

Elsen, Nikki

From: Elsen@cityoflacrosse.org
Subject: FW: Tent city in marsh

From: Reynolds, Mitch <reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 1:02 PM
To: Verona Lachman <veronalachmam@gmail.com>; Gallagher, Matthew <Gallagerm@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Re: Tent city in marsh

Ms. Lachman,

Thank you for expressing your concerns about the population of individuals camping in the marsh. Mr. Gallagher does not exercise authority on this issue.

As I have expressed to several of your neighbors, City and County government have begun implementation of a long range plan to end chronic homelessness in our community. Full implementation will take some time but we should begin to see accelerated progress soon. A significant aspect of that plan is to permanently end all encampments. In the meantime, staff from multiple city departments as well as from several private agencies will continue ongoing work to attempt to connect unsheltered individuals with housing and appropriate services. The City is also dedicated to addressing public health and safety concerns for all residents, regardless of their housing status. To that end, please contact emergency services at any point in relation to fire dangers or illegal and threatening activity.

While camping on any city property is not allowable anywhere, the Board of Public Works has the authority to explicitly institute no camping bans on those properties. As I have just informed one of your neighbors, I have agreed to a council member request to place a camping ban on the Board of Public Works agenda if accurate parcel numbers for requested areas are provided by those making the request. That has not been achieved to this point. Once that information is provided and confirmed as accurate, I will add that item to the agenda. I have communicated that to the requesting council members.

Sincerely,

m.

Mitch Reynolds

Mayor

City of La Crosse

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From: Verona Lachman <veronalachmam@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:14 PM

To: Reynolds, Mitch <Reynoldsm@cityoflacrosse.org>; Gallagher, Matthew <Gallagerm@cityoflacrosse.org>

Subject: Tent city in marsh

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Mayor Reynolds and Mr. Gallagher,

I am writing with my concerns as a resident of The Landings Condo Homeowners Association. I have lived at The Landings for 8 years. It has been an amazing place to live with the LaCrosse River and the marsh out my patio doors. I have enjoyed walking the Veterans Trail nearly everyday but things have changed. I no longer feel safe walking the trail d/t the homeless population now living there. In the past month, I have seen more tents arriving and fires burning. I have been very concerned with the fire risk d/t the dry conditions. The marsh has a vast variety of wildlife as well. I feel wildlife is also a concern with the garbage and toxic environment that is present. I'm sure you are both well aware of the massive cleanup that needed to be undertaken in Houska Park and recently in the area across from the International Garden. The issue of camping in the marsh needs to be addressed by both of you. Above I have addressed the risks of fires in the marsh, the wildlife, the toxic environment and most importantly the safety of the residents in our building as well as anyone biking, jogging or walking on the trails through the marsh. I am sure that you both are concerned about the safety risks and these issues need to be addressed in a timely manner. I truly feel that responsible government is needed at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Verona Lachman

The Landings Unit 103