

The following email has been generated by a contact form on your website.

Comments: Re: "Obtain 'testimonials' from adjacent property owners with current trails."

The Victor experience, of over 20 years and 50+ miles of trails, might be illuminating.

In not even one case has a neighbor found it necessary to build a fence "against" a trail. There are pre-existing fences to keep dogs, horses, etc. in. And there is one new home that was fenced all around, but the trail side has a double-wide gate that is often left open.

On the other hand, I have seen a trail, in Washington State that was the subject of a lot of pre-construction "fear mongering" in an attempt to stop construction. There, nearly all the neighbors, for a couple of miles, built high wooden fences BEFORE the trail was built. This was also to keep trail users from "stealing the view" the neighbors felt they had paid for to get "exclusive views." Such fencing has not been the case on any trail I know of in this area.

What has been experienced is a reduction in unwanted activity when trails have been opened. For one example, where the Auburn Trail crosses under the Lehigh Trail near Fishers, was, from the evidence left behind, a party place. Once the Auburn Trail was opened and "good people" were using it, the "bad guys" no longer wanted to be there. We have had no more trash left there in the nearly 20-years.

By far, both the local and national experience is that trails make good neighbors and enhance property values. We often see real estate ads boasting "near trail system," or the like, and never "nowhere near any trail."

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