

Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association
PO Box 180190
Utica, MI 48318



Michael Reese, Director
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
13000 High Ridge Drive
Brighton, MI 48114-9058

Mr. Reese,

My name is Steve Vigneau, and on behalf of the 500 paid members of the Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association, a chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (CRAMBA-IMBA) I write you in support of the project to enhance and expand the natural-surface multi-use trails at Stony Creek Metropark.

Our all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization represents the interests of all mountain bikers throughout the Clinton River watershed with the mission of maintaining and expanding mountain bike access to off road, natural surface trails and facilities. In support of this mission we help local land managers develop and maintain networks of trails throughout the area, including at Stony Creek Metropark.

Since the inception of formalized mountain biking trails at Stony Creek our volunteers have worked with the Metroparks to maintain and enhance the trails and mountain bike facilities at both the Sheldon Trails and Trolley Trails areas. Our members do this work because we love riding; giving back to the trails we love riding at Stony Creek. It is an outstanding area to mountain bike with a great deal of potential, and we support further developments to the trail system.

The mountain bike accessible trails at Stony Creek are a gem in the park, enjoyable for everyone from mountain bikers to hikers, from runners to skiers. Much like some of the other pieces of infrastructure within the park, these trails are beginning to show their age and need a boost. In support of the Stony Creek Master Plan we have been working closely with the Metroparks staff, taking a holistic look at how the area can be revamped and expanded. We have been discussing, and wholly support, a significant expansion to the trail network, with the addition of shared-use, bike-optimized, natural-surface single track trails.

Once complete, we believe that this project will alleviate the following concerns:

- 1) **Disjointed single track trails.** By establishing a cohesive single track trail loop and improving signage, users at Stony Creek will have an easier time navigating the trail network resulting in a more enjoyable experience.
- 2) **Fat biking.** The Sheldon Trails area, where the single track trails are located, is currently closed to fat biking in snow to avoid conflict with cross country skiers. A significant portion of our membership rides fat bikes on single track in the snow, but must go to other parks to get this experience. A cohesive single track loop can remain open to bikes year round, with other trails reserved for skiing.
- 3) **Low mileage.** Stony Creek has only 4.6 miles of single track trail, less than almost any other local park with mountain bike trails. An increase in the amount of single track will increase enjoyment, bring in more users, and make Stony Creek even more of a destination trail. By increasing the overall length of the trail users will be more spread out which will give the trail a more remote feel and reduce the potential for user conflict.
- 4) **Antiquated trail design.** By applying modern planning and building techniques the newly renovated trail at Stony Creek will not only enhance the ride experience, it will also increase trail sustainability, decrease bandit trails, improve safety, and reduce maintenance cost and time efforts for the Metroparks and our volunteers.

Using professional, modern design and construction techniques to revamp Stony Creek's mountain bike accessible trails we envision an enhanced, modern, and quite simply better trail experience for all.

Thank you for your support of this project, and we look forward to continuing our support of the planning, funding, developing, and maintenance of the mountain bike accessible trails at Stony Creek Metropark.

Steve Vigneau, Chairperson, CRAMBA-IMBA