

6/7/16

Proposal for Peninsula School Cross-Country Course

A group of community members wishes to create a cross-country course at the Peninsula School in Prospect Harbor. Our team currently has to practice on the athletic fields or else get bused to an off-site location. To capture the true spirit of the sport, we need an option to run on trails as much as possible without having to travel everyday. The school does not own a substantial amount of land, but we've worked a way to use what we do have to lay out a sufficient course. The average length course at other schools where we run is around 1.7 miles (9000'). By combining loops around the athletic fields with our proposed woods trail, we can easily get this distance.

Our plan consists of 3 sections of new trail to cut. Section "A" starts at the back corner of the lower softball field, follows the school's northern property line for 1500' to the front parking lot, and loops back around to exit near the soccer field. Section "B" adds a 1400' loop from the far end of "A" heading down the hill adjacent to the driveway and coming back up again. This loop crosses a corner of private property to access the lower area, which we have been given full permission to do by the landowner. Section "C" starts behind the upper baseball field backstop, follows the southern property line for 1100' staying mostly outside the treeline up on a small ridge and exiting onto the gravel road by the playground.

We have a few individuals in our group who have considerable experience making trails and managing woodlots. We feel we can complete this project without the use of any heavy equipment and therefore minimal impact on the land. The final trail would be a footpath only with just enough room for runners to pass each other. There would be little, if any, cutting of trees -- primarily just brush, limbs and blowdowns. The terrain is mostly dry and solid. One small wet spot would need only small logs laid down to pass through. All labor would be done by volunteers so we are not asking for any money for this project. The cross-country team would take on the responsibility of maintaining the trail at the beginning of each season.

It would be a great source of pride for our school to have this trail. We could host a home cross-country meet for the first time as well as put it to use for science and PE classes. It has been desired for years now and with the current momentum we feel we could have it ready for the fall 2016 season.

Thanks,
Tim Fisher
2015 PCS Cross-Country Coach