



To: Board of Parks and Recreation
From: Mark Heintz, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: February 17, 2026
Subject: Bieker Woods Trails

The Board previously had a conceptual presentation from Hoss Fatemi and John Leitzel in regards to a multi-use trail concept that they'd like to volunteer and lead an organization of volunteers to create at Bieker Woods. Their main focus is to create an opportunity for a mountain bike trail which could be used for people who would like to try it out at a local level and for an organization that they're involved with. However, the additional trails would be considered multi-use so they would be available for hiking, trail running, and dog walking when not being used for mountain biking. This is seen as the same as the trail pathways that already exist through the site.

The main concern that was previously brought up was whether or not such a use would be in line with any covenants to the property. Nicole Bennett did an initial search that did not show any restrictions that this type of use would be prohibited. However, we have ordered a title search to the property to see if that shows any other details. The creation of additional trails through the property is viewed as a way to increase opportunities for people to visit the site and be exposed to the natural area of Bieker Woods. The additional trails are ways to encourage more people to get outside and visit this site and using a group of volunteer led efforts matches a goal from the Town's previous comprehensive plan.

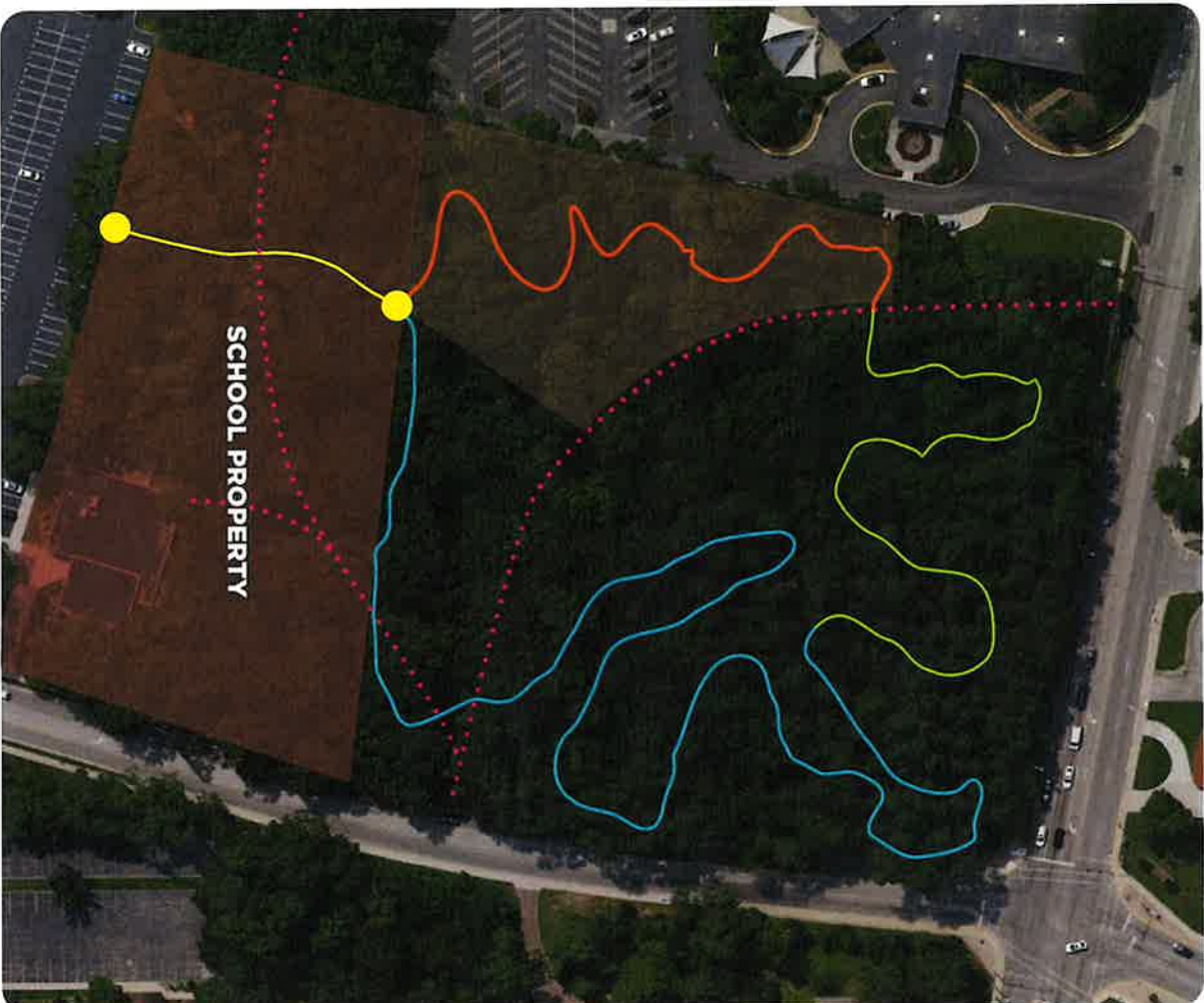
The last time this was discussed, we asked Hoss and John to bring us back a conceptual layout of the route that they're seeking. They were able to map a ½ mile trail conceptual route through the park property of Bieker Woods which is shown on the attached. I walked the site with them last week and I think that this concept would help deter some of the negative things that occur at that site by providing additional recreation trails through the property. We came across empty liquor containers, beer cans, graffiti, trash, and even burned materials at the site. More importantly, I realized there are no mature trees that they want to disturb.

They have identified that this is the time of year to do a lot of clean up as the trees do not have foliage on them making it easier to get through the site. They are asking permission to begin to create a single wide trail in the route they've identified in the map by removing or cutting some of the fallen trees and branches, trimming and pruning growth to create a walkable and bikeable path, and picking up any trash or other debris that does not belong in the park. They stressed the importance of being good stewards of the site for the betterment of the community.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends authorizing the creation of the proposed trail route by trimming, pruning, moving, and cutting some of the growth, branches and fallen trees at the site to allow for this additional recreational opportunity.

BIEKER WOODS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL TRAIL SURVEY & MAP



This is the proposed sketch of the trail using GPS data from a site survey. The over all goal of the trail design is to provide a fun trail of different terrain that is rideable for all ages while maintaining the natural environment of Bieker Woods.

All features would be on the Munster Parks property.

Next Steps: We need approval to begin clearing fallen trees and brush to create a basic path for testing.

Enchanted Forest Trail

This would use the fallen trees to provide atmosphere and excitement to the trail.

The Playground

This area would include most of the rideable features just off the main trail so riders could bypass the features if needed.

The Ridge

Using the natural elevation, riders would enjoy trail flow with fun berms. This section would run around the gathering circle created by fallen trees.



Loop Entrance

Families would be directed to enter from the school administration parking lot to stay away from Columbia and Ridge Rd.



Existing Walking Paths

The bike trail would only intersect the walking path which is operating procedure at other bike trails.