weekend of trail running, riding and skiing. This project only further helps La Crosse become a destination for those wanting to enjoy the outdoor opportunities our city is blessed to have. I realize that some of the area residents have reasonable concerns but believe that those should be weighed with the opportunity for all residents to have access to those public lands and for the community to be thoughtful and deliberate with the shared use and stewardship of that space.

I hope you will continue to enthusiastically support this community trail project and would welcome further conversation if that is at all helpful.

All the best,

Scott Gabriel

Scott Gabriel PhD

Associate Professor of Biochemistry
Viterbo University -- La Crosse, WI
(608) 796-3473 (office)



VITERBO UNIVERSITY

Cavadini, Caley

From: Trainor, Bryan <BTrainor@Ashleyfurniture.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2020 9:27 AM
To: Kabat, Tim
Subject: Grandma's Gateway Trails

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Good Morning Mayor Kabatt-

I wanted to take some time this snowy Sunday morning to reach out and express my support for the Grandma's Gateway trail project and the proposed neighborhood access points.

My educational background is in community health education/public health and I work as a Health Promotion Manager for a local company with 17,000 employees nationwide. I've been lucky enough to travel all throughout the U.S. and have recognized a theme;

Communities both large and small who invest in their natural resources THRIVE.

By doing this, they allow citizens to thrive and those citizens live, work, play and invest in their community. Those citizen then have children who do the same, and those children have children down the line who do the same.

La Crosse has an amazing track record in investing in its natural resources, so let's move forward with Grandmas Gateway with the neighborhood access points so we can all thrive together.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

