



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Patti Logsdon, 9th District
Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 22, 2021
Contact: Rob Hullum, 414-278-4285

Board of Supervisors Fails to Conduct Proper Oversight of Trail-building in County Parks

MILWAUKEE – The County Board of Supervisors rejected (10-8) a proposed [ordinance change](#) by Supervisors Weishan, Logsdon, and Staskunas that would have clarified the Board’s proper oversight role regarding the significant expansion of new trails in county parks.

“Our constituents elected us to be their voice in county government,” said Supervisor Weishan. “It is disappointing that they will not have a seat at the table on decisions as important as our beloved county trails.”

The ordinance change would have given the County Board the authority to approve or reject the establishment of new trails and any substantial changes made to existing trails. Substantial changes were defined as changes that alter 20 percent or more of an existing trail.

The Parks Department began construction and rerouting of a permanent mountain biking trail in Mangan Woods in the fall of 2020. The rejected proposal would have established a temporary moratorium on the use of any portion of that bike trail established in September 2020 or later.

“We will continue to advocate for our constituents when it comes to our parks and trails,” said Supervisor Logsdon. “We must ensure that county departments remain accountable and responsive to the public.”

Mangan Woods, located within Whitnall Park in the City of Franklin, is a fragile and rare ecosystem that contains some of the largest old-growth hardwood trees in the system.

In recent years, the Parks Department has allowed mountain bikers to overbuild an extensive trails system that has significantly degraded large areas of Mangan Woods.

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