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English Composition and Literature

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Makings of a successful rail-trail

So, how does one rid themselves of a pesky tourist railroad and get a successful rail-trail at the same time? The makings of such are easily accomplished with minimal effort on the end of the trail enthusiast, and can give the result of a world class walking trail.

First and foremost, one must tear up the tracks and scrap the equipment using said line. The funds raised therethrough will pay for a fraction of the trail's cost, so go for taxpayer funds to finish the rest of the project. Easy enough, as most of the populace is willing to put their tax dollars to a multi-use trail that is of excellent quality. Another method of funding would be FEMA, as most likely there would be damage on the line from previous disasters. So, if the tracks are in place, simply get the funding to repair the railroad, tear out the tracks and apply those funds to the trail project.

But let's assume that the railroad is well-entrenched and has funding to fight your moves. Simply put, sabotage their efforts. Rewire the locomotives to prevent their safe use, tear out bridges that are in need of immediate removal due to damage they may cause to the environment (the lead paint that may be on the structure will be far more dangerous than the contaminated topsoil and subgrade that will be dumped into the river to access the location of the damaged bridge). Those two options, if done simultaneously, will render the railroad unable to operate and will leave no immediate consequence for the trail advocate, legal or otherwise.

With those thoughts at mind, one can realize the ease of funding these endeavors. The final product will be an excellent unpaved corridor for recreational usage. What's better is that it require no maintenance, as the number of people using the trail will certainly keep the weeds and high grass beaten down, and won't require immediate attention by weed sprayers or landscapers. Sadly, my own positions prevent me from being of any real aid; the most I can do is offer these entirely reasonable suggestions on construction of a successful trail system.