

# Support the McCabe-Sanchez Rail Trail

Create a mental picture of the current condition of the railroad tracks that run behind Clawson Street near the Mini Super. Call to mind the overgrown railway bed, littered with broken glass, crushed cans, and plastic and paper trash. Don't forget the tangle of weeds and gnarled trees. Then bring forth an image of the same location, but with a clean, wide path. On that path are people of all ages. Some are biking, and some are skating. Others are just walking at a leisurely pace, perhaps as they push strollers or wheelchairs. Add laughter, conversation, and maybe a clear blue sky. Your second vision is of the proposed McCabe-Sanchez Rail Trail.

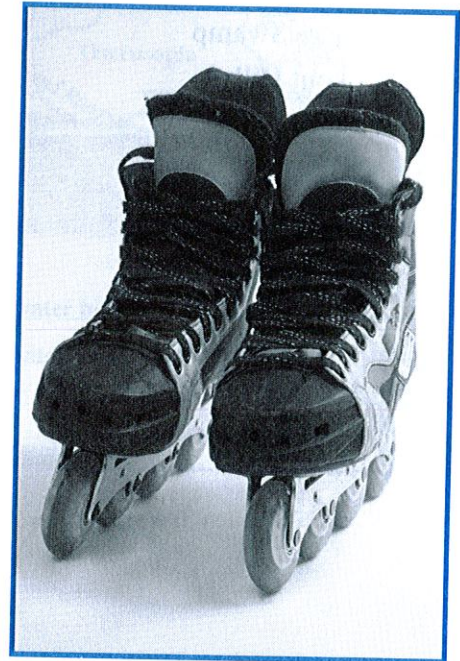
Among the many reasons to support funding for the initial study phase for this proposed trail is that Americans are getting lazier and larger by the minute. People of our town are no different. We need more free, equal, and convenient opportunities for exercise. Parks and fitness clubs are not enough. Many of us do not have the extra income needed to join a fitness center. And most cannot get the kind of sustained aerobic exercise we want and need in a park or at home. A bicycle trail would provide a safe, free place not only to bicycle, but also to walk, skate, jog, or do other exercise at our own pace.

Building a rail trail would help us beautify our town by eliminating unsightly vistas like the one behind Clawson Street. This is our chance to transform seven miles of deserted, rusting railroad tracks. A rail trail would also help us get rid of unsafe areas that are potential crime venues. It is also our chance to say no to drug dealers and others who thrive by doing business in hidden places.

Creating a rail trail will also help us build community spirit. A rail trail will be a place for the whole community, young and old, to gather, walk, and play. It will be an asset to our town and a place to be proud of.

Opponents of the study phase suggest that building a rail trail will invade the privacy of those living along the rail trail and also cause their property values to drop. Research, however, shows that property values actually increase in most towns when bicycle paths replace abandoned railroad tracks. Our town might also consider low-cost fencing options in areas of extremely high use along the trail. At any rate, questionable objections should not stop us from at least going forward with the study phase.

Please express your support for the McCabe-Sanchez Rail Trail by contacting the town's zoning board and asking them to conduct this important study.



57. What is the *main* point made about bike paths in paragraph 2?

- A Parks and fitness clubs do not serve everyone's needs.
- B Americans are becoming larger and lazier.
- C Bike paths help create community spirit.
- D Bike paths provide a safe, free place to exercise.

58. In paragraph 3, what does the author mean by "potential crime venues"?

- A places where crimes could take place
- B places where crimes could be prevented
- C possible criminal actions
- D future actions of drug dealers and others

59. Which words *best* show the author's position or point of view?

- A beautify, transform, community spirit
- B property values, privacy, fencing
- C overgrown, litter, hidden
- D need, increase, replace

60. Which *most accurately* states the author's view of problems and solutions?

- A A bike path is the solution to the problem of people getting larger and lazier.
- B Low-cost fencing is the solution to the problem of loss of privacy for homeowners.
- C A bike path could solve the problems related to crime, unsightly land, and too little exercise.
- D A bike path could solve problems related to lack of community spirit and low property values.

61. Which of these could be a hidden bias of the author of this selection?

- A The author thinks the town would benefit from the bike path.
- B The author owns property along the proposed path.
- C The author works for a fitness club in the town.
- D The author believes the townspeople need more exercise.

62. What is the *best* reason for posting this selection on a Web site called "Friends of the McCabe-Sanchez Rail Trail"?

- A It presents a balanced view of the positive and negative aspects of the trail.
- B It explains what will happen during the study phase for the trail.
- C It expresses the opinion of supporters and counters the arguments of opponents.
- D It will draw new members into the "Friends of the McCabe-Sanchez Rail Trail" group.