

MOUNTAIN BIKERS ASKING BOULDER TO OPEN TRAILS (DAILY CAMERA)

September 26, 2008

By LAURA SNIDER

The Boulder mountain-bike community has been waiting two decades for an opportunity to reclaim the trail privileges it lost in the late '80s, shortly after the sport started gaining popularity.

So on Wednesday, the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance plans to show up in force at the city's first meeting to discuss the future of managing the network of trails that wander from Mount Sanitas south through Chautauqua to Eldorado Springs.

"The mountain-bike community, as a whole, has shown over the last two and a half decades that we can be very good citizens and a real asset to the community," said Jason Vogel, director of advocacy and public policy for the alliance. "They've come to understand that we're not adrenaline-fueled, crazy young people - we're their neighbors and friends and we come in all ages, shapes and sizes."

Mountain bikers - who have been limited to the south, east and north ends of the city's open space system - are asking for more access to Boulder's mountain parks. They're calling for the city to scale back its "ban" on bikes on mountain trails.

As part of Boulder's Visitor Master Plan for its open space - which was passed in 2005 - the city is reviewing chunks of open space, one at a time, to craft a vision for how trails should be managed to best conserve natural resources and accommodate an increasing number of visitors.

"What we're trying to do is to put into place a plan that will provide for the long-term environmental integrity of the property, and allow access and use opportunities for the people who enjoy recreating on it," said Dean Paschall, who is overseeing the process for the Open Space and Mountain Parks Department.

The city has already created plans for the land it owns around Marshall Mesa and on Eldorado Mountain. But the West Trail Study Area, which covers the wildly popular trails at Chautauqua and Sanitas, will likely be more challenging, Paschall said.

The Mountain Bike Alliance wants the city to consider creating trail access from Baseline Road to Eldorado Springs Road, opening up the South Boulder Creek, Big Bluestem and Shanahan Ridge trails to cyclists and adding a connector trail to the popular biking destination Walker Ranch.

Walker Ranch, like nearly all Boulder County open space, is open to mountain bikes, but cyclists say they'd like connector trails to those areas through city land so they don't have to drive.

"We're only asking for what we feel is reasonable," Vogel said. "We're not asking for Chautauqua - that would be a user-conflict nightmare."

The group is also not asking to be allowed on the Mesa Trail.

Paschall said the city hasn't yet considered the alliance's specific requests, but, he said, nothing is off the table.

"This is in the spirit of collaboration and understanding what everyone's interests are," he said. "This isn't just about mountain bikes or hikers or runners or climbers. We're taking a very holistic view on this."

Archived comments

I'd like to see mountain bikers wear green tags so we know which ones are not "adrenaline-fueled, crazy young people".

I am a very frequent visitor to the Open Space and while many are sensible, 1 or 2 times a month (too often) I run into someone who could not be called "neighbors and friends".

trappist99@yahoo.com

9/26/2008 9:09:06 PM

Have been in Boulder over a decade hiking and biking frequently.

Hikers and bikers are equally kind and both deserve equitable trail access.

mtbdad

9/26/2008 9:19:30 PM

Just take a hike in the Jefferson County trail system, which is open to mountain bikes for the most part, and you'll spend a good part of your hike dodging mountain bikes zipping down shared trails...most unpleasant.

Or try sharing the hiking trails at the Walker Ranch, or up at Betasso on bike-allowed days! No thanks. I don't think Boulder needs this at all!

It isn't that the bikers aren't polite, there's just no better way to ruin a hike than having to stop and move off the trail every 5 minutes to let lycra clad mp3-listening bikers pass. Just as it is inappropriate for mountain bikes in Rocky Mountain National Park, mountain bikes are an inappropriate use for the trails that are in the Flatirons backdrop OSMP.

This was true 20 years ago and is certainly true now.

fgd135

9/26/2008 9:34:49 PM

Cyclists think pedestrians should get out of their way on sidewalks, where they shouldn't even be biking, I am sure on trails it will be even worse.

We are all so damn sick of these skinny-a- little twigs and their fancy boy bikes being rude and aggressive on sidewalks and roads.

Cannot there be one place we can get away from them, please?

GabeMc

9/26/2008 9:38:44 PM

Please, no. It's already hard enough to find trails to walk with my 1-year-old without constantly getting "buzzed" by cocky mountain bike riders.

The term "lost privileges" is completely appropriate, as most of these arrogant riders have no concept of basic courtesy. For example, saying "on your left" or not clucking their tongues or throwing me dart-eyes as they pass, apparently disapproving of my off-road stroller (which probably cost more than their bike, btw).

I have never, ever seen a mountain biker slow significantly or – God forbid! – get off their bike to walk around others. Their general attitude is, "Get out of the way. Here I come."

They've got plenty of places to ply their cooler-than-thou craft. Leave those few remaining pedestrian trails alone, so the rest of us have somewhere to go on the weekends.

Reader1

9/26/2008 9:55:04 PM

As someone who frequently rode the Mesa Trail when it was legal, I have to say that the bike ban is a good thing. BITD we didn't have suspension so speeds were necessarily kept down. Not anymore. Hiking Heil these days is decidedly unpleasant even though the majority of cyclists are polite. The only real answer is separate trails: one for hikers/equestrians and another for cyclists.

alpnclumber@earthlink.net

9/26/2008 9:55:09 PM

I find that most (not all) mountain bikes follow rules. However, as a hiker, I too find that once bikes are on trails, they become impossible to use for walking and hiking. A 30 minute walk becomes a one hour stress filled ordeal where you are constantly leaving the trail so bikers can go by. And, you are constantly 'listening' for them which means you never really relax. If I have my kids with me, it's even worse as I have to make sure that they don't inadvertently get in the way of a bike (and get hurt or hurt the biker). On a narrow trail, it's almost impossible. I never go to Walker Ranch anymore and I avoid even wide road trails like at Betasso Preserve as it just isn't any fun. And, there are always a few bikers who go too fast or don't yield right of way.

besthiker@comcast.net

9/26/2008 9:58:04 PM

Gabe

Do us all a favor and leave Boulder!

rich@richpoints.com

9/26/2008 10:04:26 PM

Well, as a cyclist I am polite. I ride responsibly. I call ahead when I approach and I yield the trail to all other users because that's what is required for me to share the trails with the likes of you.

There are so many other places that, as hikers, you have to yourselves.

What mountain cyclists are asking for is a connector trail so we don't have to drive or worse, ride our bikes on the road to Walker Ranch. As noted, it's not asking for much.

Gabe, you sound like a real* man.

jackstraw

9/26/2008 10:08:44 PM

It's good to have a sensible balance between bikers and hikers. I think the balance has been tipped to far away from bikers for too long and its time to fix the situation. Mountain bikers need more options that are rideable from Boulder.

Intheknow

9/26/2008 10:19:30 PM

“Or try sharing the hiking trails at the Walker Ranch, or up at Betasso on bike-allowed days! No thanks.”
I'd also like to add fgd135, there are days at Betasso that are hiker only. You could always hit it up on one of those days and you wouldn't have to deal with riders.

jackstraw

9/26/2008 10:23:04 PM

Would it be possible to build entirely separate access trails for bikers? I know the biking community has proven able to bring volunteers in to do the work.

I have to agree, though, bikers on multiuse trails make them not just annoying, but effectively closed to hikers, especially if the hiker dares to have a dog along for company.

johnny.sunshine@gmail.com

9/26/2008 11:33:49 PM

I think separate trails for bikes and hikers is the best thing. At both Heil and Hall ranch there are trails specifically for hikers only, so you can hike without bikers around if that's what you want to do. So, Heil isn't closed to you at all. Chautauqua, as it says in the article above, remains open for hikers only.

Centennial Cone (Jeff.Co) has a schedule for weekends that allows only hikers on some days and only bikes on others. That works very well. I both hike and bike and have never had a problem with bikes on trails when I'm hiking. But then, I'm not scared of bikes either, so I don't get stressed out.

birdmother15

9/26/2008 11:55:06 PM

GabeMc,

Clearly with that level of homophobia, you have some issues to work on. You're a gay man, a big fat gay man. It's ok. No need to hate the world, just accept it and start working on getting happy. Maybe some meds will help. But one way or another you need to come to terms with your gayness. It really is ok, you live in an open welcoming community. I'm sure there are other Bears (fat hairy gay men) just like you at the yard. Good luck.

HT

HandsomeTodd

9/27/2008 12:44:01 AM

It is only fair that the people who support OSMP and Boulder County Open Space with their tax dollars, Us, should have more access whether it is hiking, hiking with dogs, biking or riding horses.

Pure and Simple, if OSMP and BCOS wants our money, we in turn want access. Otherwise we should be able to cut off the funds and force OSMP and BCOS to start looking for other ways to fund themselves not on our dime. It's only reasonable.

Jadam12

9/27/2008 1:00:26 AM

hmmm no mention of Valmont Butte in this story..

PCR

9/27/2008 1:14:44 AM

HandsomeTodd:

A typical Boulderite response.

Why would anybody think a group of men who gather together regularly without women, in brightly colored spandex and tights, and ride around together for hours on end, again, without women, are gay.

No, what's gay about that?

I just think real men stay at home with their wives and kids, not ride around on bikes all day with men in tights.

"A man who doesn't spend time with his family can never be a real man." -Vito Corleone

I suppose The Godfather is a bear as well in your estimation hey HandsomeTodd?

HandsomeTodd.

Sounds like a blaze orange spandex wearing cyclist to me.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 2:20:40 AM

Mountain bikes are ruining the hiking experience and destroying the trails and vegetation. That's a fact, Jack. Maybe we should start allowing ATVs, or dirt bikes. Mechanical vehicles are mechanical vehicles and don't belong on the narrower trails at all.

Except for the wider trails, BAN THEM.

motiff

9/27/2008 2:51:38 AM

Motiff got it right. Mountain bikers destroy the experience for everyone else. If they've got the clout, they should get OSMP to let them build their own trails.

chicago

9/27/2008 6:05:02 AM

This is long overdue. I have live here for 18 years, and the reason that some feel that mtn. bikes destroy trails is that there are only two single track trails within 5 miles of town open to bikes – Walker Ranch and Betasso Preserve. Furthermore, Betasso is a tiny 3.2 mile loop and is only open to bikes 5 days a week. Overuse is guaranteed when access to trail is so limited in a town where everyone rides a mountain bike. Gabe, as a therapist I usually would not give out free advice, but Todd is right – you're gay. Explore that, Gabe. Look into the mirror this morning and say, "I am a gay homosexual, and I'm okay with that. I like myself, and men will like me, too. Don't worry about what your overweight wife and kids will think. They already know.

FuriousB

9/27/2008 6:22:37 AM

Hey Gabe – I'll meet you anytime you want. It's go time fool...And people please stop the hating on bikes. I'm always polite to people I encounter so stop all of the generalizations.

allmtn

9/27/2008 6:57:20 AM

How much money do hikers spend to go hiking? I guarantee the yearly average is only a fraction of what the mountain bike community spends. We spend more time and money than any other user group and have less access to local trails. I stop for equestrians, ask permission to pass hikers, and feel like a felon for riding my bike on a trail. It's a sad state of affairs when people feel like common courtesy(stopping to let someone pass)is an inconvenience. Oh and Gabe, your an idiot.

doc7208

9/27/2008 7:07:44 AM

How do we vote GabeMc permanently off the site? Sounds like a hate filled old fart. You ought to try socializing once in your life...

Stephen@Haydel.com
9/27/2008 7:03:04 AM

This would be ruinous. I've been in Geer Canyon, which is "bike friendly" several times. The bikers, according to signage, are to yield to hikers. Haven't experienced yet! Heck, most of them aren't even courteous to announce themselves as they're barreling downhill. I find most of these 'individualists' are very inconsiderate. I, for one, would strongly oppose opening the trails to bikes.

meatpieandtatters
9/27/2008 7:15:37 AM

Stephen, FuriousB, allmtn, HandsomeTodd – re GabeMc: You're all correct, he's loathsome, but there's only one response to trolls: Ignore the Trolls.

I admit that I'm not always good at that either, but let's not let him and his type steal the thread.

johnny.sunshine@gmail.com
9/27/2008 7:32:46 AM

stephen you don't even though your ego says you should.

No bikes on the trails period.

jeepers gabe relax.

doc its not about money you arrogant wanna be

hansomtoad. sweet8

vkberlinn

9/27/2008 7:39:58 AM

I bought my first mountain bike in Boulder in the early 80's and still own a mtn bike. I end up having to ride on the road a lot because there aren't a lot of places we can ride mtn bikes. Face it, Boulder is a biking community and has been for a long time. This is why people come here, to be around other health conscious, active people. -GabeMC, where did you come from?

gldnsungrg@aol.com

9/27/2008 7:54:50 AM

Not about money? Really? What country do you live in? I suppose all the tax dollars the city of Boulder collects off of retail sales to mt. bikers is okay with you though. The point is we have as much, if not economically more, right to the trails than you do. Yet we have less trail access. Then to top it off we have to take the high road to keep that access, unlike people like you. We're just asking for our equal share, maybe we should be seeking to turn trails into bike only trails and ban hikers instead. Now vkberlinn try to respond with something a little more substantial than an insult.

doc7208

9/27/2008 8:06:07 AM

Wow... cry-baby hikers! Bikers are out of control! Oh, my God... I am scared. Get over it!

Pure and simple, hikers... a bike rolling even at 8 miles an hour, which is slow, is moving twice or more your speed. Sure it seems fast, but it isn't. I suggest we dedicate trails in the Boulder City and County systems for hikers and bikers. Rotate them over the course of the month.

But no. What we get is multi-use trails or trails only for hikers and horse riders, but never for riders only.

Why – I ask?

Hey, Chicago... hikers destroy trails, not riders... Ever been to Chautauqua? No bikes there but when you walk the lower trails, guess what? They keep getting bigger because hikers will not stay on a trail if it's wet. They want it nice and dry. They don't want to get their dainty feet wet!

Bikers stay on the trail and ride through the mud because we like it! Check out biking trails at ski areas and the trail people there will tell you that the trails do not get overly beat up because of bikes.

I am tired of paying taxes and not being able to enjoy the trails the way I want to. I both hike and bike. I have no problem with sharing the trail!

dange80301@yahoo.com

9/27/2008 8:07:22 AM

Hiking trails are not big enough for bikes and hikers so it means that every few minutes hikers have to get off the trail and let bikes wiz by. It is very annoying especially if you have kids.

I once went for a hike on the trails at the mouth of the St Vrain river which allow bikes all I remember is try to get off the trail so spandex mountain bikers could go by. They were all courteous and nice but it just ruins a hike when you are constantly dodging bikes, it leaves no room to relax unwind and enjoy nature which is the purpose I go for a hike.

I ride a mountain bike everyday there is plenty of places to ride in Boulder we don't need to ride though the few places people can walk in peace and enjoy nature.

sidd

9/27/2008 8:11:38 AM

"As someone who frequently rode the Mesa Trail when it was legal, I have to say that the bike ban is a good thing."

Yes, and I agree.

The City only needs to look at bicycles on busy downtown sidewalks, where they don't bother to enforce their own ordinances, to see the problem.

There need to be places where people can safely walk.

billy_goat_gruff

9/27/2008 8:27:50 AM

Hikers complain too much. I always yield to them when riding, and most of them have the same stuck up Boulder attitude that they own the trail. Horses poop all over the trails and no one minds. Stop hating on bikers and quit being selfish. Not everyone gets enjoyment out of hiking trails, so why limit trail use?

broulder

9/27/2008 8:30:30 AM

"Wow... cry-baby hikers! Bikers are out of control! Oh, my God... I am scared. Get over it!"

This is unfortunately too typical of the mountain bike attitude. Just because you buy an expensive piece of sports equipment does not mean there is a public responsibility to provide a place to use it.

Get over it.

billy_goat_gruff

9/27/2008 8:32:44 AM

fgd135,

Mountain bikers interrupt hikers just as frequently as hikers disrupt bikers. When we hike with kids or dogs we certainly need to be extra mindful of bikers, but the reverse is also true. No group is more deserving of trail access than another.

We all need to share, just like they taught us in kindergarten.

GabeMc – these are not just boys we are talking about. Women – myself included – make up a good percentage of the people who are passionate about mountain biking. Have been riding in groups comprised of both men and women (most now married with children) for over a decade.

doc7208 – while it might cost less to go hiking, I have found most bikers live very frugally. While many of my friends who hike, but do not bike have two or more cars, they often use gas guzzling SUVs to get to the trail. In contrast, our family of four has only one car and we ride our bikes most everywhere we go. This is also true for the mountain bikers we know. Biking is a collective activity where this mode of transportation is integrated into daily life, especially for families. Ultimately better for our environment in the long run.

meatandpatters – people usually mountain bike in groups. Our extensive experience as riders in the state has proven that biking is just as social as hiking, if at times not more. An example of the collective nature of the sport would be the mt bike organizations in town who have worked diligently to create new trails – think of the new connector to Hall and also the 8-10 new miles of trail off of Greenbelt Plateau between Superior and where 128 meets 93. When hikers denied bikers access to trails, bikers worked hard to create new trails accessible to both groups.

Mountain biking differs from hiking in that it is more mentally and physically engaging. You are always choosing your line to be as efficient as possible. While hiking is enjoyable for different reasons, there are times when it will not satisfy a person's physical and mental needs. We have a plethora of people who need to participate in both activities here in Boulder.

THIS IS ABOUT EQUITY. Currently mountain bikers do not have equitable trail access in Boulder County and that needs to be corrected.

mtbdad

9/27/2008 8:32:57 AM

I hike about two times per week and mountain bike 2 times per month, so I'm more of a hiker than a mountain biker. I think more trails open to bikes and a new connector trail from Baseline to Eldorado would open up a whole new world for HIKERS.

I usually have about an hour for a hike and I've found that a lot of the trails starting at the trailheads are more like roads — Enchanted Mesa, Mesa Trail, Bear Canyon, Shanahan. By the time I get to the sweet stuff in the mountains, it's time to turn around.

I would love to be able to bike from home, then continue over a bike-friendly trail, then lock my bike and hike on trails like Mallory Cave, Royal Arch, Fern Canyon, Upper Bear Canyon, etc. The BMA is NOT asking to open these hiking trails up to bikes.

In Boulder, we are blessed with hundreds of miles of phenomenal hiking trails right near town. Surely we can make room for bikes on just a handful of these trails, and allow the mountain biking community to build a new trail, too, to minimize conflict.

AlohaColorado

9/27/2008 8:35:05 AM

Just a few thoughts:

Bikers, just repeating 'we're not annoying' to hikers who think you are isn't a very good debate tactic. Especially if you're outnumbered.

Cranks, just repeating 'I pay taxes, I should be able to do what I want' isn't very convincing either, given that you want to (in their view) annoy other people who also pay taxes.

Surely, though, there are ways to add more trails in other spots in the area? Since bikers tend to move a lot faster, and want trails that are more than a mile or two long, they'd be a considerable addition to our trail network, but they'd also be a real addition to Boulder's charm and attraction, both for locals and for

tourists. Plus, the bikers have as I said proven to be willing to volunteer some of the labor, so it might not be all that expensive if we do it right.

It might even be possible to tap federal or state transportation money, if some of the trails can be used as commuter routes, taking pressure off the roads and the air quality. That would be particularly useful for dual use commuter/access roads, and side trails more suitable for offroading might jut off the improved (paved or rice gravel) faster commuter paths.

It seems to me that the real contest in this will be between bikers and the leave-the-wilderness-completely-untouched crowd, the same people who don't want dogs on many trails and don't want trails at all in many areas that we've all paid for as taxpayers. If bikers can build an alliance with dog lovers, hikers, and runners, and maybe even health care cost cutters, rather than fighting over overcrowded existing paths, we all might get farther.

johnny.sunshine@gmail.com

9/27/2008 8:43:12 AM

If there are more places available for families, novices, and even the full-kit heart rate monitoring folks to ride, the use will be spread out amongst more trails. Right now, with so few trails open to bikers, it's only natural that those trails would become crowded leaving hikers, dog walkers, and mountain bikers dissatisfied with their experience.

BMA has proven to be a very positive influence in both the mountain bike community and in the community at large. Mountain bikers are also hikers and backpackers and fishermen, we are trail stewards and local volunteers. While some of us are Lance wanna-be's, the vast majority of us just want to enjoy trails on a beautiful day. Most of us are also happy to bring the whole family out to help build and maintain the trails so the entire trails community can enjoy them as well.

That's one trail user's opinion, anyway.

catzilla

9/27/2008 8:43:55 AM

"No group is more deserving of trail access than another."

This is just wrong. The trails were made for walking, and no one hiking forces anyone else off the trail. No hiker constitutes a hazard to another hiker.

One group of users here is demanding a far greater "access" and a much greater level of use than another when they require other users to stop and get off the trail for them and their mechanized gear.

So it is decidedly not about "equity."

billy_goat_gruff

9/27/2008 8:52:38 AM

It's Saturday so my 6-year-old and I won't be riding at Betasso this morning... it's closed to us. That's ok. We look forward to our Sunday morning rides at Betasso. I would happily settle for a couple days per week at some of the central trails. I can wait and take my turn. I'll even chase down the folks that break the rules... they wreck the opportunity for all of us.

mtbdad

9/27/2008 8:55:41 AM

I grew up in SLC, UT and mountain bikers and hikers share lots of trails there. A few trails rotate--odd days are for hikers only and even are for bikers and hikers. Easy solution and if you're a hiker and don't want to see bikers, you don't hike on even days.

Jayson

9/27/2008 9:04:20 AM

Hey Billy Goat... are you really as gruff as you sound or just an onery old billy goat.

Trails were made for hiking... wow!

What an absurd statement. If all trails were made for walking only, then I guess walking trails that turned into wagon train trails that turned into cattle drive trails that turned into roads that turned into highways should have never happened.

Many of the trails in Chautauqua were originally roads for automobiles, or did you know that.

Get over it!

dange80301@yahoo.com

9/27/2008 9:14:57 AM

Tell me about your childhood, Gabe.

Mountain biking is a great sport. I don't like coming up behind slow, inattentive hikers when I'm biking, and I don't like rude bikers forcing me off of the trail when I'm hiking. Sharing the trails is not a good thing.

Go to any of the JeffCo trails and see the impact that bikers have. Hiking on the rutted, potholed trails is no fun. It definitely takes more money to maintain a trail for bikers; limiting the bikers to a few trails keeps the trail maintenance budget under control.

Tailgunner_Joe

9/27/2008 9:25:49 AM

doc.

You say hikers spend less. That was your point.

So money gets the deal? Tough. Keep the bikeys off the trails.

vkberlinn

9/27/2008 9:37:59 AM

The narrow, rocky, twisty Shanahan Ridge trails are a delight to hike and obviously mountain-bikers would love the challenge. However, when there are groups of trail users going at very different speeds, there are problems for everybody. Right now, on roads, speedier cars conflict with slower bikers; we continually hear complaints from both drivers and bikers about this issue. Similarly, on trails, faster bikers conflict with slower hikers – families with little kids, dogs off leash, runners. It isn't fair to deprive hikers desiring a peaceful walk to accommodate bikers who already have many trails to use. Hey bikers – why not take your own advice frequently aimed at drivers – get off your vehicle, and walk!

armorsteelco@comcast.net

9/27/2008 9:57:57 AM

THE MAJORITY OF CYCLISTS AROUND HERE ARE INCONSIDERATE! Very, very few EVER announce themselves when approaching from behind. I routinely say to them "If you'd kindly announce yourself I wouldn't be cutting in front you."

The MAJORITY of bikers I run into on the trails are self-entitled. They blow by you coming down hill, not a "thank you" to be heard.

Sorry, but I don't think allowing these people onto the trails would be a good thing AT ALL. Even if there was consideration, the ruts and destruction are NOT worth it.

meatpieandtatters

9/27/2008 9:59:45 AM

I'm all for taxing and licensing of sidewalking trolls.

Flatirony

9/27/2008 10:05:17 AM

Waw,waw,waw,..... Bunch of cry babies in Boulder.Nobody really likes anybody, You people would eat their own, & the smug that you put off smells like a\$\$.

I personally would love to ride through some yuppie scum & see what they are going to do about it and if I'm hiking with my child, a irresponsible biker better watch out for me.

Where I come from we don't tattletale, we just take care of business.

Now back to your scheduled whining.....

judah007@earthlink.net

9/27/2008 10:08:45 AM

take the power back mountain bikers. i bet people like gabe are too fat and lazy to hike anyway. all you bike haters should be ashamed of yourselves.

johnbarleycorn

9/27/2008 10:17:56 AM

Bikers complain that car drivers deprive them of "equal access" to roads.

Now bikers want "equal access" to hiking trails. When bikes are on trails, it is hikers deprived of "equal access". Hikers can no more enjoy safe, enjoyable walks while having to watch out for and give way to bikers than bikers can enjoy the roads without having to give way to cars.

This does not constitute "equal access", people. Only the bikers would have equal access – the hikers -families with little kids, people out for a stroll to enjoy the forest, dogs, runners, slower walkers – would lose out permanently.

armorsteelco@comcast.net

9/27/2008 10:26:32 AM

Take the bus to Ned.then you could Mt.Bike anywhere you want.I MT.Bike anywhere I want,when ever I want.For

But Of course I don't live in Boulder.HA,HA,HA,HA,HA,HA,HA,HA

Have fun eating your own Boulder, I think I'm going Mt.Biking later, outta of my back door,which of course is NF.I pay taxes for my land to use, not to whine about.

Judah007 exit stage, up/down the mt.bike/hiking trail without pity for cry babies.

judah007@earthlink.net

9/27/2008 10:27:58 AM

Say – bikers can too have "equal access" to hiking trails – get off your bike, and walk!

armorsteelco@comcast.net

9/27/2008 10:28:46 AM

I really think the solution, as mentioned previously, is (at best) to open the trails to bikes on specific days. I am an avid mountain biker, but I also hike (especially with my kids) and really don't want to worry about my child being hit by a biker. So, I really feel for the hikers. I'd love to bike some of the mentioned trails, but I won't lose sleep over it if it doesn't happen. There are plenty of trails for biking and there's something also to be said for having a nice quiet place to hike.

– Jon

jonutah@comcast.net

9/27/2008 10:30:23 AM

You know what I hate, is when I'm hiking and someone is hiking the other direction and I have to politely move out of their way. Or when some old folks are hiking slow in front of me. It's such a pain. No one should be able to use the trails except me!

Seriously hikers, grow up. There are hundreds of miles of wilderness trails, areas that have a federal ban on bikes, just up the hill. Why can't you share some of the non wilderness trails? I hike a lot and don't mountain bike, and I still can't see what's wrong with sharing the trails. At least mountain bikers take a dump on the trail, unlike the dogs and horses we let on some trails.

HandsomeTodd

9/27/2008 10:32:15 AM

"Trails were made for hiking... wow!"

Right. When the Boulder trail system was laid out, often by volunteers and hiking clubs, it was for the purpose of, strangely enough, hiking on them. I know about the old wagon roads.

billy_goat_gruff

9/27/2008 10:35:18 AM

Equestrians are the worst, yet somehow they are allowed on many trails with hikers. Nothing like seeing a bunch of road apples all over the trail.

johnbarleycorn

9/27/2008 10:36:09 AM

Mountain biking is a particular type of use, like horseback riding, or hiking. These uses are not the same, and we should be careful in deciding which is allowed where. I have often been startled in the course of my meditative hikes in wooded mountain areas by bikers suddenly upon me and having to jump out of their way. This is much like having to decide quickly whether an approaching unleashed dog means harm. Certain areas should be preserved for people who wish to hike and commune with nature.

bbows

9/27/2008 10:38:30 AM

"At least mountain bikers take a dump on the trail, unlike the dogs and horses we let on some trails".

Right amundo there Todd, that last dump I took on the trail was a doozy. I left there for everyone to admire. But my Dog pooped somewhere else, in a yuppies yard down the street. Hehehehehe

judah007@earthlink.net

9/27/2008 10:45:21 AM

Posted by bbows on September 27, 2008 at 10:38 a.m. (Suggest removal)

Mountain biking is a particular type of use, like horseback riding, or hiking. These uses are not the same, and we should be careful in deciding which is allowed where. I have often been startled in the course of my meditative hikes in wooded mountain areas by bikers suddenly upon me and having to jump out of their way. This is much like having to decide quickly whether an approaching unleashed dog means harm. Certain areas should be preserved for people who wish to hike and commune with nature.

...and they are now. In fact, most of the close in trails are that way. And all of the RMNP trails are that way, or Indian Peaks, etc, etc. Bikers just want access to trails so they can leave the car at home instead of having to drive to the trailhead to ride. Is that too much to ask?

johnbarleycorn

9/27/2008 10:46:19 AM

Or they can ride the RTD to Ned and there are endless amount of options to ride a mt.bike. huh, Barleycorn.

Instead of ripping off the working class everyday maybe the yuppies can save time by skipping their usual duestch(Which I understand why you yups need to duestch)!!!

If they can skip that maybe the bus can be an option to Ned, huh???

judah007@earthlink.net

9/27/2008 10:55:26 AM

People: Bikes + hiking trail equals Bikepath!

Let us keep what few hiking trails we have!

Even bikers should have a quiet place to go for a walk...

armorsteelco@comcast.net

9/27/2008 11:04:22 AM

Can anyone actually find a documented case of a mountain biker running someone over and injuring them on the OSMP or City trails (dirt ones, that is)?

I can't recall anything like that ever being reported.

There's no question that some bikers are insufferable, inconsiderate jerks. But I'd argue that there are also a lot of hikers, equestrians, heck, nuns who would fit that description. The jerk population is pretty evenly spread among user groups, it seems to me.

As it stands, I believe the mountain bike groups are only asking for a couple of sections to allow the trails on different sides of the city to connect with each other. A connector from Walker to Eldo would *massively* reduce the number of bikers you see at Betasso, and Marshall Mesa, and elsewhere – because it would help spread the load across more land.

Look, the bottom line is that there are more and more people on the trails. On the weekends, you're not going to find solitude on any of the popular trails – bikers or not. The solution is to open more trails, especially those that can be done as long loops – rather than concentrating all the users at a single trailhead, and making them ride/walk out and back, hence doubling the potential for conflicts.

It's either more access or everyone, or (eventually) none for anyone. It would also help if OSMP actually took some time to help educate trail users (ie, "Ipdods are a bad idea on multiuse trails for EVERYONE") and maintain the trails they've got – Chatauqua is a disgrace at this point, with a huge web of rutted 20' wide paths.

Bikers have done (IMO, and I'm a mountain biker myself) a mediocre job of obeying the trail rules. I see a TON of riders veering off trail to pass, failing to yield to uphill riders or make their presence known when approaching from behind. If you ride, you should seriously go for a hike at Marshall Mesa on a busy Saturday and see what it's like – the (few) jerks do a great job ruining the experience for everyone.

Hmm. This comment is somewhat lacking in cohesiveness. I guess I'm just trying to say that I think that if everyone does better at minding their manners on the trail, opening up more trails (to everyone) is a great idea. Trail design can help a lot – make bikers go one direction only so that hikers know where they'll be coming from, avoid out-and-back trail designs, keep sight lines open and make sure there are obstacles to slow people down. We can all enjoy the trails out there if we do it right.

wa3lt

9/27/2008 12:04:48 PM

Something fun: OSMP is offering a mountain bike nature ride for families. Everyone is welcome, whether they wear spandex or not! 😊

Little Bikes on the Prairie

Sun Oct 5 2 – 4 pm

Enjoy autumn with naturalist Dave Sutherland on an easy family mountain bike trip along South Boulder Creek. We'll cycle slowly through rare tallgrass prairie and see how it changes color, stop to visit the creek, and end up at a prairie dog town. Meet at the Bobolink Trailhead. Six flat miles round trip. Check out more OSMP nature programs at www.naturehikes.org. There's something for everyone, bikers and hikers included.

Bikers – OSMP staff would be happy to offer more “ride with a naturalist” programs. Let OSMP know what kinds of programs would interest you. As an OSMP staffer I am unable to participate in the debate about more / less bike trails, but I can create fun public programs to help everyone learn about this amazing land we all share.

suther@indra.com

9/27/2008 12:16:40 PM

Gabe—You need to get a grip, dude. Trying to insult posters in this forum by calling them gay is pretty lame. The argument needs to be about the facts, not your perception of how other people conduct their sex lives just because you don't like the way they dress.

Once upon a time, people had class. That referred to the way they acted and how they treated their fellow man. We all knew the occasional thug, but for the most part, manners (an unknown work in our culture these days) were taught in the home. Somehow, our culture has devolved to the point that Gabe turns into exactly what he hates, a badmouthing, inappropriate, unmannerly doof with no class.

rasinden57@hotmail.com

9/27/2008 12:21:10 PM

With the exception of a few modestly technical sections, the Mesa trail is the one trail in the Flatirons that could easily accommodate both hikers and bikers. Not only would this trail open up a valuable link between Chautauqua and Eldorado Springs for bikers, both hikers and bikers could then hike or ride all the way from Superior to North Boulder and beyond with nary a road in their path. Heck, with a few links in the system, a ride all the way to Lyons would be accessible. In celebration of the world famous Front Range attitude toward health, longevity, and exploration, this has to happen. Who doesn't agree with the statement that few rides in the world would be as unique.

mredsreturn

9/27/2008 12:45:28 PM

Mesa can accommodate adult hikers and considerate bikers, perhaps, but not large numbers of hikers and bikers and kids and dogs, imho. Precisely because it's flat and easy, there are a lot of families with kids, including strollers and toddlers – everyone can keep up – as well as older people who use it (including me with my dog when my knees are barking but I've gotta get out there.)

At the same time, precisely because it's wide and flat, a fair percentage of the bikers would go fast, whatever the signs said, at least by the standards of hikers and kids and dogs.

At the very least, we'd have a lot of frightened offleash dogs who jump the wrong way at the last second and get themselves, and perhaps the riders, seriously hurt. And no one could relax.

I agree we need a link north and south along the Flatirons, I'd use it on a bike too, but not on such a heavily hiked trail. As armorsteelco noted, hiking trail + bikes = bike path.

Perhaps a parallel one fifty feet one way or the other, converging for short stretches when necessary?

johnny.sunshine@gmail.com

9/27/2008 1:07:59 PM

It's really sad to read these negative posts that pit bikers against hikers against dogs against horses. The real issue is OSMP and BCOS limiting access for all in the last 5 years and imposing more across the board bans on all users.

Furthermore, people complain about bikers, hikers, dogs and horses destroying nature. This only occurs directly along designated trails if at all. What is most important is that these lands have been saved from the most destructive practices of development. No amount of hiking, biking, dogs or horses can ever come close to the permanent destruction caused by development.

Folks, we pay for these lands with our taxes, we should not be fighting each other. We have stopped the most destructive development by limiting development. We should be standing up to OSMP and BCOS instead of fighting against each other.

Jadam12

9/27/2008 1:25:28 PM

johnny- Good point. Such an arrangement exists at Marshal Mesa (a bypass trail for hikers only). And for the sections where convergence is unavoidable, signs could be posted and an area cleared for bikers to safely dismount and either walk or carry their bikes to the outside of the shared section of trail. As for the off-leash dogs, it should be the responsibility of dog owners to train their dogs how to react to cyclists appropriately, just as it should be the responsibility of cyclists to give the same level of respect to dogs as they do people.

mredsreturn

9/27/2008 1:28:07 PM

Separate trails running somewhat alongside one another might be the only answer here, if the Parks people can agree to it of course. I'm sure the mountain bike alliance could gather enough volunteers to do the trail construction. I too rode all the Boulder Mountain Parks trails prior to their closing back in the 80's and was sad when they did. I've also been on the other side of this conflict many times, enjoying nice hikes or runs on the trails only to have them (sometimes) dangerously interrupted by speeding cyclists. Solving this one with both sides coming out happy is gonna be tough. Constructing new, adjacent, trails is the only decent solution I have heard of so far.

GilroyPuttny

9/27/2008 1:52:22 PM

"We should be standing up to OSMP and BCOS instead of fighting against each other."

... only if we like dodging bicycles on mountain trails they way we have to on downtown sidewalks. Why do bike riders expect to have the right of way and expect pedestrians to scramble out of their way?

OSMP is carrying out the wishes of most ordinary taxpayers. Trying to portray hikers as some kind of "special interest" group is really silly. This is how humans have travelled for a hundred thousand years at least and what these trails are there for.

I use a bike more than anything else, but I stay on the streets and off sidewalks and foot trails.

hattmonger

9/27/2008 2:28:01 PM

Many good comments on both sides of the issue, but the fact remains that even without mountain bikes, the current OSMP trail system sees at least as many user days as RMNP, and in a much smaller trail complex. There is just no capacity to accommodate "alternate day" usage of the current trail system in the Flatirons, imho, and many of the trails are just too narrow for both hikers and mtn bikers.

And for those of us around when mtn. bikes were banned from the Flatirons, many of the complaints that lead to the ban mentioned that some mtn. bikers were cutting trails, creating "social" trails, ignoring closures and using prohibited trails...I even saw it myself a few times.

You cannot tell me that won't happen again, and that the massive erosion caused by mountain bike use won't be a serious problem on the trails—if you check out the current Betasso Link trail in BCOS you'll

notice the major erosion problems in sections of that trail caused by mtn bike use...and the widening of other single track trails caused by mtn bike use, not by ped or even equestrian useage.

fgd135

9/27/2008 2:40:16 PM

fgd135- Erosion because of mountain bikes or because of a trail that wasn't engineered to accommodate bikes? Also, I wonder what the total erosive damage done to the Rocky Mountains is which is the result of roads built by the U.S. Forest Service which are kept open for hikers so that they may access trail heads with their multi-ton SUVs. The over-used "one rotten apple" (or few rotten apples) excuse just doesn't cut it in this town, but thanks anyway.

mredsreturn

9/27/2008 2:58:38 PM

"Posted by fgd135:

Many good comments on both sides of the issue...imho, and many of the trails are just too narrow for both hikers and mtn bikers."

I agree, it's good to have open and honest discussion about these issues.

Though it goes against what you would think, wide trails actually lead to more negative interactions as faster users (runners, mountain bikers, fast moving horses) feel like they can "slide by" without having to announce themselves.

The most successful multi-user trails across the country involve a combination of proper trail design and signage. Obviously, having a fast downhill section leading into a blind corner is a recipe for disaster. Ensuring good sightlines on properly designed trails, and signage that instructs new users on how to properly pass and behave on the trails has been proven to create positive trail experiences throughout the country.

"if you check out the current Betasso Link trail in BCOS you'll notice the major erosion problems in sections of that trail caused by mtn bike use...and the widening of other single track trails caused by mtn bike use, not by ped or even equestrian useage."

Again, this is the result of a basic misunderstanding of trail design. Hikers and bikers cause erosion at the same grade, which is less than that of equestrians. The erosion you speak of is a combination of user and water based erosion. The road going up to Betasso is not a sustainable grade for any user, while other sections go well above a proper trail alignment causing water to flow down the trail instead of across it. Water leaves a "V" shaped rut in the trail which is often mistaken for bike tires, but will occur regardless of the user.

This information can be found in the USFS trail design guides, IMBA's Trail Solutions, and most impressively, in the Civilian Conservation Corps trail building guide from the 1930's.

Also, there was a recent study done at Marshal Mesa that showed bikers were least likely to go off trail, while dogs and hikers were significantly more likely. Again, this isn't an issue of flawed user groups, but of a need for better education for ALL trail users.

Again, too many users on trails that were not properly designed causes conflict. Everyone coming together to create a well designed a properly managed trail system leaves us all – bikers, hikers, families, grandparents, and couch-potatoes alike – with better trail experiences. If it can be done in Charlotte, NC, the heart of NYC, Oregon, and every other state across the country, it can be done properly here too.

catzilla

9/27/2008 3:05:09 PM

I have always thought it ironic that mountain bikers have to load their bikes and transport them elsewhere to enjoy their sport, especially in a progressive community such as Boulder.

It makes absolutely no sense and in this energy paradigm it is downright un-smart. I say all access to all users all the time...where else in day to day life is there this sort of activity apartheid? The perceived danger of one trail user to another is a projection of their own feelings of vulnerability and may have nothing whatsoever to do with an actual threat.

For myself, I'll have my ride done before most hikers have flossed breakfast out of their gums!

captainendeavor@yahoo.com

9/27/2008 3:23:20 PM

There are many valid concerns voiced here, but an awful lot of misinformation. Check out the report prepared by the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance to see exactly what BMA is asking for and the reasons why we are asking for it. If you can suspend your predispositions and approach this issue with a (relatively) open mind, I think you'll find a lot of good information in the report. You can find it on the BMA website: www.bouldermountainbike.org OR download it directly here:

http://bma-mtb.org/getinvolved/BMA_West_TSA_Packet_Final.pdf

vogelman157@yahoo.com

9/27/2008 3:44:26 PM

I'm an avid hiker and biker in Boulder. I hike for the peace and bike for the fitness and fun.

Here's my 2 cents:

1) No bikes, if the trail in question is:

a) pristine or exquisite in some way worth protecting (this goes for many of the trails Chautauqua to Eldorado Springs). Sorry, mountain bikers, a rolling knobby wheel does more damage than feet do, not to mention bikes' negative effect on the spiritual quality of a hike.

b) already extremely busy without bikes (Chautauqua, Sanitas, Mesa Tr.)

c) super-technical or filled with blind spots

2) perhaps some kind of shared-use plan (similar to Betasso) for those trails that don't rise to that level, but are nevertheless currently excellent/peaceful hiking experiences. (Honestly, I wish Heil, Hall, and Marshall Mesa areas had at least one day a week just for hikers only — as those are excellent places to hike as well as bike.)

The construction of new bike-only trails in popular hiking areas seems like a decent idea as well, as long as it doesn't uglify the area or affect wildlife too much.

MelTurpin

9/27/2008 3:54:39 PM

The point is that cyclists will run over anything in their path, and they refuse to slow for ANYONE.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 5:08:53 PM

I mountain bike and hike and have hiked/run for over 50 years here in Boulder, hiking well before sunrise to listen to the sounds of nature.

If i had to choose only one I would choose the hiking with no biking.

I have to agree with many and say that even with considerate bikers, they just travel at much greater speeds than walking. I really don't want to be constantly looking up ahead and over my shoulder. That just deletes the serenity from getting out for a run or hike.

Thank you.

RJtrail

9/27/2008 5:16:08 PM

"The point is that cyclists will run over anything in their path, and they refuse to slow for ANYONE."

Way to generalize. I stop for all hikers and horses, and everyone I ride with does, as well.

I don't like riding through a bunch of horse sh*t on trails, but I suck it up, because I know other people just happen to enjoy riding horses. I don't like riding horses...I like riding bikes (and I hike too).

As a mountain biker all I'm asking for is one route from Baseline to Marshall Mesa/Eldorado Canyon and a link to Walker. Because of the price of gas I do the majority of my riding around Boulder. Because most of the trails are closed to bikers, that pretty much limits me to taking the bus to Ned. It would be nice to do that and be able to ride TRAILS most of the way from Ned all the way back to Boulder. Opening the link from Walker to Eldorado would be a great help.

I don't want bikers on every trail, because I too enjoy a walk without having to look out for bikers. I'm even willing to help out build a NEW trail if hikers really want to have all of the current trails to themselves (which I consider a legitimate request since I admit that there are quite a few disrespectful bikers).

HopscotchWillie

9/27/2008 5:24:00 PM

I understand hikers not wanting to share the trails with mountain bikers BUT we should be able to have one or two days where mountain bikes are allowed on trails that are currently off limits in Boulder County. That way hikers get what they want, peace and quiet AND then bikers get to use trails a couple days out of the week. Hikers will know these "biker allowed" days might be a little less appealing to hike BUT ALSO realize that there will be equal access for a bigger set of users in Boulder County.

Betasso has these regulations for no bike days. The Wasatch Front next to Salt Lake City has even odd day systems and these work quite well between hikers and bikers and even equestrians.

Gabe is taking too conservative a view and has had unfortunate incidents with mountain bikes. With hikers only days throughout the week he can have his peace and quiet and then others in his community can also partake in the joy using another means of transportation.

ripsi_1@yahoo.com

9/27/2008 6:00:06 PM

Nearly EVERY SINGLE DAY, my dogs and I are almost hit by cyclists on sidewalks.

I know someone with a dog, who has only three legs, because a cyclist RAN IT OVER on a sidewalk and permanently maimed it, and no, the cyclist DID NOT EVEN STOP.

This may well be a generalization, but it is equally a generalization to assume that I am wrong.

HopscotchWillie said:

"I don't want bikers on every trail, because I too enjoy a walk without having to look out for bikers."

You said it man, that's the WHOLE problem.

Cyclists should look out for pedestrians, not the other way around, you seem to imply they do not, which is what we are saying in the first place.

Thanks for supporting my contention, and you are a cyclist yourself.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 6:01:02 PM

Open to bikes Saturday and Wednesday to start. See how it goes...

I remember biking this trail before it was closed ... what a great trail.

JakPott

9/27/2008 7:29:54 PM

What I wear on the trail and whom I ride with has absolutely no bearing on weather or not I should have access to said trail.

A bicyclist on the sidewalk is not a cyclist, but someone who understands the utility of riding their bike to their destination instead of driving the gas guzzler. Yes, the cycling community could do a better job of educating it's sports participants on the etiquette of where and how to ride, and I do that with every opportunity I get. I don't enjoy dodging novice skiers on the mountain, but I understand they deserve their chance to learn a new and enjoyable sport like I did. Overgeneralizations about hikers, bikers, drivers do not make good arguments for access use and rights. The other day someone driving their SUV yelled at me to get off the shoulder of S Boulder road and find a sidewalk! Maybe all bicycles should just be banned from everywhere. We could make it a resort only sport, that way Vail resorts et el can get more money from us lycra clad cyclists.

CHILL OUT PEOPLE, if a bike on the trail stresses you out that much you need some help! Maybe you should be the one to stay home.

mtnbikeboulderstrails

9/27/2008 7:50:10 PM

Cyclists are self-centered, arrogant, aggressive jerks who think they OWN the WOLRD, you further prove this contention mtnbikeboulderstrails.

You lycra queens have enough places to ride, and we are all sick of being bullied out of the way by you Lance wanna screws.

mtnbikeboulderstrails said:

"A bicyclist on the sidewalk is not a cyclist, but someone who understands the utility of riding their bike to their destination instead of driving the gas guzzler."

Talk about a generalization, you make me laugh.

If someone is clad in bright colored spandex, a helmet, and riding a bike they are a cyclist, it matters not where they are cycling to or from.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 8:36:39 PM

as a mtn biker and hiker, I think this question can't be answered diplomatically. It would be nice to have the final section between Ned and Boulder not be Flagstaff/Magnolia roads. There should be one or two trails south of Bear Peak that could connect to Doudy Draw, etc.

I don't think opening up the crowded hiking trails north of Bear Peak would do anything but cause some serious run-ins and surely some collisions.

I try my best to yield to others, say "howdy", "good morning" and "thank You" when I can.. but I know for sure that there are many others that just don't give a crappola.

MuddyOne

9/27/2008 8:53:52 PM

FuriousB said: "Gabe, as a therapist I usually would not give out free advice, but Todd is right – you're gay. Explore that, Gabe. Look into the mirror this morning and say, "I am a gay homosexual, and I'm okay with that. I like myself, and men will like me, too. Don't worry about what your overweight wife and kids will think. They already know."

I feel bad for your clients, they must get some pretty wacked advice, as you could not be further from the truth.

FuriousB, great handle for a therapist, and very fitting for a Boulder cyclist.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 8:54:31 PM

FuriousB said: "Don't worry about what your overweight wife and kids will think. They already know."

What an enlightened view for a therapist, namecalling and assuming, you must be hard to get an appointment with huh?

Don't assume everyone lives the life that you live, we don't, and as far as therapy, you might want to seek some for yourself, cause you seem childlike and angry, with a propensity for derision.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 9:20:42 PM

I just love pushing your buttons, they are so big, and brightly colored, it's maybe too easy a target audience, Boulder cyclists.

It hilarious how ANGRY you guys get over blogs, or anyone telling you what you cannot do, and it's very telling.

You Boulder cyclists might want to look at the DSM, under PSYCOPATHY for starters, you exhibit at least 10 of the 21 typical symptoms.

You will actually threaten physical violence over a blog, yet want us to think of you as polite and considerate citizens.

Maybe I have over done the namecalling, it's childish I admit it.

But I have never, ever, not once, threatened to physically harm someone over their blog, nor have I ever called someones wife and/or kids fat cause they didn't agree with me.

And believe me, I am well equipped to do so.

Do you remember the scene in "A Few Good Men", when Tom Cruise makes Jack snap, and reveal his true feelings?

That's what I do to you Boulder cyclists, and you fall for it nearly every time.

If you were truly so polite and sophisticated you would take the high road, and make a logical argument for your position but you do not, cause you cannot, you are too angry.

Just like on the trail or sidewalk or city street, you bulldoze over everyone in your path with threats and physical violence.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 9:25:09 PM

This is from the DSM, via wikipedia.

Symptoms

Common characteristics of those with psychopathy are:

- 1)Grandiose sense of self-worth
- 2)Superficial charm
- 3)Criminal versatility
- 4)Reckless disregard for the safety of self or others
- 5)Impulse control problems
- 6)Irresponsibility
- 7)Inability to tolerate boredom
- 8)Pathological narcissism
- 9)Pathological lying
- 10)Shallow affect
- 11)Deceitfulness/manipulativeness
- 12)Aggressive or violent tendencies, repeated physical fights or assaults on others
- 13)Lack of empathy
- 14)Lack of remorse, indifferent to or rationalizes having hurt or mistreated others
- 15)A sense of extreme entitlement
- 16)Lack of or diminished levels of anxiety/nervousness and other emotions
- 17)Promiscuous sexual behavior, sexually deviant lifestyle

18)Poor judgment, failure to learn from experience
19)Lack of personal insight
20)Failure to follow any life plan
21)Abuse of drugs including alcohol

GabeMc

9/27/2008 9:25:52 PM

I thought I would check in on the Mountain bike use in Boulder article but it seems I stumbled onto the Israel/Palestine debate. Only with anti gay overtones.

I think I will turn the page.

mntnview

9/27/2008 9:35:46 PM

Nah, it's just one troll. Don't feed the trolls. If you feel the need, hit the remove button now and then.

johnny.sunshine@gmail.com

9/27/2008 10:08:27 PM

GabeMc –

In your more than 10 comments on this single news article, you've demonstrated that YOU have 14 of the 21 behaviors that psychopaths exhibit. Now whose buttons are pushed? Flame on Gabe.

- 1)Grandiose sense of self-worth
- 2)Superficial charm
- 5)Impulse control problems
- 6)Irresponsibility
- 8)Pathological narcissism
- 9)Pathological lying
- 10)Shallow affect
- 11)Deceitfulness/manipulativeness
- 12)Aggressive or violent tendencies, repeated physical fights or assaults on others
- 13)Lack of empathy
- 14)Lack of remorse, indifferent to or rationalizes having hurt or mistreated others
- 15)A sense of extreme entitlement
- 18)Poor judgment, failure to learn from experience
- 19)Lack of personal insight
- 20)Failure to follow any life plan

channelc44@hotmail.com

9/27/2008 10:35:07 PM

Exactly, that's how I know a psychopath when I see one.

The difference is this: I never claimed to be a polite and considerate cyclist.

Most of this is just pure fun, so thanks for paying such close attention.

GabeMc

9/27/2008 10:39:34 PM

How about some single track motorcycle trails in the mountains of Boulder County?

gilpin_observer

9/27/2008 10:39:57 PM

Yeah, and what about four-wheelers man, and Hummers?

GabeMc

9/27/2008 10:45:43 PM

GabeMc needs to be banned from commenting ever on the Daily Camera comments section.

His email needs to be rejected by the Daily Camera staff.

His idiotic jibberish is just wasting space for more intelligent conversation. I have not seen one sensible word coming from his posts. I have seen middle schoolers that have more respect than this moronic fool.

mtndude08

9/27/2008 11:22:28 PM

I am tired enough of being expected to leap off the Boulder sidewalks for a bicyclist.....They even can't obey traffic laws ...Lets keep them off the trails!

climbmnts

9/27/2008 11:50:29 PM

Gabe you need something better to do with your time. Look how much you wasted yesterday posting your comments. Maybe try getting on a bicycle.

broulder

9/28/2008 7:53:53 AM

Before everybody gets too excited, this is from the Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance web site:

Specifically, BMA is asking for a shared-use trail east of the Mesa Trail connecting Baseline Avenue with the trailhead at Eldorado Springs Road, a connector trail with Walker Ranch, and opening up access to South Boulder Creek, Big Bluestem, and Shanahan Ridge trails.

HALsaves

9/28/2008 12:15:38 PM

gabe—why don't you just quiet down? You have made an absolute a** of yourself on this thread. I have a good friend that is gay, and ten to one he is twice the "man" you are. You have the intellect and maturity of a grade school bully. Still acting like a wank over the spandex. Still making generalizations that account for nothing. Still blowing tons of smoke out of your behind. Maybe you need an EPA hazardous emissions permit?

rasinden57@hotmail.com

9/28/2008 3:33:53 PM

HALsaves said: "BMA is asking for a shared-use trail east of the Mesa Trail connecting Baseline Avenue with the trailhead at Eldorado Springs Road, a connector trail with Walker Ranch, and opening up access to South Boulder Creek, Big Bluestem, and Shanahan Ridge trails"

Oh, is that all?

It's amusing how many angry insults are hurled at me for disagreeing, all the while they are telling me to chill out and stop insulting people.

Ironic, don't cha think?

GabeMc

9/28/2008 4:29:40 PM

rasinden57, didn't your mommy teach you about sinking to the level of those that anger you?

GabeMc

9/28/2008 5:14:47 PM

gabe—you haven't angered anyone but yourself. You are the one frothing at the mouth with multiple posts and nasty remarks and insults etc.

rasinden57@hotmail.com

9/28/2008 8:41:03 PM

rasinden57 said:

"just quiet down? You have made an absolute a** of yourself", "You have the intellect and maturity of a grade school bully. Still acting like a wank", "blowing tons of smoke out of your behind", "You need to get a grip, dude", "Gabe turns into exactly what he hates, a badmouthing, inappropriate, unmannerly doof with no class."

rasinden57 said: "You are the one frothing at the mouth with multiple posts and nasty remarks and insults etc."

Yeah, I guess you are right, forgive me oh enlightened one.

I'm just having fun, and believe me, I am not angry or frothing, far from it.

Amused maybe...

GabeMc

9/28/2008 8:57:40 PM

Who is GayMC?

Its almost 70 years since my death but this guy is well worth me coming back from the dead for.

A man who fixates on lycra, Lance Armstrong and owns several poodles. Unnecessary references to "a" wife to give an illusion of heterosexuality but one fragile enough for potential lovers to see through. His projected fantasies and continual references to male homosexual practices, KY jelly etc etc.

Also the fixation on Sarah Palin in other comments despite the alarming ignorance shown in her interviews. By calling her hot he sends another single to potential lovers "I'm actually gay".

Finally and most of all the name: GabeMC crudely hinting that not only is he gay himself but sees himself in the dominant "Master of Ceremonies" role.

I'd love to get him on the couch, though not perhaps in the way he might hope.

BTW GabeMC "Cyclists are self-centered, arrogant, aggressive jerks"

I hope you give as much to society as Lance Armstrong has, he has touched many of us, not in the way you appear to want to, through his work for Cancer research.

GayMC – come on out, its the 21st century. Homosexuality is widely accepted in normal society. There is NO SHAME. Rejoice, embrace it, very few of us will ever judge you on your sexuality – its yours, enjoy it. (and feel free to indulge the lycra)

Freud

9/28/2008 10:29:51 PM

I never eluded to a wife, I mentioned someone who claimed to be a therapist calling "my wife and kids fat", as an example of the immature Boulder namecalling culture, never said I had either.

I think Sarah Palin is hot, and it's soooo Boulder to make fun of a sexy woman, especially for an accent.

GabeMc means I'm Irish, it's not MC, like in Hammer, it's Mc as in McCartney.

I respect Lance for his cancer work, though he never did any until he got it himself, much like Michael J Fox and Christopher Reeve.

As far as being gay, I would have no problem coming out if I was, I would have so many men to choose from around here. I'd suit up in blaze orange spandex and join the crews up LeftHand.

Afterall, I'm in the right city for that aren't I?

GabeMc

9/29/2008 12:46:49 AM

Nothing pisses me off more than all those hikers who drove their cars to the trailhead and start yelling at me to yield to them after I've been cut off ten times on the way to the trail. Not this time wankers. My time has come and you will all pay you Co2 loving scum. haha

cgjj1@excite.com

9/29/2008 12:58:28 AM

It is ironic however, that by calling cyclists gay you infer that I am gay, while you yourself call me gay, so by your logic, you must be gay as well.

If I am homophobic it is likely caused by the NUMEROUS disgusting stare downs by male Boulderites due to my extreme good looks.

Cyclists may not be gay, I don't even know any.

It is my opinion however, that men who like to leave their women and children at home, suit up in flamboyant spandex like Liberace, then parade around together for hours on end, well they like spandex and not being around girls.

Draw your own conclusions.

Basically the best you Boulder Cyclists can do is say "your a fat gay man with a fat wife and fat kids and poodles cause you don't like us you loser."

Boulderites are only friendly when you agree with them, when you don't, all hell breaks loose.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, and life is more interesting when we have different opinions, not all the same ideas and beliefs.

Honestly, I would have no problem with any cyclist had I not had so many bad experiences with them nearly causing car accidents and nearly killing my dogs, which are not puddles BTW, not that there is anything wrong with that.

If you read the posts, at least half of people agree with me about cyclists, and the other half, like the post above this one, further prove my point about cyclists being arrogant and aggressive.

GabeMc

9/29/2008 1:09:58 AM

Most gay people are extremely good looking aren't they MC

cgjj1@excite.com

9/29/2008 1:32:02 AM

I think in order to be gay you have to be sexually attracted to the SAME sex, looks have nothing to do with it as far as I know.

GabeMc

9/29/2008 1:43:30 AM

this gabe troll is hilarious. what a miserable character, thank god i don't have to know you or see him, i just get to laugh at his ignorance from the comfort of my home.

see you on the trails brah!

clackmon@yahoo.com

9/29/2008 4:03:31 AM

As someone who is on the area trails 3-5 days a week hiking and running, I can say that in over 2000 miles a year and hundreds of bike/pedestrian encounters over the years, I've never run into a mountain biker who wasn't polite and considerate. Not once.

The mountain bike club does great work. As a trail runner and hiker, I'm very thankful for what they've done to get trails constructed around here.

cgerber
9/29/2008 12:03:51 PM

Typical Boulder NIMBYs.
Dick_Tater
9/29/2008 1:45:10 PM

GabeMc – “I never eluded to a wife, I mentioned someone who claimed to be a therapist calling my wife and kids fat.”

GabeMc – “I just think real men stay at home with their wives and kids, not ride around on bikes all day with men in tights... I suppose The Godfather is a bear as well in your estimation hey HandsomeTodd?”
You think about what it means to be a “real man” quite a bit, don’t you Gabe? What about prancing around in your wife’s huge underpants while fantasizing you are tightly squeezed into blaze orange spandex, following Lance’s rear wheel up the canyon? Does that make you feel like a real man, Gabe?

FuriousB
9/29/2008 5:07:00 PM

FuriousB, you are a brilliant clinician.

GabeMc
9/30/2008 2:51:11 PM

allmtn said:

“Hey Gabe – I’ll meet you anytime you want. It’s go time fool...And people please stop the hating on bikes. I’m always polite to people I encounter so stop all of the generalizations.”

You seem pretty polite to me, threatening physical violence over someone’s opinion.

BTW, if you saw me, you would run your twiggy little a– right back to your bike fool.

We have all heard of beer muscles, but you seem to have blogger muscles, cause I have never seen a cyclist over 150 lbs.

Also, online threats can land you in jail you fool, it’s a felony, called Terroristic Threats, Google it Lance.

GabeMc
9/27/2008 8:45:50 PM

The world is crumbling around you yet all you flamboyant tight wearing Lance wanna-fu— can do is complain that you don’t have enough trails to ride with all your male buddies while your wife takes care of your kids at home.

Hey Brokeback Cyclist Club, you are so elite and out-of-touch you probably greased and lubed your machine tonight and didn’t even know there was an important debate on TV.

I can’t even walk a damn sidewalk without having one of you idiots nearly maim my dogs EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Why don’t you throw a spandex party half-way up LeftHand, no chicks allowed, bring plenty of KY.

You just know I’m right, don’t you skinny boy?

Real men don’t ride bikes with a group of other men, they ride women, solo.

GabeMc
9/27/2008 12:01:22 AM

I’ve read most the the discussion here and have to side with the idea of a connector to Walker Ranch and one from Baseline to Eldorado Canyon. I also like the idea of at least a few days open to mountain bikers during the week and a few new mountain biker specific trails.

As a biker and hiker with kids I understand the idea of not wanting to hike with bikes in the area. We in the biker community if given access will have to live up to our part of the bargain and help preserve the trails through manpower, funding and help from organizations like IMBA and BMA.

I personally feel the ban is excessive and overly protective. I'd be willing to make some of the current rides: Walker Ranch, Heil, Betasso made alternate day access if we were given a wider selection of places to ride.

Dave

Broomfield

dvkico@msn.com

10/5/2008 9:22:22 PM

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2009/08/15/mountain-bikers-asking-boulder-to-open-trails/>