

La Crosse River Marsh Plan

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**Tim Acklin, AICP, Senior Planner
City of La Crosse
400 La Crosse St
La Crosse, WI 54601**

Dear Mayor Kabat, Tim Acklin, City Councilpersons, and City Plan Commission Members,

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the CIP 2021-2025 budget item #551, "Marsh Hydrological Study." The three-part plan addressing hydrology, habitat and recreation is the comprehensive approach that is needed.

As a resident of La Crosse of nearly 50 years, I have heard many proposals. This is the first comprehensive plan that relies on science while respecting human needs. The Park and Rec. Department and the Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh deserve credit for all the work they have done to preserve this irreplaceable natural resource. Now more than ever as we face climate change and a pandemic it is imperative that we protect our safeguard to flooding and our physical and mental health.

Our marsh needs to be preserved for visitors, residents, and future generations. Tourists have been attracted to La Crosse for its diverse natural areas within the city limits. People enjoy birding, hiking, nature-bathing, animal watching, boating and fishing. This is one place I always take guests. As a resident I reap these same benefits and have many amazing memories from my family's regular visits. Research shows that people with access to nature have improved mental health. As a Head Start teacher, I have taken numerous groups of children and parent to the marsh for field trips. The marsh trail is a short distance from any of our La Crosse sites and it is handicap accessible. It is a rare place that one can go with a group of noisy preschooler sand still see wildlife.

Please finance the Marsh Hydrology Study to benefit us today and our children seven generations into the future.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Janvrin