

From: Anderson, Christina

Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 3:47 PM

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Cc: Randolph, Dennis <randolphd@kalamazoocity.org>; Slaby, Jacqueline <slabyj@kalamazoocity.org>; Bergstrom, Nolan <bergstromn@kalamazoocity.org>; Chamberlain, Jeff <chamberlainj@kalamazoocity.org>

Subject: Winchell Avenue Asylum Lake Entrance

Dear Lauri, John, Mark, and the ALPA board,

Thank you for your outreach to us on the Winchell Avenue entrance to Asylum Lake Preserve and the installation of the Winchell Avenue bike lane. I understand a number of conversations have occurred with City Staff, ALPA, Asylum Lake Management Council, and the neighborhood association on this topic. I am reaching out to everyone to provide some background on the issue and provide the City's perspective for future actions.

The bicycle lanes on Winchell Avenue were installed last fall. They were installed in response to the Oakland Drive Winchell Neighborhood [Plan](#), which called for an increase in bicycle and pedestrian facilities and traffic calming in the neighborhood, with Winchell Avenue noted as a key street for addressing these issues. The City reached out to the Winchell Neighborhood in late winter to follow up on the installation, receiving mostly positive feedback. City staff have also recorded a reduction in speeds along Winchell Avenue and are working with the neighborhood to expand bike and pedestrian facilities and traffic calming activities this year.

The City will continue to monitor the project through regular observations, data collection, and outreach to neighborhood residents. We will not be pursuing the addition of on-street parking at the Winchell Avenue entrance for Asylum Lake. There are several reasons for this decision, including:

- The bike lanes are a Neighborhood Plan project, both of which were recently approved/installed. In addition to the neighborhood plan, this project aligns with the safe routes to school work at Winchell Elementary, the about to be approved Community Sustainability Plan (CSP), and our Strategic Vision goals of a Connected City.
- The neighborhood's plan to create a W-A-L-K Nature Route linking the neighborhood walkers and cyclists to the nearby open spaces including Asylum Lake, which is supported by this bicycle route.
- Asylum Lake Preserve is a community-wide open space with three entrances. Two entrances are located off major streets (Drake and Parkview) with parking lots and handicap accessible spaces/entrances. The third entrance is deep in a neighborhood on a neighborhood street; its improvements reflect it as a minor entrance geared toward those living in close proximity, walking, or riding to the preserve. Limiting parking on Winchell Avenue does not prevent access to the preserve by the community who can continue to access it by vehicle from Drake or Parkview. We understand from the WMU Management Council's meeting discussions that expansion of the existing parking lots is under consideration.

We will continue to regularly monitor the Winchell Avenue bike lanes and vehicle speeds through the project's first year, and beyond. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks.
Christina

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