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Comments: As a climber of 25+ years, I can't begin to tell you what a life-changing experience this sport has been for me. Increasingly, others are enjoying this same transformation as climbing becomes more popular and more accessible. If I have learned one thing from my 25+ of experience, it is that there is NO alternative to experience! It is your single greatest strength in mitigating the inherent risk in climbing. The increase in fixed hardware's, specifically bolts (when installed correctly) eliminates a significant amount of risk and guess work. Replacing old anchor systems made of rusting hardware and sun-exposed nylon had significantly decreases the potential failure of these systems, and eliminates any guess work by less experienced climbers. The Mohonk preserve in upstate New York, a long-standing supporter of climbers and an environment, has embraced this ethos by replacing old anchors with permanent bolted solutions. This has, without a doubt, increased the safety of its climbers as well as eliminate significant guess work about where the climbers should be rappelling from and if the anchor's safety is compromised.

We build crash barriers to keep cars on the road when driving in our parks. We build railings across bridges to keep our hikers from falling. We install bear bins to keep our campers and the wildlife safe. These examples also help to establish proven environmentally friendly techniques that allow us to recreate in our parks in an environmentally sustainable manner. Bolts are no different. I urge you to consider very carefully any new policies that would restrict bolting in our parks.