

**Elsen, Nikki**

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**From:** Brady Howe <bradyjhowe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2022 9:16 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** Trails Rock!

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*I grew up in Holmen, and while in high school and college I spent a lot of time and energy volunteering on the mountain bike and hiking trails in LaCrosse. This has segued into me having a career in public land management. Without having the opportunity to be involved with these trails I might not have found my calling in life.*

*Whenever I get home I always try to sneak in a ride and reminisce about how much of an influence these trails, the people that have helped develop them, and the people I see out enjoying them, have had on me. I'm thankful for this, and thankful that these trails are there for generations to come to enjoy and experience. Who knows, maybe one of those kids I see out exploring in the woods might grow up to be a "Park Ranger" like me.*

*But, for this to happen, for these trails to be around in the future, they need to be funded and supported by the City of LaCrosse. Removing CIP funding is a step backwards. I know that the return on investment in trails is always positive, and there are several studies that confirm this. Between an increase in quality of life for residents, to making the community more attractive for employers, to giving kids something to do. Not everyone dreams of being the next Aaron Rodgers or Mia Hamm.*

*When I was volunteering on those trails as a kid I used to think about how I was like my Great Grandpa working in a CCC camp, or like those firefighters that jump out of airplanes that I read about in outdoor magazines. I was doing hard work, but the reward was worth it. Knowing that I was helping build and maintain fun and sustainable trails for everyone to enjoy has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life.*

*Then there's the tourism component of trails. If COVID and 2020 has shown us is that people want to be outside, having fun on their public lands. My wife and I take multiple bike vacations a year and we're always amazed at how thriving communities are that embrace outdoor recreation and trails. LaCrosse is s close to being there! It just needs a little more support. A dollar spent on trails is not a dollar spent, it's a dollar invested.*

*Respectfully,  
Brady Howe*