



Walnut Grove Parks Single track Improvements

Bike Optimized Natural Surface Trail

“Providing access to the natural surface trail experience in our community”



Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Timeline
- Planning, Background, and MadBAT
- Trail Details
- Virtual Walkthrough
- FAQ's
- Questions and Answers

Project Timeline

2000 to present	Community Feedback- Need for Trails
2018	Park and Open Space Plan Recommends Trail Development
2020	City Wide MadBAT Planning Project
2021	Pump Track Construction
2022	Walnut Grove site identified as priority site
March 2022	Concept plan developed for Walnut Grove
May 5, 2022	Public Informational and input meeting
May 2022	Discussion of next steps
June 2022	Report out on next steps

Why Bike Trails?

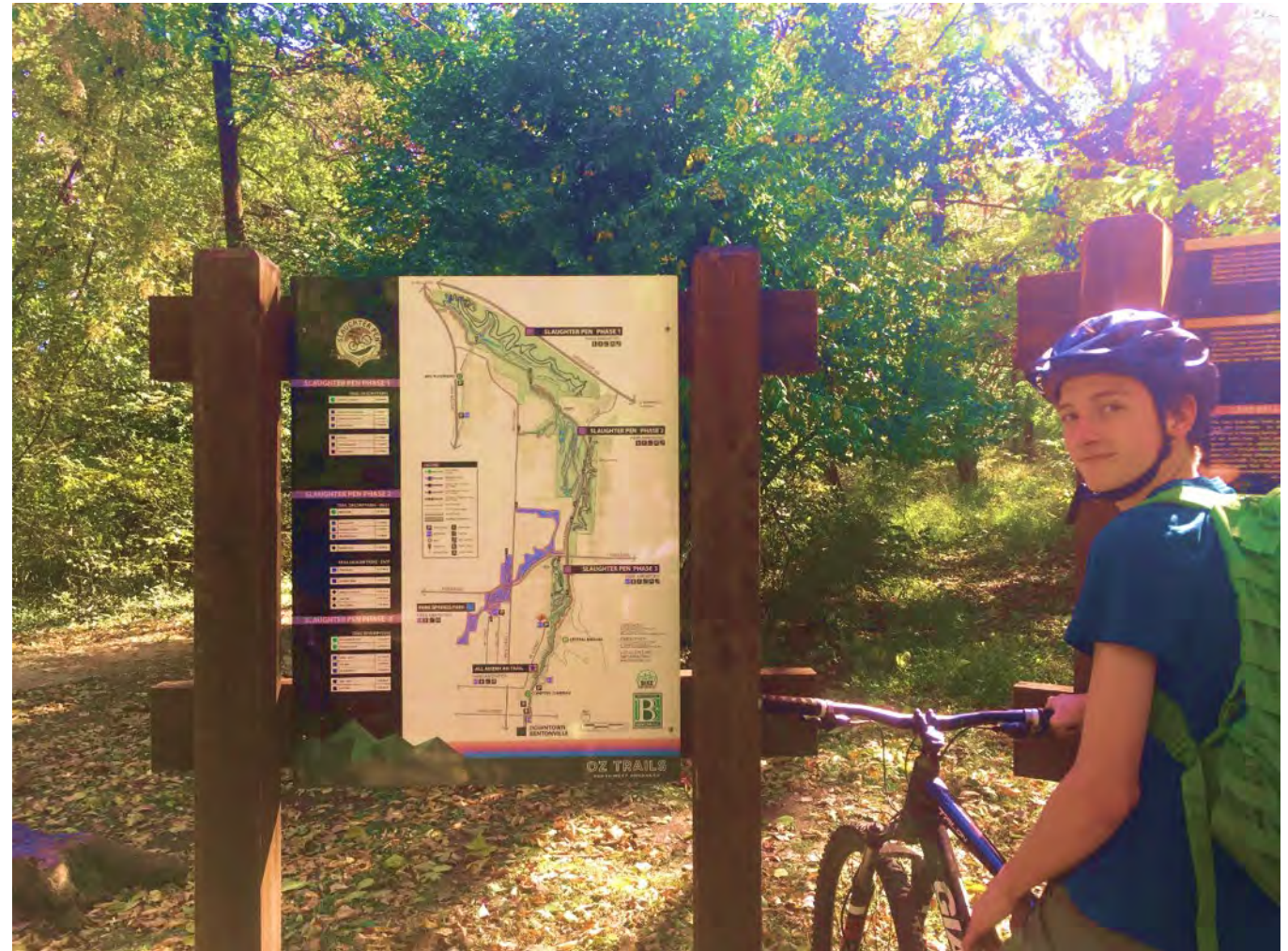
- Trails support an active lifestyle
- Health and wellbeing benefits
- Access to trails makes for a desirable place to live
- Recreational amenities increase community value
- Respond to outdoor experience demand





Adaptability: An adaptable, flexible park system should evolve in conjunction with changes in it's users.

- Wide range of experiences for a wide range of park users.
- Adding recreational opportunity to underused park lands.



Bike Optimized Natural Surface Trail- What is it?

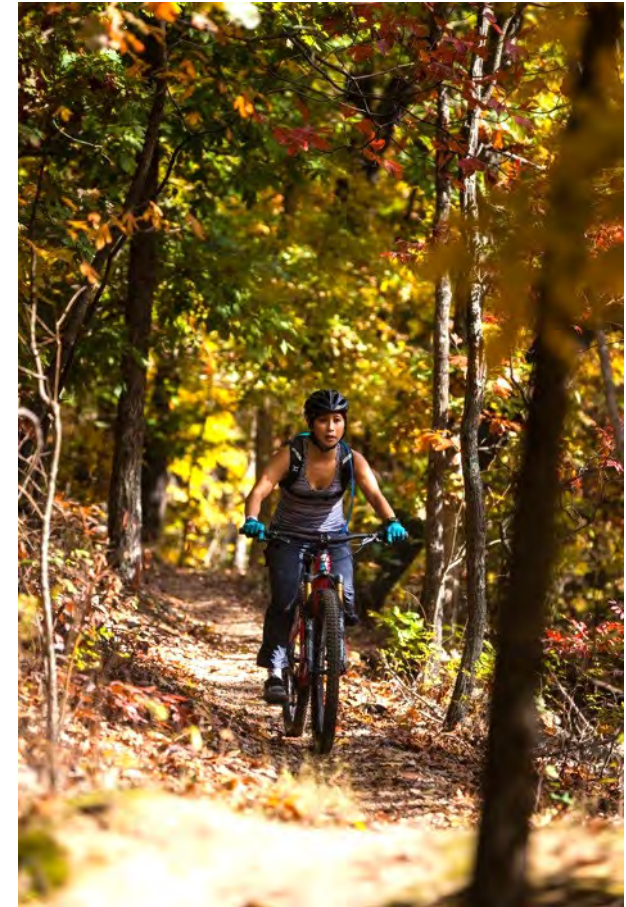
- Recreational amenity
- Natural surface trails for riding bikes, walking, hiking, and trail running.
- Connection to nature and neighborhoods
- A way to learn more about the recreational spaces in Parks
- Open to non motorized users (walkers, hikers, bikes)



Project Background

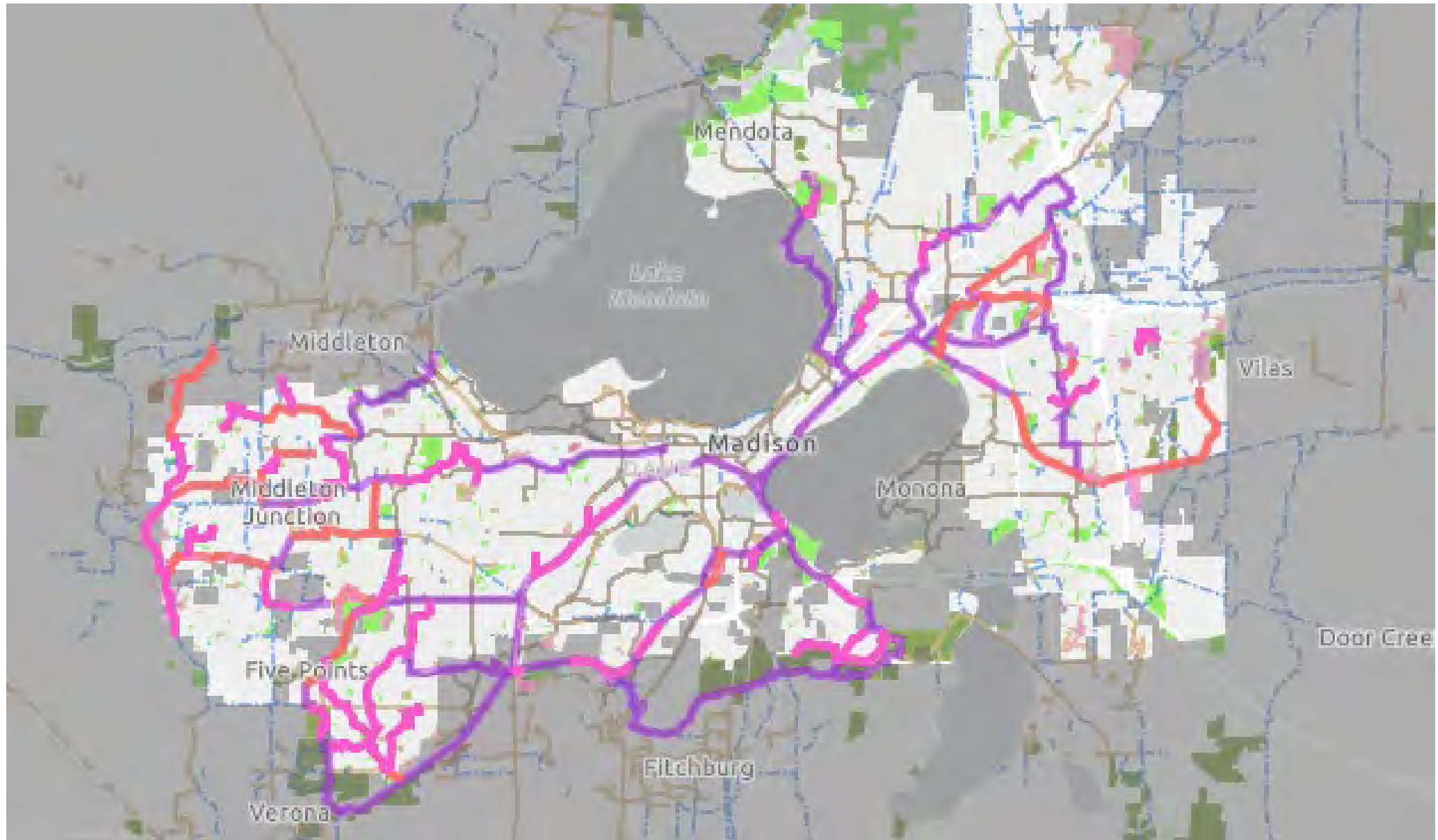
Madison is known for its extensive hard surface bicycle infrastructure, but natural surface connections and singletrack networks close to neighborhoods are hard to come by.

In 2020 Madison Parks completed a city wide feasibility study to determine where natural surface trails might best fit. This was referred to as the Madison Bicycle Adventure Trail Network or MadBAT.



MadBAT- Concept Plan

[Madbat Story Map](#)



- **Has this been done before?**

- City wide trail networks exist in many mid size cities
 - Bentonville, AR
 - Marquette, MI
 - Duluth, MN
 - Dane County
 - Fitchburg, Sun Prairie, Middleton, Cambridge, Sauk City
- Some components already exist
 - Approx. 50 miles already in Dane Co
 - All but 1 mile outside City of Madison
 - 20+ year history



Where will this be developed?

Walnut Grove Park

- Perimeter Trail
- Minimizes conflicts with existing uses

Within existing green space

- Park land only
- Not in Old Sauk Greenway- Engineering led project

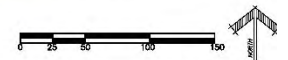
• Why here?

- More Trails Close to Home
 - Ride to Trails, not drive
 - Accessible to all
- Close to homes and school
- Unused green space around park boundary
 - 4'-6' wide corridor
- Connected to the on street bike network



Concept Plan

- Proposed trail shown with dashed line
- Dark Boundary- Park Property
- Natural Surface Trail
- Technical Trail Features (TTF's)



TTF's

- Wood boardwalks
- Elevated trail surface
- Fun riding element
- Over low or wet areas



Natural Surface Trail

- Compacted dirt (native material)
- Complimented with stone where required



Sustainability



What Are Sustainable Trails?

A sustainable trail allows users to enjoy a natural area with minimal impact to the ecosystem and continues to meet the management objectives.

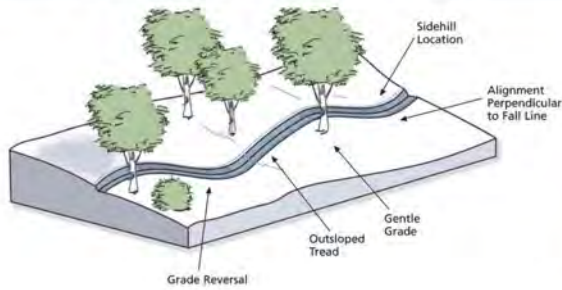
- Allows visitors to achieve their recreation goals.
- Protects resources.
- Minimizes maintenance requirements.
- Minimizes conflict between visitors.
- Increases the capacity of the land for enjoyment with minimal negative impacts.



Sustainability



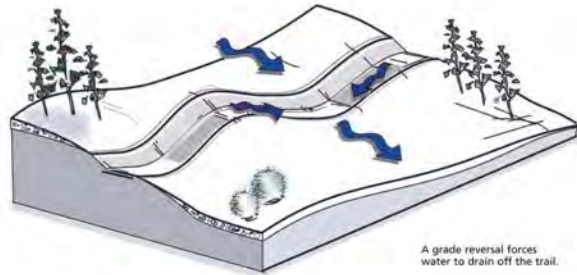
Rolling Contour Trail – The Ideal



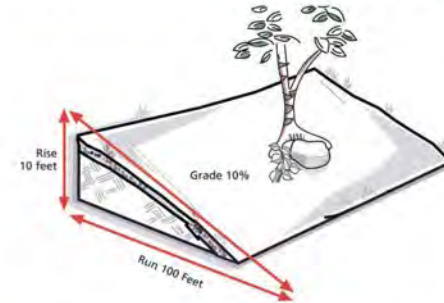
The Effect of Proper Trail Design



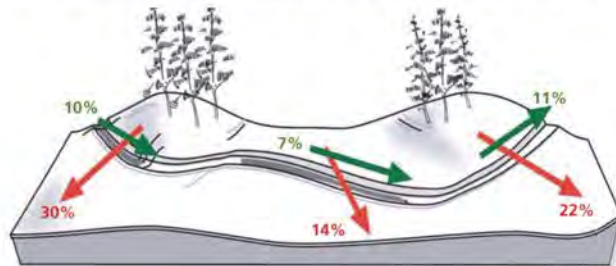
Grade Reversals



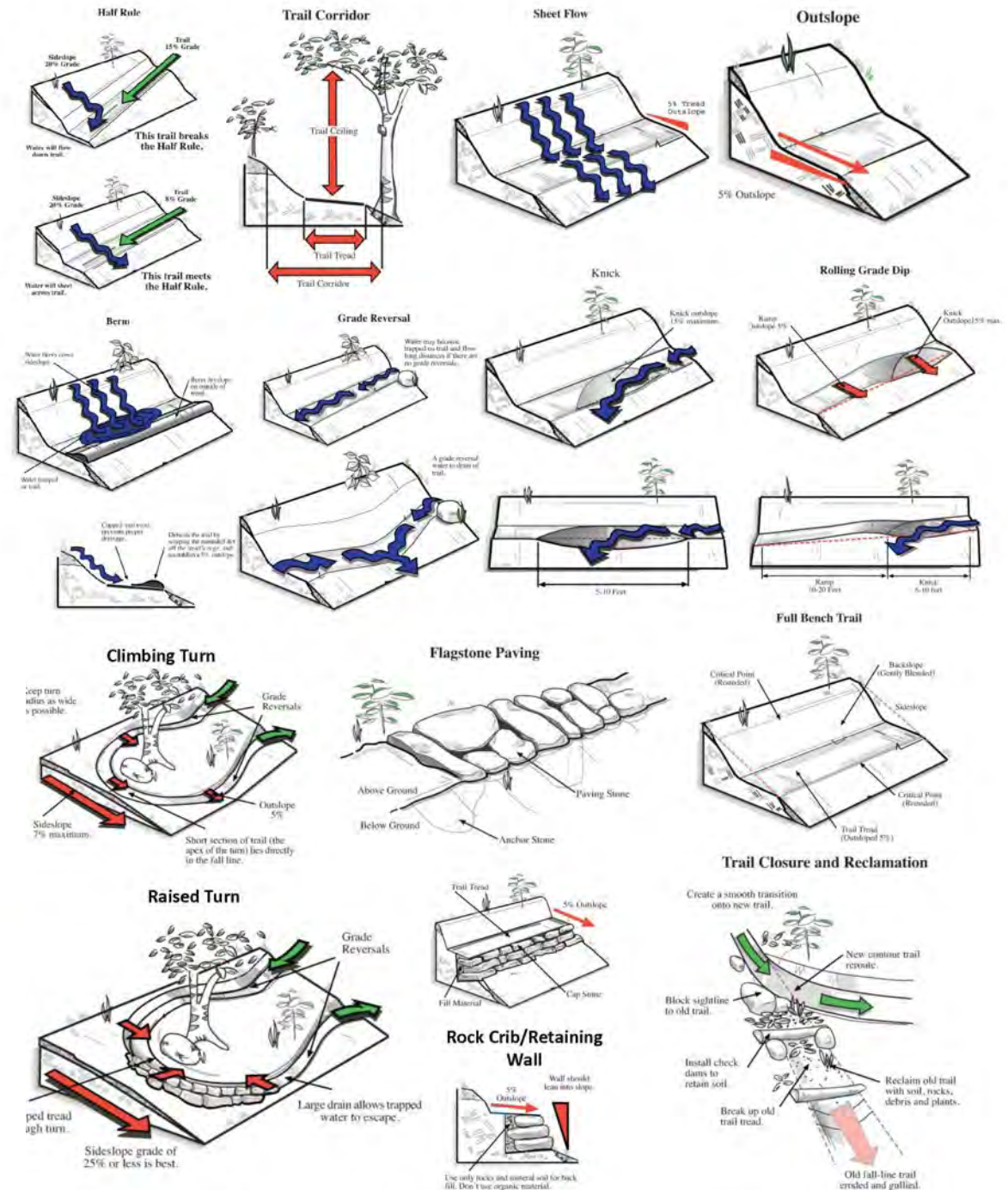
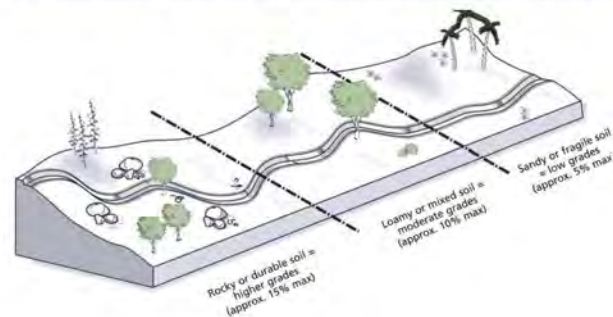
Determining Grade (Rise / Run x 100 = %)



The Half Rule – Trail Grade < ½ Sideslope Grade

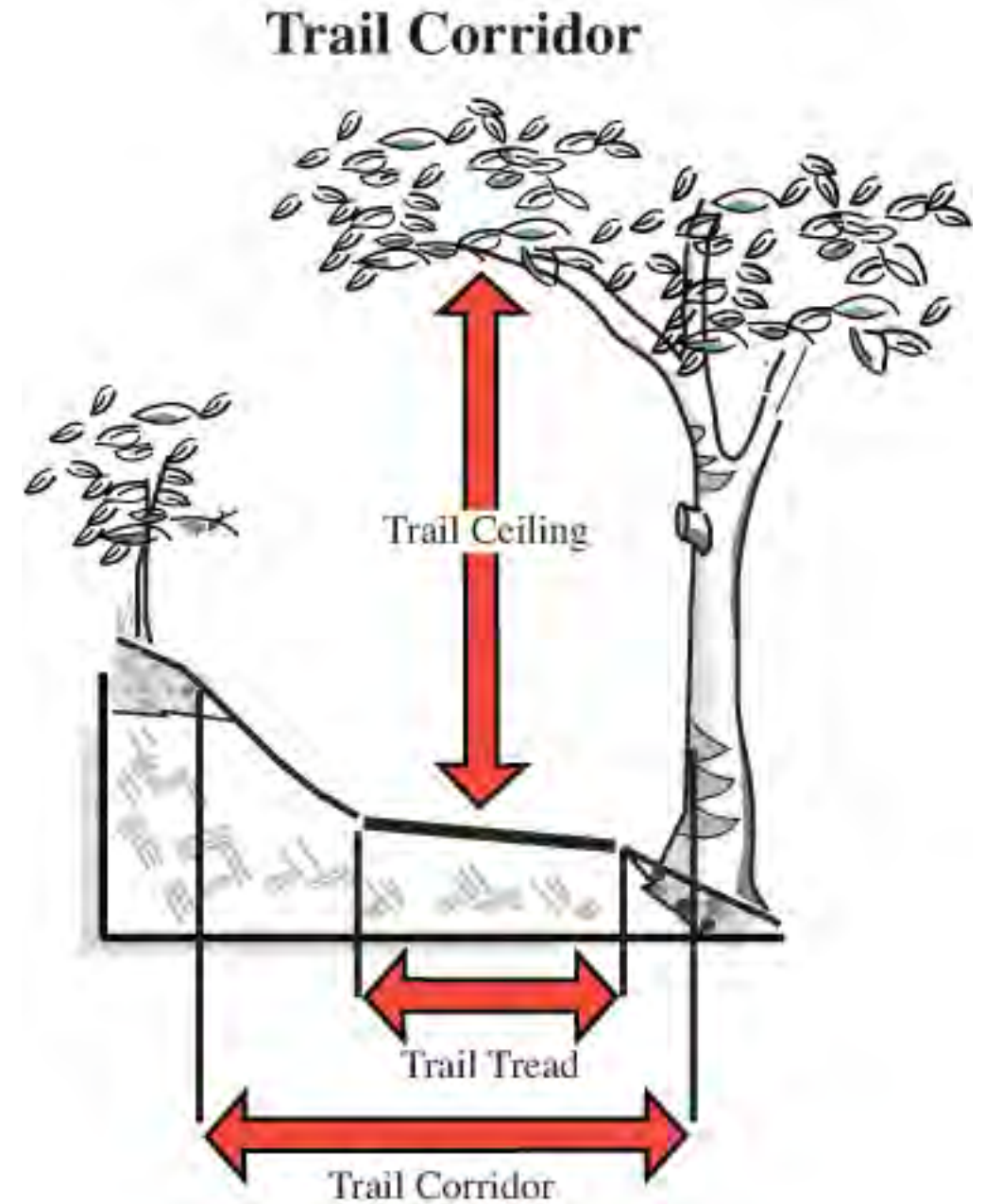
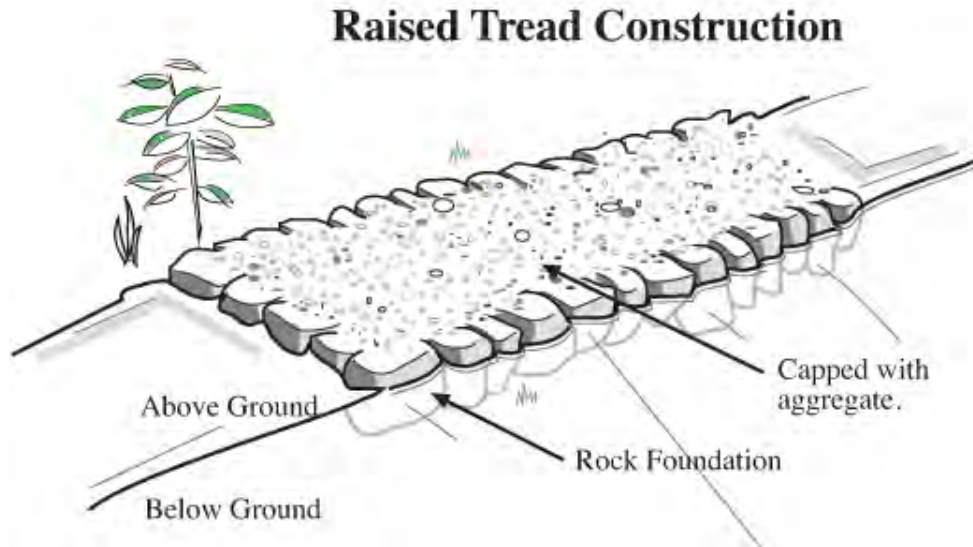


Maximum Sustainable Grade, 15% Dependent

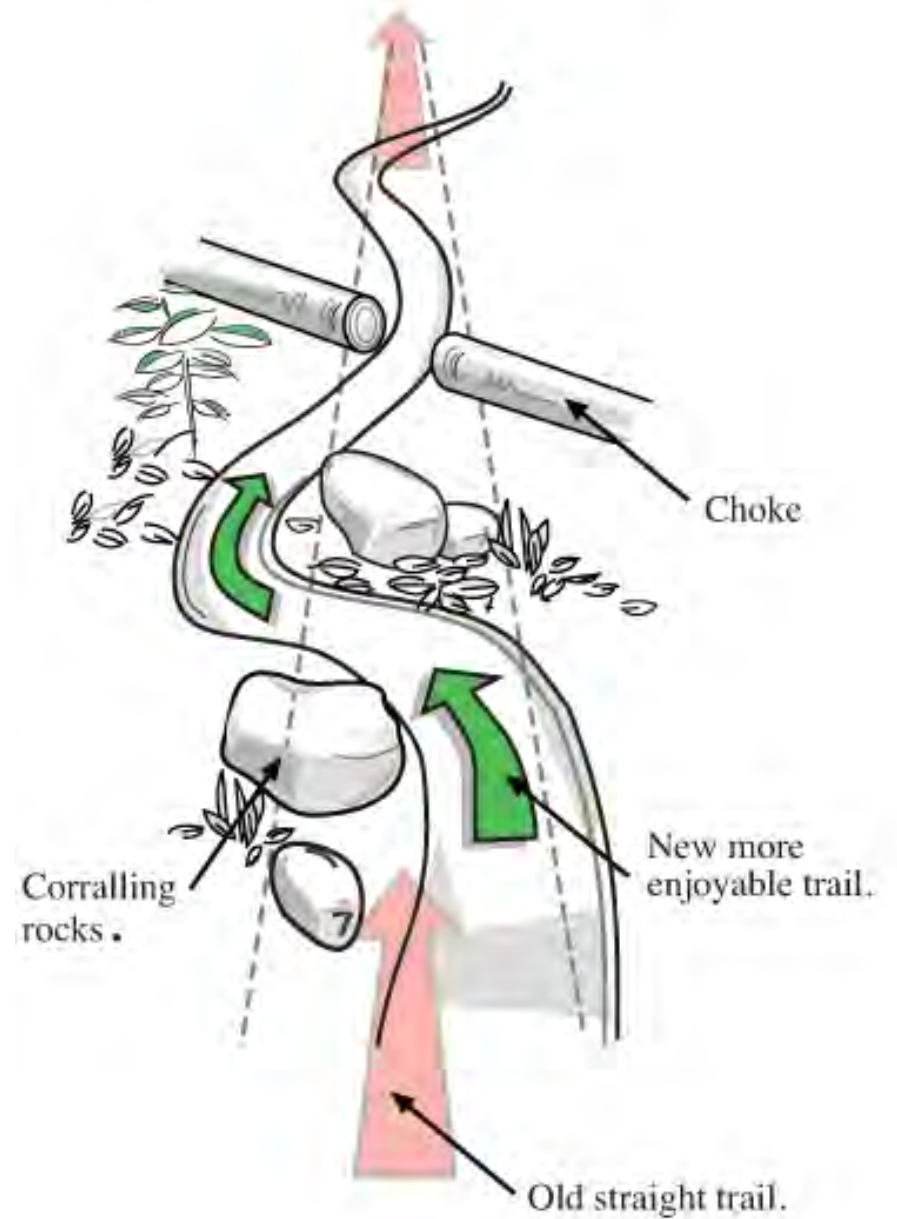


Sustainability

- Minimize Tree impacts
 - Removals limited to dead, diseased, invasive, or hazard trees
 - No Root Cut city policy protects existing large healthy trees
 - Root zone protection
 - Pruning
 - Trees protect trail tread



Chokes and Corralling



Trail Intersections



Signage

Signage is critical to providing a high quality user experience and mitigating unnecessary risk. Trail maps and apps are not a replacement for clear signage.

- Guides users through the trail network.
- Provides users with behavior and etiquette expectations.
- Can create opportunities to interpret the surroundings.
- Displays emergency contact and procedure info.
- Communicates risk by posting hold harmless language.



Virtual Site Walkthrough



Start at park sign

Virtual Site Walkthrough



Along top of berm to tennis court fence

Virtual Site Walkthrough



Behind tennis courts along wood line

Virtual Site Walkthrough



Behind dog park fence along wood line

Virtual Site Walkthrough



Along wood line- Some buckthorn and honeysuckle removal

Virtual Site Walkthrough



Junction with paved path, return to Westfield Rd

FAQ's

- **Who will be able to use the trail?**
 - Open to all non motorized users (bikes, trail runners, hikers, etc)
- **What hours will the trail be open?**
 - Open all hours of normal park operation (4am- 10pm)
 - Trail closed when wet
- **Are bike trails dangerous?**
 - Element of risk in all outdoor recreation
 - Playgrounds, sport courts, paved paths, etc
 - Educate users on risk
 - Skill progression
 - Use of turns and features to control speed
 - Allow people to chose their preferred level of risk
- **Will new park users follow the rules and be courteous to others?**
 - Same rules apply to all park users before and after new projects
 - Expect to follow trail etiquette and politely interact with others
 - Parks can revisit signage and design if issues are reoccurring
 - Different trail users and abilities can co exist
 - Single direction minimized congestion and conflict

FAQ's

- **Will there be a fee for trail use?**
 - Open and free to the public like other park amenities (courts, play fields, playgrounds, etc)
- **Who will maintain the trail?**
 - Parks staff
 - Trail Building contractors
 - Volunteers
- **Will there be tree impacts and/or loss of screening and privacy for adjacent home owners?**
 - Tree impacts limited to dead, diseased, invasive, or hazard trees
 - Trail diverted away from south property line to preserve tree line and screening
 - Trail is close to tennis court and dog park fence on north line, behind berm and intact trees
- **Is this a good location for bike optimized trail?**
 - More trails close to home concept
 - Connected to on street bike network
 - Favorable terrain and space
 - Identified in MadBAT plan
- **More trails in Madison is a big need and long overdue, how can I become involved?**
 - Watch for more notifications on proposed trail projects in the coming years
 - Join Capital Off Road Pathfinders (CORP), a local IMBA chapter for trail updates and volunteer opportunities!



Questions or comments

- Post in the chat window
- Email at...

cstelljes@cityofmadison.com

