

Hello,

I'm writing in support of making Birch Trail a shared use trail. I love Hixon Forest and spend several hours on the trails each week, usually running, hopefully skiing and sometimes mountain biking or hiking. My experience running or hiking on a shared use trail has been only positive.

I have two young kids. I also coach youth running, cross country and downhill skiing, and mountain biking. In my personal and professional life, setting young folks up for success is really important to me and a value of the Park and Rec from my experiences through the years.

As a parent, if Birch Trail allowed biking it would have been one of the first trails I'd have taken my kids on. It also has several beautiful rest stops and is a short loop close to the parking lot. A perfect way for young riders to give it a try and have success. The hills are also smaller than most of the green level trails.

To that point, there are a lot of young kids in this community wanting to learn to mountain bike. When the ORA Adventure Team registration opened 100 kids (our maximum allowed) signed up in the first 10 minutes. Of those kids, 80 of them are 9 and under in age.

Birch trail is an ideal single track entry point for Adventure Team and anyone, of any age, looking to dabble in single track with easy entry and less climbing.

To some other points I've seen, there are plenty of hiking only trails, especially when considering the Mathy Quarry and MVC tracts nearby. Lower Hixon is also being used by hikers based on a recent count, and that's great! This won't change anything.

Thanks
Isaac Pischke