As a resident of Columbia Point Condos, I would like to voice my opposition to the plan make our private path into a public trail. The commission should consider several facts:

1. All the condos and homes around the bay were planned and constructed to take advantage of their proximity to the river and bay. A very narrow (4 foot) path was granted an easement for walking only. Sorry, no bikes are allowed due to terrain and limited sight distances.
2. The easement is maintained by closing the path one day a year to all pedestrian traffic. To confiscate that easement for public purposes would violate the Fifth Amendment of the U.S Constitution that requires the government to provide just compensation to the owner of the property taken.
3. There is insufficient room to widen the trail into a multi-purpose MUP shared by pedestrians, dogs, bikes, and skateboarders. In many places, the lawn slopes to the path and drops off on the other side to a steep, dangerous riprap bank. To widen the path and place guard rails for safety would be very expensive.
4. There are no parks or areas create parks or rest areas.
5. Residents security would be greatly degraded if the path was made public. Images of the Springwater Trail are very likely.
6. Who would be responsible for policing the path? Maintaining it? Picking up the trash?
7. Who would compensate the current residents for greatly reduced property values?

I am an avid cyclist and would love to have more, safe bike paths, but this is not a good area for one. There are plenty of public areas for recreation that are safer, less disruptive and less expensive to develop than this. How about developing the west end of Hayden Island for multiple uses? It is huge untapped area with great potential.

Sincerely,

Bryan R. Gilham

Columbia Point resident

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