

**Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association
Summary of River Links Survey
2007**

Background:

Over a 3-4 week period in August and September, Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association conducted a survey through its email distribution containing approximately 200 email addresses which not all are association members. A total of **43 responses** were received representing roughly a 22% response rate. Some of the responses were from outside the neighborhood including Riverwest and Riverside Park neighborhoods, but name and address was not requested. The survey was based on a similar survey that was distributed through the Milwaukee River Work Group conducted by Riverwest representatives.

A Bike/Pedestrian Bridge from Riverwest to the East Side is a draft component of the City's North Eastside Area Plan that mentions a few locations including Park Street, Locust Street, and Keefe Avenue. The survey specifically stated both a bike and pedestrian link and a *footbridge only* alternative was not provided as a selection. The Cambridge Woods survey did not mention the Park Street connection specifically, but did include a Riverside and Gordon Parks connection and an alternative 'other' selection opportunity.

Evaluation:

The split on whether people favored or opposed a river crossing bridge was:

**58% in favor
42% opposed**

While most favor a river crossing link, there doesn't appear to be an overwhelming desire for such a connection, at least within the boundaries of Cambridge Woods Neighborhood. Although some responses opposed the idea, they still indicated a preference to a location. Although some ranked their preferred location in order, all selections were weighted equally. Of the location preferences, there was no dominant selection. The two leading selections were for sites at the edge of Cambridge Woods border or outside. The breakdown of location preference was as follows:

Locust Street Marsupial	13 selected
Riverside-Gordon Parks	13 selected
Keefe-Providence (Edgewood)	12 selected
Burleigh-Kenwood	11 selected
Pumping Station-Cambridge Woods	11 selected

Many additional comments were received with mixed results as well with a slight edge of comments in opposition to a proposed river crossing. The comments are contained on the following pages in for the most part the order they were received and with very minimal editing. Respondents' names are not included out of respect for privacy. Both crime and safety concerns were raised often as a primary reason for not providing a link across the river.

CWNA River Linkage Survey Comments

- Linking the two parks would destroy wildlife and habitat in both. I also think it might increase crime and truancy from Riverside. I teach at Riverside; making it easier for students to travel back and forth from home may not be productive. Burleigh-Kenwood would best serve UWM students as well as community members who avail themselves of programs at UWM as well as in Riverwest. It will provide convenient access to the Quaker House as well as Peace Action on Keefe and bars and restaurants on Locust and Center.
- BUT only if it is safe. Not only safe in the sense that no one will get hurt (falling off, etc.) But also safe in that it doesn't create another opportunity for crime to occur (rapes, muggings, assaults, etc.) I really like the idea of having convenient transportation routes for bikers and walkers.
- It will facilitate an influx of an undesirable element from the Riverwest area to our neighborhood further compromising safety and adding to the problems of a pre-existing criminal element near and around the bike path area and our homes. If I wanted the lines blurred between Riverwest and my neighborhood, I would have purchased a home in Riverwest where they are much cheaper. I do not wish to see my property value fall or have my neighborhood labeled "transitional" when all that apparently "transitions" in Riverwest is from dangerous to lethal. Keep the criminals and the hooligans out of our neighborhood and on the other side of the river. We have enough to deal with just keeping the students in line. This is perhaps the worst idea I could ever imagine and I will do everything legally within my power to prevent this from becoming a reality up to and including hiring attorneys to fight this.
- Riverwest has a much higher rate of crime and assault (personal and/or property) than its neighbors to the East of the river. I am aware of several robberies of eastside homes (mine among them) that have led to arrest of individuals – all offenders residing west of the river and preying on those East of the river. The North Ave. & Locust St. bridges provide sufficient access with sidewalks and bicycle lanes on a route where people can be seen coming and going and suspicious activity can be witnessed by bystanders, neighbors and police patrols. The addition of a bike/walk bridge would not be supervised to the same degree and provide one more getaway route for the individuals who commit these crimes and assaults (they already use the bike trail as an easy escape). We pay significant property taxes to live in a safe neighborhood with limited crime and adequate police supervision/ activity, PLEASE let's not undermine that by tempting criminal minds with an open door into our backyard that is not adequately patrolled. **NO BRIDGE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**
- Locust Street Bridge is sufficient. Additional bridges will harm the river corridor green space. Additional ports into the Cambridge Woods neighborhood would diminish its appeal particularly with owner/occupants. We already suffer from burglaries/traffic problems in the area adjacent to the Locust Street Bridge. Why multiply this impact? No additional bridges, please.
- I don't think we need another access point other than the Locust Street Bridge. In these times of limited budgets I feel the money could be better spent on other things. It might be a good idea if there could be a pedestrian/bike bridge across the river that would link up by the new bridge that is being built across the bike path by the Urban Ecology Center.

- I support walking and biking as a means of transportation. A safe bike and pedestrian linkage between RW and Cambridge Woods is an asset for both neighborhoods. I only support a bike/pedestrian bridge if its construction and use have a minimal negative impact on the to be protected “wilderness green space” on both sides of the river
- I am in favor of additional pedestrian/cyclist bridges to cross the Milwaukee River. Given that so much foot and wheeled traffic passes between Riverwest and the Eastside, safer alternatives to busy automobile bridges would serve our neighborhood well.
- Facilitates interchange among the neighborhoods and would facilitate more use of the river paths on the west side for those of us on the eastside.
- No, because we have had more and more criminal activity each year. My understanding from talking with police and others is that most of the serious crime is being committed by people coming from the west side of the river to the east. I live on Cambridge and have enough activity with traffic, pedestrians and people coming up from the Oak Leaf Trail. I’m afraid that building a bridge that connects directly to our residential area will only give better access to more criminals. It will also be a fast “escape” from our neighborhood when crimes are committed, giving them coverage with the trees and foliage on both sides of the river. I think this will also create more student activity and problems because of our neighborhood skirting UWM. Our neighborhood can’t accommodate the growing student population, especially with UW-Milwaukee refusing to cap enrollment. We have seen a spike in student crime, noise and property damage in the last couple of years since UW-Madison capped their enrollment. I think building a bridge that connects directly to our neighborhood will increase student disruptions and nuisances. It will also encourage students to use the river as a “play area” for bob fires and places to hang out. This will create more fires, pollutions and problems. If a bridge were to be built I would NOT want it near our neighborhood but rather north or south of it, preferably not to and from residential areas. If this type of bridge is added [Marsupial], at least it will not create an additional site.
- As an owner of rental property in both the Riverwest and campus areas I support the idea. However, I also live in The Cambridge woods, which is somewhat secluded from the campus traffic. It’s a quiet place for people who like the area but want to avoid campus life. The bridge could ruin that peaceful state, increase litter and crime in our neighborhood. Careful planning needs to be done to ensure the bridge is a means of transportation without unwanted consequences. Kenwood Blvd. Is the only street in the Cambridge Woods area primarily occupied by students, it is also the shortest distance from Riverwest to the main part of campus and should be the location for the bridge.
- Increased likelihood of crime. Nice idea if it weren’t for that.
- There are bridges at Capital and Locust and North. We do not need to spend the money.
- Easier to get to destinations on both sides of the river- won’t need to use car—better for environment. Don’t put a bridge near where one can just take the street---if it’s too close to the street and we’re not using the street to walk across the river—we won’t use the bridge. Put it somewhere between the streets that cross the river. We’ll then have more options on crossing the river.

- It's a long way from Locust to Capitol! Also, this location would cut down on bike traffic at the Humboldt/Locust and Humboldt/Capitol intersections. Don't see any point in having a new bridge under Locust St or linking Pumping Station Park to Cambridge Woods or linking Riverside & Gordon Parks. Putting it further north will make it accessible and useful for people who now have to go at least 5-6 blocks to go across the river. This location would also create more visibility and traffic for Kern Park as people walk/bike through it to cross the river. This could be both a security and park usage benefit.
- Yes, as long as the path/bridge is well-lighted, attractive and goes beyond being a hook-up for two sides of the river. I would like to see a bridge that is artistic and well-cared for, a place which is both a crossing and a gathering space, maybe allowing there to be vendors, artists, a café or spot where one could go for all kinds of travel, not just to get across the river from Riverwest to Cambridge Woods. It's a great idea and would be super important for both sides of these communities. Thanks for asking!
- A separate bridge linking the East side to Riverwest would provide a motor vehicle-free route across the river for pedestrians and bicyclists. Too often, I see cars and trucks drifting into the bicycle lane on the Locust Street Bridge. In addition, to access the Locust St. Bridge, you need to either exit the bike trail at providence or near the Riverside High School field. Being able to cross the river directly from the bike trail would be very convenient.
- Despite the presence of bike lanes on the Locust St. Bridge, it is in my opinion, still too busy for bike riders to feel safe. It would be wonderful to have a strictly pedestrian/bike bridge to connect the two neighborhoods. I would support any of the connections proposed below but am partial to the ones North of Locust.
- It would reduce traffic on the Locust St Bridge as well as overcrowded parking by UWM if students could walk campus. Not to mention the non-students who could walk to work or social engagements.
- I agree that pedestrians and bikes should have an appropriately-scaled means of moving across the river. Since the parks are design for people and to a certain extent bikes, as opposed to vehicles, parks seem to make sense as an appropriate terminus for people. A marsupial option probably makes financial sense (using an existing structure), but perhaps the entrance/exits could be removed from the street-level with its dangerous auto traffic. Burleigh/Kenwood and Keefe/Providence are street-based (vehicle) terminuses.
- It becomes very inconvenient that the only access points to the other side of the river are at Capital, Locust and North, especially when traveling by foot or bike to UWM. A pedestrian bridge would be ideal, and I would suggest that every UWM student living in the Riverwest area has wished for such a link at some point. Please consider such as addition to the Riverwest community. I believe that more renters from UWM would consider living in the area, and I believe that it could improve the safety of the neighborhood with the additional traffic. Home owners could also charge higher rental rates with the added convenience of their property to UWM. I really don't see a downside other than the cost of the project. Also, I am a non-driving homeowner in the Riverwest community, if that means anything to your survey.

- I think the Locust Street Bridge provides adequate access, and a bridge at Providence could damage the quiet privacy that keeps us in our neighborhood (Newhall at Newport). I worry about increased crime/litter/vandalism and noise. I'm already very disappointed at the Urban Ecology bridge/parking lot at Park, which will make the quiet country-like Newhall Street south of Park a thoroughway. We are losing the sense of quiet space in the city. I think a marsupial would serve the pedestrian purpose while preserving the character of our neighborhood.
- I think a marsupial would serve the pedestrian purpose while preserving the character of our neighborhoods.
- Why waste money on a bridge when there is one within a few blocks either way? A bridge every 6 blocks is sufficient. A better use for the money would be to improve the area west of the river with a bike path and walking path. These are not necessary options other than to spend some money. Again, the money would be better spent improving the safe access to the river.
- It is clear that the perpetrators of almost all of the crime committed on the East Side originate in Riverwest or districts further west. Let's not make it easier for them to prey upon us and our neighbors. The Locust Street Bridge is adequate for pedestrians and bicycles in its present condition. **ABSOLUTELY NO NEW BRIDGE BETWEEN LOCUST AND CAPITOL. THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE WILL PROVIDE QUICK AND EASY ACCESS FOR VIOLENT CRIMINALS DIRECTLY TO MY NEIGHBORHOOD. RESTRICTING ACCESS TO THE EAST SIDE VIA THE LOCUST AND CAPITOL BRIDGES IS THE SINGLE GREATEST IMPEDIMENT TO CRIME IN CAMBRIDGE WOODS.**
- I think it would be useful to uwm students going to and from campus from riverwest. I would also be interested in using it to get to the anticipated alterra on Humboldt and kern park.
- I feel if you build a bridge north of Locust St. you will find that the increased pedestrian traffic will cause an increase in criminal activity in the Cambridge Woods area. If the majority feels that a bridge is a good idea I can see some benefits to the bridge linking Riverside and Gordon Parks, or the "Marsupial" bridge under Locust St. This bridge could add some safety benefits to Bikers and Pedestrians who normally use the Locust St. Bridge.
- I have often thought of this idea myself and think it is wonderful...BUT I'm a bit hesitant because I see it as a potential escape route for crime perpetrators in our neighborhood! Sorry to let FEAR rule a decision. My family would definitely use this bridge, especially linking with the Nature Preserve.
- I REFUSE to facilitate a means for criminal activity to continue, and this would make it that much easier. We already have the Locust St. Bridge, and do not need to spend money to raise the crime rate even further than it is in the Cambridge Woods neighborhood. If I wanted to live in Riverwest, I would have bought a home there. I am tired of it being called a "transitional neighborhood", since there is nothing but increased criminal activity going on there. A bike/pedestrian bridge is also a terrible idea, as it allows more criminals to steal bikes, which has been happening down there for more than 20 years, and still continues to this day. The idea of building a bridge is definitely the decision of someone who has either never experienced crime in our area, or just does not understand that it will make our crime rate even worse.

- Bike trails are fully used now and the Locust St. Bridge is adequate for observed traffic. The bike hill at 3400 Newhall is still a nuisance for noise, injury and crime. A bike bridge at Keefe and Providence would only make things worse for immediate neighbors and the neighborhood in general.
- I am in favor of this if it is constructed as /very near the existing Locust Street Bridge (for cars). I would like to see a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. I am very opposed to a new bridge that is put into the neighborhood area. I think that would invite more traffic in the woods area. I feel it is important to keep the woods as wild as possible for the animals who inhabit that area. I also feel that it add a safety concern to an already growing problem.
- Better connection of the two sides of the river and the neighborhoods – my son and husband go to Fratney School and ride their bikes every day. It would be safer and more direct than crossing at the Locust St Bridge. Also would link the two bike paths. This would mean more use by walkers and bikers. This would possibly reduce congestion on the bike path. I believe greater access, greater use and greater visibility makes for safer neighborhoods. Incorporate safety features in the design. Bridge should be attractive and have good lighting. Consult with police on design. It should have an area for seating also. Good to have people able to sit and watch what is going on.
- It would be a safe way patrons to cross the river.
- Safety and ease of using both sides of town via bike and foot (without risking being hit by a car on North or Locust Streets and bridges). Increase community interaction and diversity.
- Congestion, current increase in crime in the neighborhood (how will these bridges be policed?). We've seen a recent increase in armed robberies of individuals and businesses. Bridges (absence of) won't stop that but I don't want to see an increase in crime facilitated by increased access.
- Thank you for asking our opinion. I am torn on what my opinion is. I really like how our neighborhood is somewhat isolated, yet I don't want to be considered an elite-ist. Our property values are more eastside based, and that means something.
- I don't see a demand for another crossing, with Locust as close as it is to the other proposals.
- I don't feel it is necessary to add a bike/walking bridge. I feel that the Locust and Capitol bridges serve the needs of this area. Also, I would have some concern about safety of those using a bridge given the assault and robbery issues of this last year in the area this even more public access.
- I would not personally object to any crossing location provided that anything north of Locust would be a footbridge only. Given the high unlikelihood of enforcing no bikes, then the most appropriate location would be Marsupial or connection linking Gordon and Riverside Parks. A narrower footbridge that was designed as a nature pedestrian trail would serve a purpose and likely be the safest by providing vantage points from the Urban Ecology Center and Locust Street Bridge and alleviate fears of residents since it would not be immediately adjacent to neighborhoods.
- I am in favor of a connection as long as we can maintain some security and the integrity of the parks.
- Afraid of added crime/escape routes.