



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Department of Public Works & Development Services
Raymond G. Arbet, Director

Matthew J. Collins
Director, Division of Parks
19600 75th Street, Suite 122-1
Bristol, Wisconsin 53104
Office: (262) 857-1850
Fax: (262) 857-1885

DRAFT

Response to Kenosha News Article “Feeling like a king on a mountain bike” published on 7/9/2020.

Misinformation within article:

1. BT - “...single-track mountain **back** trail”
 - Response: Should read single-track mountain **bike** trail”
2. BT - “For Silver Lake County Park, a permit is required to mountain bike as per the Kenosha County Ordinance. Contact the County Parks Department to apply for a permit.”
 - Response: A permit is not required for use of the Silver Lake Park mountain bike trails. Special Event permits are required within Kenosha County Parks if an organization hosts an event, fundraiser or for-profit activity.
3. BT - “Prior to signing the lease, the county had plans to develop dedicated single-track mountain bike trails on this property and on existing trails within Petrifying Springs.”
 - Response: No plans were discussed to convert trails within Petrifying Springs Park to mountain bike trails prior to the UW-Parkside Land Use Agreement and conceptual plan. Kenosha County is actively working on trail improvements within Petrifying Springs Park with the assistance of a DNR Stewardship grant to restore 2.85 miles of hiking trails within Petrifying Springs Park. These hiking trails are off limits to mountain bikers. Kenosha County and the State have invested over \$300,000 in hiking trails improvements in 2020 to accommodate dog walkers, runners, and hikers.

The UW-Parkside property agreement consists of the following:

- Natural Resources and Land Management
- Pike River Restoration
- Trail Development

139 acres of UW-Parkside natural areas within the Land Use Agreement premises consists of approximately 8.5 miles of unsustainable trails. Many of the existing trails were developed independently with no formal oversight



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Department of Public Works & Development Services
Raymond G. Arbet, Director

Matthew J. Collins
Director, Division of Parks
19600 75th Street, Suite 122-1
Bristol, Wisconsin 53104
Office: (262) 857-1850
Fax: (262) 857-1885

by the University over the last 30+ years. Trails and bridges were built with chainsaws and hand tools by individuals without the consent of Parkside and built unsustainably without determining a holistic network of trails or proper design in mind. The existing unsanctioned rogue trails have many issues that impact water quality, trail stability, erosion, wetlands, floodplain, and native plants and wildlife. There was no oversight to the existing network of trails which is confusing to many users and leaves individual end-users to determine their own personal take on the use of the property without the consent of the landowner, UW-Parkside.

The Agreement established the framework for the County and Parkside to jointly offer a sustainable trail network that would be overseen by the Kenosha County Parks Division. With over 1,000 acres combined between UW-Parkside and Petrifying Springs Park, there is an opportunity to create a well-designed trail to accommodate students, faculty and the general public to have one of the best trail networks in the region. Current design considers all user groups including hikers, walkers, nature enthusiasts, fishermen, runners and mountain bikers.

Kenosha County and UW-Parkside created a trail work group in 2019 to work transparently with community members on future design and use of the properties. Members of the work group include UW-Parkside faculty (environmental studies), UW-Parkside administration, UW-Parkside grounds and facilities, Kenosha County Parks, Kenosha Area Mountain Bike Association and Kenosha Running Club. Members of the group are invited to review conceptual plans of the trail network, give feedback from their user groups and collaborate/compromise on a holistic trail network for faculty, students, bikers, runners, hikers, x-country skiers, fishermen, and bird watchers.

4. BT - "Based on a map that was recently released, the mountain bike trails will virtually take over all the single-track trails on the UWP property and a number of similar trails within Petrifying Springs"
 - Response: Kenosha County is actively engaged with stakeholders throughout the design process. Trail proposals are shared with the work group in order to receive feedback from each special interest group. The current draft document that has not been finalized includes the following trails:



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Department of Public Works & Development Services
Raymond G. Arbet, Director

Matthew J. Collins
Director, Division of Parks
19600 75th Street, Suite 122-1
Bristol, Wisconsin 53104
Office: (262) 857-1850
Fax: (262) 857-1885

Total miles for runners/walkers/hikers: 11.7 miles

- Petrifying Springs Park paved multi-use trail (2.35 miles)
- Petrifying Springs Park hiking trail (3.25 miles – No biking)
- Shared multiuse trail (6.1 miles)

Total miles for mountain bikers: 12.1 miles

- Shared multiuse trail (6.1 miles)
- Mountain bike trail (6 miles – No runners/walkers)

Total miles of unsustainable trails to be decommissioned: 2 miles

5. BT – History of Trails – 1941 – 1994
 - Response: UW-Parkside contacted Kenosha County in 2018 with a challenge of unsanctioned trail and bridge development on state property. Kenosha County understood the benefit of the trails and natural areas for the community and worked in collaboration with Parkside to resolve this issue. All parties respect the historic legacy of the Parkside property and will continue to engage with all stakeholders how to better manage the natural resources and trail network in a strategic and sustainable manner.