



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department, Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

ADDENDUM

Meeting of the: **PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE**
Date/Time: Monday, August 4th, 2014 @ **4:15pm**
Location: **Sylvan Hill Chalet – 1329 Sylvan Street, Wausau WI 54403**
Members: Gisselman, Mielke, Neal, Nutting, Oberbeck (c)

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (All items listed may be acted upon)

1. Walking Tour of Sylvan Hill Park Trails at **4:15pm** (Please note: No action will be taken during the walking tour)
2. Call Regular Meeting to Order at Sylvan Hill Chalet at **5:15pm**
3. **Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda**
4. Approve Minutes – July 7th, 2014
5. Sylvan Hill Park Future Uses – Discussion and Possible Action on Developing Mountain Bike Facilities at Sylvan Hill Park
6. Street Tree Removal Request – Discussion and Possible Action on Request to Remove Street Tree at 630 Kickbusch Due to Sewer Problems
7. 2015 Budget – Discussion and Possible Action on the Initial 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Budget Proposal
8. Project Update
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Next Regular Meeting – To Be Determined
11. Adjourn

David Oberbeck - Committee Chairperson

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Jodi Luebbe (Park Office) @ (715) 261-1560.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and faxed to the Wausau Daily Herald newsroom on _____ @ _____ **M**

Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids & services. For information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk, at 407 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403 or Ph# (715) 261-6620.

Others Distribution: Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Duncanson, Knotek, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Brad Karger, Wisconsin Woodchucks, A. Werth, K. Rasmussen



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AGENDA SUMMARY

4. Sylvan Hill Park Future Uses – Discussion and Possible Action on Developing Mountain Bike Facilities at Sylvan Hill Park

The Committee previously approved exploring the concept of developing the park into a summer mountain bike facility that would contribute to qualifying the Wausau area as an International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Ride Center. The Central Wisconsin Off-road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) has obtained an estimate of trail design consultant costs to design a facility that would include three separate trail types (attached). The next step in the process is to determine whether adding the mountain bike facility is the appropriate long term use of the park. This is a timely discussion as 2015 budgets are being prepared and a design funding request would need to be prepared soon.

Sylvan Hill was created as a community park to provide specialized recreation opportunities to the Wausau area and beyond. The initial winter recreation area development with downhill skiing and a toboggan slide provided that. The recent redevelopment from a ski hill to a snow tubing hill and long term cross-country ski trail use has continued to fulfill the original intent. The shelter hosts events for a broad range of users during the non-snow activity periods. While residents near the park have benefitted from relatively unrestricted access to the park for their personal use during much of the year, the park has not yet fully fulfilled its original potential and intent. The addition of mountain bike facilities will help achieve that. Access for neighbors will change but not be eliminated. For those who mountain bike, access will be enhanced.

5. Street Tree Removal Request – Discussion and Possible Action on Request to Remove Street Tree at 630 Kickbusch Street Due to Sewer Problems

The owner of 630 Kickbusch has had problems with roots in his sanitary sewer lateral. City Forester Blaine Peterson was contacted and requested to remove a street tree the property owner believes is causing his problems. Peterson inspected the site and informed the property owner about how tree roots rarely cause sewer pipe failure but instead will grow into subsurface areas where water and nutrients are present due to prior sanitary sewer failure. (See attachment) Accordingly, Peterson declined the request to remove the large, healthy street tree. Subsequently, the owner is appealing the City Forester's decision to the Park and Rec. Committee. Staff recommends denying the appeal based on proven science that trees are incapable of sensing and seeking underground water and sewer lines that are not leaking.

6. 2015 Budget – Discussion and Possible Action on the Initial 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Budget Proposal

Staff will present an overview of the initial budget submittal we are in the process of preparing. The basic budget direction is:

- Personnel – costs have been set at a 2% wage increase plus benefit adjustments
- Non-Personnel – prepare a no-levy change budget. Indicate the cost and impacts of a no-levy change budget and itemize proposed additions in a supplemental proposal. Roughly 25% of our budget is non-personnel. No-levy change requires cuts due to cost increases and additional facilities to maintain. Staff is in the process of developing the budget details and will present them at the meeting.



Matt Block
Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC)
mblock78@gmail.com

04 May 2014

Dear Matt,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the attached proposal to design a bike park at Sylvan Hill Park in Wausau, WI. CWOCC continues to promote great projects in Wausau and we look forward to assisting you.

If you are in agreement with the attached proposal, please sign, scan, and return it to me. We can then determine the project schedule based on the conditions on the ground.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bernhardt".

Chris Bernhardt, Director of Consulting Services
International Mountain Bicycle Association
chris.bernhardt@imba.com

Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan – Proposal

4 May 2014



Project Understanding

Of the several mountain bicycling opportunities identified by IMBA's Trail Solutions from our visit in 2013, Sylvan Park has the greatest potential for a bike park facility, as it offers 200 vertical feet of elevation change as well as shuttle access, both desirable for gravity-oriented trails.

Sylvan could host up to four gravity trails on the property; it is suggested that they consist of two flow trails and two jump trails. A large, undeveloped space in the middle of the park could easily accommodate a pump track and skills area. A singletrack trail loop would fit well around the perimeter of the property, helping to provide a return trail for the gravity zone.

Sylvan already hosts facilities and events such as a winter tubing area, cross-country ski loop, playground, and chalet. Because this park exists as a winter recreation area it is well suited to provide more diverse recreation in the summer months and adapt to mountain biking specific infrastructure. Parking already exists and there is room to expand if usage increases substantially.

A large community with a middle school and a high school surrounds this park. The schools border the south property line, making the potential bike facilities accessible to a large youth population. When developed to its full potential, this facility will not only provide a great resource for the local community but also expand the area's growing outdoor tourism economy.

Upon review of the site and soils maps for the area, the conditions appear to be





favorable for this type of trail construction, which will help reduce the overall costs.

This property is by far the most desirable and well-suited for construction of a destination mountain bike facility. It is recommended that the development of this park be prioritized in order to help modernize the local trails infrastructure.





Scope

TASK 1 – PROJECT PREPARATION

Obtain and review existing project data.
Obtain GIS data and create basemap.
Mobilize to site.

TASK 2 – DRAFT CONCEPTUAL PLAN

Review site with land manager and stakeholders. Conceptually design bike park to integrate into existing facilities and to incorporate new mountain bicycle-optimized tracks and trails that optimize the available terrain.

Render the conceptual bike park plan onto the basemap to create a draft conceptual plan, indicating the approximate locations and quantities for the above-noted tracks and trails. This graphic will be a multi-color and cross-referenced to photographs and graphic renderings of representative features.

Create a short draft report detailing approximate development costs, construction priorities, possible phasing, and recommendations for next steps.

TASK 3 – FINAL CONCEPTUAL PLAN

Spend up to eight hours making changes per client comments.

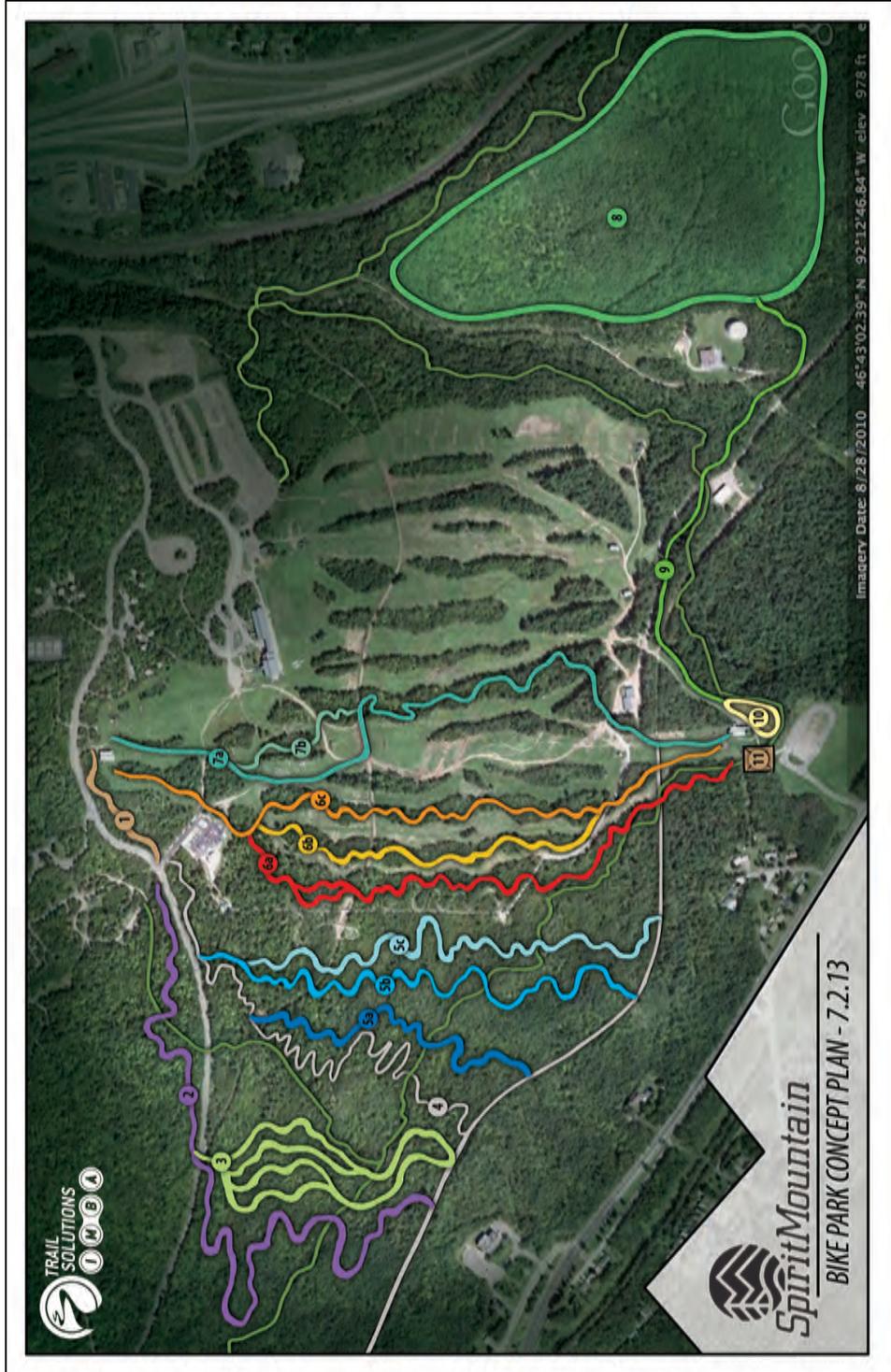


Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan – Proposal

4 May 2014



Sample Plan





Fee

Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan - Proposal		
	04 May 2014	Total
Tasks		
TASK 1 - PROJECT INITIATION		
1.1	Coordinate with client to obtain background data and plan visit	\$ 485
1.2	Create basemap	\$ 410
1.3	Mobilization (RT)	\$ 675
TASK 2 - DRAFT CONCEPTUAL PLAN		
2.1	Review site; conceptually design bike park	\$ 1,800
2.2	Create DRAFT conceptual bike park plan graphic	\$ 1,010
2.3	Create DRAFT report detailing recommendations/costs	\$ 820
TASK 3 - FINAL CONCEPTUAL PLAN		
3.1	Finalize graphic and report per client and stakeholder feedback	\$ 600
<i>Total Labor Cost</i>		\$ 5,200
<i>Direct Costs (transportation, field materials, lodging, per diem, etc)</i>		\$ 1,106
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 6,306

Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan – Proposal

4 May 2014



Agreement

This document sets forth the agreement for retention of **IMBA's Trail Solutions** (herein referred to as "TS") to provide services to the **Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition** (herein referred to as "Client") in connection with the above-noted project. The basis of IMBA's Trail Solutions retention is described above and in the attached *Conditions* document.

Approved for the **Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition**

By _____

Name & Title _____

Date _____

Approved for **IMBA's Trail Solutions**

By  _____

Name & Title Chris Bernhardt, Director of Consulting Services

Date 04 May 2014

Enl: Conditions

Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan – Proposal

4 May 2014



Conditions:

The following conditions will apply to the work performed by Trail Solutions:

- 1) Client will provide assistance and materials as necessary to successfully complete the proposed scope. This includes the provision of maps and the guiding of TS during the field visit.
- 2) TS reserves the right to refuse to perform, promote, or execute any designs or proposals that are not, in TS' opinion, sustainable, environmentally or socially sound, and/or in the best interest of affected parties.
- 3) Client will obtain all necessary permits/permissions.
- 4) Proposed dates and durations are approximate. Specific start and finish dates will be determined by: weather conditions; site access conditions; vegetation; availability of Client's personnel, other stakeholders, and of TS staff; and other factors. TS will not be responsible for project delays or failures caused by any factors out of their control, including, but not limited to: weather; ground conditions; and/or legal access.
- 5) In order to be most efficient TS reserves the right to move hours between tasks without the expressed permission of Client.
- 6) All property boundaries for the subject site shall be clearly identifiable and obvious. In the event that there are any questions regarding the location of property boundaries, the Client shall provide immediate assistance in determining their location. TS shall bear no responsibility or costs for efforts that cannot be accurately completed because of lack of accurate boundary information.
- 7) No field flagging or trail corridor alignments will be produced with this effort.
- 8) To reduce costs all materials (e.g., maps, reports, notes, photos, data layers, etc) will be provided in electronic format only.
- 9) TS reserves the right to utilize the resulting work in promotional and/or marketing materials.
- 10) Payment for services shall be rendered within 30 days of invoicing.
- 11) This proposal is valid for 20 days from the date of issue. After that time, TS reserves the right to revise or rescind the offer for its services.

Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan – Proposal

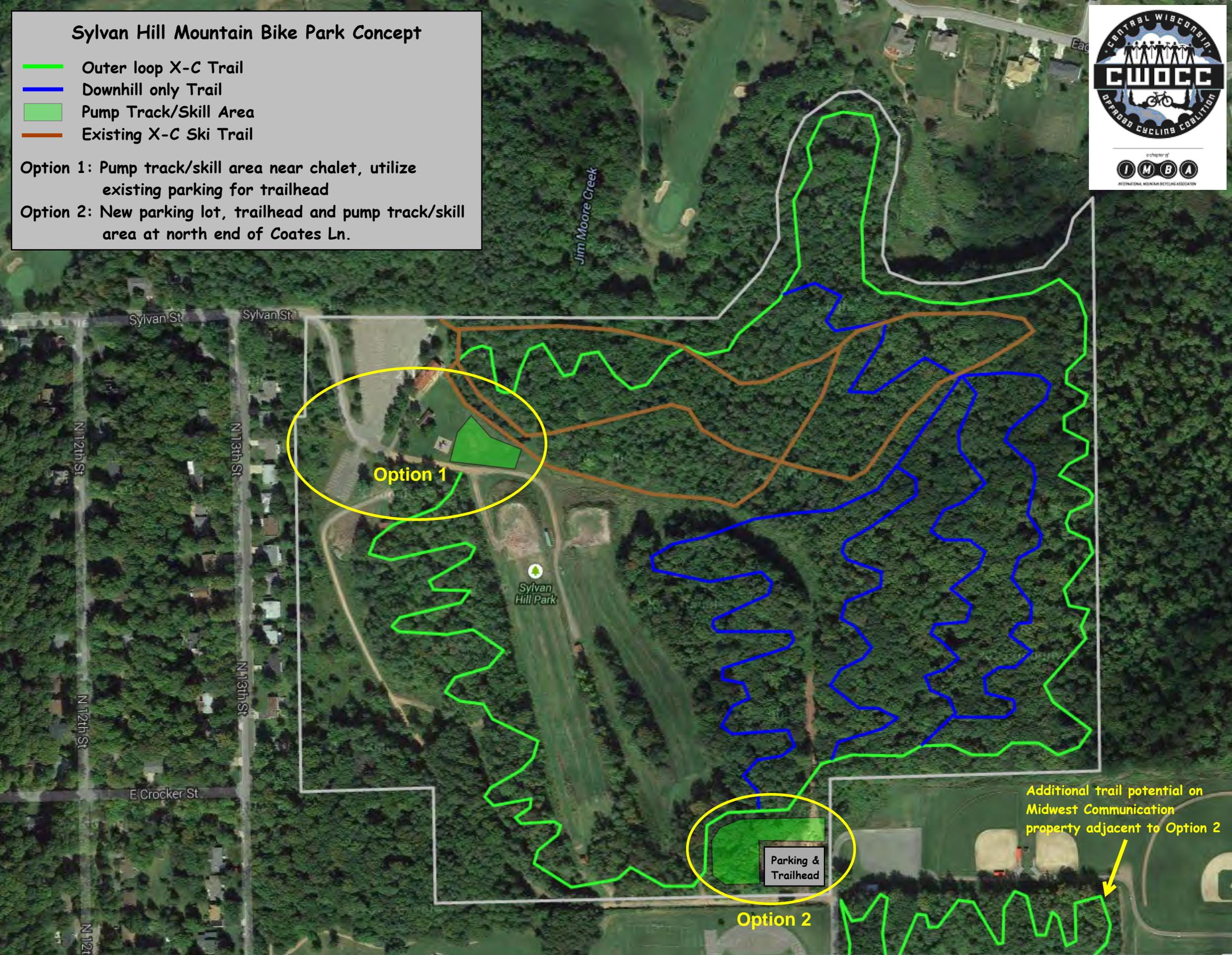
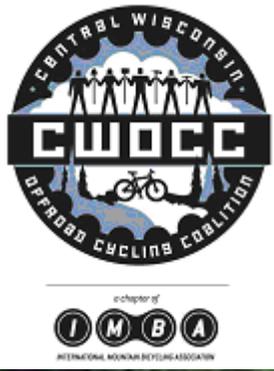
4 May 2014

Sylvan Hill Mountain Bike Park Concept

- Outer loop X-C Trail
- Downhill only Trail
- Pump Track/Skill Area
- Existing X-C Ski Trail

Option 1: Pump track/skill area near chalet, utilize existing parking for trailhead

Option 2: New parking lot, trailhead and pump track/skill area at north end of Coates Ln.



Option 1

Sylvan Hill Park

Jim Moore Creek

Sylvan St

E Crocker St

N 12th St

N 13th St

N 14th St

N 15th St

Parking & Trailhead

Option 2

Additional trail potential on Midwest Communication property adjacent to Option 2



Dan Fazio

People need to demonstrate care since trees do not have that ability. Bus and truck drivers can avoid limbs that can not be pruned without endangering the tree (left). It is also the job of humans to remove dead limbs over streets and roads, and to avoid parking under any that might exist (right).

"Do you mean that nasty old tree reached out and smacked your bus? No? Well, then would you please drive more carefully and stop running into our tree?!"

Municipalities have a legal mandate to keep their streets safe, including preventing limbs and foliage from creating a nuisance to the road. This might include preventing the obstruction of street lights and views of oncoming traffic, or keeping limbs from dropping. It also includes maintaining a vertical clearance of approximately 8 feet over sidewalks and 14 feet over streets.

With most trees, obtaining these clearances is possible, but with others it is not. Newly planted trees can not be pruned to such heights. Only after several years of correct pruning of lower limbs will such clearances be possible. In another case, an old tree that was never properly pruned may have lower limbs that can not now be pruned without destroying the tree or exposing it to decay organisms through a large pruning wound. If the tree is not otherwise dangerous, a case can be made for leaving the limb if street width allows easy avoidance of the limb or cars are usually parked beneath it.

Similarly, roadside vegetation off the shoulder of highways should not automatically be cleared because in engineering terms it is within a "spin out" zone. Perhaps we need to learn to share our environment with trees and expect motorists to drive safely and avoid trees that are reasonably out of the way of traffic.

And then there was the police officer's report: "Damages were done to a car hit by a southbound tree!"

MYTH 3:

Tree roots break sewer lines

Forester Steve Sandfort says, "If you have been a practicing city forester for at least a week you will have taken several calls from irate homeowners who claim that tree roots have broken their sewers and are causing their basements to flood. Basically, the roots are accused of getting together and saying, 'Oh, boy! There's a good sewer line over there. Let's grow over, punch a hole in it, and get its nutrients and water.'"

There is no question that sewer problems can be traumatic and expensive for homeowners. And there is no doubt that when the plumber's snake does its work, handfuls of roots are often retrieved before the sewer starts flowing properly. But where did those roots come from? Why were they in the sewer? Did the tree really *cause* the sewer problem? How can the problem be minimized in the future?

Roots grow best through soil when following favorable conditions of moisture, texture and oxygen. Under these conditions, most roots are found in the top 24 inches of soil, well away from sewer lines. A few, however, may grow deeply enough to be near a properly buried sewer line. Even so, nothing happens until the sewer pipe breaks or its joints leak, oozing nutrients and water into the surrounding soil. Nearby roots then begin to thrive and grow rapidly. They can enter the defective pipe and eventually block the flow of its sewerage.

As proof of this, consider the fact that tree roots are rarely associated with water line problems, even though trees need water. The reason is because water lines are commonly made of cast iron, screwed together and designed not to break or leak. Sewer lines, on the other hand, are usually made of clay tiles that are glued together. Clay is fragile and eventually cracks due to soil settlement or earth tremors. When this happens, tree roots may enter the line.

Problems can be prevented by:

- Proper construction of new sewer lines, including tight joints and a firm soil base that won't settle unevenly.
- Repair or replacement of defective sewers. Repeated root blockage may indicate a collapsed or badly damaged pipe.
- Finding ways to improve sewer design and construction. Cities that annually spend millions on sewer clearance would do better to invest in long-term solutions to the problem.

MYTH 4: Roots surface and damage lawn mowers

A common complaint from frustrated homeowners and grounds keepers is: "What in the world can I do about those (expletive deleted) tree roots that keep coming to the surface and destroying my lawn mower? I can't even grow grass there anymore!"

The truth is that under good conditions, tree roots grow through the soil, not on top of it. Admittedly, in nature, roots sometimes are forced near the surface by shallow rocks, or by a high water table, such as in bogs. However, these are not the kind of sites where houses are usually built. In a community setting, roots normally grow well beneath the surface.

The trouble often begins with construction activity that disregards the conditions needed by trees. Commonly, the poor soil excavated from foundations and basements is placed in future lawn areas, compacted by construction traffic, then covered with a thin layer of top soil. Roots then grow in this shallow depth of good soil. When foot traffic compacts this thin layer, or even if compaction occurs on deeper soil, erosion can follow. In addition, excessive raking of leaves, twigs, fruits, flowers and other natural debris prevents the building of new soil that would otherwise cover shallow roots.



- To prevent exposed roots and lawn mower conflicts:
- Break up compacted soil around new construction before adding top soil and planting trees.
 - Reduce or eliminate raking, power vacuuming and "thatching."
 - Cover exposed roots with a thin layer of good soil.
 - Vertically mulch (*Bulletin No. 5*) by drilling holes that will stimulate deeper root growth.
 - Create gracefully designed mulch beds over the exposed root area.
 - Develop a flower, shrub or ground cover area.

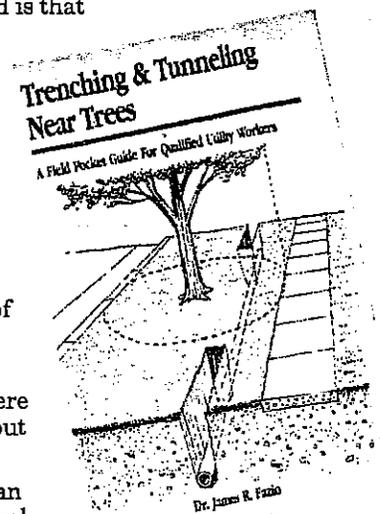
MYTH 5: A little trench won't hurt

A tree's root system is its lifeline and few people will argue that a large trench near a tree is big trouble.

What is often overlooked is that even the tiniest slit made to bury a sprinkler system or to install a telephone line severs roots and is just as hard on the tree as digging a huge trench next to it. When a root is cut, it is cut!

To prevent damaging trees with *any* kind of trench:

- Detour around the dripline of trees. There is nothing sacred about straight lines.
- Tunnel when roots can not be avoided. Tunneling equipment is readily available to do the job.
- For specific guidelines, send \$3.00 to The National Arbor Day Foundation for the 32-page booklet, *Trenching and Tunneling Near Trees*.



Raking and mowing makes a bad situation even worse (left). Mulch and ground cover (right) provide an attractive alternative to damaged roots and beat up lawn mowers.



PROJECT UPDATE

Stinchfield Creek Trail

Project bid opening occurred July 29, 2014. Results will be discussed at the August 4th meeting.

Kaiser Pool Rebid

Project bids are due August 12, 2014. Pre-qualification statements are due August 6, 2014.