



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE  
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

**SA1920-040: Resolution Requesting an Environmental Impact Study on Grandma’s Gateway**

DATE: February 3, 2020

AUTHOR(S): K.C. Cayo

SPONSOR(S): Avery McLain, Cameron Neader, Cait McReavy, Brice Hansen, Andrew Ericson, Joshua Fiegel, Cody Lichtfuss, Evelyn Yuengst, Mai Lee, Sam Wolfe

WHEREAS the City is pushing a proposal for mountain bike trails on the top and sides of Grandad's Bluff, named Grandma's Gateway; and

WHEREAS the bluff side trials are above the homes on 29th Street and Ebner Coulee, and this plan is moving forward without any soil, slope, or storm water testing for bluff stability; and

WHEREAS the neighborhood residents were not informed about this project and have begun a petition that has garnered hundreds of signatures in protest of it; and

WHEREAS residents in the neighborhood and other citizens have raised multiple safety concerns addressing how any unneeded soil adjustment on Grandad's Bluff increases the risk for potential land and/or rockslides, boulder dislocations, storm water flow increases and changes, erosion, etc.; and

WHEREAS all reasonable requests and efforts to have these questions answered have been met by misrepresentations by the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department and a refusal to put the plan on hold to address these serious concerns; and

WHEREAS the proposed Grandma's Gateway (GG) plan was developed with limited input from our diverse citizenry and the proposed GG plan did not include any legitimate scientific studies, testing, or evaluations regarding Grandad's Bluff’s varying slopes, soil composition, storm water drainage patterns, history of rockslides, boulder dislocation, environmental impact, etc.; and

WHEREAS without such input, Grandad's Bluff neighborhood homes, residents, and GG users are at risk; and

WHEREAS there was a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report in 2016 in which all areas for bluff side and other areas are rated at “Very Limited” and “Very Severe”, meaning it is not suitable for recreational use; and

WHEREAS the iconic Grandad's Bluff landscape will be irreversibly altered;



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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association further requests that any ultimate plan include the recommendations from a newly formed Grandad's Recreational and Environmental Advocacy Team (GREAT) comprised of two members from each of the following interest groups: Environmental, Conservancy, Wildlife, Hiking, Biking, Grandad's area neighborhood, Educational Systems 91 from k-12 and one from one of the surrounding colleges, Disability, Mental Health/Medical, and two open citizen positions; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association calls for an environmental study on the effects of the proposed trails conducted by an impartial party; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of this study (or any past studies) be released to the public; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse sends a copy of this resolution to Mayor Tim Kabat, the La Crosse City Council, and the La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Nielsen'.

Dana Nielsen  
President, Student Senate  
Vice President, Student Association

02-05-2020

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sita Agterberg'.

Sita Agterberg  
President, Student Association

02-05-2020

Date