

Trail monitoring

The Bethlehem Gadfly Environment November 7, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on the environment* 

refs:

“Does race affect feelings of belonging on the D&L trail?”
“Reclaiming space: ‘Afros in Nature’”

The notion that people of color might not feel “at home” on the many fine trails in our area and thus in a real sense cannot take full advantage of the healing power of nature in these pandemic times when the outdoors have become so much more important to us is still bothering the Gadfly.

It’s made him more aware of the presence (or not) of people of color on the trails he trails on.

Thursday afternoon there were 37 people on the Saucon Trail when he was there, of which there was just 1 person of color. However, ironically, he couldn’t help but notice as well that there were 6 people of color cutting grass on homes adjacent to the trail.

On the absolutely gorgeous yesterday afternoon, there were 81 people on the trail and not one person of color.

Hmmm.

This weekend promises to be beautiful again, and Gadfly encourages you to be his eyes on the trails you might be on.

On that “Race and Space” program that triggered this interest in Gadfly, It was also mentioned that such recreational trails are rarely easily accessible to neighborhoods with high densities of people of color.

That, of course, led Gadfly to think immediately of the importance of the Southside Greenway with its creeping link to the Saucon Trail on one side and its hoped for link with the D&L trail via a pedestrian bridge on the other.

Speaking of the pedestrian bridge, Councilman Callahan again asked for a ruling about whether the money committed to the bridge study last year could be moved now to such other projects that bridge advocate Councilwoman Van Wirt has recently espoused as support for the homeless and improved internet access for students.

Budget season is beginning. Gadfly's many follower-advocates for a pedestrian bridge should be on the alert.