

Craig, Sondra

From: City of La Crosse Notices - No Reply
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 4:34 PM
To: Craig, Sondra; Elsen, Nikki; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Slezniak, 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: Please continue to allow bicycling on the Riverside Park levees

Submitted on: 4/16/2026

Name: Vanessa DaughterofLois

Email Address: 67vdcommunity@gmail.com

Is this related to a legislative agenda item: Yes

Agenda item number: 26-0377

Subject: Please continue to allow bicycling on the Riverside Park levees

Hello,

My name is Vanessa DaughterofLois; I live in the City of La Crosse.

I am concerned to hear that you are considering banning bicycles from the levees along Riverside Park. This route is incredibly important to me. A large part of why I am living in La Crosse is because of the Mississippi River. I have been biking along the levees almost every day since 2019. Biking along the river is a highlight of my morning and afternoon. I go out of my way to be able to bike along the river because it is that important to me. One of my mottos is, "For me, the river is always on the way."

As far as I am aware, there have not been any issues with bicycles being on the levees. When there are pedestrians, I slow down and announce myself. If necessary, I dismount and walk. The levees are perfectly suitable for bicycles and pedestrians to share space.

As an environmentalist, I am deeply concerned for our natural resources. I argue that your claim that bicycles "denigrate the parkland by accelerating damage to natural resources and compromising safety of trail users" misattributes blame. I would argue that bicycle or pedestrian is not the deciding factor as to whether a person denigrates our parklands and natural resources. A bicyclist is just as able to respect and preserve parklands as a pedestrian is to denigrate them.

I promote respecting natural resources, and I promote the safety of park users. I also promote bicycle riding on the Riverside Park levees. You state, "The Common Council finds that, as the use of City parks increases, it is in the public interest to protect and preserve parkland resources while making these resources accessible to the multitude of City park users." You then propose that bicycles should be banned from the Riverside Park Levees. I do not follow how banning park users makes "these resources accessible to the multitude of City park users." As a bicyclist who follows safe bicycling practices, I should be included in the "multitude of City park users." Banning park users does not make the parks accessible.

Given the positives that bicycling brings, La Crosse needs to encourage bicycles, not ban them from some of the most beautiful places of La Crosse. Bicycles are good for our physical and mental health. They are good for our community health. They are good for the health of our streets. They are good for environmental health. Please do not discourage bicycling by banning bicycle riders from being able to enjoy biking along our wonderful river. Please do not take away one of my favourite parts of La Crosse.

Please reconsider the impact of this proposed ordinance and vote no to restricting bicycle riding on the Riverside Park Levees.

Thank you,
-Vanessa DaughterofLois