

Bollards on the Greenways

It has been standard practice for the Town to install traffic control bollards at the entrances of all greenway trails and sidepaths. Installation of bollards is a common practice in many municipalities. The purpose of these bollards is to prevent larger vehicles such as automobiles and trucks from accessing the trails. They cannot prevent access by motorcycles. Over the years we have noticed that many agencies with access to our bollards have not regularly placed bollards in an upright position. As a result these bollards have been lying on the ground in a position that cannot prevent vehicle access. However, despite the fact that many of our trail and sidepath entrances have not been protected we have received no complaints of cars driving on trails except in a few very specific locations.

It may be time to reconsider whether or not bollards should be placed at all trail entrances. It may be a better policy to not place bollards at most entrances and instead use them only in areas where we know vehicles would likely use the trails despite signage to the contrary. Examples of this is Homestead Park and Southern Community Park where we know from experience that soccer teams will drive on the trails to access the soccer fields and unload equipment if the bollards are not in place.

The arguments against using bollards at all locations include:

- Cost – Depending on the bollard type the cost can be up to \$1,000 per removable post for the bollard and installation, and less for the fixed bollards. Most trail entrances require at least 2 fixed bollards and 1 removable bollard. Sometimes more are required.
- Maintenance – We have found that repairing or replacing bollards can be very expensive.
- Aesthetics – These bollards must be a very bright and visible color, usually bright yellow. In addition, most eventually rust.
- Bicycle Interactions – Bicyclists must use extra caution when riding around bollards.
- Multiple agency access. It is difficult providing access through one bollard for multiple agencies. It is not uncommon for multiple agencies to have the need to access an area behind the bollards. These could include the Town, Duke Energy, OWASA, and PSNC gas.
- Lack of proven need – Except in a few locations (mostly parks) we have had no reported instances of cars driving on trails or sidepaths in many years, and only a handful of instances over the 30 years of the Town's trail program.

We value your recommendations.