

Craig, Sondra

From: City of La Crosse Notices - No Reply
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Craig, Sondra; Elsen, Nikki; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Sleznikow, Larry; Trost, Jennifer; Mindel, Mackenzie; Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; Steele, Annette; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; Weston, Lisa; Newberry, Aron; Bedford, Crystal; Padesky, Gary; Stine, Olivia; Northwood, Rosanne
Subject: City Council Contact Form: Oppose banning bikes on sidewalks and levees in Riverside Park

Submitted on: 5/11/2026

Name: Eric Giannini

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Is this related to a legislative agenda item: Yes

Agenda item number: 26-0377

Subject: Oppose banning bikes on sidewalks and levees in Riverside Park

I am generally supportive of the original intent of this proposed ordinance to bring regulations on e-bikes and scooters up to date. However, the process has take this too far into extending further restrictions on traditional human powered bicycles. The amendment that would ban bikes on sidewalks and levees in Riverside makes little sense.

I agree that bikes still should not be ridden on downtown sidewalks, and we at least have some (not enough but some) bike lane options downtown. Riverside Park is another matter. The park is connected to the Marsh Trails and hosts a bike share station. We should be encouraging people to get to parks, including Riverside, but modes other than cars. This makes getting to the parks safer, getting around the parks safer, and makes for cleaner air in the parks. There are no bike lanes on the road loop in the north end of the park, which is typically full of distracted drivers trolling for a parking spot, in between two rows of parked vehicles on either side. While I am fine riding on the road here, if I had kids with me, I would prefer to take them on the sidewalk. The south end of the park has no roadway option. There are ample sidewalk options, and when there is no cruise ship docked, the levees are a beautiful place to walk, run, and bike. Our parks are also a great place for helping young children to learn to ride their bikes - safe from traffic and with grass to cushion falls.

Our police have far better things to do than ticket cyclists for riding in Riverside. I urge Council to remove the language prohibiting bikes on sidewalks and levees in Riverside, excepting the Friendship Gardens which are clearly signed as bike-free and should remain so due to the tight spaces and intended calm atmosphere. Put up some signs urging reasonable speeds if you must, but

Finally, if considering how to restrict bike use in La Crosse, Council should also be considering how to enhance protections for cyclists. Far too often, our existing bike lanes are encroached by illegal parked vehicles (see Cass St between West and 7th), or encroached upon by drivers who cannot stay in their lane (a significant issue on Jackson between West and 19th... also see many destroyed flexposts on 2nd St).

Thank you,
Eric Giannini
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