

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
**STUDY SESSION**  
Minutes  
February 11, 2019

**ATTENDEES**

**Present:** Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis, Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Analyst Cottle; Assistant Manuel

Also Present: Assistant Sean Sullivan

**Absent:** City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair Landt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at The Grove 1195 E. Main, Ashland, OR.

Landt announced that the evening meeting was a Study Session and that no decisions would be made or approved. Final debates and decisions are scheduled to take place at the regular business meeting scheduled for 2-25-2019.

Black introduced new employee Sean Sullivan, noting that he would be working with the Commissioners as needed.

**PUBLIC INPUT – GOAL SETTING**

**Melissa Mitchell-Hooge** of 271 High Street Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Mitchell-Hooge stated that she represented the group Save Our Schools and Playgrounds. She noted that the intent of the organization was to preserve the Brisco and Lincoln schools and playgrounds for public use. She thanked APRC for securing the Brisco School playground as a neighborhood park – an effort that took two years of negotiations.

Mitchell-Hooge asked that APRC set a goal specifically for the preservation of Lincoln Park as a neighborhood Park. She stated that implementation would include discussing the property with the Ashland School District, and emphasizing that the property was listed on Ashland's Open Space Plan. Mitchell-Hooge noted that the ball fields at Lincoln were still in use, although the School District had not continued to maintain the area. As a result of the School Districts decision, several trees had died because of lack of water.

Mitchell-Hooge suggested that the Ashland School District, the City of Ashland and APRC work together to resolve the issue. She asked that APRC designate the property as a priority.

**Andrew Gramley** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Gramley stated that he was head coach of the Ashland High School water polo team. Both swim teams (boys and girls) were currently 4<sup>th</sup> in the water polo Championships. He detailed the benefits that the students enjoy – the

fitness and comradery, inclusiveness and other benefits. Gramley commented that while he was appreciative of the opportunity to practice in the Daniel Meyer Pool, it was not a deep-water facility. He explained that a deep-water pool was a necessity because competitive sport championships were held in deep water. He asked that APRC consider a competition pool.

**Howard McEwan** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

McEwan talked about a goal to build dedicated pickleball courts in Ashland. He told stories about the number of people who wished to play pickleball, but must wait until an existing court becomes available. He estimated that 30 to 50 people are wanting to play at any given time.

McEwan suggested that Lithia Park would be an ideal location for additional pickleball courts and that it was his observation that the tennis courts were lightly used. He stated that the pickleball community was underserved in Ashland and new courts were needed.

**Sandra "Sandy" Theis** of Ashland, OR. was called forward. the

Theis noted that as Chair of S-PAC (Senior Program Advisory Committee), she wished to reiterated S-PAC's goals and the need for continued support of APRC. She reiterated the Senior Program's mission and goals, asking that APRC continue to fund the program at current levels. (see link: <http://www.ashlandseniorcenter.org/>)

**Jocelyn Sanford** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Sanford noted that as a physical therapist, she was aware of the many benefits that exercise in water brings. She stated that she taught water skills and was a former member of the National Water Polo league, and she was appreciative of the life lessons she learned through aquatics – teamwork, community, dedication, perseverance and adoptability. Sanford indicated that she was aware of the challenges faced at the Daniel Meyer Pool, and that it was time to prioritize funding for a new pool.

**Casey Botts** of the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMBBA) was called forward.

Botts talked about the need to design, build and operate a pump track and bike skills park for the benefit of younger and inexperienced riders. Botts noted that mountain biking was a growing trend around the United States – offering a healthy active lifestyle for families. He indicated that while children outgrow playgrounds, mountain biking was a life-long sport.

Botts stated that a secure location was needed and that once the pump track was built there would be very little maintenance needed. He stated that the ideal would be to have two pump tracks side by side – with one for beginners (2000 sq. ft.) and one for more advanced riders (10,000 sq. ft.). Phase II of the project would be a skills zone with water features and more challenging twists and turns designed to increase balance and confidence. Phase III would be a perimeter loop trail.

Botts suggested that one of three locations be chosen: either Ashland Creek Park, Lincoln School, or the APRC property on Clay St. He stated that the cost of full build-out would be approximately \$250,000. with various sources of funding including grants, fundraisers, and other sources in addition to sponsorships from the City of Ashland.

Botts indicated that community support was substantial and pumps tracks had been proven to be successful in other cities of similar size. (see Attachment I)

**Martin Stadtmueller** of RVMBA was called forward.

Stadtmueller noted that building a dedicated trail for mountain bikers on the eastside of Lithia Park would facilitate a mountain bike route to the Ashland watershed without adding to the traffic on Ashland's roads.

Stadtmueller relayed that the average American child spent 7 minutes a day outside and 7 hours per day watching TV or playing video games. He stated that RVMBA would like to change that. Mountain biking would provide a feasible alternative that would encourage kids to adopt healthy activities.

Stadtmueller explained that existing mountain bike trails were too difficult for children or beginners to navigate. Access to the trails was also problematic as children must depend upon their parents to for transport to appropriate mountain bike trails.

Stadtmueller noted that transitioning to the watershed was a natural extension of the pump track programs. A trail along the hillside of Lithia Park could function as the gateway to the forestland trails. He displayed a rendering of two proposed side-by-side trails, noting that the location would be ideal and the trail easy to construct. Stadmueller noted that the up-trail could be shared with other types of users while the down-trail would be dedicated to mountain bikers. (see Attachment II)

**Philippe Sprague** of Southern Oregon Association (SOVA) was called forward.

Sprague stated that he was a pickleball convert. He talked about pickleball being the fastest growing sport in America and cities across the country were adding dedicated pickleball courts to their recreational opportunities. Sprague noted the need for dedicated courts in Ashland, indicating that four pickleball courts could be placed on each existing tennis court. With the Lithia Park tennis courts converted, 32 people could be accommodated on the two remaining tennis courts where normally only four tennis players would play.

Sprague suggested removing all of the painted lines on the courts in Lithia Park and re-painting with pickleball lines. He stated that would allow for dedicated courts without the cost of new construction. It was his opinion, that the remaining tennis courts in Hunter Park and elsewhere would be sufficient to accommodate tennis players.

Sprague noted that pickleball tournaments could provide another source of revenue for the City.

**Jack Methot** of Ashland OR. was called forward.

Methot stated that he was a member of SOVA and that each year he provided an update regarding the sport. He stated that pickleball players in Ashland numbered approximately 225 members in 2017. In 2018 membership grew to 487 members. Methot detailed the number of educational classes conducted by members, including a new program teaching vets to play. He named the institutions in the Valley that were participating and recognizing the value that pickleball offers – from the YMCA, the Ashland School District and VA as well as others. He asked that APRC continue to support the sport and allow for growth by providing dedicated pickleball courts.

**Todd Lantry**, Head Couch of the Ashland High School (AHS) Swim Team was called forward.

Lantry reported that of the 30 swimmers on the AHS swim team, 25 were asked to compete at the District level and eight swimmers qualified for State championships. He noted that the swimmers must dive on the side of the existing pool because the Daniel Meyer Pool was not deep enough to practice competitively.

Lantry talked about the disadvantages of practicing in an outdoor pool during the winter – noting that the kids get wet and cold going into and out of the pool. He stated that a deeper pool with a roof would be appreciated so that the kids could practice racing starts and sprints properly without being subjected to the weather. Lantry explained that there was a potential for 50 kids and their families to swim given a more amenable environment.

**John Weston** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Weston commented that he was a member of the Rogue Valley Masters (RVM) – a club that had its origin at the Daniel Meyer Pool in 1984. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to use the pool in the winter as well as the summer. Weston asked that a remodeled pool be given consideration.

**Jerry Stein** of Ashland OR. was called forward.

Stein relayed the impact of tennis on older bodies, stating that pickleball was a gentler option. He stated that tennis players were converting to pickleball because of the smaller courts and the less intensive action. He asked that APRC provide additional dedicated pickleball courts.

**Jeff Eisenbaum** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Eisenbaum stated that he had the opportunity to play pickleball in many different cities and to his chagrin, Ashland's courts were in greater disrepair than any he was familiar with in other cities. He asked that APRC resurface the courts in lieu of building new ones.

**Cathy Shaw** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Shaw stated that she was concerned about the wildfire danger in Ashland and hoped to accelerate wildfire mitigation. She proposed a series of steps with a goal to greenbelt Parks owned properties around the upper perimeter of the City. Shaw suggested that an access fee be charged of county residents who access their properties via streets owned and maintained by the City of Ashland.

Shaw also proposed accelerating wildfire mitigation techniques – removing dead and dying trees within the urban forest and on City owned properties, watering mature trees in the winter as well as the summer as well as other proven strategies.

Shaw proposed issuing a facilities bond as a funding source for property acquisition on the perimeter and enhanced mitigation work, as well as grants focused on wildfire prevention. She indicated that she would be willing to spearhead a campaign for a facilities bond – one that could include funding for a re-built pool. Shaw stated that stakeholders such as insurance companies might also be willing contribute significantly to efforts that would decrease wildfire liabilities.

**Arnold Bleicher** of Ashland was called forward.

Bleicher noted that in February 2017 dedicated pickleball courts were listed as a goal. He suggested that based upon the growth of the sport and the perceived decline in tennis players, that the Lithia Park courts be converted and the tennis courts at Hunter Park as well as elsewhere in the City be reserved for tennis players. He submitted a petition signed by 51 people in support of that request.

**Eric Mitchener** of (Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club (RVBPC) was called forward.

Mitchener stated that RVBPC would like to expand diverse recreational opportunities at Hunter Park modifying existing facilities and re-purposing one tennis court as a multi-purpose court. RVBPC uses a court at Hunter Park for bike polo. They conduct an annual tournament that brings aficionados from other states to Ashland. He stated that while they appreciate the opportunity to play at the Park, the condition of the court presents significant safety challenges. Mitchener noted efforts by the club to reduce the safety hazards such as filling in or covering surface cracks. Modifying one court would allow for continued use for other sports while leaving seven courts available for tennis players. He indicated that the court could be shared with other users such as for roller hockey.

**Jake Crawford** of RVBPC was called forward.

Crawford submitted a draft proposal for a multi-purpose court for Commissioner review, stating that he would be happy to answer any questions (see Attachment III).

#### **PUBLIC INPUT CLOSED**

Landt stated that February 22, 2019 had been set for a goal setting session. He noted that no public testimony would be solicited at the session but the public was welcome to come and observe. Once agreed upon, potential goals would be presented at a regularly scheduled public meeting where public input would be accepted.

Black stated that 188 written comments regarding APRC goals had been received and would be presented to the Commissioners as well as all public input received to aid them in their deliberations.

Gardiner noted that 20 goals had been selected for the previous biennium – indicating that new goals would be selected and prioritized. Landt explained that not all of the goals had been completed and might continue to be listed as priorities.

#### **MARKING ASHLAND PLACES – PUBLIC ART AND HISTORIC COMMISSION**

Public Arts Commissioner Andrew Stallman presented a joint project sponsored by the Public Arts Commission and the Historic Commission. He stated that the project would create historic markers and wayfinding signs in Ashland's four historic Districts for the purpose of creating a sense of pride and place for Ashlanders and to enhance the landscape for cultural heritage travelers.

Stallman explained the concept of developing Hub Sites to place historic themed sculptures and information introducing the significance of each historic District. Spoke sites would contain markers that tell stories about important places, events or people connected with each District.

Stallman proposed five sites in Ashland's Railroad District. The Commission is seeking professional artists, graphic artists and/or fabricators to produce a bronze plaque for each site. He indicated that Phase I would be the bronze plaques but that additional sites could be represented by benches, bike racks, or other types of markers.

Stallman talked about locating a hub sculpture and plaque in Railroad Park – with approval from the Parks Commission. He invited APRC's public arts liaison Commissioner Heller to attend project meetings in a cooperative effort to determine effective locations within the Parks system, noting that the project was a large one that would continue for some years.

### **CALLE GUANAJUATO POLICY – DISCUSSION**

Dials explained that APRC oversees lease agreements for use of the Calle Guanajuato. Restaurants and artisans apply for a permit to offer outdoor seating for restaurants and concession booths for artisans during the warm months of the year – historically from mid-March through mid-November.

At the request of business owner Allan Sandler, the policy language was changed to accommodate his unique situation as the only building with a restaurant that has access directly from the Calle Guanajuato. The amended policy, if approved, would allow the building owner or landlord of the properties along the Calle first right of refusal for a 3-month period.

Dials stated that the space directly behind the Sandler building is a shared space – where a restaurant presides in the space Monday through Friday during the active season and artisans preside in the space during the weekend.

Black indicated that the concern was that because there was no access from the front of the building, customers must enter and exit from the Calle. The policy change would allow property owners the right to hold the permit – where previously it was the representative of the restaurant who had access to a permit for outdoor space on the Calle.

Lewis asked about the potential for other situations where a restaurant has only a singular access. Dials replied that while possible, it was not probable given the business opportunities that access from the Plaza offers. The way the policy stands currently, if a restaurant housed in the Sandler building closes, a competing restaurant could request the space. If granted, there would be an historical precedence, in essence removing the availability of the space from any new tenant restaurant of the Sandler building.

Dials announced that the draft language had been approved by the City attorney and all restaurants requesting permits on the Calle were kept fully informed regarding the policy change.

Landt suggested that the clause could apply to any restaurant not just those with a single access point. He noted that most restaurants would want to secure the space directly behind their building? Black noted that the policy change was specific to the Sandler situation where there was only one way to access the building. All other buildings along the Calle have access from the front of their building as well. Currently, existing restaurateurs seem to be satisfied with their assigned spaces.

In reply to a question by Bell, Black noted that the contracts were awarded based on seniority. Once the space behind a particular restaurant has been rented for a season, that restaurant has the right of first refusal for

subsequent years. The new policy would allow land owners – not just business owners – to reserve the space behind their business.

Gardiner explained that the new policy was proposed as a remedy for restaurant owners who do not have 2 entrances into their business. If there was no exit onto the Calle, the restaurant owners can still bring people into their restaurant via the Plaza entrance. This is true of every business except the one located in the Sandler building. In that case, there is no entrance on the Plaza – the Calle entrance is the only way into a business located in that building. The policy was an effort to prevent another restaurant from occupying the space directly in front of the Sandler building. If allowed, it would be catastrophic for business in the Sandler building, because there are no other options to reach the business other than from the Calle.

Lewis clarified that the arrangement was important when the business happened to be a restaurant. Other types of businesses most likely do not need seating in the Calle. He noted the importance of the Calle to APRC. He recognized Superintendent Dials for the tremendous effort to resolve this issue with minimal disruption.

**Allan Sandler** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Sandler stated that he was not looking to change the contract. He was asking for the right to secure the space if a tenant were to vacate the property and a new tenant had not yet moved in to claim the space. Once they are in the building, they would be subject to all of the provisions in the contract – including the permitting process for seating on the Calle.

There followed a brief discussion about the workability of the arrangement. Black stated that if a season occurred when the Sandler building did not have a restaurant in residence, then another restaurant could utilize the space for that season. If a new restaurant takes up residence in the Sandler building during or after that season, then the Sandler property owner can secure the permit for the upcoming season.

## **REQUEST FOR ART IN THE PARK**

**Terry Doyle** of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Black stated that the Doyle had initially asked for space to erect a sculpture in conjunction with the expansion of the Japanese Garden. In spite of subsequent developments that resulted placement of the Japanese Garden project on hold, Mr. Doyle remains interested in presenting his proposal to the Commission.

Doyle stated that he had asked for a memorial lantern in the Japanese Garden prior to the initiation of the garden's expansion plan. He stated that he was requesting permission to place a lantern in Lithia Park in honor of his late wife Chiyemi Katsuyoshi Doyle. He noted that the lantern would be created by local artist Wataru Sugiyama.

Doyle presented a plan to create a bronze lantern called a Yukimi-doro – the design of which he would select. He suggested that the lantern be placed just outside the existing Japanese across from the tennis courts in Lithia Park. Doyle stated that he would endow a fund for maintenance if necessary for approval.

In response to a question by Doyle regarding ADA accessibility, Black noted that the Lithia Park master plan did not propose any major changes to the area selected as the potential site for the lantern.

There followed a brief discussion regarding the process for approval. It was agreed that Doyle should approach Ashland's Public Arts Commission prior to seeking approval from APRC's Signs, Plaque's and Memorials Subcommittee. Once the process has been completed, then the proposal would come before the Parks Commission for final approval.

#### **ITEMS FROM COMISSIONERS AND STAFF**

- ***Goal Setting Process***

Black referred to a memo addressed to the Commissioners regarding goal setting. He stated that similar to previously conducted goal setting processes, Commissioners would be asked to send in their ideas in advance so that staff could prepare a list for discussion at the goal setting session.

- ***Public Input***

Lewis stated that he was appreciative of the extensive community input regarding goals for the next biennium. Landt agreed, noting kudos to staff for a job well done.

#### **ADJORNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

The Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available online.



## Vision for a Community Pump Track/Skills Park

APRC Recreational Goals Meeting 2/11/19

### Who we are and who we represent

- RVMB, Advocacy group for Mt Biking in the Rogue Valley.
- Represent all Mtn Bike users in the Rogue Valley as a voice for advocacy, trail maintenance, trail building, and public outreach.
- Responding to a growing trend around the West Coast to provide this form of recreation for citizens of all ages and ability levels.
- A Pump Track/Skills Park is the foundation for any sustainable bike community.

A photograph of a person riding a mountain bike on a trail through a forest. The image is overlaid with a blue tint and white text. In the top right corner, there is a logo for the Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition (OMBC) consisting of the letters "O", "M", and "B" in a grid, with "C" below them. Below the logo, the text "Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition" is written in white. On the left side, large orange text reads "THERE ARE 620,000 OF US." Below that, white text reads "PEOPLE OF ALL AGES &amp; BACKGROUNDS ENJOY THE MANY BENEFITS OF CYCLING OFFROAD IN OREGON." At the bottom left, in small white text, it says "(Bergerson, 2018)".

### Our Goals:

- Develop a plan in conjunction with industry professionals, the City of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission to design, build, and operate a bike skills park as an entity of the Parks System.
- Convince APRC to add our plan to the Recreational Goals in order to streamline our design and build, as well as help with funding and other areas that a partnership with Parks will bring.
- Secure a location that provides the best possible outcomes in terms of usership, sustainability, community support, and proximity to schools/town.

## What is a Pump Track/Skills Park?

-A collection of features consisting of variable terrain, surfaces, riding lines, and berms/rollers shaped in a way to offer a safe and progressive experience for all who choose to ride.

## Pump Track with features



## How would this benefit Ashland?

-Offer city youth more outdoor recreation opportunities to promote positive, active, healthy lifestyles in the ongoing campaign to get kids outdoors

-Foster a culture of growth, safety, and stewardship for our future watershed trail users by adding in the missing link - **the next generation**



## How would this benefit Ashland?

-Meet the infrastructure demand of one of the fastest growing outdoor sports in the country

-Take pressure off of the well used skate park and replace the current BMX park if Wastewater expands

-Continue to create a top bike-tourism destination on the West Coast by tapping into additional mountain bike demographics not currently served



## How would this benefit Ashland?

-Allow new mountain bikers to learn fundamental bike skills before taking on our valley's advanced trail system

-Children outgrow playgrounds but bike parks are a lifelong source of recreation

-Our citizens and constituents have asked for it en masse!



BICYCLE TOURISM ALONE FEEDS

# \$400 MILLION

INTO OREGON'S ECONOMY.  
(THAT'S A LOT.)

Dean Runyan Associates (2012) The Economic Significance of Bicycle-Related Travel in Oregon



Oregon  
Mountain  
Biking  
Coalition

## What would our Park look like?

3 main phases

### Phase 1

We propose to build asphalt surfaced Pump Tracks with artificial grass interior.

The following are the benefits of asphalt and artificial grass:

- Can be used year round
- Minimal maintenance
- Cannot be altered once installed(great for liability)



## What would our Park look like?

- Inclusive to scooters, skateboards, and bikes with road tires
- Aesthetically pleasing by offering clean, sharp lines and maintain an open park look.
- Artificial grass requires no mowing or watering of infield, and can be ridden when wet without leaving damage or drainage issues.



## Design details

- Two pump tracks side by side to separate distinct ability levels

One asphalt pump track would be a beginner only, suitable for riders as young as 2 on balance bikes, up to beginning adult riders looking to learn how to safely ride. A beginner pump track would require a small area roughly 40 feet x 100 feet, or 2000 sq ft.

A second asphalt pump track would be suitable for all other riders from older beginners to advanced. This would offer many more lines, options for riding, and would be larger. Recently built parks in the same model are roughly 8-10k square feet, or 120 ft by 80 ft.

## Phase 2

-Skills zone with wooden features/ramps/twists and turns to develop balance and confidence

-Wood or composite prefab materials used to create standardized and consistent, unalterable riding surface



## Phase 3 - Perimeter/Loop trail with features

A flow trail or slopestyle line to offer a short trail experience more in line with what a true mountain bike trail would involve.

- Progressive lines so anyone could ride it and attempt the features that they wanted to, skipping the ones they weren't ready for.
- Trail would align with the perimeter of the pump tracks to always keep aesthetics in mind and provide a loop experience for users.
- Trail would be the last progression for riders practicing for watershed trails, and would serve as a community teaching area for trail maintenance, building, and design.
- Could combine phase 2 and 3 to create a perimeter trail with multiple line choices and features

## Phase 3 - Perimeter trail with features



## Location

RVMBAs has explored several locations over the past year that would check the following boxes:

- Close access to schools and town for people who can't drive to existing trails
- Visible to public for safety, aesthetics, and good sightlines. A park of this caliber should be showcased to the public, not hidden in a corner.
- Existing grades conducive to construction
- Connectivity to existing play areas, bike trails, roads, etc.
- Community support

## Location

3 main locations we have identified as checking some or all aforementioned areas:

- Ashland Creek Park - Master plan
- Lincoln School - Currently ASD owned
- Property on Clay/East Main- No master plan, accessible, large area to incorporate different user groups, conducive grade to construction of park

## Costs and funding

Costs range from 250-300k for full build out

- RVMBAs plans to use 501c3 status to apply for available funding from multiple sources
- Portions of costs can be offset by grants, in-kind donations, and fundraising.
- Park can be built in phases by acquiring funding for individual portions of park.
- City funds. We hope that by adding this to recreational goals and with support we've demonstrated from community that the city would consider investing in this project.

## Build and Design

- Professional design and build is paramount to a successful project
- Hiring a professional bike park company only option in today's market.
- There are many examples of projects and portfolios online
- Important for RVMBAs, city, and contractor to work together to ensure product conforms to needs of city and RVMBAs.



## Community Support

-Support from our constituents and residents

-Positive Statistics coming from cities and communities who have bike parks. Hood River, Redmond, Redding, Truckee, South Lake Tahoe, Leavenworth, WA are all examples

Ashland is a town with 8 bike shops, the biggest youth team in Oregon, hundreds if not thousands of local mountain bike riders, and a travel destination for riders all over the West Coast.



## Community Support

Parks Survey as well as large turnout at meeting demonstrates the overwhelming support for this project.

Supporters include teachers, doctors, nurses, and pillars of the community that understand the continued need for unique outdoor recreation opportunities.



## Closing

- Changing demographics
- Outdoor professionals and families moving to area
- Bike tourism has a large role in local and state economy
- Projects surrounding Ashland have been successful
- Numerous examples and models of how to do things the right way
- People willing to get involved to make this happen, and don't want Ashland left out!



## Closing

Vision of a community gathering place in which beginner to advanced riders can have a safe, progressive, and sustainable space to ride.

Returns on investing in our youth through bikes will be tenfold; building the next generation of stewards and riders by opening the sport to those who may not have access otherwise



# Thank you!



## Sources

- Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association
- Redding Trail Alliance
- Central Oregon Trail Alliance
- Blue Lotus Foundation, Leavenworth, WA
- Morgan Benbough, VP of Operations, Alpine Bike Parks
- Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition



## Bringing Beginner Singletrack to Ashland (and Getting Kids Back to Nature!)

APRC Recreational Goals Meeting 2/11/19

## Nature Deficit Disorder

- The average American child spends 4 to 7 minutes a day in unstructured play outdoors, and **over 7 hours a day in front of a screen.**\*

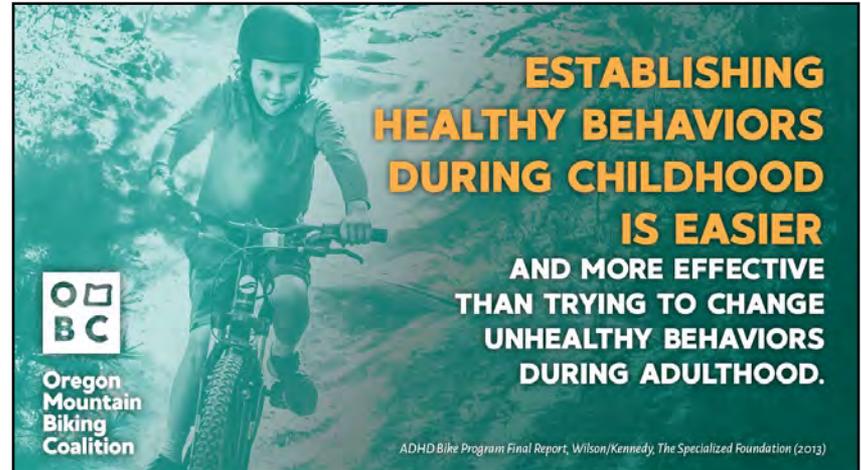
\*"Why Kids Need to Spend Time in Nature", Child Mind Institute

## Why Play Outside

- It gets kids moving
- It builds confidence
- It promotes creativity and imagination—you can see, hear, smell, and touch outdoor environments
- Researchers agree: kids who play outside are smarter, happier, more attentive, and less anxious than kids who spend more time indoors.

\*Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*

## How Can We Get Kids Outside And Into Nature?



## What's wrong with existing MTB trails?

- Much too difficult
  - Like skiing Mt Ashland without Sonnet or Comer
- Hard to access without driving
- Unlikely to happen without direct parental involvement

## I thought you guys wanted a pump track?

We do!

Symbiotic relationship

- A. Pump track builds skills
- B. Beginner trail lets kids take those skills onto real singletrack *while* getting them into nature

## Communities are recognizing the value in trails.

“Trails used to be seen as something communities had to ‘deal’ with. Trails are now seen as the 21st century version of ball fields. If you don’t have a mountain bike trail system, you’re probably not part of the 21st century.”

Rich Edwards

IMBA Trail Solutions Director of Construction and Operations

## Communities are recognizing the value in trails.

- Grants Pass spending \$2 million on Dollar Mountain trail network
- Coos County spending another \$150,000 on Mtn biking trails
- City of Klamath and local trail assn. are working together to make the area a Mtn biking destination
  - Spence Mtn, Moore Mtn, Brown Mtn, Klamath Ridgeview Trail, 150+ mi Great Klamath Circle Trail



**OAKRIDGE,**  
A SMALL TOWN OF 3,200,  
SEES 35,000 MOUNTAIN BIKERS  
EACH YEAR THAT SPEND  
**\$2.3-\$4.9**  
**MILLION**

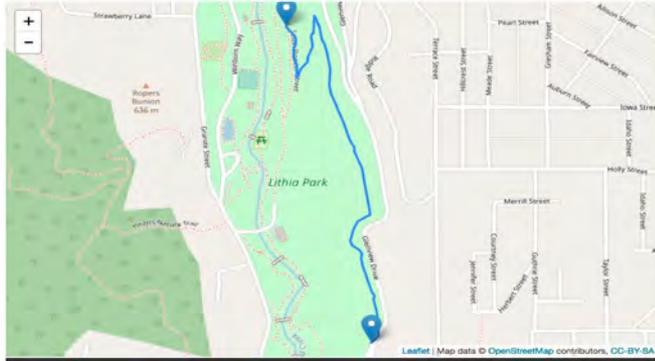
**OMBC**  
Oregon  
Mountain  
Biking  
Coalition

Meltzer, N. (2014) The Impacts of Mountain Bike Tourism in Oakridge, Oregon

## The ideal Ashland beginner trail would be:

- Close to town
  - No driving necessary
  - No parents necessary (appeals to kids and parents alike)
- Low angle
  - An easy climbing trail (multi-use ok)
  - An easy downhill MTB only trail
  - Would allow kids and beginners to play and hone skills
- Would serve as a gateway to the watershed trails for kids and adults
  - Would give beginners a safe place to ride while giving experienced riders a road-free way to access watershed

The ideal Ashland beginner trail would be:



Outer Lithia checks all the boxes!

- ✓ Close to town
- ✓ Low angle for easy up and down
- ✓ Perfect location to serve as a gateway to the watershed trails for kids—*and* adults

What's there now?

Homeless  
Camps



Poison Oak



More Homeless Camps



### A QUICK CHECK FOR YOUR FLOW TRAIL PROJECT

To check your flow trail project before you build it, we've put together a quick check to know if you're on a good way to a sustainable trail or if you should rethink some aspects first. This check does not replace any planning or design work, but we hope it helps to share some of our experience. Just follow these steps:

**1. WHAT IS THE ELEVATION AT THE STARTING POINT ?**

In meters above sea level,

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. WHAT IS THE ELEVATION AT THE END POINT ?**

In meters above sea level,

B: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. WHAT IS THE TRAIL'S PLANNED DISTANCE?**

In meters,

C: \_\_\_\_\_

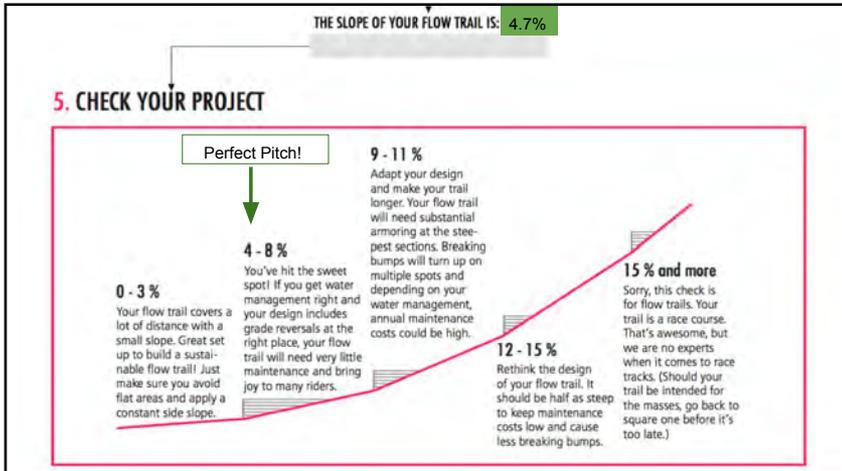
**4. DO THE MATH!**

$$(A-B) / D \times 100\%$$

THE SLOPE OF YOUR FLOW TRAIL IS:

$$D=(C-(A-B))^{1/2}$$

$$185 \text{ ft elevation loss} / 3854 \text{ ft} = 4.7\% \text{ grade}$$



## Objections: Why not use Pioneer St.?

- It doesn't accomplish the goals of:
  - A. Getting kids onto singletrack and into the woods
  - B. Getting riders off the street (doesn't go anywhere)
  - C. It's not mountain biking

## Objections: That area of Lithia is already being used.

- Won't impact existing users
- Under-utilized compared to the rest of the park
- Observed only five (legal) users in 8+ hours!

## Strava Heatmap--Runners & Hikers



## How are Mtn Bikers getting to/from watershed trails now?



## Two small trails with many benefits

- Do it for the kids—but also for the adults
- Gets Mtn Bikers off the road
- Also gets drivers off the road
- Safer, reduces driver conflicts, more people ride from town (great for business!)
- Less carbon pollution

## Added benefit

More active users in East Lithia = fewer homeless camps in East Lithia

## Ok, how much is this going to cost?

- Average trail building cost for machine built downhill = \$7 per linear ft.\*

$$\$7 \times \sim 4,000\text{ft} = \$28,000$$

Morgan Benbough, Vice President Alpine Bike Parks

- “Ashland desperately needs this. I’ll do it for \$9999.”

Jake Contreras (Builder of Lizard and Jabberwocky II)

- Uphill trail hand-built by volunteers. Aka free!

The real question is how much is this going to save?



**MOUNTAIN BIKING  
SAVES OREGON**

**\$26 MILLION**

**ANNUALLY IN HEALTH  
CARE COSTS.**

**OM  
BC**  
Oregon  
Mountain  
Biking  
Coalition

(Rosenberger, 2018)



**EVERY \$1 SPENT  
ON TRAILS LED TO  
\$2.94 IN DIRECT  
MEDICAL BENEFIT.**

**OM  
BC**  
Oregon  
Mountain  
Biking  
Coalition

A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Physical Activity Using Bike/Pedestrian Trails, Wang, C., et al., (2004)

It's time to recognize  
Ashland for what it is:  
The mountain biking capital of  
Southern Oregon

It's time to recognize MTB trails for  
what they are:

Hugely beneficial to the health,  
happiness and wellbeing of Ashland  
residents and visitors alike.

The Outer Lithia Trail would solve two  
critical issues by providing low-angle  
beginner terrain, plus road-free  
access to the watershed.

## **Multi Goal Sport Court Proposal**

January 31, 2019

To: Ashland Parks and Recreation Department

From: Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club

Re: Proposal for Multi-sport court project at Hunter Park

Thank you for the opportunity to present our proposal to expand recreation opportunities at Hunter Park. Our goal is to serve a more diverse demographic of hard court-based sports by modifying existing facilities and repurposing an existing court at the south end of Hunter Park.

Presently, Court 5 at Hunter Park serves as the location for Rogue Valley Bike Polo, which meets regularly throughout the year on Monday nights and hosts an annual tournament that brings participants and spectators from up to 500 miles away. Court 5 also serves as one of several available courts for local tennis players, however its use is limited and other opportunities remain available to interested tennis players throughout town.

In its current form, each night the court is in use we must construct and deconstruct the bike polo court by temporarily removing the tennis nets, filling holes with fitted wood pieces, and moving side-boards that we custom built and funded to support our club. We appreciate the opportunity to play at Hunter Park, but this current situation presents safety and logistic challenges.

We are proposing a modification to existing infrastructure that will expand existing recreation opportunities for goal-oriented hard court sports by dedicating one court to serve a mix of sports, while still allowing its current users to enjoy the remaining 7 courts at Hunter Park as well.

This project would serve several popular recreation activities, including Bike Polo, Futsal, Roller Hockey, Street Hockey, and Roller Derby; to name a few.

Below you will find a draft proposal with estimated costs that can serve as a first step in evaluating our proposal. In short, we propose minimal changes that will improve the safety and logistic challenges we currently face, for instance the light posts will remain unchanged and the court structure will remain the same material. But by installing dasher boards and safety nets the light posts are removed from the field of play and the nets would help keep balls in their designated court.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our proposal, we are happy to answer any questions and look forward to working with the City of Ashland to partner in this great opportunity to expand recreation opportunities in the area.

## Rogue Valley Bike Polo

### Proposal details:

#### Changes to be made and estimated costs

- Remove tennis nets
- Remove fencing to North, East and West
  - \$1500
- Construct viewing area
  - Bleachers (2x20') on East side
    - \$2,000
  - Covered area 9x30
    - \$5,000
  - BBQ
    - \$400
  - Install concrete ramp and landing to connect sidewalk. Approximately 700 sq ft
    - \$5,000
  - Railings, approximately 90'
    - \$3,000
- Install dasher boards with netting
  - Materials \$19,000
  - Installation \$5,000
- Landscaping

Total project cost	\$40,900
If skating rink boards may be repurposed, subtract	-\$17,000
	<b>\$23,900</b>

#### Contact

**Eric Michener**



**Daryl Witmore**



Hi Daryl,

Good talking with you this morning.

I updated your 60' x 120' quote with the following changes:

- Added the Hockey Netting that we discussed
- Calculated the freight from St. Paul, MN to Ashland, OR
- Applied our upcoming Spring Flash Sale Discount

I plan to send you a Welcome Video and other useful videos that discuss rink planning, installation, etc. The videos are designed to be useful, but you may always opt out.

**Your Rink Build**

Rink Components	Qty	Price	Total
Tall (42") Boards	81	\$187.00	\$15,147.00
Tall (42") Gates	1	\$263.00	\$263.00
Tall (42") Corners	4	\$363.00	\$1,452.00

**Anchor Plates**

5' x 40' Hockey Netting

10' x 60' Hockey Netting

86

5

2

\$22.00

\$95.00

\$320.00

\$1,892.00

\$475.00

\$640.00

Rink Component Subtotal: \$19,869.00

Shipping: \$1,125.00

2019 Spring Flash Sale Discount (YOU SAVE):

(all discounts good thru 03/31/2019) (\$2,200.00)

Grand Total: \$18,794.00

Thanks again and I look forward to hearing from you!!

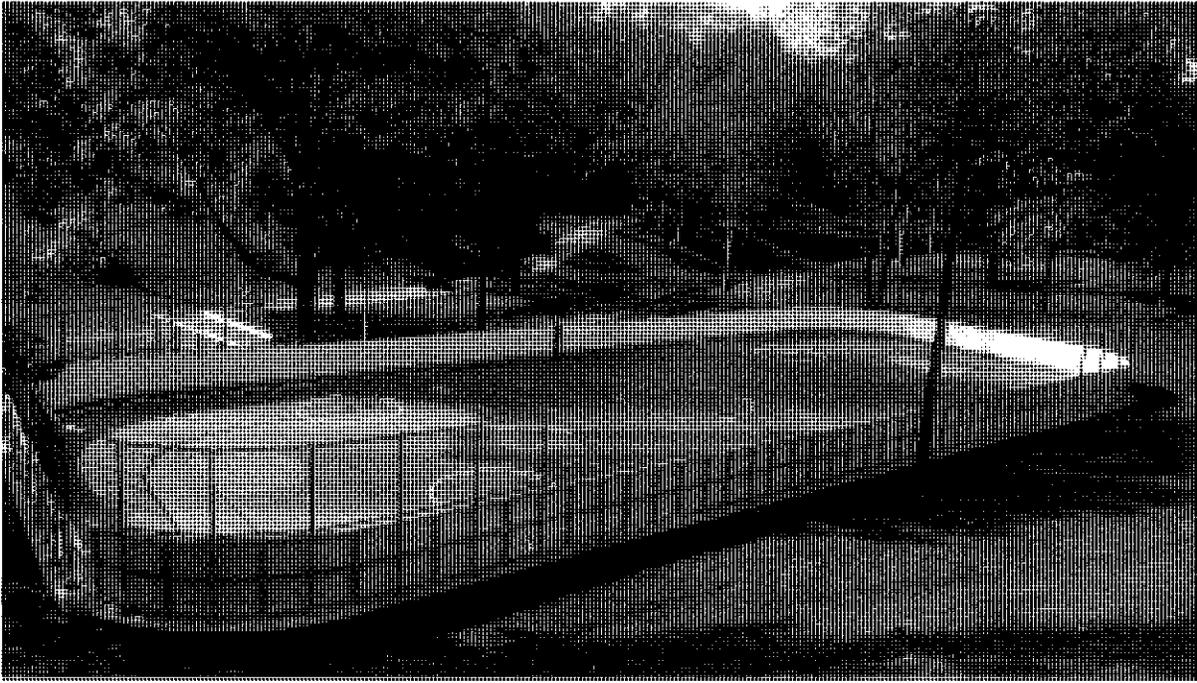
Thank you.

**Mike Miller**

Mobile Direct: 612-281-8855

Toll Free: 855-355-3131

Email: [sales@d1backyardrinks.com](mailto:sales@d1backyardrinks.com)



Example of proposed court

