

## Elsen, Nikki

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**From:** Mary Fran Rybarik <franny363@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 7:44 PM  
**To:** Elsen, Nikki; Gallager, Matthew; Trane, Andrea; Reynolds, Mitch; Schwarz, Rebecca; Dickinson, Tamra; Hawkins, Chadwick  
**Cc:** Fran Rybarik  
**Subject:** Camping in the La Crosse Marsh

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I am writing out of concern about camping in the La Crosse Marsh. As a resident of TheLandings, I pay over \$5000 a year in taxes with limited services from the City because our building is zoned as commercial. We did enjoy the benefits of easy access to the bike/pedestrian paths connecting Riverside Park with Myrick Park, being able to enjoy the beauty of the flora and fauna and ever changing ecology of the marsh which saves our city from flooding almost every spring.

This past year, it was no longer safe to walk downtown via the Riverside Park trail because of the large number of tents camped along the Black River. I observed fire pits and used needles along the trail. Now, many of those campers have moved into the marsh, threatening the fragile environment there with human waste, fires and dangerous debris. And preventing other citizens like me who like to walk or bike along the trails from feeling safe to do so.

I understand that solving homelessness is a complex, multi-faceted issue that affects many city departments and resources. I know that many unsheltered people would prefer not to be homeless. I have high hopes for the Pathways plan developed between the County and the City for the next 5 years. But I also hope that, in the meantime, you will keep in mind the needs of others in the community who pay their taxes and choose to live here because of the beauty of the bluffs, the rivers, and especially the marsh.

You were able to close down camping at Houska, Cameron and Riverside Park. Please do so in the marsh before it is damaged beyond use for our whole community to enjoy.

I am out of town and unable to attend the 4/8 meeting in person. Please consider this email my chance to speak. Thank you

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