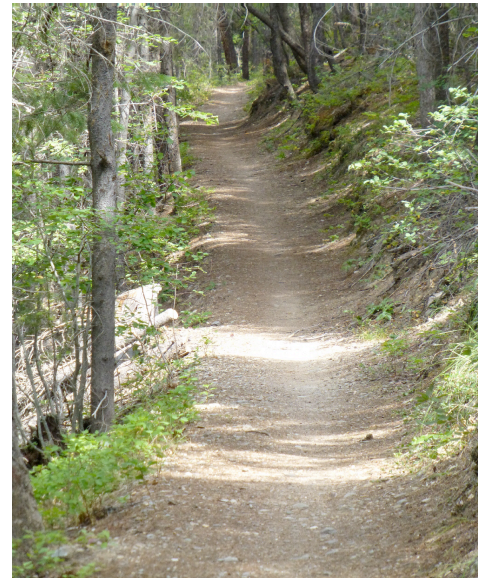# Nature Notes

Trails—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The trails in the Kimberley Nature Park are much appreciated by hikers, dog walkers, runners, cyclists, and winter users alike. We are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful facility right next to town, but increased use of the trails comes at a price. Most of the trails were built for light use. Erosion of steep sections both by water and by human use is making them unpleasant to walk or ride and threatens our legacy for future KNP users.

An example of a "good " trail is the Ponderosa trail. It is not steep, has a wide, hard surface, and has no problems handling all the use it gets.There are many such sections of trail in the KNP.

For an example of a trail going bad, go to any steeper section of most trails in the KNP. These trails have had the softer material pounded out leaving many exposed roots and rocks.

The good—Ponderosa trail

Ugly trails are extremely steep, have worn to a "U" shape, and/or have significant drops over roots and rocks.These trails are unpleasant to walk on and are often the site of accidents for cyclists.

The situation is not hopeless. Volunteers have significantly improved Eimer's ridge, Edge, and Boulder trails by building new lower angled sections with switchbacks so the steepest sections are bypassed. They are fun to ride and easy to walk. More work is planned but it takes many hours of work by dedicated volunteers. KNP users can help by staying off trails like Creek trail which are obviously not up to much more wear until they have been improved. It helps if cyclists avoid skidding when going downhill and if walkers and cyclists alike stay on the trail rather than cutting corners or making another trail along side existing but worn trails.

The bad--- Suicide trail

The ugly – Ponderosa connector

You can help by volunteering some time for trail work. Please contact the KNP society to find when the next trail work session is planned.

Visit www.kimberleynaturepark.ca for a hard copy or more information about Nature Park events.