

## **Position of Nimisila Residents on a Proposed Bike or Hike Trail**

Nimisila Reservoir residents have been and will continue to be opposed to additional trails around Nimisila Reservoir. There are existing paths already in place, ranging from primitive trails to biking paths currently available for use by the public. The reservoir is owned by the ODNR who has recently leased much of the park property to the Summit Metro Parks.

Resident concerns are as follows:

### **1.) Cost**

The cost of completing a trail of this magnitude will be very high. On paper, it doesn't appear to be a major concern. However, after looking at the current conditions of the parkland, it is easy to see how much of an undertaking the construction of a trail would be. Only a small portion of existing trails are completed in a manner consistent with recently proposed trail plans. These areas include the dam along Christman Rd. and S. Main St., and the dam to the spillway off Jones Dr. For example, previously proposed plans would have required clear-cutting of almost 7 acres of land to accommodate a trail.

The other concern with cost is what entity would be responsible for funding this project, as well as paying for the cost to maintain the trails and provide safety and security to both trail users and residents alike.

### **2.) Feasibility**

The same question arises now, that was presented 20 years ago. How is this going to work? In many areas around the lake, constructing a trail cannot be done without seizing private property from residents living around the reservoir. For example, a path could not be used down Comet Road without building out into the reservoir or seizing land from residents whose properties run from the Lake to the road.

### **3.) Safety, Security, and Emergency Response**

An issue of concern for both residents and neighbors is safety, not only for those living around the reservoir, but for those wishing to enjoy the park as well. In many locations along a potential proposed trail, there is not direct access to where a trail would be located. One of these locations would be behind the homes on Spikerman Dr. The only way to access a trail in that location would be from the Parking Lot on S. Main St. (Lot SM2) or the parking lot on Jones Dr. This would cause delays in assisting a visitor that needed medical attention, and the trail would have to provide enough space for emergency response teams to access it without issue.

Furthermore, in the case of running a trail behind homes on Spikerman Dr., there is *ABSOLUTELY NO PUBLIC ACCESS* to the water (or a proposed trail path) from the road. This causes concern for residents. In addition, the area of parkland behind Spikerman Drive has never been adequately patrolled by the ODNR, Summit Metro Parks, or the Summit County Sheriff. Residents were told that this portion of the parkland is not part of the agreement between Summit Metro Parks and the ODNR and therefore patrolling the is the responsibility of the ODNR. Over the last few decades the ODNR has hardly

ever patrolled that area of the park. If a trail were to be created, it would likely run against the property lines of residents who have lived there for many years. Residents do not feel safe having strangers just a few feet from their back door. The safety and the security of residents' homes will be compromised indefinitely.

#### **4.) Irreparable Damage to Wildlife Habitats, and the Riparian Ecosystem**

Nimisila is a sanctuary to animal and plant species alike. When the ODNR began the stripping of trees along the dams on the south and west/northwest side of the reservoir, they decimated the ecosystem currently in place beyond repair. The distress an additional trail would cause to these habitats would be devastating. The acres of tree cutting required alone would drive away our eagles, osprey, purple martins, and the endangered Indiana Bat. The unique wetland plants would be eradicated in many areas as land clearing would cause major destruction.

The land clearing and creation of a trail would also result in erosion to the shorelines around the reservoir. Anyone who is currently enjoying the parkland can tell you that the shoreline has fallen in complete disrepair over the past many years and nothing has been done to fix it. Trees have been uprooted and shorelines have been diminishing for quite some time. This is a result of erosion taking place and the addition of a trail would only exacerbate this issue.

As stated previously, residents of the Nimisila are opposed to any trail plan including the completion of a trail surrounding Nimisila Reservoir. Any questions, concerns, or updates about trail plans involving Nimisila Reservoir can be forwarded to the contacts listed below

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