

February 21, 2017

To Whom it may concern:

I teach biology at the Waterford School and have been pleased to use Dimple Dell for the last twenty five years as a nearby place to do all manner of field work. In the summer and fall we (four sections of Class Nine Biology students) collect insects. We bird in the winter and spring and also do plant transects in the late spring. To have a wild space so near to our school is something that I count on every year. The "wildness" of the park means most of the biota found in our foothills is also available at Dimple Dell. I know of other Waterford colleagues who use the park for art and creative writing.

We mostly use the park east of 13th East all around to the Granite Park developed area. The park is unique in its lack of paved and disturbed areas that are so close to parking. While working in the park we encounter hikers, horseback riders and the occasional mountain biker. They all seem to enjoy the park as it is. I also live near the park and bike and biologize there with my family.

I do not understand the need to pave a trail. There are paved trails alongside the park at the Granite Park area, in fact our class uses the picnic table there to pin insects and talk about what we saw that day. Any more plans to develop the park will compromise the very thing that makes it so attractive as a place to do science. Sometimes leaving things alone is the best idea. I can see what will be lost with more development. I fail to see what will be gained aside from spending a lot of taxpayer money.

Thank you for the chance to provide a bit of input from a user of this amazing area.

Mark Bromley
Biology Department
Waterford School