

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 7:41 AM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: Fish Hatchery Rezone/Gardens  
**Attachments:** Letter to the Editor La Crosse Tribune.docx

*Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC*

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**From:** Corrine Olson <corky.olson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 5:10 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>  
**Subject:** Fish Hatchery Rezone/Gardens

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This letter was sent to the La Crosse Tribune tonight. Thanks for your consideration.  
Corrine Olson, 1 RiverPlace Dr Apt 119 La Crosse

Letter to the Editor La Crosse Tribune

I am one of the many volunteers in the La Crosse Riverside International Friendship Gardens.

The Gardens reflect our appreciation for the diverse cultures which share the Earth. They are *public gardens*. Priority is given to the public who walk through the gardens and enjoy their natural beauty.

Garden volunteers, with support from City Parks employees, work hard in the gardens. You may never see the Master Gardeners, the Sister City Committees who do fundraising, and the board of directors who do behind-the-scenes work. City parks people keep the water features working, such as the Irish waterwheel, Norway waterfalls and the China fish pond. They remove garden trimmings and provide mulch, as part of their duties.

Sculptures, flower pots, benches are only possible because of much-appreciated donations.

The majority of visitors respect the gardens by walking their bikes, walking leashed dogs, staying on the paths and not disturbing sculptures, rocks or plantings, not smoking/vaping or leaving garbage, such as confetti, cigarette butts and syringes. However, there are those who create work and expense by doing the opposite. Recently, a new statue in the Cameroon Garden was severely damaged and hopefully can be repaired. Many of the Norwegian trolls have been vandalized. Chess pieces repeatedly taken.

I've listed some of the reasons so many of us are passionate about protecting the integrity and beauty of these gardens. With the proposed leasing of the historic fish hatchery and garage, we understand and support the city's desire to upgrade historical buildings, but we do not want to see the public's enjoyment of the park and gardens jeopardized.

Corrine (Corky) Olson