



SUBMITTED BY CHARLES EBELING

CHARLES EBELING is concerned that the proposed reroute of South Lake Shore Drive will have a negative impact on the lake's viewshed.

Preserve area's viewshed

To the Editor:

There is something called a viewshed that can be very important to the quality of life. We may be about to lose a meaningful viewshed at Lake Geneva. It is the wonderful sunset view west over the length of the lake, visible to motorists, bikers and tourists along the half-mile of South Lake Shore Drive at Big Foot State Park.

Here's how Wikipedia defines a viewshed:

"A viewshed is an area of land, water, or other environmental element that is visible to the human eye from a fixed vantage point. The term is used widely in such areas as urban planning, archaeology, and military science. In urban planning, for example, viewsheds tend to be areas of particular scenic or historic value

that are deemed worthy of preservation against development or other change. Viewsheds are often spaces that are readily visible from public areas such as from public roadways, public parks or high-rise buildings. The preservation of viewsheds is frequently a goal in the designation of open space areas, green belts, and community separators."

Like many, I almost daily drive along the Big Foot viewshed, in every season. I enjoy the anchored boats in summer, the colorful woods across the lake in fall, the sunset glow across a frozen lake in wintery days like these, and the ripple of warming waters in spring. Every phase of the sunsets from this road are superb. I no longer have my own boat to take in those sunsets, and seldom stop for a drink or walk to do so, but drive

it and love it I do often.

There are alternatives to rerouting the road through the park, and cutting down thousands of trees in the process. Fix the road, put in a bike path. Slightly reroute the south end to create a better beach. Limit boat launching access to protect our lake.

Enjoying the precious viewshed for motorists and bikers at Big Foot Beach is the highest use of this park facility for many, many people. The City of Lake Geneva and the DNR need to recognize this truth. Concerned citizens who value these unique lake views should speak out now. Let's save Lake Geneva's sunset lake viewshed.

*Thanks,
Charles Ebeling
Linn Township*