

**Questions and Comments Received during the Sauk Creek Greenway Corridor Plan Kick-Off Meetings
11/6/23 (in-person) and 11/9/23 (virtual)**

Engagement Comment
Add all the players to the presentation
Admit mistakes and communicate
City's process is confusing, the engagement plan needs to be transparent. Let's give this process a try and share our views.
Email updates. Continue forum for posting comments
Email updates. Continue forums breakout groups
Good job! Jojo
How about text notifications for events and meetings.
I appreciate that there seems to be an increased emphasis on engagement and building a plan together especially for this
It is difficult to tell how all of these city plans interact with each other and how the decisions are being made and in what order.
Regular emails for updates and changes
Summaries of our meetings sent to use, the planners, the mayor, the alder
Want to keep alder engaged
We do appreciate your attempt at this "do over" in starting the re-engagement process.
The process appears siloed. The process should be integrated so that bike plans are not being planned independent of renovation plans. The woods are just not large enough to accommodate the over-engineered plans we've been hearing about
Visual slide of city decision makers
Process is overly complicated - hard to understand which/how many meetings to attend to register our resistance. Where apprehension/frustration build bc the process doesn't seem clear.
Engagement Question
Can you include a slide at the next PIM showing the flow of decision process? Who is sending you? What is City (Eng) chain of
Do all four individual commissions have to sign off on the plan (from slide showing "Approval Process"—commissions were Transportation, Board of Parks, BPW, Common Council)
Do the people planning the engagement process for the West Area Plan know how it is expected to feed into this plan, and will there be this extent of engagement opportunities for that?
It is difficult to tell how all of these city plans interact with each other and how the decisions are being made and in what order.
Is the corridor/greenway plan for water engineering the main plan? Additional clarity on that would help.
What is an "engagement process"?
when is the next public meeting for the west area plan?
Why not take a real vote?
Will the DNR be part of the approval process?
Land Comment
Allow native species to re-establish
Animals should be included in the plan as a fourth circle (along with land, water, people)
Community Input questions: Use the corridor for general walking and for E/W access at Walnut Grove park. Value the greenness of the area and native wildlife. Would like the vegetation to be restored to native species (not invasive burrs) and tree cover maintained; potentially even expanded through the areas that have been converted into neighbors' lawns. Do not want the corridor electrified with any lights, nor have hard/concrete walkways or other surfaces.
Control invasive unwanted species. Good forestry practice.
Given that the natural state of this area was (I assume) oak savannah, and that isn't a feasible option for restoration in this area, and that it has become a cherished canopied area, I'd like to see efforts to keep the canopy as much as possible.
I am hopeful that all will be satisfied by the city's definition of invasive tree species, to help support the desire to remove as few trees as possible in this plan.
I envision a restoration plan for trees and native plants that can be implemented.
I envision that most of the woodland will remain, the wildlife and songbirds will flourish and it will be a great place to enjoy
I like it being a bit of a wild spot with a chance to be in the woods at a location near where I live.
I saw a very old map that showed an aerial shot where you could see the creek and the wood surround it and then beyond that it was farm land. No savannah.

I would like to see as much of the tree canopy maintained as possible which could be enhanced, as I understand it, if rip rap boulders are used to stabilize stream banks (rather than removing the canopy, widening and sloping the banks to grow grass on I would like to see the Greenway stay as natural as possible.
Keep as natural as possible! We need wild space!
Once it is known how to effectively manage the storm water then figure out the best mix of native trees and vegetation for the
Please allocate money for ongoing maintenance of the greenway and waterway
Please only remove trees essential to flood control
Removal of trash trees and invasive species
Removing buckthorn, mulberry, and honeysuckle and replacing with more appropriate understory vegetation will go a long way to improve the ecology of this creek.
Removing only trees necessary to repair the creek
The city's sustainability plan passed by the Common Council has not been implemented effectively across all departments. Integration of plans like this need to carefully consider carbon retention/storage.
The goals should focus on people, water, land and NATIVE WILDLIFE.
The Sauk Creek greenway is an oasis for wildlife in an increasingly urban landscape. This needs to be emphasized.
The term "corridor" brings to mind a sterile, empty hallway as opposed to a lush stretch of mature woodland filled with many native plants and animals. I think "corridor" is a horrible choice of words that sets the wrong tone for the project!
These types of urban habitats need to support as wide a variety of native insects as possible since they form the bottom of most food chains on which most wildlife depends. As example, oak trees--as long as healthy native understory and soil surface are included-- are often considered the best as they support over 350 species of native butterflies and moths.
To stay as wild as possible. No pavement but maybe a hard packed service road.
Trees/plants/wildlife: A plan that values the natural space provided in this greenway and works to restore and maintain it.
Truck damage (rutting?) around Walnut Grove Park doesn't instill confidence in how City will treat rest of the greenway
vegetation considerations: if we grade out and stabilize with vegetation that may mean more tree loss and replacement w/ vegetation that's not necessarily trees
Vital to the effectiveness of the corridor. Will need regular maintenance from City to remain the health of the vegetation in the
Want more discussion on wildlife--if we are going to disturb habitat, we need a lot of consideration
You should seek input on maintenance of the greenway from us (attendees, residents)
You talk about People/Water/Land - what about all the animals that live there? Deer, fox, turkey, sandhill cranes, songbirds, etc,
What priority has been given to trees and forest habitat protection in the planning vis a vis stream engineering, putting in an access road, construction a bike path, street lights, etc. etc. Particularly since the woods are less than 120' in many places.
We are facing the greatest ever environmental threat to our planet, namely anthropogenic climate change. Every decision we make will affect the outcome for our city, state, nation, and planet. In the words of Governor Evers, "climate change is a grave threat to the health, safety, and economic well-being of people and communities throughout the State of Wisconsin." Literally, right in our backyards, lies the Sauk Creek Greenway, a dense urban forest of 5,595 trees across 25.4 acres. The future of this vast urban greenspace is threatened today by City of Madison decision-makers. Based on DNR statistics, Madison tree cover is currently at only 23%, due to extensive impervious surfaces that are the real culprit for urban flooding, and far below the optimal goal of 40% proposed by the City of Madison Urban Forestry Task Force. The message to protect our urban canopy cover in this era of anthropogenic climate change and urban heat island effect is not only my own. This same message can be found in Governor Ever's Executive Order 52, the 2021 Assessment Report of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, the 2020 Dane County Climate Action Plan, and the Madison Sustainability Plan. Urban greenspaces reduce the urban heat island effect and summertime cooling demands, support carbon sequestration to lower atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases, reduce stormwater runoff and erosion during heavy rain events, improve air quality by removing pollutants and capturing particulate matter, and provide shelter and food for wildlife. For example, my son and I collected meteorological data with a
Wildlife considerations: two types of owls (Barred, Great Horned), 4 species of wood peckers. How many City decision makers have walked the gwy in all seasons?
In the past Engineering has often referred to Acer negundo/box elder trees as "invasive." Everyone needs to know that they are indeed native and support as man250 species of native insects, including lots of butterfly and moth larvae. Sometimes they are called weedy as some folks think they are not as handsome as oaks, etc.
Land Question

Based on other renovation projects undertaken, please describe the dredging process. Will mature trees be destroyed just to bring equipment into the streambed?
Budget for project
Do you need to stop 3' behind the City property boundary to avoid having property be labeled an encroachment?
Future Maintenance
How will the Stormwater Vegetation Plan interface w/ Sauk Creek? They seem to be promoting natural areas, plantings; no hard
Team- how many of you have personally walked the greenway or visited Walnut Grove Park or Haen Park?
Up-keep of area? Objectives & process. Budget.
What does "vegetation" mean? Are the trees being replaced by "vegetation"?
What is "high level" input that you want from residents?
People Comment
A place to appreciate the forest-like area. Quiet walking trails.
Enjoying the serene habitat, walking with children and teaching them about the environment and the importance of the ecosystem, walking dogs, meeting neighbors and friends
Folks should be sure to participate in the West area plan meeting. If a bike trail (s) are included in that plan, JoJo and planners will need to include it in the Greenway plan. They cannot say no to it.
I don't know how a path could cross the "stream" without causing damage to any new streambed. Look at the access crossing at the Tree Lane/Randolph entry.
I don't know why the plan has to include more than managing the stormwater (in a tree-friendly way). The City has ignored the area for decades. Why does it have to be improved and made into a corridor?
I envision people walking, running, snow-shoeing/cross country skiing, or meditating/bird watching on existing pathways—not
I envision the area to be a combination of stormwater management and natural area primarily. I don't see it as a
I really don't see that it needs to provide bicycle/pedestrian connections. I would prefer it to be more of a nature hiking/walking area. As "undeveloped" as possible while addresses the water & maintenance concerns
I walk there every day
I would like not to see paved paths, etc in the corridor. Natural paths are great.
I would like people to move freely thru the corridor via Haen Family Park and Walnut Grove Park
I'd like to see the footpaths better maintained to improve footing. Fallen trees frequently block paths and severe erosion has made for some tough trails - lots of roots and rocks.
If a bike path is envisioned how will safety for dog walkers and hikers be kept safe
Keep it natural, there are plenty of paved walkways in the nearby parks.
Natural area
Natural forest area- as natural as possible. Quiet no light! No concrete! Dog walking
Natural Paths. No blacktop or gravel that will wash away. Keep it as natural as possible. Save as many trees as possible.
No bike path
One general comment. You mentioned that people want to cut through the greenway on their bikes because its a long way around. That makes no sense. I ride around here all the time, and there is no need to cut through the greenway to get
People comment that it is a beautiful scenic area with the mix of trees, plants, etc. I envision it keeping the natural beauty. The
People in the corridor will be walking on the trails to enjoy the quiet wooded area as a respite from the busy areas adjacent to the greenway - Mineral Pt road, Beltline etc. The wooded habitat serves as a wonderful sound buffer.
People: preserving this small space for natural use given the transportation options that are readily available along the streets and neighborhoods that surround it.
Provide walking access through corridor
The greenway is a nice respite from the hustle & bustle of the adjacent areas of the city.
The past 4 months have been the hottest on record. We need the tree cover to protect the climate and sequester carbon dioxide. Madison has lost a huge % of it trees the past few years to new bike lanes.
The proposed bike path does not connect to other bikeways, so it is a waste of money
The tree covering is a valuable resource that will permit people to use it more
Walking, quiet, habitat not bike traffic
We envision hikers being given the same or greater consideration with respect to the Sauk Creek Greenway

More signage or paths will go a long way to prevent me from trespassing into backyards on this trail.
I envision folks using this mainly as a natural area to connect and enjoy nature. I struggle to see this as a transportation area or I would see people in the greenway to be for quiet walking and nature watching as undeveloped as it can be. The animals such as owls, foxes, and coyotes help to keep control for rodents and rabbit populations in the area. There are also deer and turkey in
Most of the people I encounter in the greenway are walking alone or with their kids or dogs on 2 miles of informal paths. Neighbors also collaborate in a yearly Earth day cleanup and major efforts in the spring to control invasive garlic mustard. I like the current usage which revolves around relaxation, educational and family outings.
No bike path, maintenance road, not asphalt needs to be incorporated, walking trails - consider a bridge for safer access over the creek- people are crossing daily
I'd like better wayfinding. I get lost in there! I'd like to leash walk my dog there.
Many people throughout Madison love to use the SC gwy. It would be helpful to stop referring to it as the neighborhoods
Feel the bike path is redundant -- Sidewalks/paths already exist
There is plenty of bike route access along Westfield. No need for a separate bike path.
People Question
Can we really make a path thru the SC Greenway ADA compliant? Check the ADA rules for grade.
Do we have to have a bike path?! Worried about difference in 'speed' between people/dogs & bikes Easier access = safety
Do you mean "dog walking" in the "walk" option (as one of the corridor uses)?
Does the Complete Streets program have any influence over the greenway design?
Heat map- make a legend. People didn't intuitively understand the graphic.
How do we get Council to listen to us that we don't want a bike path thru the corridor?
How will walkers be protected from speeding bikes?
In my 35 years here, I haven't heard an outcry for an east-west corridor. We have three parks—walnut grove, Haven and Sauk Creek. I have noticed that residents use the parks that are closer to them. Has there been an outcry for east-west corridors?
Is it a "done deal" if the West Area Plan recommends a bike path in the greenway?
minimal removal. However, general maintenance need -- falling trees, dead wood.
Once the West Area Plan is passed does that dictate how the corridor must be built?
The Sauk Creek Neighborhood community has voted against a bike path through the greenway multiple times over the past 30 years. Why is an unwanted bike coming up again? How are bike paths paid for?
What does "ADA" mean?
What does it mean that the corridor would be made ADA accessible?
What is color key on those maps?
What is the definition of a "path"? What about Path Lighting?
Who wants the bike path?
Why does maintenance access need to be hard surface?
With large financial deficit, where is the only coming from to pay for all of the additional plans, such as bike paths?
Have plans to install impervious surfaces in the wooded and greenspace been abandoned? We hope so!
Any road/access of maintenance can be gravel? Why pave? Better drainage
Plans/Pictures look like bike would be separate from access. True? They wouldn't want trucks on nice path.
Water Comment
A free flowing natural stream within a controlled bank
At area 7, I thought part of the intent was to hold the water for a period of time until it could move and filter downstream. I have lived here for over 35 years, and I have most often seen the "holding area" concept. On large storms, the water has overflowed onto High Point. For the initial years, the city cut the grass a few times during the summer, but it hasn't happened lately. Regular ongoing maintenance is important. One last note, with the slope of the land, I haven't had water leakage even with the 2018 flood. The buffer at the edge towards Old Sauk was intended to hold the water for a period of time and also enlarging the aquifers and having Menards and other businesses build parking lots up to current climate code and enlarging
I believe the preparation of the rise of stormwater is an excellent goal. I expect to see inches of increasing rainfall in the
I was interested to learn the state no longer goes with the flood storage concept.
If the north pond (corner of Old Sauk and High Point) is reduced in size can we be sure the land not used will not be sold for commercial use? If the pond is reduced, I hope that public spaces will be kept as far from residencies as possible.

Instead of thinking of this is a problem, think of this as a positive thing: water, we can't control, but it's the key feature here. Rather than thinking of menards/target etc. as the problem, challenge them to be good citizens/part of the solution. All those who live have great insight from their history living there. what you want is a good natural system that will serve as an example.
It is not a corridor
More water is coming through now (with development)
Natural waterway
Our vision is that the upstream runoff problems from the 'big stores' are addressed first -- (likewise, downstream drainage problems), and that Sauk Creek isn't asked to accommodate and solve these problems
There is always water in parts of the greenway these days. I have not seen it completely dry in years.
Think outside the box. Is there smaller equipment that can be used to maintain log jams
Upstream sources of water are what need to be addressed as far as storm water issues.... before taring up the woods and creek so that we know what needs to be done. Not addressing this is putting the cart before the horse.
Upstream sources of water are what need to be addressed as far as storm water issues.... before tearing up the woods and creek so that we know what needs to be done.
Upstream water we're supposed to ignore bc it happened in the past? If menards doesn't have a past, neither do the neighbors
We need to keep in mind that Sauk Creek alternate from a dry riverbed to a raging torrent during flash floods. The plan needs need to keep this harsh reality in mind.
Mayor has the power to pressure Menards (and other dev) to come up with stormwater solution in their parking lot
Water Question
As far as moving storm water, what type of channel is needed? Can it be narrow and tree lined, for example?
Do you envision a deeper channel for the creek or a wide shallow channel. are you going to be making bridges over the water enlarging the aquifers and having Menards and other businesses build parking lots up to current climate code and enlarging ponds would fix this... Are there any plans to update the aquifers and talk to businesses about improving their affects on the
Every spring some residents' yards flood - why not remove log jams as interim maintenance?
Greenway channel (formerly a "little creek") was overloaded with development - why did Engineering allow to happen?
Have plans to install wide-sloping grass banks on the stream, necessitating extensive removal of trees been abandoned -- for
How will maintain bikers & others be prevented from causing erosion?
I had heard that the aquifers that once managed the water that flows into the creek are way too small now for the amount of pavement around causing rain water runoff and that is the biggest source of the problem. Does this plan address the aquifers?
I'd like to know more about the green infrastructure assessment and how that fits into context of planning.
if there's an area that's having a drainage issue, why would the City consider removing any trees (and replacing with concrete)?
Is there any way to mandate continued maintenance of the greenway following completion of the project?
It would be good to know more about how storm water is managed across the area.
More information on why DNR doesn't want ponds to treat water from greenway
What are the "Construction Limits" ?
What are the size of the planned access roads to the planned channel that will be created for stormwater? Is it as wide as a
What can public do to assist redevelopment stricter standards?
When/Why did the name change to corridor
Who uses access road?
Who will need maintenance access? How often will they access the greenway?
Why is it now called a corridor?
Will the plan include control/reduction of pest insects that require certain types of aquatic habitats: mosquitoes in particular?
Will the stormwater channel on the Greenbrier Village Apartment property upstream from the Sauk Creek Greenway act as a bottleneck to floodwater flows? If so, would that reduce the effectiveness of any improvements in the greenway?
Can the City reengineer the creek path to minimize tree loss?
this area is serving a vital function for our area in handling stormwater. However, I don't want it to be considered in isolation. How does this connect or interact with other areas outside the corridor and are there considerations for private land usage that
Maintenance - are there funds to maintain paths bridges etc. + keeping invasive species under control + removal of downed