

## Acklin, Tim

---

**From:** Kelly Sultzbach <kellsultz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 6, 2020 4:46 PM  
**To:** Acklin, Tim  
**Subject:** Support for Marsh Restoration Project

\*\*\* **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\*

Dear Tim Acklin,

I am enthusiastically in support of the Marsh Restoration Project. It is one of the most important community spaces we have. Not only do I frequently walk there to calm my own mind while I see geese, eagles, muskrat, red-winged blackbirds, and enjoy the shade of the 300 year-old cottonwood tree, I know many others do the same. There is now a lot of science behind how important these places are to human health and wellness (see Florence Williams' book *The Nature Fix*). Further, I also use the marsh as a teacher at UWL, bringing students to the marsh in my Environmental Literature class and my Modern Literature and the Animal Mind class to exercise practices of observation and perception that those writer's use to develop more empathetic relationship with non-human animals.

Moreover, I know the marsh is an ecologically sensitive area, one that is made more precarious by the history of trapshooting that has left lead in the marsh along with the challenges of climate change which is leading to more flooding, over-watered tree roots that cause loss of habitat for nesting birds of prey and lowering the beaver dams we used to see, as well as a lack of the vegetation needed for migrating waterfowl to build nests on.

The marsh is a valued and needed place for our La Crosse community and for its place in supporting the health of biodiversity in our region. I'm so glad to see a commitment to making sure we restore and support this vital place.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Sultzbach  
La Crosse citizen, voter and teacher