

Dear Planning Commissioner,

With regards to the path proposal along the Skagit River,

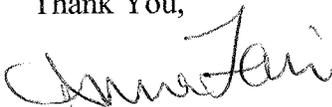
My parents and grandparents own property along the river. That's where I resided for the first 18 years of my life. We enjoyed the property that we own, and I learned how to work hard bucking bales. There has always been a problem with trespassers. Kids have cut the fences so they could drive down and do burnouts in the fields, ruining our hay crops. People shooting the wild animals. They bring their dogs down unleashed, which is a threat to our pets, and my small children, there is drug paraphernalia, and/or used condoms laying around, not to mention endless stream of garbage.

I think that your time and money would be better spent upgrading, and maintaining the parks that already exist. Take hillcrest park for example. It use to be a wonderful park. Walking/jogging trails, live animals for children to learn about, playgrounds for them to play on, tennis and basketball courts etc. Now, the trails are overgrown, or nonexistent, the animals are gone, and the playgrounds are dark, even during the day because of all the trees. Not to mention all the garbage around. I would say use the money to open up the trails, bring some animals back in, top a few trees, or limb them up to let some light in over the play areas to make the families feel more safe while playing there.

I am a mother of four, and a daycare provider. From my experience with children, I don't feel a "walking path" along the river is really what we need for our children. It is not "encouraging enough" in a child's eye to get them out there. If you want to get our children active, we need safe, well maintained parks that offer good physical, hands on climbing equipment and activities. Things to stimulate their minds, and get their bodies active.

A walking path along the river will only enable the older, more mischievous kids to have another place to inhabit their bad behavior, and also give the "predators" of Skagit County a nice wooded place to legally be able to hide! That is certainly not what we need for our children. Where on earth would we find the funding to hire enough people to keep law and order in a predators paradise. Currently the private property owners can legally ask trouble makers to leave, but give the public legal access crime will escalate, and the nice people will be doomed.

Thank You,



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