



DATE: Aug. 15, 2023
TO: Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee
FROM: Kerri Seemann
SUBJECT: Unofficial Trails

Background

In early May, I sent out an email with this question: “In the wooded portion of Hazelnut that is north of the baseball field, there are well-worn trails where people have walked for years. I'd like to use logs from some of the fallen trees in that area to clearly define those trails to make them more welcoming. Add trails signs like Dan has at Floral Park. Who do I need to talk to/what procedure do I need to follow to get permission to do this?”

This was the response I received from David Swearingen: “This would be considered an “Unofficial Trail”, per the City’s Trail Maintenance Policy:

‘Unofficial – The Public Works Department discourages the forging of new trails within the parks and trails system. These trails are generally created by foot or bicycle traffic through areas of a park not designated for that type of use. The forging of these types of trails can have environmental impacts, causing soil compaction, contributing to erosion and sedimentary runoff and other negative impacts on natural resources. The Public Works Department does not recognize these types of trails as official and DOES NOT maintain them.’

The trails you are referring to at Floral Park are not maintained by City Public Works. I would suggest making this an item of discussion with the PTRC, Dan might have some background as to how those trails were started and how volunteers maintain them.”

Attachment

Attachment A - Unofficial Trails