

Pheasant Branch Public Comment Period – Comments and Responses

A 30-day Public Comment Period was held for the Pheasant Branch Watershed Study. The Public Comment Period ended September 2, 2022.

The City received a variety of questions and comments from residents. All comments and questions received are shown below with identifying information removed. Where questions were similar, the City copied the question received, then and provided a response below for each. Where a commenter provided multiple questions, responses are listed below each question.

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Sauk Creek Greenway Stabilization

The majority of the comments provided were regarding the Sauk Creek Greenway Project. The comments are found below.

A general response and clarifications about the Sauk Creek Greenway project is listed below, and individual replies are in-line beneath each comment.

General Response:

The Sauk Creek Greenway project was initially proposed to address excessive erosion that occurs in this channel. The eroded materials find their way downstream and impact other waters such as the Wexford Pond and also the Old Sauk Trails Business Park greenway and pond. That water also eventually drains into the Pheasant Branch Conservancy. This channel was never engineered when it was dedicated to the public and needs to be repaired to solve the excessive erosion that occurs.

Being able to stabilize this channel, which was impacted in the 2018 flooding, is important to prevent further damage and tree loss in the areas immediately adjacent to the channel.

There was one public input meeting to date, held in March of 2018, prior to the historic and damaging flooding event that occurred on the west side. After that flood event occurred the project was halted to evaluate the channel from a flood perspective.

The purpose of the Watershed Study was to understand the causes of flooding and what can be done to reduce the flooding. Through the computer modeling, the City learned that using the Sauk Creek

Greenway for extensive stormwater storage (removing trees and creating new ponds within the greenway) will not significantly reduce flooding downstream. As such, that option is listed as “not recommended”.

The recommended solutions resulting from the Watershed Study are high-level, conceptual solutions. They do not include many of the details the comments ask for including tree removal estimates, restoration plans or details on features unrelated to the flood study, such as a multi-use path. Those details are determined during the design process. The City expects to begin engagement in spring 2023 once there is a preliminary design to share. We appreciate your patience.

A fact sheet has been created about the design specifics of the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration Project. You can view it here:

https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/documents/projects/SaukCreekGreenway2022_10_17_FAQ.pdf

1. *With regard to the Sauk Creek stabilization, I strongly support the professional staff of the City and I am disturbed by the scare tactics and misinformation coming out of ad hoc groups of residents.*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

2. *Removing trees from the greenway will not help a situation caused by a small culvert under Old Sauk Road. If water is allowed to move faster through this section, it will only overwhelm the ponds behind High Point church and cause more flooding in the Wexford Park neighborhood. Please consider alternative ways to mitigate flood damage upstream with modern water control techniques.*

Response: The model shows that the greenway needs to be able to convey additional water as part of the overall suite of solutions for the study. The solution proposed at Wexford pond, and the pipe upsizing needed on High Point Road, Old Sauk Road and under the beltline all function together to reach the flood mitigation targets.

3. *There surely is a need to engage in Sauk Creek stabilization in the Sauk Creek Greenway. However it can and should be done carefully: stabilizing the bank and doing some stream bank modifications at specific locations in the stream (not a wholesale channelization). There should be a limited targeted removal of trees aimed at removing current tree snags, trees on the bank that are likely to topple in the near future and limited careful harvest of a modest amount of other trees in the Greenway. The current forested nature of the Greenway is a textbook new generation storm water management practice. A forested canopy will have reduce erosion in the Greenway. If selective cutting is done it will allow natural regeneration. Retention of as many trees as possible consistent with the prime use of stormwater management is necessary and appropriate for the City to undertake to meet climate change and sustainability goals. The forested Greenway has the ancillary benefits of providing important urban wildlife. It is also important to have a conservatively designed maintenance road in the Greenway to permit access to do proper management of the stream and to allow access to do proper silvicultural management of the forest, such as removing trees that become downfalls. Be smart about the reconstruction. The aforementioned conservation and climate changes goal are complimentary to proper storm water management.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Many of these suggestions will be utilized when the greenway is designed and you will have a variety of opportunities to provide feedback on the how these suggestions were implemented in the design.

- 4. We are grateful for the work the city is planning to do in our Pheasant Branch Watershed to prevent floods like this! But we would hate to lose the wooded area right behind our house in this process. This green corridor was one of the main reasons we purchased this home many years ago. We enjoyed countless walks through these wonderful woods since – in all seasons! The woods protect us from the noise from the beltline. Please let us not sacrifice this green oasis during the much-needed flood prevention work. Especially - let us not sacrifice these woods for a bike path, which is not even necessary.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

- 5. We've heard that the proposed "stabilization" will include the removal of more than half of the trees in the Greenway and the addition of a paved bicycle path. The loss of so many trees is contrary to the City's professed desire to keep green areas and protect trees. The loss of trees will increase noise levels from the nearby Beltline. Adding paved bikeway will dramatically change the character of the neighborhood and endanger walkers who frequently use the current unpaved paths/trails. Neighbors who have attended recent meeting (I note that most of the meetings listed above occurred 3 years ago) say that the nature and extent of changes (including the destruction of so many trees) was not made clear and only further investigation revealed that VERY drastic plans are being rushed through despite high levels of neighborhood dissatisfaction over the loss of trees and addition of paved recreational use bike paths -- a tradeoff that is at odds with the city's professed desire to protect nature rather than encourage more development and paving.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

- 6. Need to save as many trees as possible for wildlife, beltline sound barrier, birds, environment/climate, incredible beauty and serenity the woods provides. Too many trees were removed in the two previous upstream projects.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.
The trees that were removed in the upstream projects were highly invasive, non-native, and/or unhealthy. The restoration of these projects utilized native vegetation to promote high-quality habitat.

- 7. There are less destructive solutions than the proposed clearing of many of the trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

- 8. Need to save as many trees as possible for wildlife, beltline sound barrier, birds, environment/climate, incredible beauty and serenity the woods provides. Too many trees were removed in the two previous upstream projects. - Why aren't the undersized underground stormwater drainage culverts being addressed first? Until larger stormwater drainage culverts under*

the beltline and High Point Road are replaced, the bottlenecks will continue and street and Westfield flooding will continue. - Cost!! \$8-12 million dollars and we lose an incredibly valuable, beautiful urban woods forever. - Bikes and walkers do not mix well. Our homes/neighborhood were not designed with a bike path right behind them. The bike path's close proximity to houses will negatively affected neighborhood since it was not in original neighborhood plan.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

Additionally, the Sauk Creek greenway project was previously budgeted due to the erosion issues within the channel, so there is already some funding available to address this part of the suggested Pheasant Branch Watershed Study solutions.

The trees that were removed in the upstream projects were highly invasive, non-native, and/or unhealthy. The restoration of these projects utilized native vegetation to promote high-quality habitat.

9. *I am very concerned about three aspects: the number of trees being cut down in the greenway; the proposal to add a bike path to the greenway; and the proposal to connect the bike path to a bike path in Wexford Park.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

10. *I would like to have a more thoughtful approach with planning so that the maximum number of trees are saved in our area. I would like this urban woodland to remain an urban woodland. This would include saving as many trees as possible and making sure that May path that is created remains as natural as possible.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

11. *Need to save as many trees as possible for wildlife, beltline sound barrier, birds, environment/climate, incredible beauty and serenity the woods provides. Too many trees were removed in the two previous upstream projects. Why aren't the undersized underground stormwater drainage culverts being addressed first? Until larger stormwater drainage culverts under the beltline and High Point Road are replaced, the bottlenecks will continue and street and Westfield flooding will continue. - Cost!! \$8-12 million dollars and we lose an incredibly valuable, beautiful urban woods forever.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

Additionally, the Sauk Creek greenway project was previously budgeted due to the erosion issues within the channel, so there is already funding available to address this part of the suggested Pheasant Branch Watershed Study solutions.

The trees that were removed in the upstream projects were highly invasive, non-native, and/or unhealthy. The restoration of these projects utilized native vegetation to promote high-quality habitat.

12. *1. Minimize tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project. 2. Develop project like Owen Woods Park that spared hundreds of trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

13. *I understand that regarding the Sauk Creek greenway is necessary to prevent further eroding and flooding. However, I am VERY concerned about the wording used in the plan (along the lines of healthy trees will be preserved if possible). This forested area is an urban oasis and is home to a variety of wildlife. I am worried more trees than desired will be removed, leaving us with an open space instead of our cherished wooded walking space.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

14. *Keep the trees*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

15. *In contrast to verbal assurances that existing tree preservation would be given a high priority, report text is disturbingly vague. The density of trees and the resulting canopy make this space a sanctuary for many people. I urge you to explicitly give tree preservation a top priority in this report, and in your follow-up actions. There are model greenway-park areas in Madison and statewide, Owen Park being an example, which show it is possible to achieve water control and a tree-rich environment which welcomes the public to enter. I also urge you to not include a bike path in your solution, as this will only add noise and bike-pedestrian conflict in the narrow space available.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

16. *There is no need to destroy all the trees in the greenway! Leave the greenway alone and find another project that would benefit from the ridiculous amount of money being provided to destroy our greenway.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

17. *Need to save as many trees as possible for wildlife, beltline sound barrier, birds, environment/climate, incredible beauty and serenity the woods provides. Too many trees were removed in the two previous upstream projects. Additionally, I don't see how removing a lot of trees is going to help environmentally as we know that trees help prevent flooding and provide huge benefits to the ecology of an area.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

The trees that were removed in the upstream projects were highly invasive, non-native, and/or unhealthy. The restoration of these projects utilized native vegetation to promote high-quality habitat.

18. *1. To begin with, the Sauk Creek Greenway budget is missing from the report. It also states the \$4M is based on the previous design work. Can you explain what previous design work-the neighbors have not seen a design yet? 2. Can you please update the report with this missing information? 3. The two Federal wetlands are not mentioned in the report. The one that is by my house is not working at all given the sewer road that was installed through it; if it were fixed such that the water could drain properly into it, then it can house/hold any excess water and save some trees by doing so. This would be a cost effective solution. 4. The piping in the channel near my house and the federal wetland is clogged with debris/trees. I believe the piping leads into the wetland or an underground storage tank. This was not mentioned in the report; fixing it would be a cost effective solution to move water to the wetland and/or underground tank nearby. 5. The large freshwater emergent federal wetland near High Point and Old Sauk could be deepened to hold more water, if it is not a jurisdictional wetland and subject to 404 regulations. 6. There was no focus group for the Sauk Creek Greenway since there was no flooding to the houses near the channel in 2018. Therefore, no community input for the Sauk Creek Greenway is in the report. 7. With no flooding in 2018 to houses near the channel, then why should the trees pay the price for root cause upstream and the undersized culverts in High Point Road and the beltline. Until these culverts are addressed/fixd first the flooding problem with not be addressed. 8. Madison is a Green city. It would be horrible if thousands of trees were removed in Sauk Creek without considering other solutions. Thank you for your consideration*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions. Your questions about the wetlands, which are where the existing ponds are, are answered in the FAQ as well. To note, the amount of water flowing down the greenway would fill up the pond area very quickly, even if it was maximized. Therefore it is possible that the pond areas could be a part of the solution, but there is not enough space in the pond areas to make them big enough to prevent doing any work within the greenway.

19. *I am very concerned about the proposed tree removal of the Sauk Creek Greenway project. This is important for wildlife, to keep the noise level from the Beltline down, and it's a very beautiful area. It would be much better if the city developed a project to spare the trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

20. *Any solution should require community engagement in the design of the proposed. This has not happened. Several residents met with the Mayor on this and asked about community engagement, she said the engineering department would hold a public meeting to discuss the project. There is a vast difference between a public meeting and public engagement. A public meeting is where Engineering will come in with their design, let the community vent for two hours, which allows them to say they held public comment, and then they do what they were going to do before the meeting ever took place. Public engagement is where the public is invited to provide feedback into the design process, which is usually a multiple step process, and results in a collaborative design between the needs of the city and the residents being impacted. That is what is needed with this project. Get the Community engaged in helping to design the final project plan for this greenway. For everyone that*

lives in the area, the impact of a clearcutting of the greenway would have negative impacts on most people who live in the area. The trees and ground vegetation in forest ecosystems slow water movement and help stabilize soil. Prevention or reduction of soil erosion helps reduce sedimentation type pollution. Trees reduce the effect of erosive forces using their root systems and foliage. Tree roots begin as thick stems that branch into fine filaments to create a network of flexible tendrils that help stabilize the soil around the tree and hold it in place. The leaves and branches of trees create a flexible screen that reduces the force of wind and rain in the surrounding area. There have been numerous studies published on the negative financial impacts that occur on property values when adjacent or proximal green space is removed. The loss of so many trees would impact our local environment causing higher daily pollution counts and higher temperatures, let alone the impact on the entire city. As an environmentally friendly city, it is counter intuitive to me that they don't take a more surgical approach to the removal of established and healthy trees that remove a substantial amount of carbon from the air. The loss of habitats. The greenspace is home to many species, and they would be displaced or lost. This habitat adds to the uniqueness of this area, and it would be a shame to lose that. Last, you have significant expertise that live in this area, engage them in the process to develop a win-win solution for the city and the residents.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

21. *Please don't remove trees. We need them.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

22. *Tree preservation, concern for property. Again excessive tree removal*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

23. *Very concerned about the number of trees being proposed to be cut down.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

24. *The proposed mitigation is very hard to find in the content provided online. My understanding is that the mitigation plan is to remove most of the trees in the Sauk Creek area. This is a mistake. Studies show that a healthy tree canopy provides numerous environmental benefits, including reductions in stormwater runoff, air pollution and greenhouse gases. Please see this report: https://www.cityofvancouver.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/1125/cityof_vancouver_watershed_health_assessment_finalreport2019.pdf*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

25. *No flooding on Sauk Creek Cir. during 2018 event. Sauk Creek Circle is the lowest lying area along the greenway. Flooding took place in the intersection of Old Sauk Road and High Point Road due to the culverts being covered in debris. The report noted that the Sauk Creek Greenway is one of only a*

few forested areas in the watershed. It should be vital to maintain of the “few forested areas in the watershed.”

Response: The flood model showed flooding without debris clogging the culverts. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions including how tree preservation would be balanced with the other goals of the project.

26. *It is important that we are environmentally friendly in any storm water projects. The Sauk Creek greenway is also important wildlife habitat that helps link other small patches of ponds and parks.*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

27. *Please minimize the removal of trees along this greenway. One solution would be to make the Sauk Creek deeper with minimal widening so more water could be moved during and after storms. Another solution is to clean out and repair retention ponds so they perform their intended function. The city is capable of creating a functional and pleasing greenway, as evidenced by what was done in Owen Park.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions. The City will work to decrease the footprint of the channel as much as possible, while still designing a stable channel, in order to preserve more trees.

28. *I want to comment on plans for the Sauk Creek Greenway Stabilization project (p. 58?). I think there needs to be more consultation with the neighborhoods affected, and also consultation between the Engineering Department and the Parks Department (and any other appropriate city entities) on this project. I have lived in my home for 34 years, and was the second president of the Sauk Creek Neighborhood Association. I have appreciated the joys and benefits of residing in the Sauk Creek Conservancy area, have enjoyed and appreciated its natural beauty and have marveled at the wildlife, plants, etc. that have made the conservancy area their homes over the years. As Neighborhood President, I worked with the Parks Department, the Engineering Department and other city entities to try to ensure that the area retained and enhanced its beauty and attractiveness while working together to address some of the issues that arise in a neighborhood--parks, traffic, noise, soil erosion, etc. At this point, I have attended a few meetings recently to try to gain a better understanding of what is proposed. I have listened to some discussions and reviewed the proposal. There are definitely certain changes needed. At the moment, there are dead trees that are clogging the creek's natural flow, which need to be removed. The creek running through the greenway needs to be dredged and deepened, the slopes need to be stabilized to prevent erosion, the detention ponds need to be dredged, and the storm pipes have to be fixed so that they can become operational. Nonetheless, I have some concerns:*

- *First, a substantial number of trees are likely to be removed. A recent tree inventory showed that there are 5,595 trees in the Greenway. It is estimated that 50% will be removed for the new straightened drainage channel, the graded banks on each side of the drainage channel, and for the maintenance path. (Question: Can trees that are located on banks help prevent further erosion, as well as help reduce carbon emissions that are part of the climate change issue? And does the drainage channel have to be straightened in terms of the speed and power that will occur with a straight line channel versus having some natural bends and flows? Finally, does the maintenance path have to be expanded to include a proposed bicycle path*

that will result in even more trees being removed when bicycle improvements and lanes have been established recently in the areas that surround the Greenway?) It is also estimated from the tree inventory that only 976 of the 5,595 trees are considered to be "quality trees." (There are some "noxious trees"—box elders, buckthorns, et. al. that should be removed.) All in all, there are estimates that by the completion of the project up to 80% of the trees may eventually be removed. If there is any doubt, the area that is behind the Walgreen's store on Mineral Point Road reflects how the Sauk Creek Greenway might look. • Second, there does not appear to be much substantive discussion or coordination between the City Engineering Department and the Parks Department, or between the city departments and the neighborhoods on the project. The Engineering Department might send a postcard alerting you to some work in the area and the opportunity to express concerns. However, the project is generally ready to go. A few decades ago, we met with the Engineering Department when the detention area, berm, storm pipes and service path near the Old Sauk Road/High Point intersection were in the final planning stages before construction. The engineer assured us our concerns regarding the oak trees, water flows, storm pipe effectiveness, etc. would be taken care of. I appreciate his commitment and sincerity. However, in the first week, the contractors came in and immediately removed two giant oak trees, and the sizes of the storm pipes subsequently were not large enough to handle the water flow effectively. I might add that the City Engineering Department has recently requested the authority to allow staff to remove or prune trees in city greenways when necessary. Based on past experience, these decisions are likely to be made on the spot or with either token or no neighborhood input. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and a long-term neighborhood perspective. Thank you.

Response: Thank you for your comments. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to many of the questions you asked. A few additional things to note—there is no estimate that 50% of the trees will be removed. Additionally, the channel will not be straightened. While the exact shape of the channel is unknown (depth and width), it will primarily be located along the same alignment as the current channel. This will reduce the amount of tree removals needed.

29. Page 58 provided little information on the Sauk Creek Greenway project, so specific comments are very difficult. It seems like you are just checking off the box that says you allowed community input, but we have no plans to respond to. What are the plans for the broken retaining pond behind St Lawrence Circle? Do you plan to dredge the Highpoint Rd/Old Sauk retaining pond? It seems very shallow. With 80% of trees in the inventory deemed poor quality, will we have many trees left after the large machinery leaves? If you lived along these woods, you'd understand why we are so passionate to want to save it so much!! Mature trees are magnificent and do so much for us. Just look at the grass and see where it is brown and where it is still lush green under the trees. Two upstream projects, and Nautilus Point Park removed too many trees and unfortunately you have lost the communities' trust. This beautiful, urban woods needs to be respected and preserved as best as possible. We do not support a bike path in this greenway. We are concerned the bike federation has so much power and citizens do not. That is not democracy, that is lobbying. I have neighbors trying to decide if they should sell and move out of Madison, before they have a bike trail outside their bathroom windows, much less the increased tax assessments. Why not work with upstream commercial properties (who caused the problem) to add more retaining ponds, ditches, Restorative Stormwater Conveyance systems, etc. That option seems to be tossed aside. Better PR is needed to provide more information for the community. People who feel helpless/unheard get anxious and this has caused divisions and mistrust in Madison government that did not need to occur. Patting us on the head and saying it's all going to be fine, "We are engineering experts", then seeing upstream

projects completed that took out so many trees, has caused the community to be very upset. Please create a great tree saving plan and save the Sauk Creek trees/wildlife and climate. Each of these projects, that cut down mature trees, does affect climate and heat zones, one tree at a time. This woods is a blessing to so many, across all socio-economic classes. The community needs more calm, safe areas to decompress and commune with nature that prairies do not provide. Please tell us what you are planning and help us understand why. Thank you.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions. The comment period of the Pheasant Branch Watershed Study Draft Final Report was intended to allow community input on the Sauk Creek Greenway as a conceptual solution in relation to the watershed study solutions—that the greenway will need to accommodate greater flows of stormwater as flooding is mitigated in other areas of the watershed. There will be specific engagement on the Sauk Creek greenway project once the project is re-started. At that point, the City would provide a more detailed design for the community to provide feedback on. Additionally, at that point the City would be able to have an estimate of how many trees may be removed based on the initial design as well as general information about the restoration goals and long-term maintenance of the greenway. The City anticipates that there will be variety of opportunities for residents to provide feedback, and that this process would last the majority of 2023.

All upstream development was constructed in accord with the requirements in place at the time of development (as was the development along the channel). Stormwater requirements have increased significantly since the first ordinance that was put in place in 1983. Functionally, lands east of the channel had no stormwater management requirements, and lands west of the channel to the beltline had to meet the very first iteration of stormwater requirements. Development of lands west of the beltline have met ever more stringent requirements as the lands move west. In regards to solutions on upstream lands, the City does not have the ability to mandate that upstream commercial properties fix downstream flooding issues. However, when properties re-develop, additional redevelopment requirements are in place. Madison is one of only two (2) municipalities with redevelopment requirements in the State. For information about future development and redevelopment of commercial properties, please see the [Watershed Study Learning Hub](#) and view the “New Development/Re-Development Flood Prevention” topic or visit the Development Services Center and view the “[Storm Water Management](#)” topic.

30. *Minimize tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project Develop this project like Owen Woods Park that spared hundreds of trees. Minimize tree removal.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

31. *I'm sad to hear that part of the forest will be destroyed for a bike path that is not needed. I'm a HUGE road and mountain cyclist and really do not see the value in adding a 0.5 mile stretch of path that doesn't connect up with any other major bike paths. There are owls in the woods, it's beautiful, a path is not needed.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

32. *Minimize tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project Develop this project like Owen Woods Park that spared hundreds of trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

33. *Please minimize tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway project and develop this like the Owen Woods Park project that spared hundreds of trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

34. *Minimize tree removal in the Sauk creek Greenway Project*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

35. *Sauk Creek Greenway Reconstruction, maximize tree retention. Native tree cover in place over time has produced "natural habitat" for wildlife including mammals, birds, salamanders and the like as well as insects and soil inhabitants. Given that destruction of some habitat is necessary to reshape and stabilize the waterway, I would like to see native trees outside the bank stabilization zone retained. If trees need to be destroyed to allow equipment access it would be advisable to prioritize native trees for retention and invasives like locust and buckthorn removed. In addition, the notion of allowing bike riders in close proximity to/on walking trails is dangerous to both types of users.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

36. *Minimize tree removal and destruction of natural habitats, look at other methods to control runoff with native grass species in areas other than just the greenway, we have a river running thru some of the houses, this all ends up multiplying the impact on the greenway.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions. Additionally, you can find more information on Green Infrastructure and Watershed Studies at please see the [Watershed Study Learning Hub](#) and view the "Green Infrastructure/Water Quality/Ecological Information" topic.

37. *The lack of a plan, or perhaps lack of transparency, is concerning. Can the woods be preserved? If preservation is not a priority, why isn't it?*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions. The City will share details about the design once there is something for the community to provide feedback on. Preservation of the woods is a priority to the City.

38. *Please minimize the tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project. I understand this is possible based on other projects like the Owen Woods Park project that spared hundreds of trees. I have seen*

many species of birds, some of which I believe to be rare in this area. We would like to preserve this habitat as much as possible. Please do not install a bike path in this greenway as it would substantially impact the habitat not to mention the nearby residents.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

39. *Please minimize the tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project. I understand this is possible based on other projects like the Owen Woods Park project that spared hundreds of trees. I have seen many species of birds, some of which I believe to be rare in this area. We would like to preserve this habitat as much as possible. Please do not install a bike path in this greenway as it would substantially impact the habitat not to mention the nearby residents.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

40. *Please minimize the tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project. I understand this is possible based on other projects like the Owen Woods Park project that spared hundreds of trees. I have seen many species of birds, including wild turkeys and the Yellow-throated Warbler (currently listed as endangered in Wisconsin). We would like to preserve this habitat as much as possible. Please do not install a bike path in this greenway as it would substantially impact the habitat not to mention the nearby residents.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

41. *Please minimize the tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project. I understand this is possible based on other projects like the Owen Woods Park project that spared hundreds of trees. I have seen many species of birds, including wild turkeys and the Yellow-throated Warbler (currently listed as endangered in Wisconsin). We would like to preserve this habitat as much as possible. Please do not install a bike path in this greenway as it would substantially impact the habitat not to mention the nearby residents.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

42. *I am concerned that this project may remove an unnecessary amount of trees on the Sauk Creek. If the city proposes to take out as many as it did for the southern length (behind Walgreens on Mineral point) then I oppose this approach. The amount of trees removed was excessive and it seemed entirely possible to leave twice as many while still having access to the stream for construction purposes. The greenway is very important to me and many others in the area. We would hate to see the canopy removed. Please consider this when making decisions about tree removals.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

43. *I am very concerned with human impact on climate and nature. It is highly preferable to minimize tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project, and to have a strong plan for sparing trees and replanting in a way that preserves the environment. Thank you for your consideration.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

44. *I object to the removal of non-invasive trees and distraction of this creek forest. It is important to wildlife and conservation of natural habitats. Please work to preserve as much of this sanctuary as possible. Work with neighbors and parks district to assure the character of this space is protected.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

45. *A mountain biking loop will not correct any ongoing issues, Thin out the trees obviously here and everywhere else they have been neglected. Too residential for proposed mountain biking loop! Already too much congestion and not enough parking, just like the rest of Madison. Dog park will be a waste of time w/ excess traffic on a residential street.*

Response: The single track project is proposed on Park land and is not related to the watershed study.

46. *Clearly the Sauk Creek Greenway needs to be cleared of debris, including fallen trees, original farm wind mill fan, etc. That debris has caused erosion on the bank as water from larger storms rerouting. However, the houses on the Tamarack Community side of the creek that experienced damage from the 2018, 11" rain revied water from poor water control and plugged sewers on Tamarack Property, not the condition of nor the capacity of Sauk Creek. That night Sauk Creek carried all the water collected from the drainage south of Tree Lane and Tamarack without flooding Tamarack. All of the neighbors bordering this end are concerned about the planned removal of trees and other vegetation that provides both sound and visual screening for our neighborhoods. I and my neighbors understand that invasive plant removal is long overdue, but we have several concerns with the report: 1. Unnecessary removal of many mature trees not obstructing water flow in the Creek. 2. No plan to replace/replant trees and understory in order to replace the current sound+visual screen trees and vegetation provide. 3. A lack of plan for follow up maintenance of Sauk Creek. 4. No mention of the purpose/need for adding a bike trail along the Creek.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

47. *We want you to spare trees and maximize greenery and healthy ground cover. The woods are a source of enjoyment for families, a safe place for animals, and necessary for our ecosystem. We don't want it destroyed.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

48. *Minimize tree removal in the Sauk Creek Greenway Project & Develop project like Owen Woods Park that spared hundreds of trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

49. *I am writing this letter in opposition to the City of Madison's current reconstruction plan for the Sauk Creek Greenway, and instead encourage the development of a more ecologically friendly approach to improve the stormwater situation at the Sauk Creek Waterway. Such an ecologically responsible plan should not significantly disrupt the greenway's rich diversity in ecological habitats (southern hardwood forest, prairie/savannah, wet prairie, floodplain forest, pine plantation, and black locust), abundant population of 5,595 trees across 25.4 acres, wildflower diversity across its wet prairies, and winter habitat for wildlife across its pine plantations. My family lives at 317 Sauk Creek Drive. I would like to take this time to explain my qualifications to justify my viewpoint. I am the Director and Senior Scientist of the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I have worked for 20 years. I am a member of the Climate Working Group of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI). I hold a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from the University at Albany. To clarify, I am not writing this letter to express the views of UW-Madison or WICCI but from my own perspective, given my vast expertise in regional climate change and its impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. According to Governor Evers' Executive Order #52 (<https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/EO/EO052-ClimateChange.pdf>), "climate change is a grave threat to the health, safety, and economic well-being of people and communities throughout the State of Wisconsin." The executive order established the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, with the charge to "assess the best-available scientific research from both state and national sources to evaluate the impacts of climate change on the state's citizens and environment," to "work with the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College System, other state educational institutions, and Wisconsin's business community," and to "work with the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) and the University of Wisconsin Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies to update and re-issue the WICCI's 2011 report, 'Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation.'" This effort led to the "2021 Assessment Report: Wisconsin's Changing Climate." The 2021 WICCI report recommends the following actions: (1) Wisconsin should "maintain and expand forest cover and urban tree canopy, targeting lands that offer the greatest potential for continued carbon storage and sequestration." (2) Wisconsin should "improve resilience to increasing precipitation and flood events that cause nutrient and sediment runoff by avoiding...natural vegetation conversion to...urban development." (3) Wisconsin should "preserve and protect large tracts of land for wildlife, implement habitat management changes to provide food and cover for wildlife that align with expected future climate conditions..." (4) "Large canopy trees can play a big role in helping urban areas become more resilient to climate change. A diverse tree canopy, both in terms of age and species type, can not only make cities more resilient as the climate changes, but can also cool urban landscapes and capture and slow runoff during extreme rain events." (5) "Forests...provide a unique opportunity to address climate change because they can both reduce concentrations of greenhouse gases while simultaneously providing essential social, environmental, and economic benefits. Forests are a natural carbon sink that absorb 10-15 percent of our nation's greenhouse gases." At the county level, the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change issued the "2020 Dane County Climate Action Plan: Today's Opportunity for a Better Tomorrow" (<https://daneclimateaction.org/climate-action-plan#Download%20Here>). Within the sector of forestry, the report focuses on strategies to "keep forests as forests", "create new forests through reforestation and afforestation", "manage existing forests", "protect, maintain, and increase urban forests", and "increase the use of forest products". The report states that: (1) "Dane County will encourage land use planning that maintains existing forest canopy..." (2) The "Office of Energy & Climate Change will work with*

cities and villages in Dane County to increase public investments in restoring, maintaining, and expanding urban forests, particularly to address insect and disease impacts.” At the City of Madison level, “The Madison Sustainability Plan: Fostering Environmental, Economic and Social Resilience” report urges city planners to: (1) “minimize loss of tree cover and green space in public rights of way” (2) “promote, expand and replace tree canopy trees whenever possible and encourage landowner collaboration on strengthening tree canopy and woodlands” (3) “create and adopt strategies and requirements to minimize urban heat islands, optimize carbon sequestration and promote water retention (e.g., green roof, bio swales, urban tree canopy, vegetative parking)” To summarize, the environmental marching orders from the state, county, and city are clear that urban green spaces, such as the Sauk Creek Woods, should be protected in order to minimize the urban heat island effect, support carbon sequestration and lower concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases, reduce runoff from increased intensity precipitation events, foster biodiversity, and continue to provide shelter and food to wildlife. I urge the City of Madison to develop an alternative plan to clean up the Sauk Creek Greenway that does not involve significant loss of trees and natural habitats.

Response: The City values urban forests as a resource both for climate resiliency as well as for habitat and biodiversity. We will be working to mitigate the impact to the woods while balancing the stormwater conveyance needs within the channel. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

50. *Minimize tree removal in Sauk Creek Greenway Project. Do tree removal like Owen Woods that saved many trees.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

51. *Our duty to protect of the environment and the mayor's plans for more trees in the city mandate that a critical mass of the trees in the Sauk Creek Greenway remain. The creek needs repair. Many invasive species need to be removed. However, the city engineering plans for Sauk Creek Greenway Stabilization that call for excessive widening of the creek, erosion controlled by grasses on the banks rather than trees, more retention ponds in the greenway, a bike trail, and no attention for the current quality trees along the banks that need help to survive erosion challenges are great concerns. We cannot thoughtlessly remove 4000 trees (the number of non-quality trees from your study) and allow city engineering's unneeded destruction of trees, wildlife and trails during its scorch-the-earth practices of bulldozing greenways to get equipment into construction areas. Our needs to stop the ravages of climate change and adhere to the mayor's and the neighbors' mandates to protect the environment need to guide this project. I do not see any indication that the city engineers are hearing that concern. Communication with the engineers has been poor.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

52. *Our duty to protect of the environment and the mayor's plans for more trees in the city mandate that a critical mass of the trees in the Sauk Creek Greenway remain. The creek needs repair. Many invasive species need to be removed. However, the city engineering plans for Sauk Creek Greenway Stabilization that call for excessive widening of the creek, erosion controlled by grasses on the banks*

rather than trees, more retention ponds in the greenway, a bike trail, and no attention for the current quality trees along the banks that need help to survive erosion challenges are great concerns. We cannot thoughtlessly remove 4000 trees (the number of non-quality trees from your study) and allow city engineering's unneeded destruction of trees, wildlife and trails during its scorch-the-earth practices of bulldozing greenways to get equipment into construction areas. Our needs to stop the ravages of climate change and adhere to the mayor's and the neighbors' mandates to protect the environment need to guide this project. I do not see any indication that the city engineers are hearing that concern. Communication with the engineers has been poor.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

Report Figures

53. *First - there is a tremendous amount of very good work in this report, but it is too difficult to read. The text refers to diagrams where it is impossible to decipher where on the map I am located or even nearby street names. Would it be possible to link to a map that can be enlarged with detail of street names? Thanks.*

Response: Current online mapping showing the existing inundation for the 1% chance event can be found here:

<https://cityofmadison.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=939cd73b0b594a0aa2d926a6b0e41f40>

Status

54. *What is the real status of the project?*

Response: The project schedule is posted on the project website and in the Public Information Presentations. The next step is to finalize the Watershed Study Report and bring it before the Board of Park Commissioners and Board of Public Works for final approvals.

Commenter 55

55.

1. *The proposed culvert size increase on Westfield Road north of the intersection with Tree Lane, i.e., the location upstream of the TT swale that flows west into the Sauk Creek Greenway.*

Response: The current culvert at this location does not meet the City's target of passing the 1% chance event without road overtopping. The recommended solution is to increase the size of the culvert to meet the City's target.

2. *Any planned stormwater improvements planned for Tree Lane from Westfield west to Randolph Drive.*

Response: A local sewer project is recommended in this location. It would be constructed when the street is reconstructed.

3. *What impacts would the any project mentioned in 2 have on the flooding problems occurring on Tamarack property south of Tree Lane that result from storm and groundwater flowing from the cemetery on to Tamarack property?*

Response: The proposed storm sewer and inlets would intercept some of the water flowing overland from the cemetery.

4. *What impact would the changes proposed in the study have on the flooding condition that occurs at the intersection of Tree Lane and Randolph Drive?*

Response: The proposed storm sewer and inlets should reduce flooding at this intersection.

5. *Can a channel be completed from the aforementioned Randolph/Tree Lane intersection directly north into the Sauk Creek Greenway?*

Response: A channel in this location is not proposed at this time. The model shows we can reach our flood targets by upsizing the storm sewer without the additional cost of a channel.

6. *What is proposed to be done to reduce stormwater flow down the Randolph Drive hill southward from Mineral Point Road to the intersection with Tree Lane and into the Sauk Creek Greenway?*

Response: A local sewer project is recommended for this section. It would be constructed when the street is reconstructed.

7. *Is the City looking to properly locate the stormwater inlet currently on the cemetery property south of Tamarack property adjacent to Randolph Drive? It does not intercept any significant stormwater flowing west on the cemetery property to Randolph Drive?*

Response: This is a local drainage issue. The inlet is a private inlet. The City will require that additional measures will be taken the next time a permit is required.

8. *What will the impact be on the Sauk Creek Greenway north of Tree Lane by the increase in culvert size under Tree Lane adjacent to Haen Park?*

Response: Flow will be increased to Sauk Creek Greenway. Sauk Creek is part of the City stormwater conveyance system, therefore, this is where stormwater is designed to go.

9. *A general discussion on the current Engineering Division plans regarding the changes to the Sauk Creek Greenway north of Tree Lane bordering Tamarack Trails and adjacent neighborhoods to the north including methods being looked at for stabilizing Sauk Creek, impact on the forest in the Greenway, timeframe for proposing a conceptual plan, proposed public input process, current status of the budget for the project including what is being proposed in the City's 2023 budget.*

Response: Please view the general information above, as well as the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

10. *What major new major flood retention proposals are being proposed by the City west of the Beltline on the large existing commercial properties (Menards/Target) to reduce downstream flooding of properties resulting from those large impervious properties?*

Response: No new regional detention on existing developed lands is proposed. New development will be required to comply with the stormwater retention requirements of the City's stormwater ordinance, which now includes requirements to account for existing unintended detention. For additional information about future development and redevelopment of commercial properties, please see the [Watershed Study Learning Hub](#) and view the "New Development/Re-Development Flood Prevention" topic or visit the Development Services Center and view the "[Storm Water Management](#)" topic.

Commenter 56

56. *Thank you for your hard work on the Watershed projects. This is a very complex issue. The Pheasant Branch Watershed survey did not have much room for public comments so I am sending you my questions/comments regarding the project in this email. How can we provide meaningful public comments when there is no Project Plan for the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration in the August 1, 2022, 393 page, Pheasant Branch Watershed Study? Page 58. One page only. "The project information used in this study is planning level information; the design project will use design-level information."*

Response: The recommended solutions included in the watershed study report are high-level, conceptual solutions to understand what can be done to meet the City's flood targets and reduce flooding. They are not design-level solutions. The public comment period is for the watershed study approach, processes, and methodology. Robust public input for each recommended solution will occur during the design of each project when there are more specific details to share with the public based on design-level information.

1. *Will the Sauk Creek Greenway project follow regenerative stormwater conveyance practices, that includes trees in their projects plans to stabilize the banks?*

Response: A Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance channel is not feasible in this location. Per the [Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance System design practices](#), the longitudinal slope needs to be greater than it is in Sauk Creek, and the drainage area to the practice should be less than 50 acres. While the design details are not known for Sauk Creek, the design would consider what natural features could be sustainably included into the system.

2. *It appears Greenbriar Apartments owns the section of land between the already completed SC Greenway segment and the 1 mile proposed project (see attached picture below, Red roofed apartments bottom right).*

What is the cost to taxpayers and plan for that section of the creek which appears to be on private property?

Response: There are currently no plans to improve this section as it is not owned by the City.

3. *How will the contracted loggers accomplish selective forestry on this project when they have not on previous Watershed projects? (See before and after pictures below)
Is it a conflict of interest for contacted loggers to determine which trees to remove? Will the “Do Not Cut” trees be marked before the loggers arrive?*

Response: The City contracts the construction of the greenway, and the contractors hire a tree removal company to remove the trees called out on the plans. When and how trees are marked prior to the removals depends on how each contract is written, which is done at the end of the design and outreach process, so this detail is not yet figured out for this project. It is important to note that on projects with high quality trees, the City charges damages for any trees that are removed that were not called out on the plans and critical trees are protected with construction fence to provide a visual to keep contractors away from the tree. The way the contracts are written, there is no incentive for the Contractors to remove any trees that are not specifically called to be removed on the plans.

4. *What will be the total loss of carbon credits when the mature trees are removed? Along with the trees that were removed in previous projects, and proposed projects throughout the city?
How will the loss of trees affect bats, birds, deer, other wildlife, and sound barrier from the Beltline noise?*

Response: Calculation of carbon credits is outside the scope of the watershed study and was not completed. Noise impacts will vary with the season due to leaf cover and the source of noise that you are tracking (neighbor’s lawn mower, High Point Road, or the Beltline. These potential impacts are not part of the watershed study. The concerns regarding the impact from loss of trees will be reviewed during the design of the project. Please see the [Ecological Restoration in Stormwater Ponds and Greenways Storymap](#) for more information on the impact of restoration projects on habitat.

5. *Why hasn’t there been any maintenance of the creek channel or retention ponds in the past?
Many neighbors have put on their own waders and removed fallen limbs and dams on the creek over the years that city crews never cleared out. It would have been a much less expensive option.*

Even without any maintenance of the creek, in the 2018 deluge, there were no houses flooded from rising creek water along the creek; no Sauk Creek Neighborhood focus groups (Pg 279).

Response: The City has completed routine maintenance to clean the sanitary sewer since the sanitary maintenance path was built in the early 2010’s. However, the sanitary sewer maintenance path does not allow access to the majority of the channel. Maintenance access would be included as part of the design to stabilize, both for the contractor to have access to the channel to improve it, as well as the City to be able to maintain it.

6. *What exactly are the plans for reconstructing/dredging the “broken” retention pond in Sauk Creek Greenway, by Sauk Creek Dr and St. Lawrence? It is shown as outside the Greenway Project Area on the Project Maps. Although it has been “broken” for over 15 years, it is on all of the*

watershed maps as a retention pond. It does not collect any street water. We don't hear anything about the plans for this valuable non-functioning retention pond. It could be incorporated into a Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance system.

Response: Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

7. Who is funding the proposed single track bike path that the neighborhood does not feel is a good fit in this location? We hear that the Bike Federation is pushing hard for these paths that the neighborhood community does not support.

The neighborhood has repeatedly suggested the other proposed Walnut Grove Park mountain bike trail for the schools' Mountain Bike teams be located in Mineral Point Park providing easy access for Vel Phillips Memorial High School/Jefferson Middle School, and nearby John Muir and Stevenson Elementary School students and their families. It would really increase use of that park. With adequate parking, rolling hills, and other amenities.

Response: The bike path and single track pike path is outside the scope of the watershed study. That project is being explored through the Parks Division.

8. The \$4million dollar budget for this one project seems to be the same since 2018. Is that really an accurate budget in 2022? Page 58 The Sauk Creek Greenway was budgeted for reconstruction prior to the August 2018 flood event and prior to the watershed study.

Response: Please view the Sauk Creek Greenway Restoration FAQ where we have aggregated responses to these commonly asked questions.

9. The answer to the incredibly undersized, poorly planned Menard/Pet Smart area and Target Mall area retention ponds, seems to be to just push all of the water towards Sauk Creek faster. With new building being planned SW of Menards, these commercial areas will still continue to have flooding with high rain storm events.

Response: All upstream development was and is constructed in accord with the requirements in place at the time of development (as was the development along the channel). Storm water requirements have increased significantly since the first ordinance that was put in place in 1983. Functionally, lands East of the channel had no stormwater management requirements, and lands West of the channel to the beltline had to meet the very first iteration of stormwater requirements. Development of lands West of the beltline have met ever more stringent requirements as the lands move west. In regards to solutions on upstream lands, the City does not have the ability to mandate that upstream commercial properties fix downstream flooding issues. However, when properties re-develop, additional redevelopment requirements are in place. Madison is one of only two (2) municipalities with redevelopment requirements in the State. Currently, New Development is required to comply with the City's stormwater ordinance, including detention up to the 200-yr storm event and infiltration practices. For more information, please see the [Watershed Study Learning Hub](#) and view the "New Development/Re-Development Flood Prevention" topic or visit the Development Services Center and view the "[Storm Water Management](#)" topic

10. From the Survey pg 46: *"Solution Caution - If this solution (Draining Target pond under Beltline into Sauk Creek) could be implemented, it would send stormwater downstream faster. Computer modeling indicates the sections of the Sauk Creek Greenway just downstream of the Beltline culverts do not have capacity for the additional stormwater that would come from this solution. The flooding experienced in the Target Area would be moved downstream to the properties adjacent to the upstream sections of the Sauk Creek Greenway. Therefore, if aspects of this solution are to be implemented, the design should account for the capacity of the downstream Sauk Creek Greenway sections. Any back of the creek would cause more flooding in residential areas.*

Page 49 "Reason for Exclusion - The sections of Sauk Creek Greenway just downstream of the beltline and Target Area Pond are not large enough to convey the additional capacity from the improvement."

Response: Extensive computer modeling evaluations were conducted to understand the most effective solutions to relieve the flooding on Mineral Point Road for purposes of emergency vehicle passability and relieve the flooding in the Target Area. Alternatives include detaining 100 percent of the stormwater from undeveloped areas, increasing the size of the outlet of the Target Area pond, and rerouting some of the stormwater from the Target Area Pond. Computer modeling indicates the most effective solution for this area is the Target Area Relief Sewer.

11. Page 58 3. Menards Parking Lot – *Flooding approximately 1 to 2 feet deep a. Solutions that Benefit Area - The local conveyance system (series of culverts and channels) along Commerce Drive was replaced with a box culvert for the full length. This greatly reduces the inefficiencies in the system. b. Flood Reductions Observed - The ponding in the Menards parking lot is **reduced. (Not eliminated)***

These commercial areas need larger ponds!! Menard' pond is basically non-existent. Dredging and deforesting Sauk Creek is not the answer!

Response: Construction of additional retention in the Target/Menards are required land acquisition of existing developed land. At this time, the City is not evaluating solutions that require this type of land acquisition. All upstream development was constructed in accord with the requirements in place at the time of development (as was the development along the channel). Storm water requirements have increased significantly since the first ordinance that was put in place in 1983. Functionally, lands East of the channel had no stormwater management requirements, and lands West of the channel to the beltline had to meet the very first iteration of stormwater requirements. Development of lands West of the beltline have met ever more stringent requirements as the lands move west. In regards to solutions on upstream lands, the City does not have the ability to mandate that upstream commercial properties fix downstream flooding issues. However, when properties re-develop, additional redevelopment requirements are in place. Madison is one of only two (2) municipalities with redevelopment requirements in the State.

12. *Focus Groups: Page 279: There was no focus group for Sauk Creek Neighborhood, because here was no flooding along Sauk Creek.*

Response: Focus groups were held in the neighborhoods that experienced the most devastating flooding to receive information about the flooding that was experienced to help build a useful computer model.