

NORTHSIDE ENVIRONMENT

Surprised neighbor finds Cherokee Marsh boardwalk removed

Northsiders and park users upset about City action

By Bill Lorge

Cherokee Park Neighborhood Association

I was shocked this spring when I took my family on a visit to the nearby Cherokee Marsh nature trail and saw that the very popular boardwalk had been removed. The boardwalk was our favorite destination, as it was for many.

The sign posted there by the City of Madison said it was because of the costs to maintain the boardwalk. I met with Alderman Paul Van Rooy, whose district includes the marsh, and Parks Division manager Russ Hefty to discuss this.

Over the winter, when the ground was still frozen, Hefty's crew went into the nature preserve with trucks and chainsaws, and in a few hours, they sawed the posts at the base of the boardwalk and then sawed the boardwalk into sections and tossed those on trucks and took it away.

Safety and environment were mentioned as other possible reasons for the boardwalk's removal, but there were no reported injuries, and environmen-

tal experts have stated that there are no environmental concerns with the boardwalk.

Hefty said that it would cost \$250,000 to replace the boardwalk, because now it would have to be constructed by engineers.

Since the City took it out in a day, without any public input, with no hearings, and no notices, we the people who enjoy the boardwalk, need to step up and be heard.

Alderman Van Rooy agrees that the boardwalk should be replaced. The Mayor needs to hear from us too. Our Cherokee Park Neighborhood Association has voted to support a full and complete replacement of the Boardwalk. The way it was removed was wrong, but to get it back, we need to be organized, informed and active.

I have fond memories of a summer program when I was in middle school. We went to Cherokee Marsh and built a boardwalk. I got to enjoy working on it with my dad and I got to work outdoors in that beautiful area.

-- Heidi Umberger Dewsnap (Lifelong resident, born on Northside 34 years ago)

I asked our Alderman to please talk to the Mayor and see if they can start immediately to replace the boardwalk, and he is very supportive, but we know that \$250,000 is a lot of money.

So, what do you say? Anyone here wanna help foot the bill? Maybe they can name it the Oscar Mayer Boardwalk?

Anyone want to get more active and help organize fundraising efforts? I am not confident

TRAIL CLOSED

PUBLIC ACCESS PROHIBITED BEYOND THIS POINT.

WE ARE CURRENTLY REDESIGNING THE TRAIL SYSTEM TO AVOID THIS SENSITIVE AREA. THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE BOARDWALK TRAVERSES AN AREA WHERE PEAT SOILS ARE AT LEAST 10 FEET THICK. THE WOOD POSTS THAT CURRENTLY SUPPORT THE BOARDWALK ARE "FLOATING" IN THIS PEAT. FROST ACTION MOVES THE POSTS UP AND DOWN CREATING THE CURRENT ROLLER COASTER EFFECT. IT WOULD BE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE TO PUT IN PILINGS TO SUPPORT NEW CONSTRUCTION. THEREFORE WE ARE PLANNING TO REROUTE THE BOARDWALK TO AVOID THE AREA WHERE THE PEAT SOILS ARE EXTREMELY DEEP.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT RUSS HEFTY @ 267-4918.

Summer Energy Saving Tips From MG&E

Use shades and drapes to block out the sun during the day

Use a whole house fan, room fans or ceiling fans instead of an air conditioner

Turn off air conditioner when no one is home

Unplug second refrigerator if not needed and save \$4 to \$10 per month

Turn off appliances including computers and televisions when not in use

This announcement appears in Hmong courtesy of a grant Kennedy Heights Community Center received from MG&E to print its newsletter.

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Tua kiv cua txias yog tsis muaj neeg nyob hauv tsev

Tsis txhob ntsia lwim lub tub yeas ntiv yog hais tias tsis siv thiaj txuag tau li \$5 txog \$10 txhua lub hlis

Muab tej khoom siv hluav taws xob xws li computers, thiab television tua kom tas yog tsis siv

that we will see a new boardwalk anytime soon, nor that it may even be back the same way we knew it, along the water, but I do know that this may be a long tough battle.

The City has a plan to just allow people to circle in a bit near the look-out tower, which, if changed later, will also increase the costs, so we need to organize and move fast, this summer yet.

Right now the City does not support replacing the entire 1,500-foot boardwalk along the water. Our job is to change that. So, what do you think? If you would like to stay updated on this, and help us get the Boardwalk back, please contact me at 698-0300 or BillLorge@aol.com.

NORTHSIDE NEWS

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