

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/27/2022 3:41:39 PM

First name: Barb

Last name: Lander

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please protect Ward Lake from commercial tourism. The area can be easily overwhelmed. Locals flock to the area to enjoy the the natural environment. Current improvements allow access for people of all ages and abilities including Parents hike with young children, and elders with stooped backs, slow gait and walking sticks. It is a magical place with opportunities to observe newly hatched ducklings and even young otters or beaver as they grow and a variety birds, fish and other wildlife. Excessive crowds will push the wildlife and the peace of Ward Lake to more remote places with limited access for all but the most physically fit or affluent.

Recent changes to allow tour groups on some other trails in the area have proved impacted the enjoyment of these trails by those who live here and use the trails daily. Walkers and Joggers have to fight for passage on a trail blocked by groups of 10 or more and the guides makes no efforts to request trail courtesy.

Please save this magical place for locals and independent travelers. Limit the commercial use of Ward Lake. Establish guidelines that limit harassment of wildlife, such as the kayaker or remote aircraft that crowd the swans, ducks, otters and beaver from areas that these animals normally could consider refuge. Enact noise regulations that prohibit loud music that can be heard from one end of the lake to the other.

Finally, improve winter access; maintain the road and parking lot at the lake.