

Meredith Showman's Opinion on Cheasty Mountain Bike trails

Mountain biking and sports uses in natural area parks.



City natural areas, just mountain bikes.

No one's talking about ATVs in the



bikes.

Well, maybe some motorized mountain

And why not mountain biking? The mountain bike people have organized ivy pulls and restored natural areas. Lots of them. We should share the land and they can use a separate trail, so there won't be conflict with walkers and hikers. Really, what's the harm?



But it's a 'sports activity' and sports activities are not currently allowed in natural areas. So we're now going to change the policy to be more inclusive. Then even more people will have access to the park and get to enjoy it. And we'll save maintenance dollars which will save the City budget and save the natural area! Win, win, win!

What could go wrong?

Nothing, as long as the use is light.

It's what will happen when sports activities use gets **heavy**.

Lots more people are moving to the city, and even more will come after that. And more people are moving to the suburbs too, so the woods are getting farther and father away from City dwellers—it takes more time, more gas, more money to get to the woods to enjoy it. Folks are going to find the natural areas inside the City and they will want to walk there and use them for sports, more and more.



So how about some other sports uses, like climbing trees with ropes. That's fun and it gets folks out in Nature too.



Then why not a zip line, that gets people out enjoying nature. It's healthy exercise. And the kids and adults learn to appreciate nature.



And we could expand to do a real ropes course. Very popular. A concession could make some money for the parks.



And maybe some other obstacle courses could be useful to get people healthy and fight obesity! Those people would love to pull ivy too.



We'll put

these guys in an out of the way area where nobody is walking.



Frisbee golf is fun to play in the woods



The serious players have special chain-metal 'holes' and heavy duty Frisbees. Guess they'd need a separate place for a course so's not to knock out some unwitting hiker by mistake.



And, of course we'd have to let in the laser tag kids in. That's good clean fun.



And the paintball people like to run around the woods too. Nobody gets harmed *and* it's harmless to the environment.



It might be a tiny bit scary to look up and see these guys, if you don't know what is going on. Ha, ha, ha!



When it snows some folks will want to cross country ski. Not a problem unless maybe there are a LOT of them!!!



Sledding is fun for the kids. How about a bobsled run, if they build a separate trail/chute?



I guess there are more possible sports uses for a natural area than I thought. What else could make a claim to my natural area? And how will it all look and feel in 20, 50, 75 years? When my kids have kids?







(bike trail at lower

Woodland park.)

Or would you rather have.....





Out takes....

The bikers will put in a boardwalk, that's nice. It will protect the soil and plants. But mountain bikers like boardwalks for the challenge too. So will your park look like this...



or this?





Ecologists are born in the vacant lots and forts of the woods.

