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Comments: I am strongly opposed to any project that allows mountain biking in natural areas.

They can ride the roads where bikes won't destroy anything, or do like everyone else and walk through nature to fully appreciate its uniqueness and beauty. But mountain biking, a new form of wreckreation, isn't really about those positive things, it is only about the bikers' narcotic-like ego-addiction.
The truth is that mountain biking is an anti-environmental, destructive, industry supported, self-centered activity that creates destruction where it attempts to penetrate natural lands and the public trust. Unlike the misinformation from proponents of this invasion, it is clear to see this is an industry/bike association/single-minded advocate agenda to penetrate public programs, buildings, and natural areas for self-centered gain, whether it be corporate sales, association control, or self-centered thrills, all with undue pressure/influence on local officials and at the expense of unique treasures like local parks and natural venues. It is a strategy that plays out across the nation, poisoned by the mantra of the privatized radical individual as opposed to the common good and public trust. These spaces are meant for all of the people, not the minority of a few to pursue restricted single-use narcissist adventure. Open space parklands remain places of reflection and undisturbed connections with nature, among the diverse animal and plant life, terrain, and peace those things create.
Research nationally documents the destruction that mountain biking wreaks on the environment as well as people who want to pursue passive recreation.
Despite their false P.R. promotional distortions, mountain bikers are only interested in their constant self-indulgent thrills at the expense of nature and people. It is only about themselves and their addiction, not about others, animals, birds, plant life, the environment, nature or anything beyond their myopia. It is a pathetic mutation of what makes us truly human.
Our problems are caused mostly due the fact that the wildlife can't speak for themselves or vote. We need to do that for them, shamelessly. It's not that hard to know what they think, since they vote with their feet: they run away whenever we get close to them! That's the first thing that every child learns about wild animals. But then we "forget" this "inconvenient truth".
You must confront this intrusion and deny any use of the park for mountain biking or similar restricted-use disruptive activity. Do you as a city want to turn every park into yet another industry-lobbied sports complex? Parks and natural environments are not gymnasiums, race tracks, sports complexes, or circus adventure rides, despite the propaganda from the industry and imba bike association partners, replete with their websites, consulting, and talking points, a 21st century snake-oil medicine show. Do you really want the invasion of this destructive, dangerous, and restricted self-centered activity for a few with its consequent documented national history of future expansion, destruction, and danger to people (with permanent injuries and lawsuits against the city), or do you value something more: a place of reflection and connection with nature, others, and oneself, giving us our full humanity, nature's gift to us all for generations past, present, and future.
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Here is a typical strategy used by the wreckreational-industrial complex, colluding with international and national mountain bike associations (MBAs), local chapters, compliant or 'influenced' national, state, or local government officials, pseudo 'nature organizations,' bought-off media (read advertisers) of all types, hired 'consultants with websites, talking points, and other misinformation that creates a false sense of nature custody (read destruction), promised (but never kept) maintenance, and 'being an economic engine for the local economy' (officials love these false mantras as surface justification for their betrayal of the environment and the people's trust).

After successful gouging of local nature/parks commissions and elected councils when necessary, the invading bike industry requests a memo of understanding (MOU).
An MOU will allow for NEMBA to manage as they see 'fit and necessary' which, due to their lack of management

expertise and staff in this area, they will subcontract out to a company, let's name it Pilltown Inc.

The local MBA chapter will get a percentage of the fees, but a for-profit (NFP)company will get the majority of maintenance and service fees.

This is actually calculated as a for-profit venture gift-wrapped in a NFP wrapper.
Advocates full well know this, just like they know that if they went public with the full scope of the project, they would be buried fore months in Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Conservation organization (CO) reviews.

Bike industry people know natural areas are not active use like the invasiveness of mountain biking trails and complexes, and that in many places a use is considered abandoned and loses all grandfathering after two years of non-use.

When land reverts, it reverts to the lowest form of use, passive undisturbed recreational use, now sleazed into the active destructive use (biking, and its universal sequence of e-bikes, ATVs, ORVs, dirt bikes and even motorcycles). All this non-withstanding the lack of enforcement by a city to stop the current obvious destructive use.

With the bike industry support, the city purposefully does not bid out a proposed bike project because it's being framed as paid for by a not for profit (MBA) but, actually, it's not really. It will be funded by donations, but those donations will come, in large part, from a few donors with a vested interest in securing the property and rights without bidding, including the mountain bike corporations, their vested friends, and other advocates with funding.

It's a scam. Let's say our fictitious company, PillTown Inc., wants that property but can't secure it due to state/city bidding requirements, etc. They also know the city will eventually have to have a public/private partnership to make sure it's run efficiently.
So what they do is find a willing not-for-profit, like a MBA.

The NFP acts as their proxy, since cities and towns in in. many locales can directly sell or lease property to NFPs without going through normal bidding.

Remember PillTown Inc. might have showed a specific interest in a city property, but they realized the recreational potential of the land, yet knew they couldn't secure the property legally and outright. So this is the fruition of their long-game approach.
A MBA gets exclusive access to the property, PillTown Inc. finances the construction, and a local Money Mismanagement business acts as the bagman.

And once it's all built, and since being built by a not for profit it is not subject to bidding laws nor is it subject to prevailing wage rules, the city realizes it lacks expertise in the area of running mountain biking facilities. They then look for a company/NFP to contract with to run it. They may contract with a MBA who in turn may subcontract to PillTown Inc., a large company that has expertise in outdoor recreation. The MBA might get a 10% skim kickback, PillTown Inc. gets a entertainment/management contract and a fat maintenance contract, which well exceeds the initial cost of their investment.

Note that PillTown Inc. will write off any donations to a MBA. It also will look good for PillTown Inc.'s books because their capital outlay is minimized and they are secured against future revenue. Also a MBA, being a NFP, can secure grant funding not open to for-profits businesses or corporations, so that partnership gives PillTown Inc. an extra revenue stream. This is just a form of money laundering.

If national, state, and local legislatures made some changes, none of this would happen. If projects on city or

town land, irrespective of who may be paying for it, are subject to state or local procurement laws, these kinds of structure/deferred payment scams would dry up.

But for now, we continue to confront the illegal and unethical invasions, media lies, irreparable destruction of terrain, animal and plant life, political collusion, and betrayal of the public trust, that is the essence of this self-centered addiction to cheap thrills for the few. This tiny minority of eco-terrorists are part of the same mentality that has been used by manifest destiny fascists across the globe for the last 600 years, all based on greed, asymmetrical power relations, and a moral vacuum.

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