

## Proposal for a Multiuse Trail at Phillips Farm

### Background

MAMBA is a non-profit, volunteer organization with the mission of “Creating, enhancing and preserving a sustainable, publicly-accessible trail system on the Palouse”. Currently, all MAMBA trails are on private lands of Moscow Mountain. Although MAMBA was started by mountain bikers, current members, volunteers and donors include those that hike, run, ski and bike the trails. A consistent request from the community has been development of trails suitable for beginner mountain bikers which are currently lacking.

### Proposal Objectives:

The following objectives will be met by the construction and maintenance of a multiuse trail at the Phillips Farm.

- 1) Further the mission of the Friends of Phillips Farm “To enhance opportunities for recreation and education at Virgil Philips Farm County Park” and the intent of Virgil Phillips bequeathing the farm to the City of Moscow “for the benefit and use of the children of Moscow for recreational purposes.”
- 2) Provide an easily accessible, non-motorized, multiuse, trail suitable for beginner mountain bikers to gain skill and confidence riding while learning about trail etiquette and responsible trail use.
  - a. Signs at the trailhead and a few along the trail that provide information about trail etiquette:
    - i. Stay on the trail
    - ii. Bikes yield to foot traffic
    - iii. Downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic (but bikes still yield to foot traffic)
- 3) Educate the community about the principles of sustainable trail building practices.
  - a. MAMBA will organize series of trail building workshops (Spring 2021) to complete the trail while providing experiential learning opportunities for the community.
- 4) Build relationships between MAMBA, Friends of Phillips Farm and Latah County Parks and Recreation Dept. personnel.

### Proposed trail

The proposed trail would be approximately 1 mile long multiuse trail suitable for beginner mountain biking, situated on the northeast corner of the Farm south of the driveway starting just west of the “upper Gazebo”. Site selection and trail routing was guided by the following considerations:

- Avoid proposed UI research units for ventenata (note map on next page was created before knowledge of this research but can be modified ).
- Trail is visible from the “upper gazebo” allowing parents of younger children to observe them as they ride the trail.
- Keep trail away from bluebird boxes on the ridge to the south and the foot trails to the west.
- Maintain a gentle grade both up and downhill.

- A small bridge would need to be built across a ditch at the southwestern-most section of the trail



Yellow lines represent Farm property lines with adjoining property to the east.

#### **Addressing concerns about bikes using other trails at the park.**

The trail would be promoted as a BEGINNER trail, a place where parents can bring their kids learning to ride so they can get some experience riding single track trail while the parents ride with them, sit at the gazebo where they can see them as they ride the trail or enjoy the pond or walk the native plants trail. Of course it would be appropriate for beginner adults too. It is a bit of a drive and even if an intermediate or advanced rider were to make the effort to go there once, there isn't likely enough trail (including existing) to make it worth the return trip. The existing trails would not be very enjoyable for such riders, they are steep in places, narrow, off camber and lack the curvy flow that makes trails fun to ride. Finally, most all in our biking community are respectful of the trails, other users and the wishes of landowners and land managers so would heed signs indicating foot traffic only on the other trails.