

## Acklin, Tim

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**From:** David Bange <davidbange23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** Acklin, Tim  
**Subject:** I support the CIP 2021-2025 budget item #551

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Mr. Acklin -

I am writing in support of Budget Item #551. I have been a frequent visitor to the La Crosse River Marsh for many, many years. I have always enjoyed walking or running through the various marsh trails, watching the seasons and vegetation change, observing the birds, listening to the frog calls, and generally enjoyed the opportunity to be in a natural environment in the heart of the city. Because of the closing of the Y and other exercise centers, I have spent even more time in the marsh. One cannot help but notice a significant increase in the number of other citizens who are also going into the marsh, many for the first time ever! While maintaining safe distance, I have pointed out a few things the newcomers might not otherwise notice — the beaver dam (and beaver lodge), an eagle perched in a nearby tree, great blue herons, egrets, and even a few sandhill cranes in the distance. On occasion I warned them of aggressive Canada geese ahead!

I must confess that it's only been in the past several years that I was made aware of just how poor the hydrology of the marsh had become. I would like to think that a sustained project to improve the water flows will do much to restore the marsh to a truly healthy system. I applaud the City for seriously considering a 5-year project to undertake this overdue task.

David Bange  
1911 Cass Street.