Mountain Biking Comes to Town
Mountain Biking Old School…
Mountain Biking
New School...
1. Introductions
2. What is a bike park?
3. Who wants a bike park?
4. Why should you build it?
5. Where can you fit trails and features into your community?
6. Who builds bike parks and what’s involved?
What mountain bicyclists want?

Riding closer to home. Most mountain bicyclists often have to drive, sometimes hours, to have a trail experience that fulfils our desires.
Provides Safe Surroundings for Active Lifestyles

Urban trails and bike parks promote health and fitness for families seeking a healthy lifestyle close to home.
Bike park Project considerations.

2. Community: Successful bike parks result from community-driven efforts.
3. Fundraising: Big ticket projects require substantial funding, but the money is out there.
4. Planning: Partners need to be organized for the work ahead.
5. Design: Find the right balance of riding elements and apply them to a specific location.
6. Construction: From site preparation to ribbon cutting, the build demands a professional approach.
7. Management: Maintenance, risk management and programing will be ongoing.
Bike parks are not trails. They are managed similarly to city parks. They require a higher standard of care. They need to be professionally designed and constructed.
Bike Parks Are

Bike-specific, self-contained facilities open to the public.

Usually comprised of two or more bike specific tracks or trails.

Include constructed features designed for bikes, in most cases made of dirt, rock, or wood.
What features make up a bike park?

Dirt Jumps
Dirt Jump Park

Modeled after Glen Eagles Adventure Park - West Vancouver, BC
Gateway Trail Networks

- Trail systems designed to introduce riders of all ages into the sport.
- For kids ages 6-17 cycling is their favorite outdoor activity.
- Like fishing and camping, cycling brings them into nature.
- U.S. Child Obesity rate doubled from 1994 to 2006.
Free Ride Drops
Skills Area
A Flow Trail
A Pump Track
Kids’ Pump Track
A Hardened Pump Track
What is the hype all about?
Why do you want a bike park? Objectives? Benefits?

Accommodate a wide range of abilities

Provide riders with challenging, interesting, and progressively difficult features

Allow land managers to increase public recreational opportunities, increase fee-based revenues, deter unauthorized trail-building
Adding bike parks experiences will attract a new demographic to the outdoors.
According to the Outdoor Foundation, bicycling is the number one gateway activity that gets kids outside and ultimately interested in other activities such as hiking, camping, and fishing.
Strengthening the community

Kids like to ride bikes to explore and they love to ride in the dirt.
Strengthening the community

As the kids go, so go the parents.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Family fun for all ages/abilities

Health and wellness

Open to the public

Community and neighborhood gathering area

Peak interest in riding and exercise
Health Benefits

Introduces people to
A new sport.

Progressive kinesthetic Training.

Regular exercise.
Bike Parks offer opportunities for Programing

Trips for Kids programs.

National Take-A-Kid-Mountain Biking Day events.

Parks & Recreation riding programs.

Festivals and Races.
Economic Benefits

Low cost

Economic opportunities:
Bike shops, restaurants, programs, events

High returns for low costs
Appropriate site candidates for trails and bike features:

- Utility corridors
- Defunct industrial areas
- Abandoned rail sidings
- Any “marginal lands”
- Densely wooded areas
- An existing park
Managing Risk

- Oversight
- Funding
- Design
- Assessment of features
- Signage and Rider Education
- Inspection and maintenance
- Rider Safety Systems
- Emergency Response Plan
- Legal Protection
A bike park
Infrastructure of a bicycle park

Proper signage
Water onsite
Spectator/Viewing area
Tool Storage facility
Emergency access
Maintenance

Regularly scheduled inspection of features.

Planned revision of facility to keep it relevant.
Today’s Shared Use Trail Network

- Select adequate Parking Areas
- Trails nearest Hubs have most congestion
- Link Hubs with Clusters of trails
- Outbound Climbs with Inbound Descents
- Match gentlest terrain with Family Trails
- Consider Pockets of Single Use Loops
- Provide a wide range of trail experiences
- Community Bike Park/Skills Areas
- Event Ready
- Partnerships/Funding
- Placeholders for the Future
Costs

Design $5,000 - $50,000
Construction

Pump Track = $20,000 - 35,000

Dual Slalom = $30,000

Connector Trail = $5,000

Gateway Trail = $12,000 - $15,000

Flow Trail = $14,000 - $20,000

Advanced Flow Trail $14,000 - $20,000

Consider the cost of materials.
Who has done this?

Coldwater Mountain: Anniston, Alabama

Urban Wilderness: Knoxville, Tennessee

Rocky Knob: Boone, North Carolina

Big Creek-Alpharetta Greenway: Roswell, Georgia
Who you gonna call?
A professional trail builder.
Alpine Bike Parks
IMBA Trail Solutions
Progressive Trail Design
Thank you!

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kbj87v_ZQMw