



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

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## Department of Parks and Recreation

515 West Boulevard  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 394-4175 -- FAX (605) 394-5307

July 7, 2014

### **Sidewalk Variance Request for Skyline Wilderness Park Project, Vision Fund - Phase IV**

The City of Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on plans for the above referenced project which consists of three (3) parking lot trailhead facilities and a natural surface trail system.

Improvements to the "Stonewall Overlook" trailhead on Skyline Drive south of Flormann Street require a realignment of a section of Skyline Drive as identified within the Skyline Drive Restoration Conceptual Design Report, 2009.

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department and as the Owner's Representative I request a sidewalk variance for this location, as will be required by a general building permit, for the following reasons:

1. The roadway segment improvements are in an undevelopable area within the Skyline Wilderness Park and are adjacent to very steep terrain.
2. Pedestrian access to this site is accommodated by a natural surface trail system throughout Skyline Wilderness Park which is being completed concurrently.
3. There are currently no sidewalks along Skyline Drive and the 2009 Skyline Drive Restoration Conceptual Design Report recommends limiting curb and gutter and sidewalks along Skyline Drive to preserve its Scenic Byway potential. The nearest sidewalk is a 300' segment on Flormann Street and is 50' away from the intersection. Flormann Street is listed as a low priority for future sidewalk development in the Bike/Ped Master Plan.

The properties that comprise the Skyline Wilderness Area were preserved and deeded to the City with the condition that they remain in their undeveloped natural state as an urban wilderness with permitted structures and improvements being limited to those that provide nature and environmental interpretation and public recreational uses. The proposed development falls within these parameters and the implementation of sidewalks in this area would detract from the potential scenic byway designation and the "wilderness" setting.

The variance request is submitted as allowed for by Section 12.08.060.C of the Rapid City Municipal Code.

Sincerely,

Alex DeSmidt,  
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