

Bobbie Walthall

To: Tom Markus
Subject: RE: Riverfront access and dam repair

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From: Lisa Grossman <lgrossman1014@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Tom Markus <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Riverfront access and dam repair

Dear City Manager Markus,

I heartily support the river access/recreational conceptual plan that is proposed in conjunction with needed dam repair and riverbank maintenance below Bowersock.

This is arguably one of the most visible crossings of the Kansas River! We've already got a heavily-used pedestrian/bikeway across the bridge and levee trails, the very impressive Bowersock plant with new kayak/canoe portages on either side of the dam, the best eagle viewing on the river and superb views of the river east and west, the Burcham/Constant Park trail connectors and the flatwater upstream for KU crew practice, not to mention - it's our GATEWAY to downtown Lawrence!

There's room for improvement, I think we'd agree. Friends of the Kaw, (FOK) primarily, has been working diligently for decades to clean up this area in particular and Westar's Green Team has greatly assisted in removal of heavy debris removal from below Bowersock. The addition of public terraces and boat access and water features on the south side would vastly improve this section of the urban Kaw.

We have a unique opportunity to make the most of our dollars by combining the needed repairs with community access to the river. We're a river city but most citizens aren't connected to the river in any way nor do they realize it's their source of drinking water! Let's celebrate and honor the Kaw in every way possible, now and for future generations.

Thanks for your consideration of this project!

Lisa Grossman
825 Maine St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

Bobbie Walthall

From: arch@sunflower.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 9:09 AM
To: Diane Stoddard; Tom Markus; Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Recreational plan for the river

Bobbi will you place this in the commission packets.

Thank You

Hello,

I'm concerned that the city is considering funding the recreational plan design. According to the Federal Energy Regulatory commission Bowersock Mills and Power Company has an order approving recreation plan pursuant to Article 405 issued February 9 2018. All of the plan is for the north side powerhouse. The recreational plan was part of the building of the powerhouse. Bowersock has had quite a long time to actually build the recreational area. Now it appears that the city is providing funding for a recreational plan that Bowersock is responsible for .

Regards

Arch Naramore

Bobbie Walthall

From: Shirley B <shirleybnature@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 8:12 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Opposed to Downtown River Recreation Park

To Lawrence City Commission care of Bobbie Walthall, regarding a proposed Downtown River Recreation Park.

Doing anything to manipulate or disrupt the most natural function of the river sounds wrong to me.

I hope this project will impact minimally on the most natural functions and with the best possible outcome for wildlife that depends on this natural area.

I had not heard anything about these plans so I asked Ken Lassman and he shared the following thoughts, copied below.

Thank you very much,
Shirley

Ken Lassman wrote:

"I did look at the Boise ID Whitewater website, and the Boise River appears to be a much smaller river most of the time both in terms of its drainage basin and general/maximum flow rate. That said, the Bowersock Dam already disrupts the flow of fish upstream completely, blocking off sturgeon and other fishes that used to be seen upstream from Lawrence, so I don't anticipate the ecology of the river changing much from an alteration in the dam overflow characteristics, i.e. breaking up the overflow into several smaller "chutes" instead of a two rather broad overflow zones. What I've seen of the kayakers in the Kaw already is that I've seen them focus on the southernmost overflow next to the old Bowersock Mill, not on the north end next to the new power generators. That's probably due to the main current being on that side of the river, and it presumably being deeper there.

I don't know where the proposed chutes would be, do you? I know a LOT of birds fish in that southern main current area, including eagles (mostly in the winter) and one concern I'd like to see studied is how disruptive having a bunch of kayakers would be to that process. I doubt that they'd do much to the fish, but they might be disrupting all the seagulls, the cormorants, the eagles and other waterfowl who congregate there. It would be good to ask is anyone is looking at that. I think that such a kayaking structure would be less disruptive if it were located on the north end of the dam near the new power building as kayakers could get in and out on the north side of the river without disrupting the avian activity so much, but I don't know if the right conditions for multiple standing waves could be created over there. I think they'd probably have to change the channel to do that, and with all of the sand/sediment in the river, would it stay that way? Having a series of smaller chutes would require more maintenance in terms of clearing the debris that always comes down the Kaw from the top of the chutes, something that could be a real pain at times and cost someone money. I presume the liability issues have been looked at as well; would there be some kind of users fee to help defray these costs?

The other piece about all of this is how disappointed and even outraged I've been about their "improvements" to the trail that leads from Constant Park to Burcham Park along the south riverbank. I know compromises had to be made for an accessible trail that is wide enough for multiple use/wheelchair access, which I support even though I much loved the dirt path that preceded it. But when they landscaped after the sidewalk was installed with fescue and planted ornamental trees instead of trying to integrate the floodplain forest species for shade, it separates it from the wonderful cottonwood forest that grows adjacent to it and it becomes a friggin Nowhere Park instead of a park where you can learn about and see floodplain forest bird species and plants. It seems to have been designed by someone who didn't ask folks who knew what was there. So I'd really be concerned about access expansion to the river and whether any modifications to that would be done in a similar unconscious manner or whether it could be used to integrate the plants

and animals which use the wildlife corridor of the Kaw as their home. It's not a pristine corridor, but if we're going to do something like this, it should be used as an opportunity to NURTURE what is there, not fragment or weaken what is there.

So those are the thoughts that come to my mind; some if not all of these concerns may already have been considered, in which case I'd be happy to help see where this goes, and if they haven't been addressed, then I hope these thoughts might be helpful in informing any planning. If these aren't addressed in some manner, then they'd be grounds for outright opposition to the plan, too. I won't be able to attend tonight, but feel free to share my thoughts with anyone you see fit, and do let me know what happens."

Ken Lassman <wilddouglascounty@gmail.com>

<https://kawvalleyalmanac.com/>

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*"But the land, in spite of its history, still holds hope for making good on the promises we thought it could, especially if we can reconnect to it." — J. Drew Lanham, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature**

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"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

--- Audre Lorde, February 18, 1934 - November 17, 1992

Bobbie Walthall

From: Evie <peoraun@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 5:50 PM
To: Stuart Boley; Lisa Larsen; Leslie Soden; Jennifer Ananda; Matthew Herbert
Cc: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Public opinion re dam bid

Dear Commissioners,

As you're reviewing bids for repairs to the dam and the retaining wall, I hope that you'll consider the special opportunity this presents to create beautiful recreation areas, economic opportunities, all while supporting environmental sustainability.

I hope that the city will take this opportunity to build more public access to the river. For the same cost as conventional dam repair proposals, the city could complete the necessary repairs while also creating many added benefits. The option I support is the use of one coffer dam in the river to do the repairs, and later using natural boulders to create a river recreation park with whitewater features for kayakers. The concrete retaining wall at Abe & Jake's can be replaced with a natural stone terrace down to the river so people can enjoy this landscape. I would love for the city to use this as an opportunity to create trail connections to Burcham Park and the Lawrence Loop.

The Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism has offered to partially fund the Lawrence Loop trail connection since it would promote tourism, green space, and local wildlife. Federal grants allocated for better fishing access can be used to pay for the portage.

I urge the commission to consider this option.

Thank you,

Evie Schlife

Bobbie Walthall

From: Debora Stewart <dstewart@kgs.ku.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 4:44 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: KS River plan for repair

Dear City Commission,

Regarding repairs to the Kansas River Dam, I support the alternative plan to use one coffer dam, build a recreational park, and increase river access to the public. Most people are removed from the river, its benefits and beauty, despite our dependence on it for drinking water. Our entire community will benefit from this plan.

Thank you,
Deb Stewart

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Debora Stewart
Library Specialist, Data Resources Library Kansas Geological Survey
1930 Constant Ave
Lawrence KS 66047-3724

785-864-2125
dstewart@kgs.ku.edu

Bobbie Walthall

From: Chris Tilden <christilden@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 8:09 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Cc: Stuart Boley; Lisa Larsen; Leslie Soden; Jennifer Ananda; Matthew Herbert
Subject: RE: repair of Bowersock dam and river retaining wall

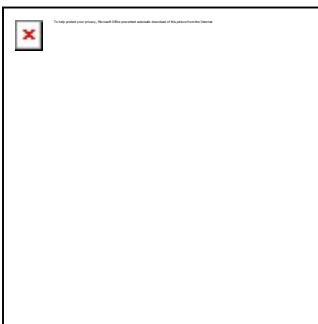
Mr. Mayor and members of the Lawrence City Commission,

I have chosen to make Lawrence, Kansas, my home for many years, in large part because of the many recreational and cultural amenities that are available to area residents. For example, I have enjoyed countless hours on the trails along the Kansas River and Clinton Reservoir, made possible by the support of the city and many other partners who recognize the value these bodies of water provide for recreational and other purposes.

The city has a tremendous opportunity before it to create better recreational access to the Kansas River as part of repair projects to the Bowersock Dam and the retaining wall behind Abe & Jake's Landing. Development of terraced landscaping and recreational water features as part of this project could be an incredible asset to the city, creating access to the river near downtown for residents and visitors alike.

I believe several examples from Colorado and Nevada have already been presented to the city as part of this discussion. I would also point you to Boise, Idaho, that has developed a whitewater park on the Boise River. The whitewater park and the adjacent Simplot Park draw thousands of visitors to the park (near downtown) to take advantage of its many recreational amenities including gardens, picnic facilities, trails, and more. The Boise Greenbelt (a trail running alongside the river that is their equivalent to the Lawrence Loop) provides pedestrian access to the park. When I last visited there I was amazed by incredible number of families enjoying the weekend in this park (a park that didn't exist when I lived there about six years ago).

More information about the park is available online at www.boisewhitewaterpark.com.



The Boise Whitewater Park by the J.A. & Kathryn
Albertson Family Foundation

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www.boisewhitewaterpark.com

I urge you to direct city staff to investigate the creation of a recreational space to access the Kansas River as part of the proposed repair project. At the same time, we should leverage this opportunity and investigate the possibility of finding grant funds that would support pedestrian access to the new recreational facility. It might

be an incredible opportunity to attract grant funding to complete the downtown section of the Lawrence Loop, which for years has faced logistical and financial hurdles. New river recreation opportunities and a completed Lawrence Loop would confer so many benefits -- recreational, environmental, tourism, economic -- that it seems absolutely imperative that the city invest the needed time and energy to make this happen.

Thank you for considering projects like this one that have the potential to improve recreation -- and quality of life -- for residents and visitors of Lawrence.

Chris Tilden
1121 Williamsburg Ct.

Bobbie Walthall

From: Suzan Hampton <suzanhampton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 12:36 AM
To: Stuart Boley; Lisa Larsen; Leslie Soden; Jennifer Ananda; Matthew Herbert
Cc: Bobbie Walthall; Suzan Hampton
Subject: Please support a vibrant downtown economy and better river access for the public
Attachments: Reno Nevada whitewater park 1.jpg; Manchester Iowa whitewater course.jpg; Reno Nevada whitewater park 2.jpg

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

I'm reaching out to indicate my support for the whitewater kayaking park proposal for the downtown waterfront because it is a longer-term vision with more benefits to the community than the simple repair-the-dam-and-retaining-wall option.

Doing the needed repairs while also creating better riverfront access for fishing, recreation, and connecting with nature will benefit citizens' quality of life, draw tourists to Downtown Lawrence to help keep it vibrant, and will complete construction of a portion of the Lawrence Loop.

Friends of Lawrence Area Trails, Friends of the Kaw, and the Bike/Ped Coalition have joined together to support the downtown whitewater park because of what it will buy Lawrence for approximately the same cost as the simple repair option. It will help protect the environment and reduce landfill waste, create trails including a trail connection for boaters from the Kansas River Trail to the Lawrence Loop, and bring people closer to nature and to the river. The Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism has offered to partially fund the Lawrence Loop trail connection to the park since it would promote tourism, green space, and local wildlife. We are told that federal grants allocated for better fishing access can even be used to pay for the kayak/canoe portage.

Attached are a few photos of downtown whitewater parks in Manchester, Iowa and Reno, Nevada and here's a link to a video of the park in Boise, Idaho: <https://www.boisewhitewaterpark.com>. As you can see, the overall look and feel would be a great fit for Lawrence: these are casual, fun, straightforward to maintain, focus on the natural beauty of the river, and connect the river to local trails and downtown areas.

Thanks for your support, and hope to see you soon down on the river and on the Lawrence Loop!

Suzan Hampton, LEED AP bd+c

Co-founder, Friends of Lawrence Area Trails







Bobbie Walthall

From: alice.131211@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, November 18, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Kaw River access restoration proposal

I support the Better River Access proposal under consideration by our City Commission. Sounds like a win-win for ECO-
JUSTICE (ecological and economics) Alice Weis

Bobbie Walthall

From: Sue Kidd <skidd.kschared@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 12:38 PM
To: Bobbie Walthall; Lisa Larsen
Subject: Lawrence Waterfront Park support

Please consider supporting the downtown riverfront recreation park and Lawrence Loop connection. This would bring an important opportunity for connections to our beautiful KS river and help to complete the Loop with a meaningful and cost-effective option.

As Co-Chairperson of KWEN (Kansas Women's Environmental Network) we would support this effort. Thank you for your consideration!

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Sue Kidd
Cell: 785-865-9942
skidd.kschared@gmail.com

Ojó nlo. Carpe Diem. Seize the Day!

From a new wonderful friend and neighbor, Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka

Bobbie Walthall

From: Carol Crupper <crupgram@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Bobbie Walthall
Subject: Kansas River project

This note is to voice our support for the alternative river plan that would (in addition to making repairs to the dam) provide new recreation, environmental and economic benefits to our community. We really like the idea of creating a connection from the Lawrence Loop to the Kaw.

Looks to us like a win-win proposition: Repairs are made--and (at the same time) we get a a river recreation park with whitewater features for kayakers. People could use this space to fish, picnic, watch wildlife and just relax.

With state and federal funding helping support this vision, we see no downsides to this project.

Carol and Erland Crupper