

Attachment J: Comments Made by Survey Respondents in 2004 and 2005

2004 Comments

Comments that Show Support for the Project

Respondent 10: If possible could maps be installed around some of the access areas.

Respondent 12: The ski trails have improved tremendously in the last 1-2 years. I would like to see the mtn bike trails organized and improved to the level of Lebanon Hills. I rarely see anyone in the this area when biking.

Respondent 15: Thank you very much for the off-road cycling project and the improved ski trails and ski trail grooming.

Respondent 17: I used to ride in Wirth over a decade ago- before any "no mtn biking" signs were put up. I started riding at Wirth again when I heard about the demo project- the trails are very nice, especially the new ones.

Respondent 18: The off-road cycling project is a great idea. Thanks!

Respondent 20: Great asset to mpl. Trail crew has done an awesome job building and promoting

Respondent 22: I have always enjoyed the park. MORC has made, or at least started to, make the trails more connected with a determined route to follow. Once it is finished it will be awesome no to have all of the spurs that were once on the trails. These trails will be very important in that urban bikers will not have to drive to other bike areas in the metro.

Respondent 25: A loop with direction arrows would be good. MOCA has done an excellent job so far Keep up the good work.

Respondent 27: Let's do this good. Mountain biking is such and excellent sport, culture, and group of people. Help us to expand our riding capabilities in the great community.

Respondent 30: New trails are awesome!

Respondent 34: It is a great thing to develop.

Respondent 38: Love to trailwork. Needs signage.

Respondent 39: New trails are great

Respondent 47: My first time here. From South Africa. The trails are great.

Respondent 48: Great new trails.

Respondent 50: Very excited to see designated bike area. I strongly support.

Respondent 56: Hoping for snow making soon similar to Elm Creek. Excellent mtn biking trails.

Respondent 57: Several years of cycling. No bad experiences. Hoped for better sustainable trails like those being built.

Respondent 58: Looking forward to the new off-road cycling trails.

Respondent 59: The new trails are awesome. Great improvements. Looking forward to more new trails.

Respondent 60: Minneapolis parks are great, please keep up the good work. Thanks!

Respondent 61: This is a great example of public-private cooperation. I truly hope it will continue.

Respondent 62: Generally there are good people and there are bad people. As a mountain biker I am very happy that we have finally a designated trail just for cyclists. This will justify our presence at Theodore Wirth. Hikers always give me the impression that we aren't welcome at the Wirth. I have been mtn biking at the Wirth for 5 years and been riding with Bill O'Reilly and the guys and Kenwood cyclery. I think those guys are doing an excellent job at promoting and advocating off-road cycling at the Wirth. Off-road cycling is a growing recreational sport that many 30 somethings are getting into. The Wirth is an excellent site for these young at heart to show off their skills and get a good workout off road style. I hope this project will become a reality and not just a demonstration.

Respondent 67: The people building the new trails in Wirth are doing a great job. The new trails are wonderful. Hopefully the city will allow more off road trails to be built.

Respondent 68: Need signs and pamphlets with maps to better illustrate to walkers, skiers, and bikers where the trails are and which trails are designed to accommodate each of the differing uses.

Respondent 71: I have 3 kids who mountain bike also and would like to see more dedicated areas to ride through out the cities. Like Hillside in Elk River alot of miles of trails can be fit into a fairly small area. Well maked one way loops are the safest.

Respondent 72: Bill O'Reilly & ALL of the MORC volunteers should be commended for the fine mountain bike trails they've crafted in the park.
Excellent

Respondent 74: The new bike trails that have been built recently are great! They need to be "ridden-in" a bit, but they're so much better than the old eroded and damaged trails. I feel safer, and have more fun!

Respondent 75: I hope this area gains in popularity. At times, it feels a bit too isolated to me. Would rather not be the only one out there when a "bad guy" is on the prowl.

Respondent 79: The trails seem to be built with a minimum of impact to the park. The building crews appear to be concerned about the environment and also with making the cycling experience fun for the riders.

Respondent 80: I want to thank the MPRB for taking a risk with this demonstration project. I think it will be big success

Respondent 82: It is great to see all the work is being done out there to make sustainable trails. Before it was a maze of trails going all over the place with no pattern to it. Things are getting a lot better as the new trail is being made. I can now ride out there and it makes sense to me. Keep up the good work.

Respondent 84: Cycling in a park, while in an urban environment, is part of the "spirit" of Minneapolis. This project is a tremendous asset to the community and will encourage kids and adults alike to get outdoors and turn off the TV. Keep up the great work

Respondent 85: I think off road cycling in Minneapolis is a great recreational opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. I hope that it is something that stays for the long term. Our exceptional park system is in the top 5, nationally. An off road cycling experience is just what we need to give recreation in the cities something new, and put us in the top three nationally. I have a friend from New York that is amazed of the amount of parks and open spaces that we have to offer. I told him that years ago someone must have had a vision and little influence to make things happen.

Respondent 86: I love the trails at Wirth!! Keep up the good work

Respondent 87: This is a great improvement. I still want to see some very tight and technical Mountain Bike trails if the trails can be maintained. Since the project I have been more observant of good trail stewardship than before. I hope the project continues.

Respondent 88: Thank you for ALL your hard work in creating a place where we can cycle while at the same time cleaning up the park.

Respondent 90: I enjoy both skiing and biking in the park. The new trails will really help ease erosion that has been a problem in the past. Since I only live a few miles from the trail I can't say how happy I am that I can bike from my house to a great resource like this! I hope we get more snow this year so I can do more training here for the City of Lakes Loppet!!

Respondent 92: The new trails that are being constructed are very well designed and fun to ride

Respondent 94: The new trails are a great improvement. I have enjoyed introducing the trails to other riders

Respondent 95: I am very happy with the improvements with both the ski trails and the biking trails. I used to go to other places for both activities and now do most of all my biking and skiing at Wirth. Thanks for all the hard work.

Respondent 96: The new trails are great! I love riding the new bits every week. Please keep building trails

Respondent 97: Trail idea is good for all parties except those who do illegal act in the grass and down by the lake.

Respondent 98: As a resident who's biked in the park for several years, I think that a sanctioned, sustainable and well-maintained trail system can only improve the park experience for all users--both in terms of reducing conflicts and increasing enjoyment.

Respondent 101: I would love to see Theo developed into a well maintained challenging single track. It has huge potential and I could bike to it, instead of driving a half hour and unloading. The trails have gotten a good start, the last few weeks and have me excited for the fall.

Respondent 103: Wirth park is a fantastic facility. The people who live in Hidden lakes need to be educated that Wirth is a public park and not their private reserve. There is room for more trails both ski and bike. I hope this project is successful as mountain bikers are excellent stewards of the park, we help to keep the park clean and safe. Thanks

Respondent 104: I will come to the park more now that there will officially be off road trails

Comments that do not Show Support for the Project

Respondent 11: The MPRB constructing this wildlife area has driven out fox, deer, etc. It's too bad because this should be protected for wildlife, birding, etc. The mountain bikers should stay on hilly paths or brownfields urban areas and make hills for them from urban debris/landfill.

Respondent 23: I have been riding these trails for the last 5 or so years and have noticed the park being a popular place for illegal sexual activity. Although I have grown used to it, I believe the more popular this trails gets to the common rider, the more sexual activities will be a problem.

Respondent 44: The best feature of this park is its undeveloped and natural nature. Please do not install paved paths and official hiking/cycling lanes. Don't allow excessive off-road cyclists or improvements for them. I've been on the trails. I have seen cyclists with saws, pickaxes and shovels modifying the landscape.

Other

Respondent 13: We need an irrigation system for x-country ski trails along with lighting

Respondent 16: Please go through with plans to make snow on the x-c ski trails! Elm Creek is too far to drive from St. Paul

Respondent 19: Most people are very friendly Some hikers have trashed the work the MOCA has done...too bad. I would like my kids to use this park for riding...the public displays of sex from the beach are illegal and need to be solved thanks.

Respondent 24: My only complaint is the "other activities" that take place in the park. IE sexual and Bare ass beach.

Respondent 26: Trails could be better paths materials.

Respondent 93: It would be nice if something would be done to get rid of the creepy men in the forests of Wirth. I avoid riding at Wirth alone due to the sexual activity in the park.

Respondent 100: i object to the public sex

2005 comments

Comments that Show Support for the Project

Respondent 15: more trails would rock

Respondent 17: great trails

Respondent 18: make a little wider

Respondent 23: Love the trails and which it was longer. Love the location. Nice to have a central Minneapolis trail. Would love to see even more off road trails of intermediate levels.

Respondent 27: thanks

Respondent 31: great work so far, add some expert sections
Respondent 32: thanks for doing this
Respondent 37: we really like the new trails and we are hoping to see snow making
Respondent 39: great to have official mn bike trails
Respondent 40: love the trails
Respondent 43: Trains are excellent, however they are getting over ridden
Respondent 44: great idea
Respondent 54: Keep the trail up. Some repair. More paved and mountain trails
Respondent 55: nice place
Respondent 57: love it!! Thanks!
Respondent 58: Keep it up! This is a good thing. Thanks.
Respondent 60: Its perfect as it is (related to the longevity of the visit)
Respondent 61: More tech. stuff, more hills
Respondent 63: Different loops
Respondent 64: Keep it Up, this is awesome
Respondent 67: Need rock armor bypass in first half
Respondent 69: thanks for the great open space. I suggest that tracks can be strategically placed within the park
Respondent 72: The new Theo. Wirth trail is great because it can be fun from beginners to advanced
Respondent 74: The trails are very good given the land available
Respondent 75: Lots of hard/great work
Respondent 76: A large increase has occurred in the level of off road cyclists in other areas of Wirth Park. Add some separate sections
Respondent 82: Love it
Respondent 87: Make it bigger
Respondent 90: MOCA trails in Elm Creek lots of space. Maple Grove, MN
Respondent 92: keep the trails open and expand. Thank you for your interest.
Respondent 93: Like the single track; more
Respondent 94: Great addition
Respondent 95: Visiting from SE Wis. Heard about the trail from skinnyski.com. Keep building trails.
Respondent 96: Thanks, its great
Respondent 98: Great ride
Respondent 99: Great work on trail, need to get more info on how to get involved at trail head
Respondent 103: Trail is great. Much better than previous years. Hopefully the anked hikers are gone
Respondent 115: the trails are great
Respondent 117: this is a great improvement on having proper areas for the trails
Respondent 119: Love it, this is my first visit
Respondent 120: More mountain biking trails please
Respondent 121: Just more trails

Respondent 124: great job

Respondent 127: Lob more

Respondent 131: Ride on, awesome trails

Respondent 135: Keep up the good work

Respondent 139: Trails should be more technical, but not with cheesy obstacles

Respondent 140: Excellent place

Respondent 142: I really appreciate all the work here

Respondent 143: These Trails are wonderful

Respondent 146: Thanks, they're great trails

Respondent 147: Add more mileage

Respondent 148: new trails are great

Respondent 151: Keep up the good work!! Expansion!!

Respondent 152: Thank you

Respondent 154: Wish there was more trail

Respondent 156: Would like to have better signage easier for children to understand at entry points

Respondent 157: it would be nice to have some sections with more advanced trail, like Lebanon Hills, but I wouldn't hope for that exclusively because then you're limited users.

Respondent 159: I think the folks involved in building the trails did a GREAT job. Thank you!! I would like to ride on some longer trails with some less twisty portions and longer climbs. I know Wirth is not big enough for this, but maybe powers-that-be in Minneapolis and Hennepin Co. will read this.

Respondent 160: More diversity in trails. There are plenty of trails in the Wirth area to allow for beginner, intermediate, and advanced loops within the reserve.

Respondent 162: A suggestion when you have a "stunt" like the little concrete drop that has two lines, one over "stunt" and one line around, make the line around just a few seconds longer/slower so the rider choosing the stunt and riding it smoothly will gain a few seconds of make a pass by a rider that choose not to ride said stunt

Respondent 164: It's great that this project is giving people another reason to enjoy the natural resources of our city. The more people get out the better off the city is as a whole!

Respondent 165: I live in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood and I support the creation and use of this trail in its current location.

Respondent 166: A single trail for both hikers and bikers is unsuitable. Mountain bike trails are too steep and muddy for hikers. Dual use is unsafe, as the Park Board knows from experience with separating traditional bike trails from walking trails around the lakes.

Respondent 167: I think the trail system at TW is a great asset to the urban environment. Keep up the great work.

Respondent 171: The trails are great, especially for being 15 minutes by bike from a major metropolitan downtown. Continue expanding the trail, continue to grow the level of difficulty while still allowing beginners to go out and ride.

Respondent 172: The new trails are great. As an experienced off road cyclist, I would like to see more challenge (i.e. tighter turns, drop offs, jumps, etc.)> I lengthier trails would be nice but I understand they are not that large. I would like to see the trails extended all the way to Brown Lake. I feel that with clearly marked trails that hikers and bikers can coexist happily (Lebanon Hills comes to mind). It would lengthen the existing trail and make it easy to link up with other biking destinations in the city.

Respondent 174: I didn't know about this project, but we continue to see off-road cyclists in the South area of the park near Eloise Butler and Anwatan Woods. I haven't ever had any problems with these cyclists. I think the project is a great idea and I hope that it is a success.

Respondent 178: The new trails are great. The only way to improve them would be to add more.

Respondent 179: You guys are doing a great job. I only hope that we can expand trails into different parts of the Minneapolis park system.

Respondent 180: Keep up the great work

Respondent 183: Please expand trails south

Respondent 184: At obstacle, use 2 paths: one advanced over and one easy way around obstacle.

Respondent 186: Thank you for building this trail and allowing mountain bicycling!

Respondent 187: I now only see middle-aged bike riders in woods. No more scary freaks!! New trails are wonderful M.O.C.A delivered!!! I feel so lucky every time there. Official off-road trails! And great ones too. Now, how about a trail to Cedar Lake?!!

Respondent 192: I like having separate trails for mountain bikes. I also noticed that on the map near the trail there is both a symbol for biking and hiking, but there is only a biking symbol on the trails posts. This is confusing and possibly dangerous. If hiking is allowed on the mountain bike trails allow hikers on only if they are going in the opposite direction from the bikes.

Respondent 193: Great work- love the trails. The "sketchy" element has diminished with more riders.

Respondent 197: I think this a very good project. Keep up the good work and call me if I can help.

Respondent 202: I'm impressed with the buck thorn removal and fun trails that have been created. I'm more of a paved trail rider- using Wirth Park as a route to south mpls. Or downtown. The trail (pavement) east in the park needs some work. I'm grateful to live in a city with such incredible trails.

Respondent 206: I would like the addition of a more advanced loop to the existing trail system.

Respondent 212: Would enjoy some more beginner off-road trails.

Respondent 213: Great Work!

Respondent 215: Great job opening structured trails!

Respondent 217: the trail is great! Nice job

Respondent 218: It's Great!!! Put the trail through to Brownie Lake!

Respondent 219: Keep up the good work!

Respondent 220: Great area, thanks!

Respondent 223: It's all good.

Respondent 224: Should add off road trails from around cedar lake to Golden Valley road. Often walkers refuse to get out of the way of bikers, then complain. Many walkers, especially older, have the attitude we were here first and we don't want or don't have to share.

Respondent 225: This is great!! The site could use more miles of trails and an expert loop. Keep the project.

Respondent 231: Good Job

Respondent 232: It would be nice to have another loop. Currently it takes about 20 minutes for one loop.

Respondent 233: Ski trails are awesome, the more the better. I welcome the bikers, good to see more people enjoying this great resource.

Respondent 234: Make more stunts on the trail for more difficult riding. Also need some more eares that have more of a downhill thing! Just to have some more speed! Don't get me wrong I love this type of trail!

Respondent 236: What a great resource- you guys are awesome!!!

Respondent 237: I love the tails at Wirth Park. They are challenging, but possible. Also, I like that they change and evolve. I am always surprised when I go out there and explore.

Respondent 239: Absolutley love the trails and they are the sole reason I am a mountain biker today.

Respondent 240: Thanks for renovating the bike trails. Only suggestion would be to have a separate walking/jogging trail in the same area.

Respondent 244: I have been a off road rider for about 10 years. My son found your trails and has me excited about coming and riding them. Your pics are also great. Will bring my bike on my next visit.

Respondent 245: **It's great to see this successful partnership between the city and mountain bikers. I am very interest in seeing more IMBA style single track trails in the city. I would be willing to provide financial support for additional projects!!!!

Respondent 249: thanks

Respondent 250: very happy with trails

Respondent 252: would be nice to have some of the old course back

Respondent 255: love the trail

Respondent 256: would like to see more difficult trails, trails are great

Respondent 257: trails are important part of mtn biking community, trails are good

Respondent 260: great trail system, have seen people hiking the trail, thanks

Respondent 262: am impressed with trails, in a urban setting close to home, thanks

Respondent 263: nice trail system, like the tight ride

Respondent 264: addition of one way signs is great

Respondent 268: this is a fantastic trail, great job. Hope it stays open

Respondent 269: trails are great addition to MPLS, could be a bit wider and more technical

Respondent 270: it's a great trail, I wish there was more of it. Its awesome that this nice park is close to downtown, hope it carries over into cross country skiing

Respondent 271: flow of trail is better than before, have noticed more beginner level riders there!

Respondent 273: the intermediate level of trail is great, would love to see more options in the future

Respondent 278: really like the trails, but wish there was more miles and more challenges, I am willing to wait

Respondent 279: it's a wonderful city resource

Respondent 280: the trails greatly influenced my decision of buying a house in the area

Respondent 291: would like to see additional trails of off road cycling

Respondent 292: very nice variation of trail challenges, curves, a catwalk, rockbeds, etc. Very nicely built

Respondent 293: the trail is very well marked, would love to see more intermediate level and expert level trails, thanks

Respondent 294: The trails are a fantastic addition to the city park system and look forward to seeing them expanded

Respondent 295: well done

Respondent 296: excellent job on the trails

Respondent 300: its an excellent addition to the park system

Respondent 305: am very impressed with the demonstration project, would love to see more trails

Respondent 306: keep up the great work

Respondent 307: trails are great for cycling, running, skiing, they could be a bit more challenging and technical

Respondent 309: park is way better with new trails

Respondent 312: this is an excellent use of the land, wonderful asset close to the metro

Respondent 313: MOCA has done a great job with these trails, keep up the good work

Respondent 315: fantastic trails, would love to see more

Respondent 316: I really enjoy the trails, would like to see a little more mileage

Respondent 318: the trails are great, please keep them open, would love to see it expanded south

Respondent 320: thank you, work validates user interest

Respondent 321: I love the new trails, are better shape than the originals, its helped get rid of undersireable traffic in park

Respondent 322: increase the size and difficulty, need more trails

Respondent 323: there needs to be an expert section with more challenging trail, and trails must be smaller in width

Respondent 324: the crew did too well of a job building, can't wait to see more

Respondent 325: the trails have made the park nicer and are keeping bad traffic out

Respondent 328: trail is great, keep up the good work

Respondent 329: I like the trails, would be nice to see more

Respondent 331: I think the trail system is a good start, would like to see more, with uphill and downhill switchbacks

Respondent 334: I love the new trails, great work, please keep it up

Respondent 336: quality and consistency of trail is greatly improved

Respondent 338: the trails are a great improvement to the mpls trail system

Respondent 340: trails are in great shape, I appreciate the technical obstacles

Respondent 342: with the new trails, the city has the opportunity to be a leader in the promotion of silent sports in the entire nation

Respondent 343: thanks for taking a chance on pilot project, use trails frequently, and occasionally help with maintenance

Respondent 346: MOCA and MORCA have done a good job, well designed, would like to see more

Respondent 347: appreciate that mtn bikers and MPRB worked together to bring this project together

Respondent 351: excellent job so far, couldn't have asked for a better starter trail

Respondent 353: am impressed with trail, did not really there was so much to offer in the area

Respondent 354: am impressed with the network of mtn bike trails, impressed with the age range using them, hope the project will expand

Respondent 357: great start, would love to see the loops longer and more difficult

Respondent 358: I like it just the way it is

Respondent 359: am happy about the trails being legal and well built, it's a great addition

Respondent 360: thanks for allowing pilot project, please keep building

Respondent 361: haven't felt safe to ride until this new project, haven't seen as many naked men

Respondent 362: these trails are good and rather technical, lack of thigh burning climbs

Respondent 364: trails are excellent

Respondent 365: good job and great efforts, area has gotten safer and cleaner

Respondent 366: thanks for having this facility, please make more

Respondent 369: great work so far, would like to see longer loop

Respondent 372: these trails are very smooth and flow nicely

Respondent 373: some more options, more technical options

Respondent 374: I have heard of some jump sections that would be a good addition

Respondent 375: trails are great thank you

Respondent 377: excellent trail design

Respondent 379: pleased that the project has opened to the public, hope it demonstrates to other that mtn biking can coexist with other park uses

Respondent 381: the trails are a lot of fun, great work

Respondent 382: look forward to the planned expert trails and any other extensions

Respondent 383: the ride is generally pretty good

Respondent 384: could use some challenging climbs

Respondent 386: this has been great, gives me something to brag about as a city person

Respondent 388: my wife and myself thoroughly enjoy our visits to wirth park, excellent job

Respondent 389: the times ive ridden the trail I really liked it, a longer trail would be awesome, parking is a bit of an issue

Respondent 391: lets have some more difficult sections and extensions

Respondent 392: would be nice to have some more trails with less hairpin corners, more straightaway section with elevation changes

Respondent 394: love the trail so close and would love to see more

Comments that do not Show Support for the Project

Respondent 42: We (my husband and I) liked the park much better last summer, when it wasn't so overcrowded. The rock ramp bites.

Respondent 158: I have also seen much more evidence of off-road bicycling in areas closed to makers. In my experience, containment policies do not work with regard to these activities. ATV clubs have been given scramble areas and designed routes in the past few years in out state forests, yet the damage done by such machines off the trails has only increased. Are we to expect this will not happen with off-road bicycles? Is the MPRB going to provide additional enforcement to keep riders on the trails? Does MOCA have the funds set aside to repair the damage done to trails in the future?

Respondent 185: I seem to see more reckless mountain bikers all the time. Please limit the trail to the current area. They also come charging around the east side of cedar lake and I've been close to being hit when I walk over there

Respondent 188: see #3. it would be a big mistake to open wirth, and especially EB garden side to off-road biking

Respondent 191: Please keep off-road cycling paths far away from Eloise Butler and main walking areas.

Respondent 194: the trails have become broad and compacted through the woods. Where they cross the "walking trails" is a dangerous blind intersection and collisions between walkers, bikers, and dogs are inevitable if bikers don't stop and look.

Respondent 205: I really am saddened by this proposed habitat (for birds, ect) destructive recreation activity. Please nix it.

Respondent 226: No bikes in or near Eloise Butler Gardens and surrounding areas.

Respondent 283: we need to be careful not to abuse this part of the park

Respondent 298: have had mostly negative experiences with off road bikers, they are not staying in there area

Respondent 299: I like the idea but am disappointed in other areas of the park being ridden in, have seen trail damage, hope there will be some type of enforcement

Respondent 370: really poor trail marking on course A and B course was almost the same

Respondent 371: wirth has become to easy, was better before

Other

Respondent 80: Post results online

Respondent 101: Found info online and in news articles

Respondent 102: Member of MORC

Respondent 108: Heard about mountain biking trails through friends and researched on the internet. Link or show bike trails on Theo. Wirth Park site.

Respondent 114: First Visit

Respondent 122: First time here

Respondent 145: Eat green beans!

Respondent 210: someone cleaned up the park recently. Keep it up!

Respondent 189: Enjoy birding and identifying flowers. Especially like this area for cross country skiing- exciting challenging hills!

Respondent 201: we would use the park much more if we weren't harassed every time.

Respondent 203: Bike riders are friendly- they don't seem to realize how suddenly they come up to walkers.

Respondent 290: clean up the beach

Respondent 308: need to do something in minnehaha park area

Respondent 356: why not let twin lakes be clothing optional

Respondent 367: I have not had time to ride them yet