



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**RIVER FALLS**

Office of Sustainability

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September 27, 2022

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Selection Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) proposal to the Mortenson Family Foundation Sustaining Environmental Systems program. Their project entitled “Preserve access for all: A Kelly Creek community life learning lab” overlaps with the sustainability goals at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls through the Office of Sustainability as well as numerous other organizations in our region.

The Office of Sustainability in partnership with the City of River Falls, Hope for Creation, KRLT, and several other organizations hosted a large Earth Fest event in April 2022 to promote sustainability. As part of the event, UWRF Chancellor Maria Gallo, CVTC President Sunem Beaton-Garcia, City of River Falls Mayor Dan Toland, and School District of River Falls Superintendent Jamie Benson all signed a Sustainability Commitment. The commitment specifically encouraged these organizations to advance sustainability through educating and engaging our stakeholders, advancing sustainability in our operations, incorporating sustainability into our guiding plans, and seeking innovative sustainable practices that address sustainability including social, economic, and environmental justice for current and future generations. The Office of Sustainability views the addition of ADA accessible trails and bridge at the Kelly Creek Preserve as a phenomenal way to help advance these commitments.

The Office of Sustainability is proud to support this proposal for more equitable access to outdoor education experiences. UWRF prides our campus on our ability to use our physical campus and beyond for living laboratory opportunities. Just last week a faculty member took their class to the Kelly Creek Preserve for bird watching. Had a student with physical limitations been in that class, the instructor would have needed to find an alternative option. This proposal eliminates that situation by allowing all to enjoy the outdoors and learn equitably. We strongly support KRLT’s efforts and encourage you to consider their application.

Sincerely,

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