



MEMO

From: Kristen Myers, Trail Manager
Subject: Kings Cove Pathway Email Correspondence
Date: June 9, 2015

The following is a compilation of email correspondence with residents of Kings Cove Condominiums in Rochester Hills regarding our proposed educational pathway project north of Tienken.

Kristen Myers

From: Kristen Myers
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 11:48 AM
To: Bonnie Abiko
Subject: RE: proposed paved path...

I'm sorry you feel that way Bonnie.

The Commission has had a 5 year recreation master plan which is updated every five years since the late 80's. For the last three Master Plans, we've had "Interpretive Side Path Development" in the plan. It's been on their radar for years to add something like this, and our user surveys have shown there is an interest.

Since there is already a well-used path in this location, it is the perfect spot for the first side path. We have looked at many other places, but due to topography, the creek, trees, etc, there isn't a place to put one that wouldn't require a lot of major disruption or engineering. If you are thinking about the Prairie sites in Oakland Township, it would not be an appropriate place to put a path, as it would affect the native plants on the site. We looked into that already. There are homes everywhere by the trail, even at Dutton. I'm confused about your statement of having this "behind our homes", as the Trail itself is behind your homes, and this section of trail is the busiest already. I truly do not feel this will have a negative impact on the area or create a never ending line of visitors.

The path is already there, and already being used for passive recreation. We are not looking to build a nature center like Dinosaur Hill. We are looking to add small cultural/educational enhancements, similar to historic markers, or our glass historic markers in Rochester, that fit in with the natural surroundings. It will not be urbanized. We are adding a couple of trash cans along the path which should alleviate your trash concerns.

Two of our Friends of the Paint Creek Trail board members live in Kings Cove and fully support this project, as well as several other residents I have talked to. I'm sorry you are upset by this. I'm hoping after it's done, you will be pleasantly surprised.

I will share your concerns with the Commission. Once we have an accurate timeline, I will contact you and your Condo Association to provide more detailed information.

Kristen
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From: Bonnie Abiko [mailto:abiko@oakland.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Kristen Myers
Subject: Re: proposed paved path...

How very sad. I've never understood why something as perfect as the naturalness of the trail had to be "improved" and urbanized. We already have the Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve just on the other side of Tienken — why is there a need to repeat it just a half-mile away on the same trail? I would also have thought that it would make more sense and be more pleasing to have it closer to the creek towards Dutton, or to the north of Dutton where there is more open space that is not bounded by homes - better for owners

and users, alike. Anyone who uses the trail on the weekends knows that it has become hugely popular. I don't mind all the traffic, and many do, and welcome all serious users, but we see the trash it creates at Dutton and now we will have it behind us, too. I rather doubt that anyone on the Commission would want this behind his/her home either. Is there any possibility of rethinking the location of this enterprise? This current location simply does not make any sense to me, or others that I know.

Thanks, Kristen,
Bonnie

> On May 29, 2015, at 8:52 AM, Kristen Myers <kmyers@oaklandtownship.org> wrote:

>
> Hi Bonnie!
> The new side path will be north of the first bridge north of Tienken. It's the path that residents in Kings Cove (and probably deer) created that runs adjacent to the trail. It starts about 50 feet north of the bridge on the east side, continues 1/4 mile adjacent to the trail, and wraps back to the Paint Creek Trail. It will NOT be paved. The article in the Post failed to mention that it will be CRUSHED asphalt. The surface will look just like the crushed limestone on the Paint Creek Trail, but will be a little darker in color. It is currently used on the Rochester Hills portion of the Clinton River Trail, but the CRT is 10 feet wide. Right now, the path that is there and is being used is about 3 feet wide. We are going to make it 5-6 feet wide so wheelchairs can use the path. There will be no clear cutting of trees, and it will NOT look like a highway or asphalt bike path. We wanted to make a passive side path, for people who would like to take a short detour off the trail and learn a little about native plants vs invasive species, trail history, wildlife in the area, the Paint Creek as a designated trout stream, etc., through a few education "stations". There will be 3 or 4 benches installed that will be spread out. There will be native plant gardens, and people can stop at the stations and read while walking (similar to what you might see in a State park - the stations have not been designed yet. We may have something interactive, but we are still researching). Initially, there will be a ground disturbance with the preparation of the path. Once the path is prepped, Rochester Hills will bring used asphalt to the site, crush in on site, and roll it. This year is the development of the crushed asphalt surface. Next year we will work on the native plant gardens, bench locations, and the design of the education stations. We have no plans to direct the path toward the condos. The access points that the residents created will remain the way they are.

> I've attached some photos of the location and examples of some of the educational station ideas we are considering.

>
> I hope this helps!

> Kristen

>
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>
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Bonnie Abiko [<mailto:abiko@oakland.edu>]

> Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2015 6:12 PM

> To: Kristen Myers

> Subject: proposed paved path...

>
> Hi Kristen:

>
> Several of my neighbors are concerned that the proposed nature walk and paving will be right behind our homes in Kings Cove. I am hoping that is not the case and that it will be located nearer the bridge. Does this mean, also, that the entire inner path is to be paved from one end to the other at 6' wide? Oh dear.

>
> Thanks, Kristen...
> Bonnie

Kristen Myers

From: Kristen Myers
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Connie Castle
Subject: RE: NEW SIDE PATH

Thank you for your comments. I will give them to the Commission.

The path will be crushed asphalt, not paved asphalt. The drainage will be like the Paint Creek Trail, so you are not going to have the run off issues. It's not going to be super thick, so please don't think it's going to look like a bike path. One of the reasons it needs to be a minimum of five feet wide is for wheelchair access. We are bound by the American with Disabilities Act. If you want to see what the surface looks like, visit the Rochester Hills portion of the Clinton River Trail. But keep in mind, the CRT is almost double the width that this path will be. There will not be benches every 5 feet. There will be probably 3 benches, spread out over 400 feet apart. The native plant gardens will enhance the natural beauty of the trail, and keep the natural environment that you enjoy. As with my hope for Bonnie, I also hope you will be pleasantly surprised at how this turns out. I will also keep you posted as I get more information.

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From: Connie Castle [connie.castle@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Kristen Myers
Cc: Bonnie Abiko
Subject: NEW SIDE PATH

Dear Kristen:

I received your information about the creation of the new side path from Bonnie Abiko who has been emailing you back and forth!

For what it is worth, I am totally against putting crushed asphalt and widening it to 6'. As a 45 yr resident of Rochester on both sides of Paint Creek I have seen what "so called progress and enhancement" has done to the natural environment in this area. I now live in Kings Cove and my condo will look directly on this new enhancement. It is a walking trail so why all the benches? If someone is interested in the flora along the trail, they could certainly bring a 'wildflowers in Michigan' book with them and check it out as they walk. More asphalt means more run-off. And personally, the existing side trail is perfect as it is to walk my little 4-legged friend who is overwhelmed by the main trail and all the people. Making this side trail wider will increase walkers for sure and what was naturally created will be man-made.

It is too bad the Commission is seeking ways to continually change and "improve" what is already perfect.

Thank you for reading this. I appreciate your time.

Connie Castle, Kings Cove

Kristen Myers

From: Kristen Myers
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2015 9:08 PM
To: Shirley
Subject: RE: Interpretive side path development

Hi Shirley,

Thank you for your email.

The City of Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry department will maintain the new pathway as they do the rest of their section of the trail. No additional monies are needed. It is part of their in-kind service to the Trailways Commission. Each municipality maintains their section of the trail on our behalf. Maintenance includes tree removals, surface repairs, trash and recycle bin pick up, etc. When the crews empty the current trash bins, they will also empty the new ones that will be placed on the pathway. The Parks department has already reviewed the plan and sees no maintenance burdens or concerns.

Regarding your question: The Trailways Commission is charged with managing the Trail property, and takes great thought and effort into providing the best experience for all trail users and visitors. Their mission is "to provide trail users a natural, scenic, and educational recreation experience while preserving the ecological integrity of the Paint Creek Trail for the enjoyment of present and future generations." They believe this project fulfills that mission.

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From: Shirley [joshlon1@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Kristen Myers
Subject: Interpretive side path development

As a resident of Kings Cove Condominiums. I am concerned about the monies needed to maintain the "Path". How will the required maintenance, such as removal of trash and upkeep of markers, be funded.

Utility trucks use this area to trim trees and repair hardware as needed.

Will their large vehicles create a problem with new signage and other structures.

The question remains *is any change really needed at this area of the Paint Creek Trail.*

Regards, Shirley Foran

Kristen Myers

From: Kristen Myers
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2015 11:25 AM
To: 'Betsy Jagosz'
Subject: RE: Paint Creek Trail improvements

Thanks Betsy! We are really excited to make this a great interpretive site! We will keep you posted on progress. I will pass your thoughts on to the Commission and Friends group.

Kristen

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From: Betsy Jagosz [mailto:bjagosz@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Kristen Myers
Subject: Paint Creek Trail improvements

Hi, Kristen -

I heard about the upcoming improvements to the Paint Creek Trail near Kings Cove and I'm really excited to see them. I'm a Kings Cove resident and I walk or ride the trail almost every day. That stretch is pretty but could use a bit more upkeep and the idea of adding some interpretive material is awesome - it's a well-traveled part of the trail so lots of folks will see it.

Thanks for all you and the Commissions and Friends do to make the Trail such a community asset.

Betsy Jagosz

PS - but the Tienken construction can stop any time now. :)

Kristen Myers

From: Kristen Myers
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2015 1:08 PM
To: 'loshaw2@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Pathway
Attachments: Educational Pathway Concept Design.pdf; Moutrie Pathway Poster_educational Display examples.pdf

Mr. and Mrs. Loshaw,
Thank you for your email.

I understand your frustration, and would like to assure you that as we would have received more information, we were going to communicate with Kings Cove. Unfortunately, a local paper turned an event press release into an article about a future project but did not include enough information or correct information.

The Trailways Commission approved a CONCEPT plan, and the cost estimates came back high because of the limestone surface cost. The plan was tentatively put on hold until we were able to identify potential funding sources. This winter, Rochester Hills approached us with an idea and has tentatively agreed to help us surface the new pathway with finely crushed asphalt that is being recycled from the Tienken road construction project (I share your frustration with that project as well – it created some flooding issues on the trail and the communication from the Road Commission is never timely). The surfacing of the path was the biggest hurdle and expense. We are still waiting for definitive confirmation that they will be able to surface the path by the end of November this year.

We are still in a research phase of this project, but are using the concept plan as a guide. It is not set in stone. I met with Dick Stinson last week, and addressed some of KC's concerns. For instance, I will recommend to the Commission that this will be for pedestrians only – no cyclists. We will not be able to enforce it at all times, but it should alleviate the concerns about speeding cyclists wreaking havoc. I will also recommend that we build "diversions" similar to roundabouts at a few points. This will prevent any cyclists who ignore our request to stay off of the path from riding a "straight shot" down it. It will also add to the natural setting we want to continue providing. I offered to install "no trespassing signs" on the property line at the access points, if that is something that is requested. I have offered to add some screening at some points if it is necessary. I can assure you that we are and will keep making every effort to work with King's Cove to address potential issues. We already have planned for trash receptacles and dog waste bags, because we have an issue with some visitors and residents in KC that do not pick up after their dog in the winter months. Spring is a mess! We feel that adding the bags may encourage people to keep the trail clean for everyone. We will be adding native plant landscaping at a few locations along this path, because we want to educate people about native plants vs invasive species. Our plan is to put a few educational "stations" in certain areas along the pathway, where people can stop and read a little about nature issues.

I truly do not believe you are going to have noise or clutter issues. This path is already widely used. We have to make it a minimum of 5 feet wide for wheelchair accessibility. It's federal law. The hope is to have the path surfaced this year, then the planning and design for the rest will be next year. We would love to have more constructive input, and will try to incorporate ideas wherever feasible.

I have attached the concept map, and a few sample photos of educational displays. Again, nothing is set in stone. Thank you again for your email. Please feel free to contact me again if you have other concerns or suggestions.
Kristen

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From: loshaw2@aol.com [mailto:loshaw2@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2015 6:10 PM

To: Kristen Myers

Subject: Pathway

Hi, I am very disappointed that the people of King's Cove were not included in the proposed pathway. Our condo butts up next to the trees along the trail and we are concerned there will be noise and clutter that will affect our property.

We have lived here since 2001 and love our trail and the condo. I am on the positive side and, if the proposal goes through, I hope it will a nice addition. As you might know, we residents have also had to deal with the expansion of Tienken and the roundabout at Livernois. Please give consideration.

Jack and Pat Loshaw
1355 Autumn Lane
Rochester Hills, Mi. 48306

Kristen Myers

From: Kristen Myers
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 3:46 PM
To: 'mbtginvestment@comcast.net'
Subject: RE: PAINT CREEK TRAIL "NEW SIDE PATH"

Thank you for your comments.

Kristen Myers, Trail Manager
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From: mbtginvestment@comcast.net [mailto:mbtginvestment@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 1:52 AM
To: Kristen Myers
Cc: paintcreektrail.org
Subject: PAINT CREEK TRAIL "NEW SIDE PATH"

Ms. Myers,
Please see my protest attached regarding the "new side path" improvement and enhancement project.

Best regards,

Connie Hensley
King's Cove Resident
1323 Wagon Wheel Lane
Rochester Hills, MI 48306
(248) 891-6881

June 1, 2015

Ms. Kristen Myers, Trail Manager
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
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kmyers@oaklandtownship.org
PH: (248) 651-9260
FX: (248) 601-0106

Dear Ms. Myers,

My name is Connie Hensley. I have been a resident in King's Cove Condominiums for the past ten years. I live on Wagon Wheel Lane, directly adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail and the designated "new side path".

Also, I'm a neighbor to Bonnie Abiko and Connie Castle who have both emailed you their concerns regarding the "new side path" enhancements and improvements. I, too, have many questions and concerns about this project, which I would like to convey to you and the commission.

As a local resident and advocate of Paint Creek and the Paint Creek Trail---and all its beautiful surroundings, I can speak for many who use and enjoy the creek and trail, and who take pride in its existence, preservation, eco-system, and living creatures.

I see this project as an unnecessary expansion, which will be an intrusion into peoples' lives, and to Mother Nature's plan! I'm surprised the residents who reside by the trail have not been contacted for their valuable input and suggestions. And, if residents have not been contacted who are affected by this project, you have not completed your due diligence!

Bonnie Abiko was kind enough to forward me a copy of your email where you addressed some of her concerns. You stated in your email to her that you would like to make the "new side path" wheelchair accessible? From what I've witnessed on the current side path, that would be an accident just waiting to happen!

(I believe that the main trail is currently accessible for wheel chairs.)

As more and more bikers, joggers, walkers, pet owners, utility vehicles, etc. use the trail and the side path... it will create further safety concerns for everyone. The side path is simply not wheelchair friendly, because of the high traffic and dangerous bike speeds. If an accident were to happen, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission could be held liable for promoting the trail as accessible, when it's dangerous! Did you plan to post speed limits for bikers, rules, etc.? How could rules be enforced? Who would constantly monitor and patrol the "new side path" for safety compliance?

Anyway, we really don't want to see a bunch of signs destroying the natural beauty?

To explain how the current side path evolved...it was created by King's Cove pet owners like me, who became sick-and-tired of endangering their lives and their pets, by rude cyclists going way too fast for the traffic and trail conditions, while ignoring any and all safety practices. In fact, when I was a puppy-raiser for Leader Dogs for the Blind...while walking a yellow Labrador named "Libby"... she was run over by a biker who was traveling too fast and not paying attention. Thank goodness, Libby was only bruised! With bike traffic increasing each day, it then became necessary for pet owner's safety to move their dogs up on the grass. That's how the current side path was developed, as it exists today.

For the same safety reasons, many senior citizens and slow walkers avoid walking on the main trail, but use the side path instead. The side path also prevents inhaling a lot of dirt and dust when the bikers literally zoom by you on the main trail, which startles the heck out of you! You might think that your new planned enhancements and improvements will alleviate these problems, but you would be wrong! Let me share more facts...

I use the Paint Creek Trail virtually every day and walk my Yorkie on the current side path. I have witnessed too many "close calls" on both the main trail and the side path. So, I believe I have some insight as to the pros and cons about your project.

Ms. Kristen Myers, Trail Manager
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
June 1, 2015

Unfortunately, the current side path has become more visible to bikers and is frequently used by bullies (a.k.a. IDIOTS!) as a by-pass off the main trail, for competitive racing...challenging their friends, and/or family members. These bullies drive as fast as they can down the side path to the very end and charge back out onto the main trail without even a second look, hoping to beat the main trail racer. It's a stupid and very dangerous practice! But, I see this happening time-and-time again. These bullies have little or no concern, whatsoever, for the people walking their dogs, or just out for a stroll...let alone someone in a wheel chair! Many times I have had to pick up my little Yorkie to rush off the path simply to accommodate these racers and avoid injury. Not once have I received an apology, as they race by me!

Ironically, last year, I was prepared to write the commission to request that you designate the side path as a "dog run"... NO BIKES ALLOWED! Now, if you intend to widen this current "side path/bypass/race-track"...you will just entice even more bikers to take on the racing challenge and go faster on asphalt!

In reading your emails to Bonnie and Connie, I believe the Paint Creek Trailway Commission has good intentions, but are somewhat naïve in thinking that everyone who uses the trail respects other users and Mother Nature, as we do. Most people are courteous and respectful on the trail, but it just takes a few obnoxious bullies using the trail to ruin everything!

As we tend to see the trail traffic increasing on the weekends, we anticipate more problems. With your so-called enhancements and improvements to the current side path, I fear that a few "disrespectful people" will retaliate and cause further havoc by destroying your so-called passive enhancements and improvements.

Additionally, enhancements and improvements present labor and maintenance costs (taxpayer's money). Who will maintain the crushed asphalt, gardens, benches, educational stations, and trash cans?

Will we be subjected to overflowing stinky trash cans, flies, trash can fires, loose broken asphalt chunks, pet waste left on the crushed asphalt path from pet owners who refuse to pick up after their pets?

I'm terribly concerned about the permanent placement of trash cans becoming an ugly nuisance!

A trash can is currently placed at the Tienken Road bridge site. I have seen this trash can overflowing many times and smelling absolutely horrific from bags of dog waste, dirty diapers, and rotting food. Who is going to be responsible for emptying the trash cans on the "new side path", and how often will they be emptied?

We can anticipate the trash cans being vandalized by animals, as well, or by defiant people. Who will clean up that mess?

Will the crushed asphalt be hot and uncomfortable for animals to walk on in summer months?

What about the police who use the current side path to patrol on horseback? Will the crushed asphalt support the weight of their horses without damaging it, or causing it to crumble and break apart, creating a hazard for walkers?

Will a 6' crushed asphalt path cause rain water to puddle and not drain off properly, causing a mosquito infestation problem?

Will the asphalt be slippery and icy in winter?

How will the enormous utility trucks have access to the power lines and equipment if you install permanent benches, trash cans, gardens, etc. in their right-of-way? Will their trucks and equipment destroy the asphalt?

For example, over this past winter, DTE entered the trail off Wagon Wheel Lane with very large, heavy-duty trucks and equipment in order to trim trees and grind up limbs in their chippers. They frequently moved up and down the current side path flattening everything in its way. Because of the size and weight of these vehicles, they caused damage to the nearby fire hydrant, which eventually had to be replaced. The truck's weight and the chipper's vibration contributed to a massive sink-hole and drain collapse in my parking lot.

Furthermore, with permanent benches installed on this "new side path"...you're inviting anybody and everybody to take in the surrounding area and to "linger" in a highly defined residential area, creating noise and disturbance and invading our privacy. I personally, don't want to hear conversations at all hours of the night!

*Ms. Kristen Myers, Trail Manager
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
June 1, 2015*

King's Cove was built with the back of the condos facing the trail, which exposes all three of my glass door walls, my deck, and my two-car garage. I'm terribly concerned about the clear view of those with possible evil intentions.

I wonder about teenagers gathering in the evening doing drugs, smoking, or drinking at these bench sites. I'm aware that they currently go under the bridge (by Tienken Road) to party, while leaving graffiti on the bridge walls and empty beer bottles in the creek, and on the ground. I'm not making this up!

My neighbor, to the north, tells a story of the time he mistakenly left his garage door opened, while he went jogging. When he returned, several items were stolen out of his garage. Do the residents of King's Cove now have to be on-guard and feel as if they are sitting ducks by those preying on us from the enhanced "new side path" ... just 56 footsteps away from our back doors? After all, you are creating an open invitation to anyone and everyone to "linger" on the benches, and to possibly intimidate others.

Additionally, will visitors wander off the designated "new side path" and into resident's yards and gardens, since visitors are now being invited and encouraged to study floral, nature, and the surroundings? You certainly can't monitor visitor's behavior and intentions, so your plan seems intrusive without having our consent and approval. Are residents who live adjacent to the "new side path" expected to stand-by and watch and feel happy about this project becoming a nuisance? Can you guarantee that this so-called enhancement and improvement plan will not disrupt our peace-of-mind and harmony in our community? We have condominium bylaws forbidding any disruption to the peace and harmony of our neighbors. So, is this plan infringing upon our condominium policies and bylaws?

In my opinion, your "new side path" plan is a misuse of land, certainly not intended to be behind King's Cove. If studying nature is your intent, we currently have a natural, low-maintenance trail and side path serving that purpose.

Why would you want to create an expensive, continuous problem by constructing an unnatural, out-of-place, eye-sore? Is it possibly motivated by the offer of leftover crushed asphalt from another project with a need to dump it somewhere?

I'm sorry to ramble on...but, I want to make a hard-hitting point. I'm reminded of my trip to the Grand Canyon when I was a little girl. An American Indian Chief drove my family out to the rim of the Grand Canyon where we enjoyed a homemade corn fritter baked over an open fire. The view was spectacular! We were in awe and felt honored and privileged to visit such an amazing holy ground... totally constructed by Mother Nature and God himself. As the sun set, an American Eagle drifted in the air current over the canyon. It was like a movie! I have never forgotten this amazing moment in my life. Hollywood couldn't create or enhance such a beautiful place! This land needs no educational station, man-made gardens, benches, trash cans, or asphalt paths to be appreciated.

Sadly, when I returned to the canyon's rim as an adult...I was heart sick! Excursion buses brought in groups of "tourists" to a similar canyon site where visitors were served hot dogs and corn chips at the souvenir shop and concession stand. A huge asphalt parking lot filled with cars, trucks and buses bordered the commercial buildings. The once clean, pristine air was replaced with gas fumes and body odor. I felt betrayed, ashamed and brokenhearted! But, someone thought it would be great to accommodate everyone and expose this treasure to the masses.

To drive this point home further...I've experienced similar disappointment in man's so-called improvements, enhancements, and progress...in visiting Niagara Falls (Canada); Gatlinburg (TN); Mammoth Caves (KY); Jamestown (VA), and, Gettysburg (PA). In attempting to teach our children and others about history and this great planet we live in, we continue to fool ourselves by thinking that we are enhancing and improving our planet when, in fact, we are ruining it!

I would like to reiterate what Connie Castle asked in her email to you: "Why can't we just leave things alone and not try to improve on what is already perfect?" We, as homeowners, chose to live here in King's Cove for many reasons, and we paid a price for our home's location. By all means, we are willing to share what we enjoy! But, don't change or try to enhance a thing, until we can ALL decide what is wise and in the best interest of the public at large!

I'm searching for answers to these many questions, which will obviously affect the lifestyle in King's Cove... now, and in the future.

Ms. Kristen Myers, Trail Manager
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
June 1, 2015

Please protect our civil liberties presented in this project.

I respectfully request that you leave the current side path "AS IS"...NATURAL!!! Let the many people who enjoy nature continue to enjoy the many benefits of the trail and the side path, as it currently exists.

Perhaps, you could consider a "new side path" off the trail by the Rochester Municipal Park? That area is more opened with an existing restroom.

Even better...would money be "better spent" in constructing a new rest area/bathroom at Silverbell or Dutton Road site...right off the parking lot area (similar to the bathroom facility in Lake Orion)? I know many people, who walk the trail daily, who simply can't go too far, because they need a "pit stop" before heading back.

That brings up another concern! I have even seen people urinate on the trail behind my condo. This is disgusting and illegal!!! If you place signs in educational stations (describing foliage, wildlife, etc.)...certainly these disrespectful people will take the opportunity to relieve themselves behind the signs, and anywhere they please.

(It's without saying that a bathroom facility at the current side path site would not be appropriate, because we're in a high-density residential area.)

As a licensed Real Estate Salesperson and licensed Residential Builder, I have some knowledge in land use. At this point, I'm concerned that the expansion of this "new side path" (disguised as improvements and enhancements) will be detrimental to our condo values, in particular for those residents who live adjacent to the trail. Many move here for the peace and quiet, and natural surroundings.

I have praised the King's Cove community, stating: ..."It's great when you're outside at night and can hear a pin drop!"... "You can watch the deer graze at around 7:30 p.m, right from your own deck!"... This will be compromised with your "new side path" improvements and enhancements, by inviting more people into the area.

I hope you and the commission will seriously take all these facts and comments into consideration and abandon this so-called enhancement-improvement project! Forging ahead now would seem foolish! We can only hope that our current problems will subside, as well.

I invite you and anyone on the commission to come and sit on my deck, listen and observe the activity. Spend an entire day out on the trail before proceeding with this "new side path" project. I think you'll be convinced that your plans are not reasonable at this designated site.

Thank you for taking the time to read my protest, Ms. Myers. Please let me know if I can answer any questions, or assist you with future endeavors.

Best regards,

Connie Hensley
King's Cove Condominium Resident
and Paint Creek Trail Advocate
1323 Wagon Wheel Lane
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Cell phone: 248-891-6881