Rebuilding to meet current best practices will benefit the forest and the trail user experience. Best practices include:

some common questions and answers to help clarify the proposal.

The proposal includes multiple phases. Phase 1 - signing existing trails - is complete. Phase 2 has a heavy focus on rebuilding, rerouting, or removing old trails. The trails within Evergreen Park are decades old and suffer from erosion.

What is the proposal for trails in Evergreen Park?

- Post-2007 Sustainable Trail Guidelines (Ex. USFS, American Trails, MN DNR; WI does not currently have its own trail guidelines)
- Current federal and state requirements

Trails & Evergreen Park

Current trail-to-area ratios to minimize environmental impact (Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind, USFS 7.1, etc.)

Phase 2 also includes adding features such as those in the proposed kid's bike playground to encourage more youth to visit the park.

What types of trails are being proposed?

The trails would be natural surface and sustainable, as defined in the guidelines above. Widths would range from "singletrack" (<42") to "track-and-a-half" (42"–60"). Most would support shared use for passive recreation, such as hiking and mountain biking.

Is it possible to safely share trails of these widths?

Yes. Nearly all urban trails that allow mountain biking are shared with hikers-both in Wisconsin and nationwide. This shared use is the norm, as modern federal and state guidelines are based on the principle of accommodating multiple passive recreational users.

Do the proposed trails cause undue erosion?

No. These trails are designed to maintain erosion rates comparable to surrounding soil. Over 30 years of research show that well-built and well-maintained trails do not cause soil degradation.

If current trails are badly eroded, won't the proposed trails be too?

First, the existing trails at Evergreen Park were not built to any standard and predate current guidelines. There are also many informal trails in Evergreen Park, which are notorious for erosion problems. Second, despite some online claims to the contrary, rerouting or rebuilding these trails will reduce erosion, not increase it. As noted above, modern trail guidelines are specifically designed to minimize erosion, and decades of research support their effectiveness.

Will construction start if the resolution is approved?

No. This is only a concept plan. Each phase will undergo its own review process through City Council. For example, Phase 2 would require design by a professional trail designer, securing local and state permits, and separate construction approval.

What about the "features" I've heard so much about online?

There's some confusion about what trail "features" are. Features are items that add a skill challenge, usually built from natural, on-site materials, like rocks and logs. Lumber structures are another option for additional challenges or when necessary for drainage.

www.SheboyganCountyCycling.org

Figure 1 - Typical natural surface sustainable trail shared by hikers and mountain bikers. Part of the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf campus in Faribault, MN.



boardwalk & skill feature. Carver Lake Preserve, Woodbury, MN





Further Information:



- American Trails Build a Sustainable Trail that Lasts 100 Years: <u>https://www.americantrails.org/training/build-a-sustainable-trail-that-lasts-100-years</u>
- Minnesota Department of Natural Rescources Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines: <u>https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/trails_waterways/index.html</u>
- United States Forest Service Trail Maintenance and Construction Notebook: <u>https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/trail-maintenance-notebook.pdf</u>
- IMBA Trail Solutions IMBA's Guide to Building: <u>https://www.imba.com/resource/trail-solutions</u>
- Indiana University (linked from American Trails)- Foundations of Sustainable Trails: A Trail from Start to Finish (Online Training): <u>https://www.americantrails.org/foundations-of-sustainable-trails-a-trail-from-start-to-finish-online-training</u>
- American Trails Building Sustainable Trails: Key Design Elements: <u>https://www.americantrails.org/resources/building-sustainable-trails-key-design-elements</u>
- American Trails Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind: <u>https://www.americantrails.org/resources/planning-trails-with-wildlife-in-mind-introduction</u>
- Colorado's Guide to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind: <u>https://cdn2.assets-servd.host/material-civet/production/images/documents/Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind full plan.pdf?</u> <u>dm=1741885420</u>
- American Trails Separate Trails Divide; Shared Trails Build Community: <u>https://www.americantrails.org/resources/separate-trails-divide-shared-trails-build-community</u>
- American Trails FAQ: What is the Typical Width of a Shared-Use Trail?: <u>https://www.americantrails.org/resources/what-is-the-typical-width-of-a-shared-use-trail</u>
- Ross H. Martin THE GEOMORPHIC NATURE OF MOUNTAIN BIKE IMPACTS ON
- SELECTED TRAIL SYSTEMS NEAR AUSTIN, TEXAS: <u>https://digital.library.txst.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/aa89a8a0-2e64-406b-b3c3-9ba8cdcfba8d/content</u>
- Duluth Parks & Recreation Mountain Bike Trails: <u>https://duluthmn.gov/parks/trail-pages-list/mountain-bike-trails/</u> (Note: At time of access, showed that the largest intra-urban trail system in the nation shares singletrack trails.)
- ORA Trails Trails Page: <u>https://www.oratrails.org/trails/</u> (Note: At time of access, showed that the largest Wisconsin intra-urban trail system shares singletrack trails, even in steep bluff terrain.)
- Salesa, David, and Artemi Cerdà. "Soil erosion on mountain trails as a consequence of recreational activities. A comprehensive review of the scientific literature." Journal of Environmental Management 271 (2020): 110990 (Note: Used as listing reference for some, though not all, scientific studies; multiple non-listed scientific papers available.)
- Fang, Wei, and Sai-Leung Ng. "Trail degradation caused by mountain biking and hiking: A multidimensional analysis." Journal of Environmental Management 351 (2024): 119801
- Marion, Jeffrey L. "Trail sustainability: A state-of-knowledge review of trail impacts, influential factors, sustainability ratings, and planning and management guidance." Journal of Environmental Management 340 (2023): 117868.
- Iversen, Evald Bundgaard, Mathilde Skov Kristensen, and Jan Arvidsen. "How can public authorities support co-production of mountain bike trails?." World Leisure Journal 66, no. 2 (2024): 188-206
- Barros, Agustina, and Catherine Marina Pickering. "How networks of informal trails cause landscape level damage to vegetation." Environmental Management 60, no. 1 (2017): 57-68