

**From:** Julie Hirschler  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2022 5:17 PM  
**To:** Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee  
**Cc:** Matthew Johnson; Terri Ackerman; Mary Hartman  
**Subject:** Junction Park in West Concord

Dear Ms. Ackerman: Could you forward this to members of the Select Board? Thank you very much.

Dear BFRAC Committee:

Thank you for planning and conducting the comprehensive public meeting on Feb 16 to address the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail crossing of Junction Park in West Concord. I had an opportunity to offer my thoughts then but, in hearing comments following mine, I would like to add a few more ideas.

The area between The Club Car Cafe and W. Concord Shopping Center has evolved a great deal in the 45 years we have lived in West Concord. Then, we went on the annual clean-up day to bag trash and broken glass. Now, because so much time, effort, and resources have gone into this **centerpiece of West Concord**, we enjoy the delightful Junction Park which brings West Concord together, celebrates its transportation history, and offers a pleasant walk to and from assisted living, preschool, shopping center, and surrounding neighborhoods.

We are grateful to have had West Concord citizens, the Green Thumbs, plan, execute, and continue to maintain **beautiful gardens** over the years. Perhaps, without most of us realizing it, the Park also provides an **environmental example** through its bio-retention area. The water can seep back into the soil because the area uses pervious pavers allowing water to flow into an underground reception area. Concord staff, especially the Planning Department, were key to making it all work. This is a model of a pocket park any town would be proud to claim!

I am dismayed that we have now created a place that **can be hazardous for locals** who choose to enjoy the park area. Bicyclists do not respect signs; this is not new or surprising information. This fact is more distressing as more and more of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will be opening this spring.

Please make every effort at this time to muster all the best ideas and resources to separate the bike trail from the park. I think we should consider having the bike trail follow the left side of the park in what is now part of the Club Car Cafe parking lot. That west side of Junction Park is on land owned by the MBTA and under long-term lease to the Town. I'm certain that the Town Engineering Department could determine whether a sufficient turning ratio for parked cars would be retained if such a **trail detour were designed**. If so, I would approach the MBTA to see if we could divert bicycles to that left side of the park. If we could accomplish that, we could retain **both** a viable bike trail and a beautiful and safe park.

Thank you in advance for taking this most seriously in your deliberations and finding the best solutions.

Sincerely,  
Patrick and Julie Hirschler  
1381 Main St.