

Dustin Lackey, White River Junction, VT.

Hello, I am resident and homeowner in Wilder, VT. I am writing to request the commission consider whether the walkway across the Wilder Dam can be opened for public recreation - pedestrian and bicycle access. Both sides of the dam are adjacent to wonderful parks: Kilowatt Park on the VT side, and Boston Lot on the NH side. The surrounding communities would gain a wonderful resource if these parks could be connected. It would enable new possibilities for loops connecting to the Hazen trail in Wilder/Norwich, all the way to the Mink Brook Preserve in Hanover, and River Park in West Lebanon. I expect the walkway would require some safety improvements and it could certainly be limited to daylight use or other restrictions. I have asked a couple of town officials about this idea and they mentioned possible security concerns - which I understand, but I can't believe they are much different from the status quo - anyone can walk up to the dam right now. Given the dam already exists and has a walkway, this seems like a very low impact way to make a huge recreation improvement for all the nearby residents. I hope you will consider it. Thank you, Dustin Lackey

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