

Craig, Sondra

From: Mary Fran Rybarik <franny363@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 5:51 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; countyboardsupervisors@lacrossecounty.org; Reynolds, Mitch
Cc: Fran Rybarik
Subject: The Marsh Encampment

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Dear City and County Leaders,

I have high hopes that the Pathways Home plan will succeed with the collaboration between the city, county, medical and social service organizations. But we are all aware that is a five year plan. There are many concerns about the marsh and the location of unregulated campers near recreational trails, businesses and residences. We are probably one or two more rainstorms away from flooding and having all that pollution enter the La Crosse River, and then where will these poor people go? The delay in April by the Board of Public Works for 60 days seemed unreasonable since encampments in unsuitable areas are certainly not new in the city. And the delay just increased the number of tents in the marsh.

So I'm hoping that these references to city created camping sites in Denver, CO and Missoula, MT might spark some creativity that could be shared among other city departments and the county board. We need short term solutions that safely meet the needs of the marsh, the unsheltered, the taxpaying citizens, and the people who use the marsh trails for recreation and transportation. Perhaps it isn't just one location, but several smaller sites, similar to the ideas in the Pathways Home plan.

Here are the websites:

<https://denverite.com/2023/06/05/city-council-safe-outdoor-sites-program-permanent/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/01/07/1070966346/why-some-cities-are-operating-legal-homeless-camps-even-in-the-dead-of-winter>

Thank you.

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