

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to designate Birch Trail as a shared-use trail, allowing both biking and hiking. I advocate for the benefits of opening this trail to all users.

Birch Trail's existing accessibility and connection to other shared-use trails make it a prime candidate for this change. Allowing bikes on Birch Trail would create a cohesive and interconnected network that benefits both hikers and bikers. As many community members have pointed out, this change would provide a simpler and safer trail option for younger and beginner bikers, particularly those involved in the Adventure Team and summer school bike programs.

Additionally, rerouting the Bicentennial Trail to improve sustainability and reduce erosion is a commendable step towards preserving our trail system. These efforts to enhance our trails are deeply appreciated by the community, as they contribute to the enjoyment and safety of all users.

While I understand there are concerns about shared use trails, such as the potential for bikers to disturb the tranquility for hikers, the benefits of expanding multi-use trails outweigh these concerns. Increasing the number of shared trails will alleviate pressure on existing ones, making the experience more enjoyable for everyone. It is important to promote inclusivity and provide opportunities for all outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy our beautiful trail system.

Thank you for considering my opinion. I am confident that opening Birch Trail to shared use will enhance our community's outdoor experience and encourage more people to explore and appreciate our natural surroundings.

Thank you,
Shobi Zietlow