

Riverside Drive Trail Request

The River and Trails Task Force was appointed by Mayor Johnson during her first term with the direction of enhancing the Yahara River. With that vision, the committee pursued a trail system that would allow multiple recreation use, more access to the river and create as many off road trails as possible.

Over the years, the trail system has grown. Trails are given a consideration in all new subdivisions with the ultimate goal of connecting the entire City with trails to parks, schools and the Yahara River.

One of the most recent projects added to the trail system is an off road path from Mandt Park to Riverside Park.

This summer there will be a fishing pier located on a very narrow section of the Riverside Park. The location was determined with considerations to access, river depth and parking. It is very close to the road which leads us to the following proposal for Riverside Drive.

Our proposal:

1. Create a pedestrian walkway connecting Mandt Park, Riverside Park and Veterans Park.
2. Turn Riverside Road into a one way street going west. The one way would start the intersection of Riverside Rd. and the cemetery service road located on the far east side of the cemetery. A two way road would remain till that point.
3.
 - a. Move the existing barrier along the north bank of the Yahara River to the road to protect pedestrians on a newly established path or
 - b. Stripe Riverside Road, without moving the barrier, to designate a pedestrian walkway.

This recommendation meets our initial directive to enhance the Yahara River. It would provide more river access, a safer street for pedestrians and connect another park to the whole City park system.

Change is rarely easy. If the idea of quicker routes for cars remains the only goal, this idea is a hard sell. If the goal is to find ways to enhance the Yahara River and implement the Parks and Recreational Long range plan, this idea would add another unique element to the beauty of the river, while providing a safer route for pedestrians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Hagen
River and Trails Task Force Chair