

#### 🙈 PORTLAND OFF-ROAD CYCLING MASTER PLAN

Project Advisory Committee Meeting #3

#### **Meeting Summary**

MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016

LOCATION: BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY, 1900 SW 4TH AVENUE, PORTLAND

TIME: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

#### In Attendance

**CAC Members Present** 

Renee Meyers

Jocelyn Gaudi

**Torrey Lindbo** 

Michael Whitesel

Carrie Leonard

Kelsey Cardwell

Matthew Erdman Erin Chipps

Punneh Abdolhossieni

Mike Houck **Evan Smith** 

**CAC Members Absent** 

Adnan Kadir

Kelly McBride

**Bob Salinger** 

Nastassja Pace

Jim Owens

#### **Agency Representatives and Resource Members**

Shannah Anderson, Bureau of Environmental

Services

Lucy Cohen, Portland Parks & Recreation

Robert Spurlock, Metro

Michelle Barker, International Mountain Bike

Association

Maya Agarwal, Portland Parks & Recreation

Abra McNair, Portland Bureau of Transportation

Jennifer Devlin, Bureau of Environmental Services

#### **Staff and Consultants**

Michelle Kunec-North, Project Manager, BPS

Lori Grant, Associate Planner, BPS

Kristen Lohse, Consultant Project Manager, Toole

Design Group

Adrian Witte, Toole Design Group

Nat Lopes, Technical Consultant, Hilride

Adrienne DeDona, Facilitator, JLA Public

Involvement

Jamie Harvie, JLA Public Involvement

#### **Audience / Members of the Public**

Scott Bricker (attending on behalf of Nastassja Pace,

Travel Oregon)

Stephen R. Berd

Carol Chesarek

Les Blaize

**Daniel Greenstadt** 

Marcy Horn

B. McGillicuddy

John Miller

Richard Racke

Catherine Thompson

#### Overview

#### The committee:

- Provided final input on the illustrated vision.
- Agreed on a list of desired outcomes; however, will revisit with regard to the desired goal for natural resource protection after learning more about best practices in other communities.
- Continued discussion on facility types and user experiences and learned about the City's current property inventory.
- Provided input on needs and desires in regards to facilities, ages, skills, experiences and appropriateness.
- Expressed interest in having input on the public outreach process.

#### Welcome, Agenda Review & General Announcements

Adrienne DeDona, JLA Public Involvement, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Staff, committee members and agency representatives introduced themselves.

Michelle Kunec-North, BPS Project Manager, reiterated the role of the agency representatives, saying they were available to answer questions and provide supporting information to the committee but not to act as committee members.

Robert Spurlock, Associate Regional Planner, provided an update from Metro (presentation attached). He said Metro has recently completed an inventory of off-road cycling opportunities around the region. He said the intention was to better understand what facilities exist so Metro could know what facilities they could potentially offer. He listed examples of some facilities around the region and said Metro would soon open up two mountain biking trails. He said that a draft site selection process could guide future projects, although there were currently no plans for any projects. Michelle added that the project team is sharing information with Metro and working collaboratively to form a regional vision for off-road cycling.

• Mike Houck said he wanted to point out that it was not Metro's mission to intentionally look for off-road cycling opportunities, but rather to seek out and protect ecologically sensitive sites, which may or may not offer opportunities for recreation. Robert agreed that most of Metro's work centered around water quality and habitat protection, but added that Metro's work was directed by the policies adopted by Metro Council and that there were specific goals and targets associated with various bond measures. He said many of these targets center around public access.

Maya Agarwal, Portland Parks & Recreation, provided an update on the Recreational Trails Strategy. She noted that the Strategy includes the goal of 220 miles of regional trails by 2026. She said that the City currently had ~156 miles of trails and were adding an average of one mile per year so they were not on track to reach this goal. She noted several projects that have been completed or are underway.

- A committee member asked what the relationship was of the Recreational Trails Strategy to the Off-Road Cycling Plan. Maya replied that there isn't a direct overlap, since the Trails Strategy didn't look at off-road cycling specifically. She added there may be opportunities to connect the trails to off-road cycling trails. She said the Tails Strategy is the leading City document in regards to regional paved pathways.
- A committee member asked about the 2020 Plan. Maya replied that the 2020 Plan would be updated next year.

#### Finalize Illustrated Vision & Desired Goals/Outcomes

Adrienne presented the revised illustrated vision and asked the committee to provide final input on the changes that were made since the last meeting and if any other changes were needed.

#### Committee discussion:

- A previous comment from the last meeting was to show youth engagement. Committee members indicated the updated illustrated met that goal.
- Another comment from the last meeting was to show racial, ethnic, age and ability diversity. Committee members indicated this was reflected in the revised version.
- A committee member proposed changing "Environmental Stewardship" to "Environmental <u>Protection & Stewardship."</u> Several committee members disagreed with this for the following reasons:
  - "Protection" infers prohibiting human interaction whereas "sustainability" infers taking care of something.
  - Environmental protection would not specifically be a goal of the Off-Road Plan, although a goal may be for off-road cycling facilities to not degrade the environment.
  - o Prefer the term sustainability because it represents balanced interests.
  - The committee member suggested adding a new banner titled "Ecosystem health" and not change "Environmental Stewardship. There was general agreement from the committee for this change.
- A committee member suggested changing the banner "Balance of Interests" to "Integration of Interests". A committee member said she preferred balance of interests because it also shows that the users are also balancing interests and she pointed out that "Integration" was already captured by the "Integrated System" banner. The committee generally agreed to leave the banner as it was presented.
- A committee member suggested changing "Data Driven" banner to "Data and Values driven." Committee
  members supported this change.
- A committee member said they were concerned about the complete absence of the full-facemask rider and suggested adding this type of rider back in on a smaller scale. There was general agreement to make this revision.

Adrienne reviewed the updated Desired Outcomes and asked committee members for feedback.

- Adrienne reviewed several changes suggested by a committee member.
  - o Change City goal "Environmental Health" to "Environmental & Ecological Health"
  - Add "values" to the statement: "The plan is realistic, feasible and works within the context of community needs, City goals, <u>values</u>, Portland's urban environment and landscape and regulatory constraints."
  - o Include a hierarchy related to the protection of natural resources, such as "Designs with nature, by enhancing nature in the city and <u>first</u> avoiding, <u>second</u> limiting or <u>finally</u> mitigating adverse impacts on natural resources, including <u>fish</u> and wildlife, habitat and water resources.
  - Add "natural areas" to the following goal: "Builds community ownership and partnerships for the stewardship of Portland's parks, <u>natural areas</u>, open spaces and other public properties."
  - Add "comprehensive park, trail, and natural area system" to the following goal: "In addition, the Plan
    acknowledges and leverages the potential economic benefits of a <u>comprehensive system of parks, trails,
    natural areas</u> and off-road cycling <u>facilities</u>.

• Committee members agreed with these proposed changes, although one committee member was concerned about finalizing a priority structure with regard to natural resource protection. Michelle made a note of this and said it would make sense to revisit the Desired Outcomes after discussing best practices at the next meeting.

Adrienne said that the Illustrated Vision and Desired Outcomes would be updated with these changes and sent back to the committee.

#### **Facilities Typology & User Experiences**

Nat Lopes, Hilride, presented various facilities typologies and user experiences (presentation attached). He explained the types of off-road cycling, including mountain biking, BMX, cyclocross and pump tracks, as well as the subcategories of each of these. He added that the goal of the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan would be a system of different types of facilities that would create an overall experience accessible to the various audiences.

#### Committee discussion:

- A committee member asked whether BMX facilities are generally located on private or public land. Nat replied that it could be either. He said that many free facilities are open to the public with no supervision, while pay-to-play facilities have a higher duty of care and more regulations. He said a common scenario is that a BMX track would be built on public land and managed privately, but this is not always the case.
- A committee member asked whether communities tend to start with any particular kind of facility. Nat replied
  that it depends on the community and what they need and want. He gave the example of a pump track, which
  would provide a wide range of experiences and opportunities but require a lot of maintenance, versus a skills
  course which would require less maintenance but also provides a range of experiences.
- A committee member commented that there seemed to be an infinite number of desires/users/experiences and asked whether the intention was to try to accommodate all of them. Michelle replied that one of the goals of the Master Plan would be to identify what types of facilities would make the most sense for Portland. The next exercise would gather very preliminary input from the committee about what types of facilities are needed.
- A committee member asked Nat about his experiences with other communities and how they approached their
  off-road cycling facilities. Nat replied that the project team would provide examples of communities that were
  models of success as well as communities similar to Portland. He said that having an overall vision was an
  important first step to then get into planning individual sites.

#### **Current Facilities Inventory**

Michelle provided an overview of Portland's existing off-road cycling facilities (presentation attached). She said that there are currently seven city-owned locations where people can ride a bicycle off-road. She said this included 42 miles of trails, the majority of which were wider than 12'. She noted that Forest Park had the largest variety of trails.

• Jocelyn Gaudi, committee member representing Friends of Gateway Green, noted that Gateway Green was listed but there were currently no trails there. She provided an update on the Gateway Green project, saying that they were in fundraising stages and also working with Portland Parks & Recreation on a feasibility study for construction. A committee member asked what types of experiences would be offered. Jocelyn replied this would depend on funding, noting the timeframes for construction of anything permanent were 3–5 years. She said Friends of Gateway Green hope to offer some interim activities in the area to help with fundraising.

Kristen Lohse, Toole Design, provided an overview of the next steps in the technical process. She explained the following elements would be considered during plan development:

- 1) What is needed/desired in Portland. This component would be informed by the needs assessment and also through feedback from the committee and the general public; and
- 2) What's appropriate for Portland. This component will be evaluated by an Impacts Assessment, Best Practices Report, and Site Assessments.

Kristen asked the committee to complete an exercise to brainstorm what was needed and desired in regards to facilities, ages, skills and experiences.

- A committee member asked why anything would be eliminated at this point when there isn't a list of sites under
  consideration. Adrienne replied that the project team would like some broad input of needs/desires to help
  inform the next step of technical work. She said the intention is not to eliminate anything, but to focus the work.
  Michelle added that datasets on trends would also be considered. She asked committee members to provide
  their comments/questions during the exercise, as well.
- A committee member asked about the broader community engagement process, including community surveys.
   Kristen replied that the project team has plans to conduct a robust public outreach process and is developing an online mapping tool the public can use to provide input. The committee member expressed concern about a wholly online survey due to equity and access issues and expressed interest in the committee playing a role in assisting with public outreach. Michelle said the project team could report back on the planned activities for community engagement plans at the next meeting to gather the committee's feedback and ideas.

Kristen reviewed the most common themes resulting from the committee's feedback:

- Facility-wise: Interest in single-track, including significant mileage. Also suggestions for amenities to go along with facilities.
- Age-wise: All ages; a focus on kids; acknowledgement that kids grow into adults who also need facilities
- Skills: Beginner level most common, but other levels as well.
- Experience: Accessibility (to schools, from homes), connections with nature
- Appropriateness: Look at areas of disrepair

Kristen reiterated that this was the first ask for this type of information but the project team would continue to ask for more input from the committee and the community.

A full list of comments included below:

What is needed/desired?

#### Facility-wise

- Too soon to tell
- Some of everything (See what works)
- Site specific
- Ensuring communities of color are heard as to their needs
- Neighborhood-scale skills parks
- Linear skills trails. Use existing (acquire new) linear corridors. Springwater. Marine Drive. 205, 84.
- Single track accessible by people without cars
- Obvious mitigation features (i.e. Armoring for drainage Learning opportunity)
- Bike repair stations
- Off-road alternatives for commuting. (Short off-road detours)

- Lots of small facilities with room to grow
- Street/dirt jump BMX (community without a voice)
- Flow trail that takes 8+ minutes to descend
- Significant mileage in Forest Park
- Single track! Challenging opportunities for training and exercising
- Informative signage
- Bike wash station
- Narrow trails and single track
- Additional single track miles, accessible to many local people

#### Age-wise

- 18 months to 6 years old
- Kid friendly (1-13 age group)
- Safe trails for kids that can be accessed by public transportation
- All ages I love emphasizing kids, but they also all grow into adults one day, and I think it's important to give
  young adults healthy recreation opportunities

#### Skill-wise

- Beginner-friendly skills park with progression
- Advanced features (aspirational)
- Very beginner level (pump tracks, skill building, trails)
- Priority for beginner to advanced expert is lower priority for me
- Progressive drop features

#### **Experience-Wise**

- A place to ride for fitness and fun after work
- Pump tracks/skills parks integrated into un-used areas (overpasses, bridges)
- A place to get a long enough (and fun enough) ride for a moderate workout (40 minutes?) in each "quadrant" of the city.
- Free and/or reduced mountain bike rentals
- Trails deep enough in nature to not hear vehicle traffic noise (and lots of natural sounds)
- Alternative to long drive to areas outside of Portland
- Moms off the bench learning how to pump track with kids
- Opportunity to build trail
- Single track/greenway accessible by "youth" without cars
- Connections to schools (short trails 1-2 miles and skills parks)
- Access <1 mile from front door</li>
- Commuting on dirt
- Programmatic opportunities (high school teams, skills clinics, community based organization partnerships, etc.)
- A safe place where everyone feels welcome and without threats
- Bike share access to off-road facility

#### Appropriate-ness

- Must be designed and implemented within the context of # resources for the whole park, trail and natural area system
- System must match carrying capacity of existing system
- System should be planned and implemented within a regional context Portland-Vancouver Region
- Search for land that is "trashed" that affords a "blank slate" for creative design
- A careful balance between nature and people
- Need to understand how people want to recreate
- What if people want none of this?

#### **Public Comment**

Les Blaize said that there were expectations when public agencies such as Metro, City and County purchase properties for environmental protection. He said that health of the resource must be considered first. He said that typically an assessment of the property is done first in order to determine what type of recreation, if any could be appropriate. He said to be careful to do the homework to be aware of what the existing land use laws were for some of these properties before taking any action.

#### **Next Steps**

Adrienne recapped that the committee's feedback would be incorporated to the Illustrated Vision and Desired Goals and that the final versions would be re-circulated. She said the committee's ideas in terms of the desired facilities, skills, experience and age groups would help inform the next piece of technical work to be presented to the committee: The needs assessment. She added that some best practices would also be shared with the committee at the next meeting, which was scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> at the same time and location.

Michelle added that Jim Owens asked for an overview of the entire planning process. She said that might have been buried in the overview provided at the first meeting, but that right now the project team has been focusing on providing the background and foundation for the system planning that is yet to come. She added that one thing they had heard early in the process was that Portland doesn't have a solid understanding of what off-road cycling is, what the needs are, or what the impacts are, so they wanted to be sure and provide that type of foundation in this process.

- A committee member said he would be interested in defining goals for the plan in terms of mileage and
  distance. Michelle said the project team had started thinking about level of service and whether they would like
  to set goals and what those goals would be. She said that is a future conversation for this group.
- A committee member shared a recent riding experience she and friends were out riding and saw several deer. She said it was nice to do her favorite recreational activity and experience nature.
- A committee member said she would like to see equity considered as much as environmental goals. She said she
  would like to hear more from community leaders. Several committee members supported inviting community
  leaders to attend the meetings. It was suggested that one of the meetings could be held in east Portland.
  Michelle said they would look into this.

Adrienne thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.





## Metro Off-Road Trail Types

#### International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) **Trail Difficulty Rating System**

 $\bigcirc$ Easiest





Difficult





Difficult

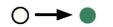
NATURAL SURFACE **MULTI-USE TRAIL** 

FIRE SERVICE / MAINTENANCE ROAD **DUAL TRACK** 

**SINGLE TRACK** 

STRUCTURES & JUMPS



















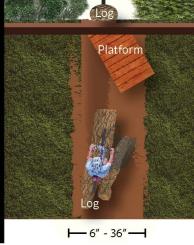












- Designed trail
- Crushed aggregate with fines
- Accommodates 1-2 cyclists Two-way travel
- All ages and abilities
- Trail width: 48" minimum 120" maximum\*
- Compatible with other trail users

- **Existing roads**
- Dirt/gravel surface
- Accommodates 1-2 cyclists Two-way travel
- Trail width: Width varies. Consistent with agency maintained road safety and design considerations.
- Compatible with other trail users

- Designed course
- Natural/earthen surface

**─** 36" - 60" **─** 

- Accommodates 2 cyclists One-way travel
- Trail width: 36" minimum 60" maximum\*
- Off-road cycling only preferred

- Designed course
- Natural/earthen surface
- Accommodates 1 cyclist One-way travel
- Trail width: 6" minimum 36" maximum\*
- Off-road cycling only preferred but shared-use is common practice

- Designed course
- Natural/earthen surface with platforms, downed logs and rocks to navigate
- Accommodates 1 cyclist One-way travel
- Trail width: 6" minimum 36" maximum\*
- Off-road cycling only required





### Metro Off-Road Riding Styles

International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Trail Difficulty Rating System

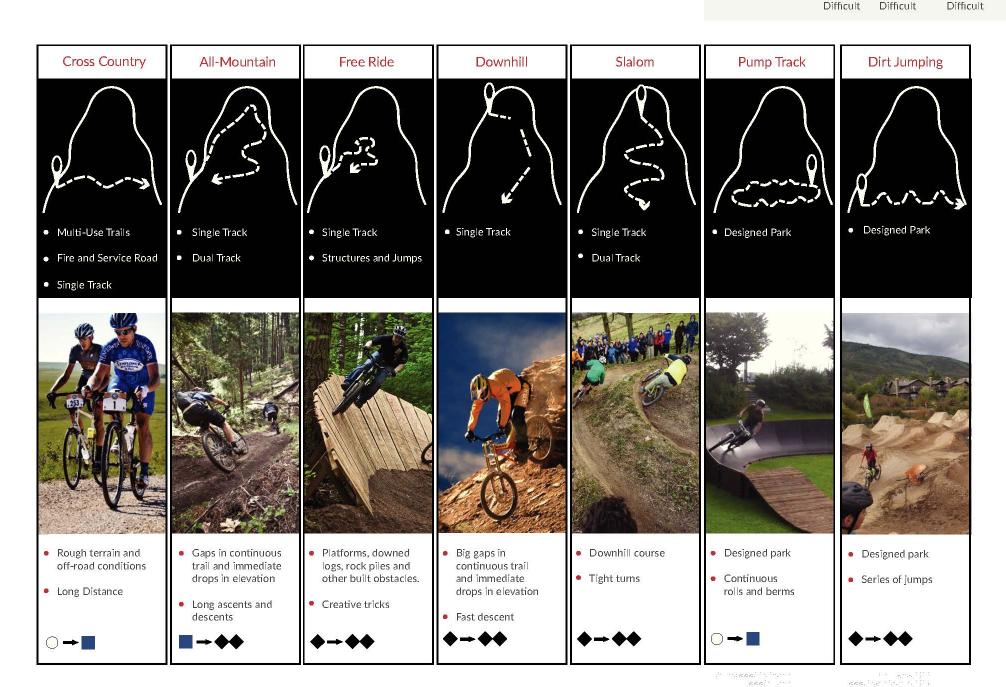
Easiest

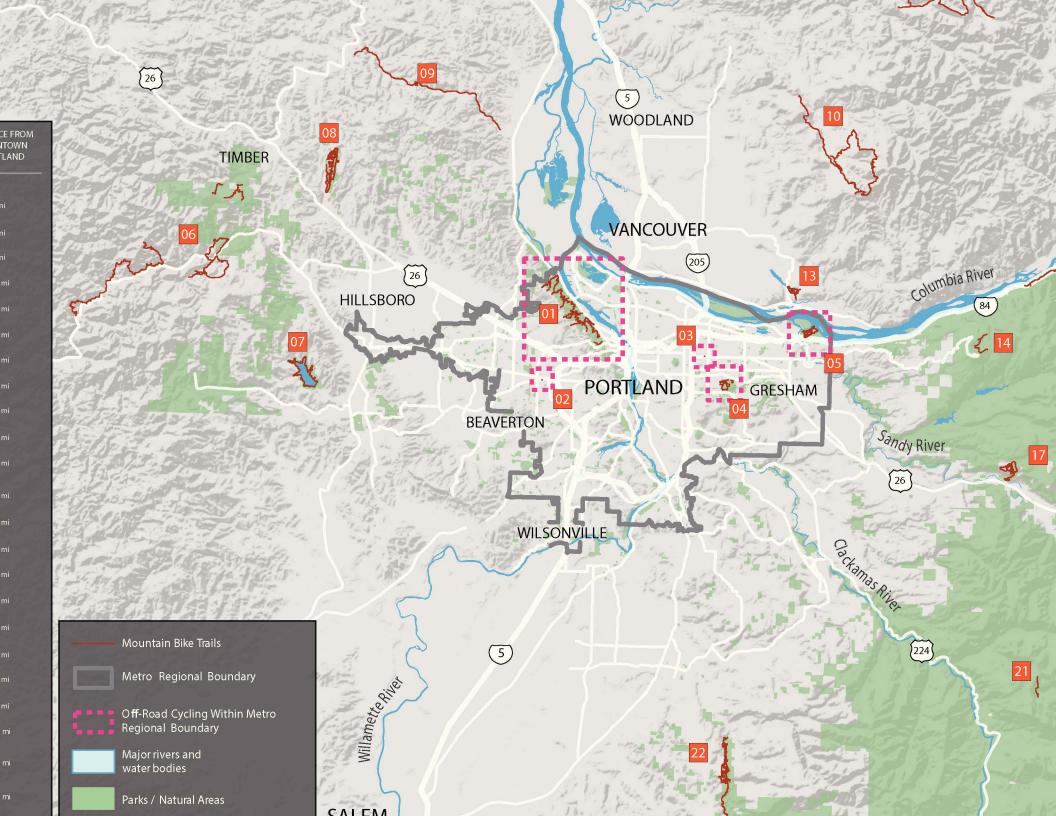
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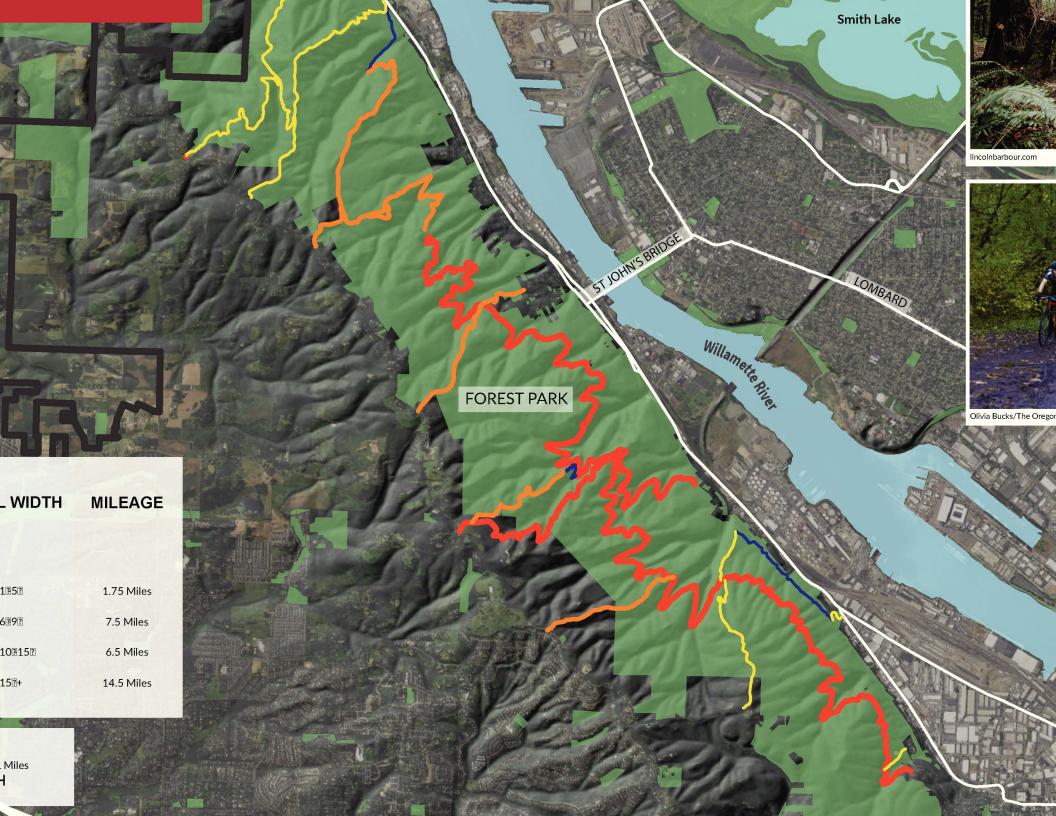
More







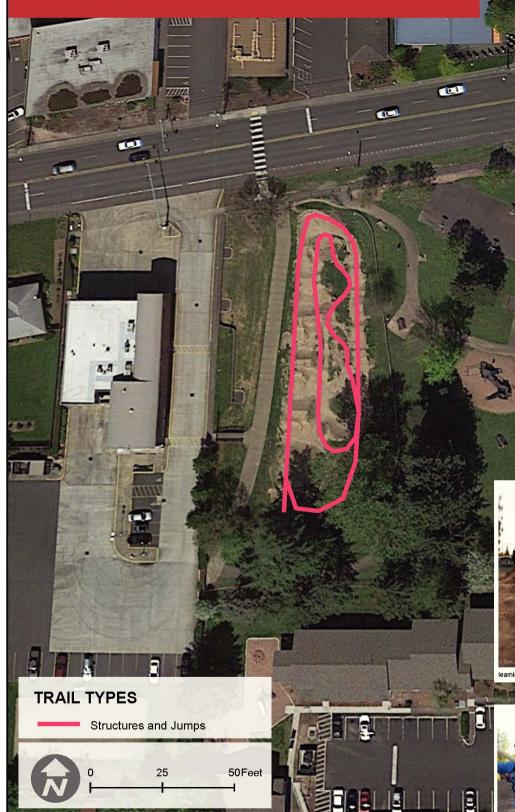


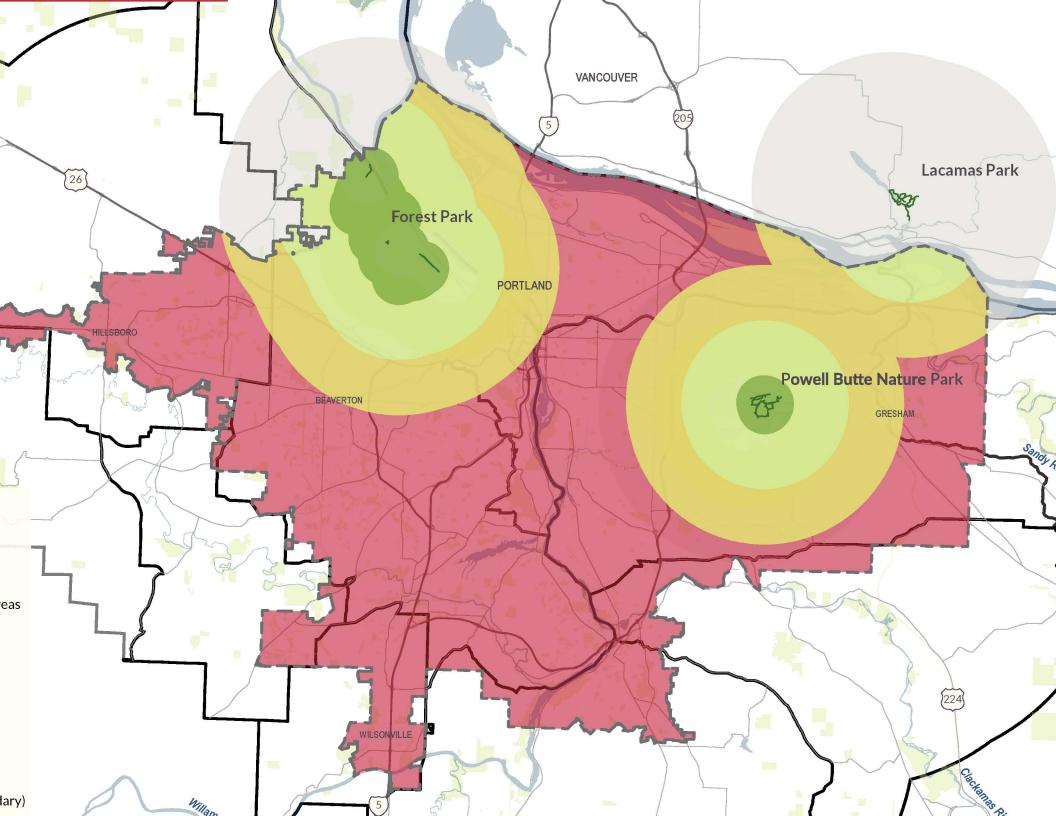


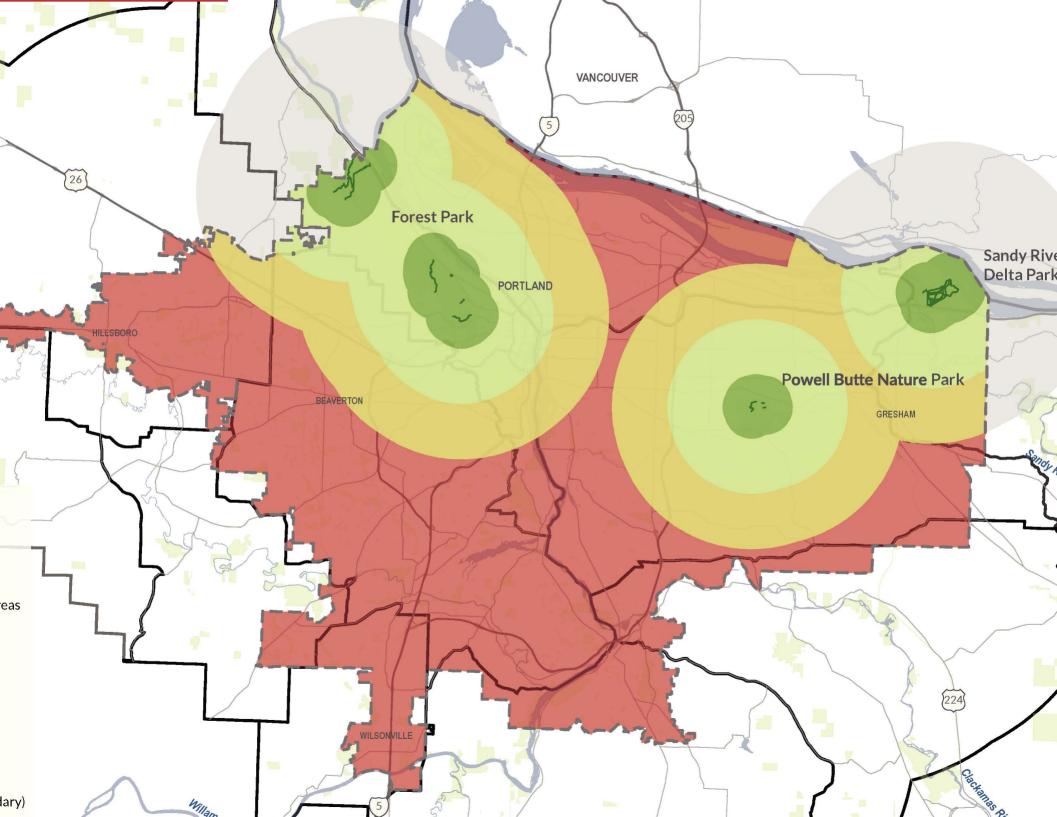


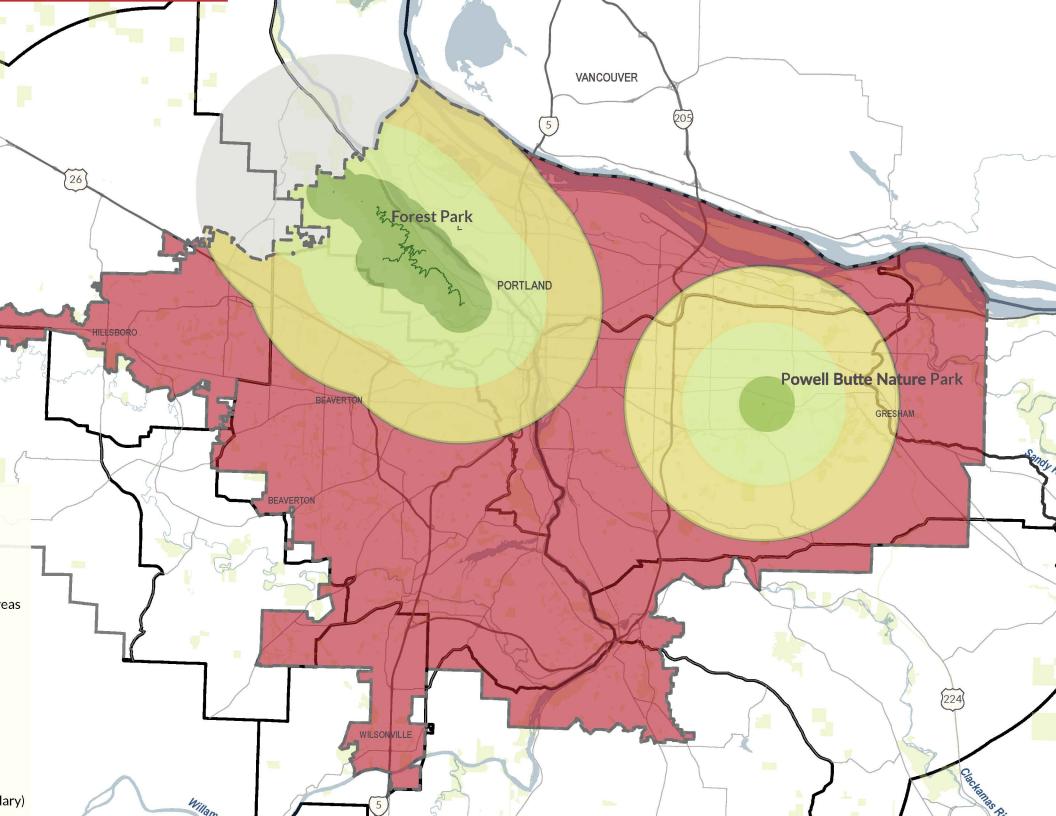


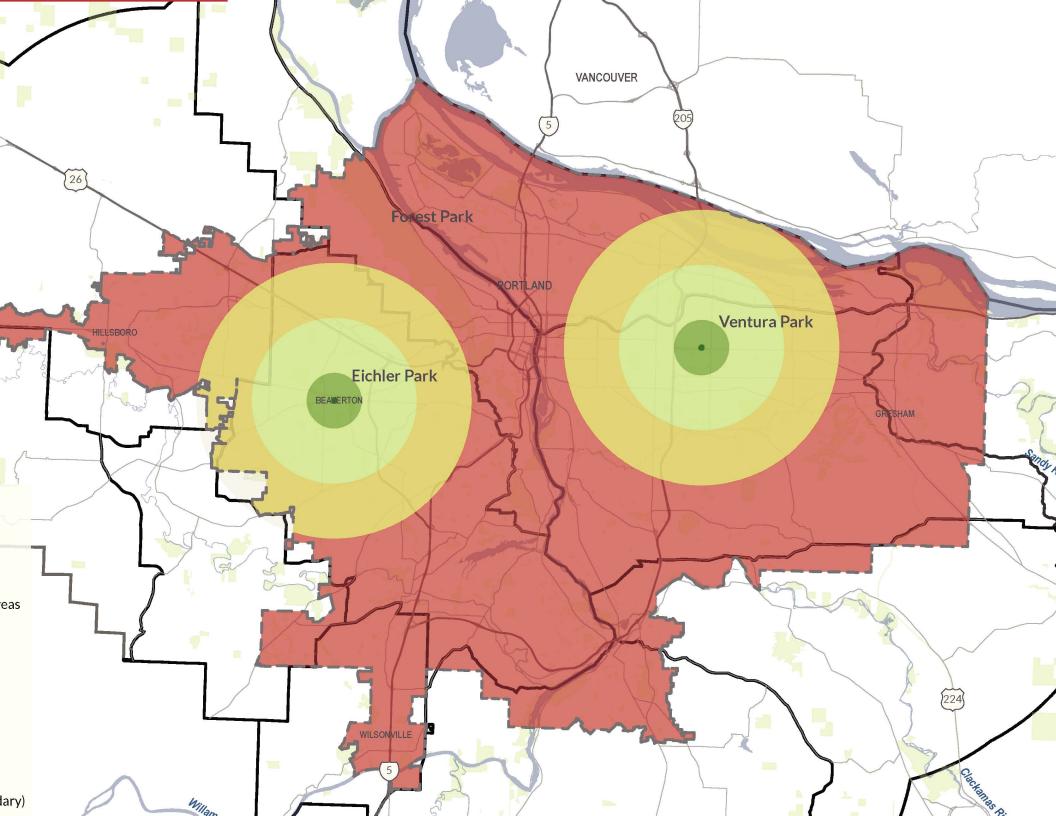


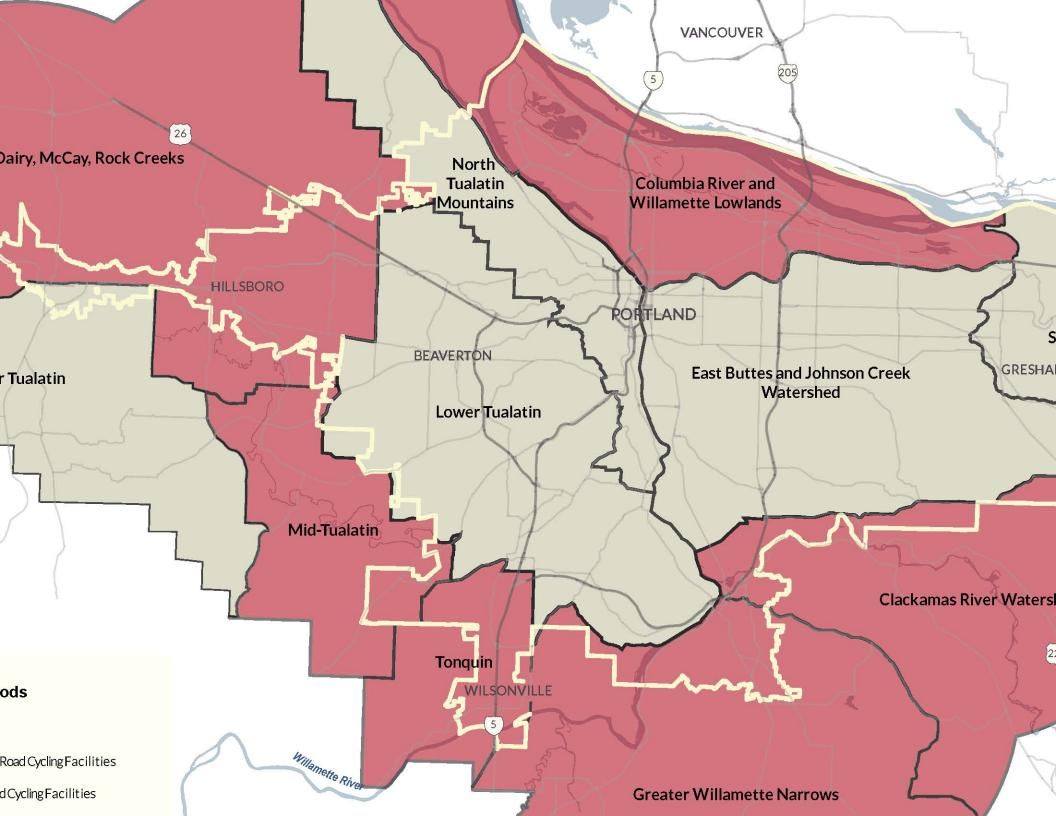










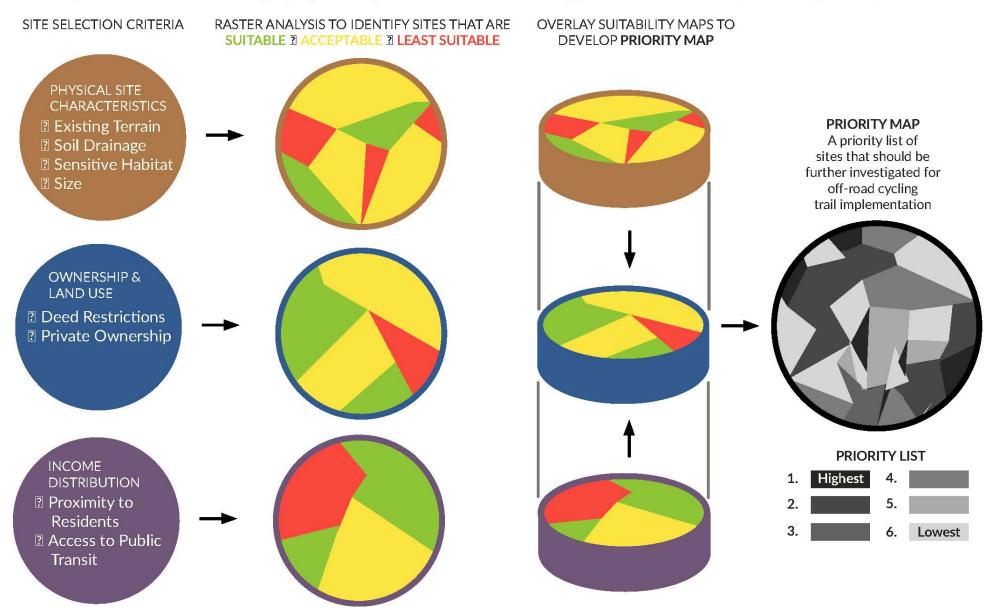






### Off-Road Cycling Site Selection

**Process:** Selection of sites suitable for off-road cycling trail development begins with identification of essential physical site characteristics necessary to build and effectively maintain trails over time. Next, property ownership constraints are identified. Finally, potential trail locations are prioritized to provide equitable access.





# Off-Road Cycling Facilities Overview

Presented by:

Nat Lopes, Principal Designer

Hilride Progression Development Group, LLC

3/24/2016



## Agenda

### Agenda

**Review Goals** 

**Facilities Overview** 

1. Off-Road Cycling Disciplines

2. User: Age, Skill Level, Ability, Type

3. Setting

4. Service Area

5. Type of Facilities







## Goals



### Goals

Information sharing, education

**Establish Consistent vernacular** 

Demonstrate complete spectrum of riding facilities

**Understanding the typology** 

How typology will inform master planning process: existing conditions and needs analysis, master plan

How typology will support future site analysis: site selection, facility requirements, user experience





# OFF-ROAD CYCLING FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Five primary factors that help define the spectrum of off-road cycling experiences.



# PRIMARY OFF-ROAD CYCLING DISCIPLINES





# PRIMARY OFF-ROAD CYCLING DISCIPLINES

**Mountain Bike** 

**BMX** 

Cyclocross

**Kids** 



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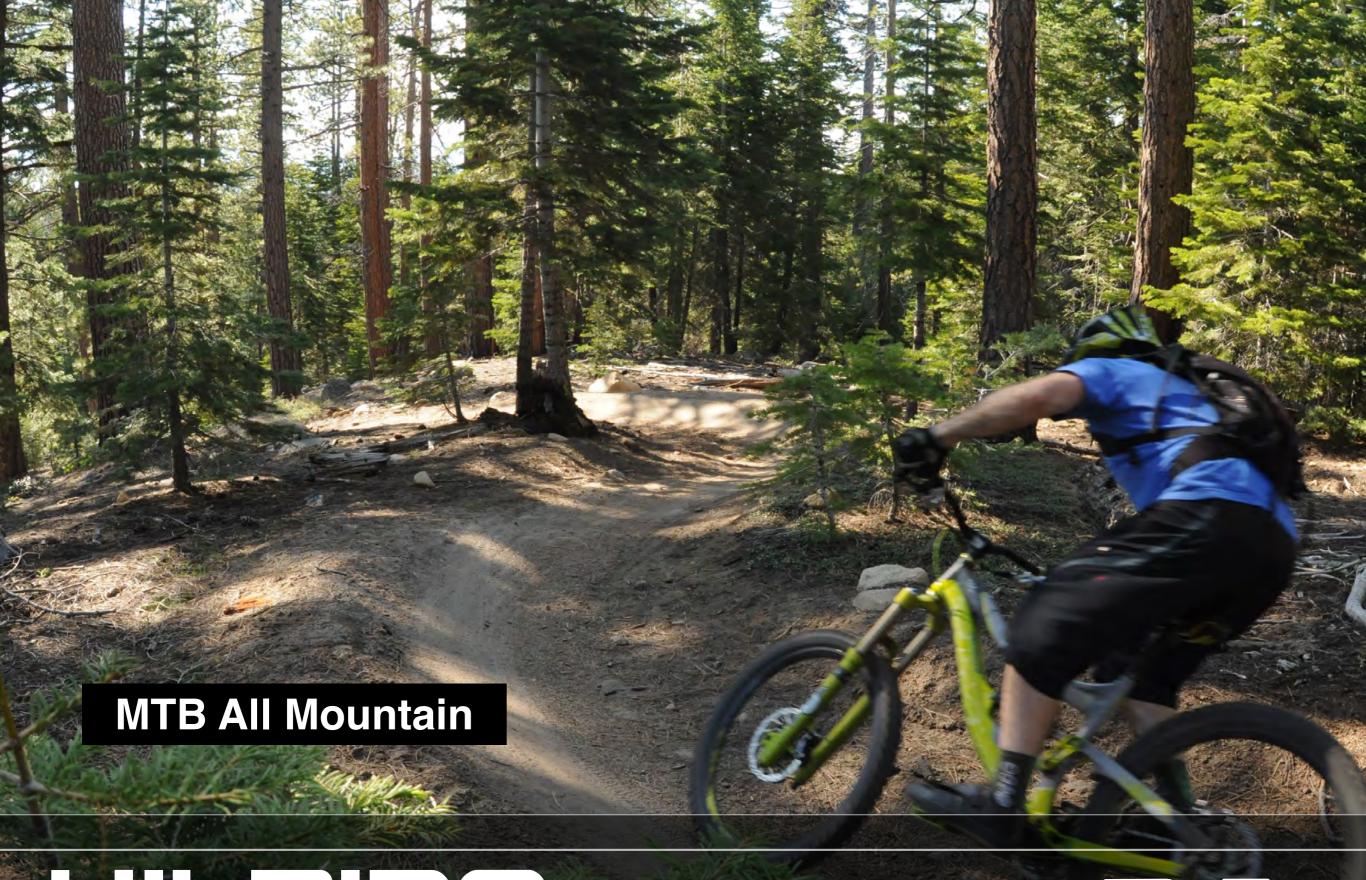


## Mountain Bike

Cross Country
All Mountain
Downhill
Freeride
Dirt Jump
Pump Track
Trials
Dual Slalom







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### HIRE





# IHIERIDE Progression Development Group









### HIERE













#### BMX

Race
Freeride
Dirt Jump
Trail
Freestyle
Street
Vert
Park
Ramp









#### HURDE





#### Cyclo-cross

Race Trail Touring







#### Adaptive

Prosthetics
Wheel Chairs
Hand Cycles









# AGE, SKILL LEVEL, ABILITY, TYPE

2



#### AGE

**Kids 1-5** 

**Youth 6-17** 

**Young Adults 18-24** 

Adults 25+























### IHITALE





















### HURDE







### HURDE





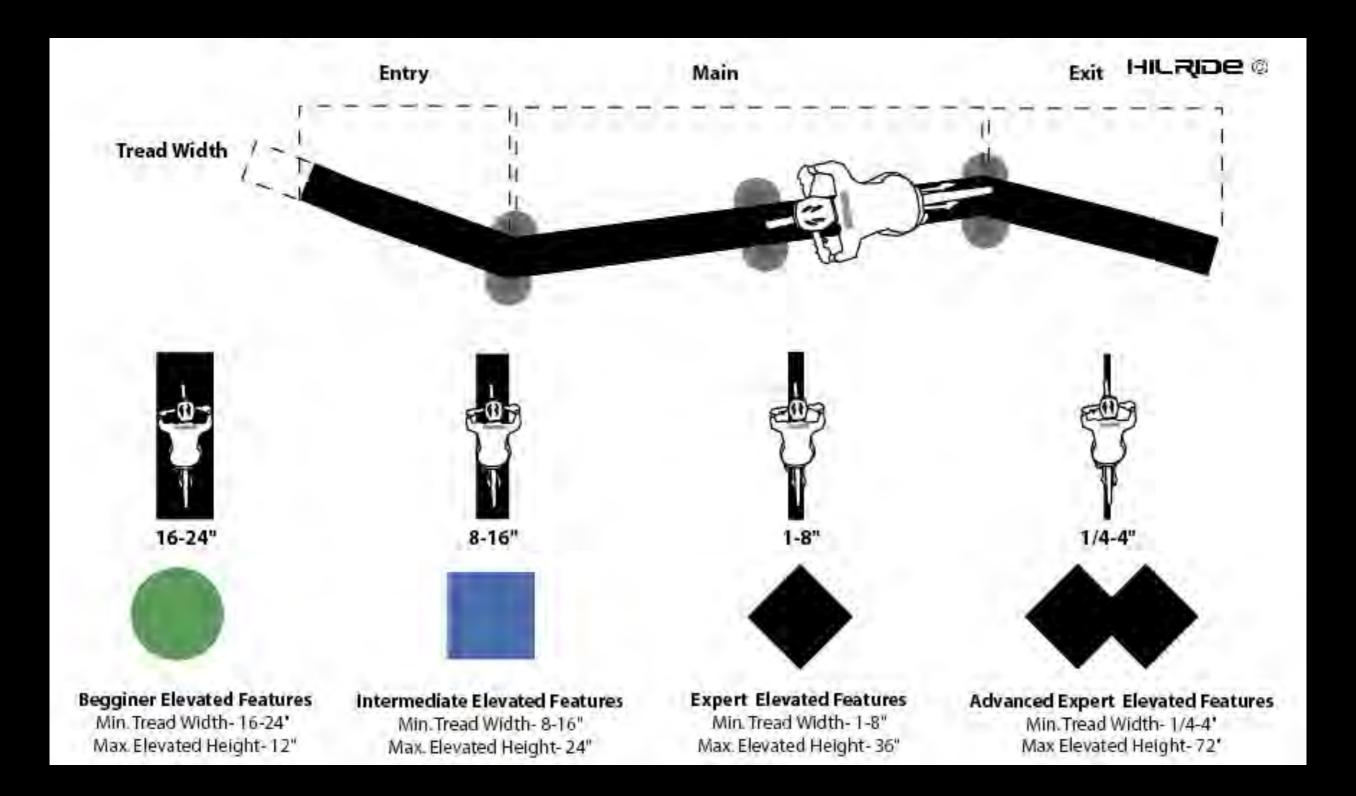
#### SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

Intermediate

**Advanced** 

**Expert** 



Hilride Progression Development Group









## HURDE



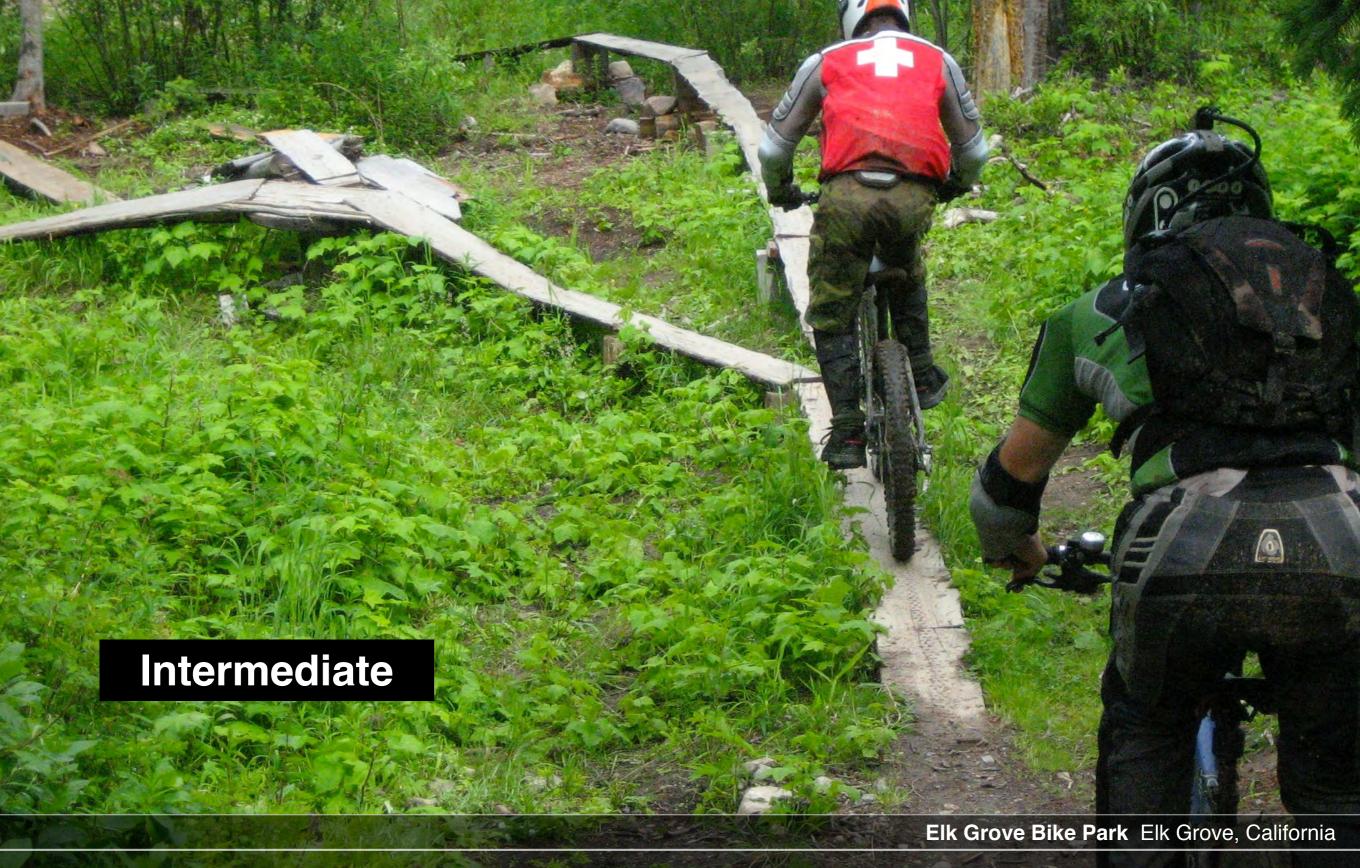




Elk Grove Bike Park Elk Grove, California

## HURDE









## HURDE







## HURIDE









#### **TYPES**

Commuter

Recreational

Competitive













### HILRIDE





## HILRIDE











## HURDE





#### FREQUENCY

1-3 Rides Per Year

1 Ride Per Month

2 Rides Per Month

1 Ride Per Week

2 Rides Per Week

**5 Rides Per Week** 

Ride Almost Everyday







**Natural Areas & Open Spaces** 

**Developed Park & Recreation Areas** 

Right-of-Ways & Greenways



NATURAL AREAS & OPEN SPACES



DEVELOPED PARK & RECREATION AREAS



RIGHT-OF-WAYS & GREENWAYS



NATURAL AREAS & OPEN SPACES







DEVELOPED PARK & RECREATION AREAS







RIGHT-OF-WAYS & GREENWAYS





#### SERVICE AREA





#### SERVICE AREA

Neighborhood

Community

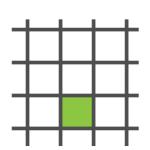
Regional

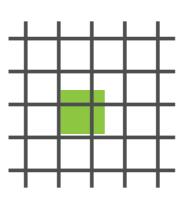
**National** 

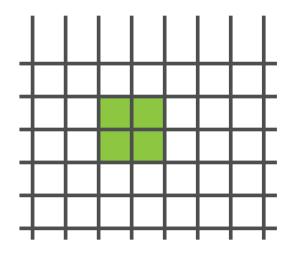


#### SERVICE AREA







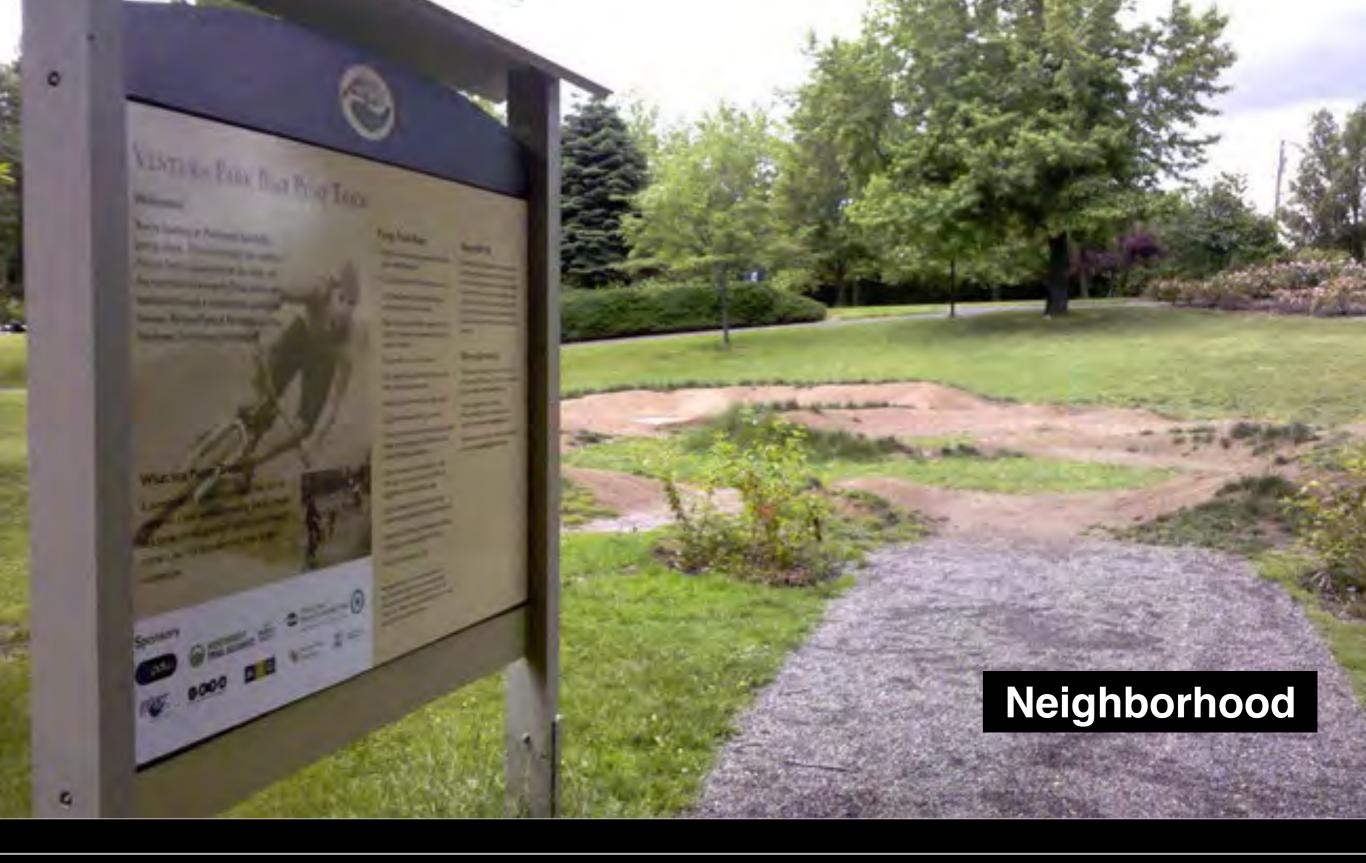


Neighborhood

Community

Regional

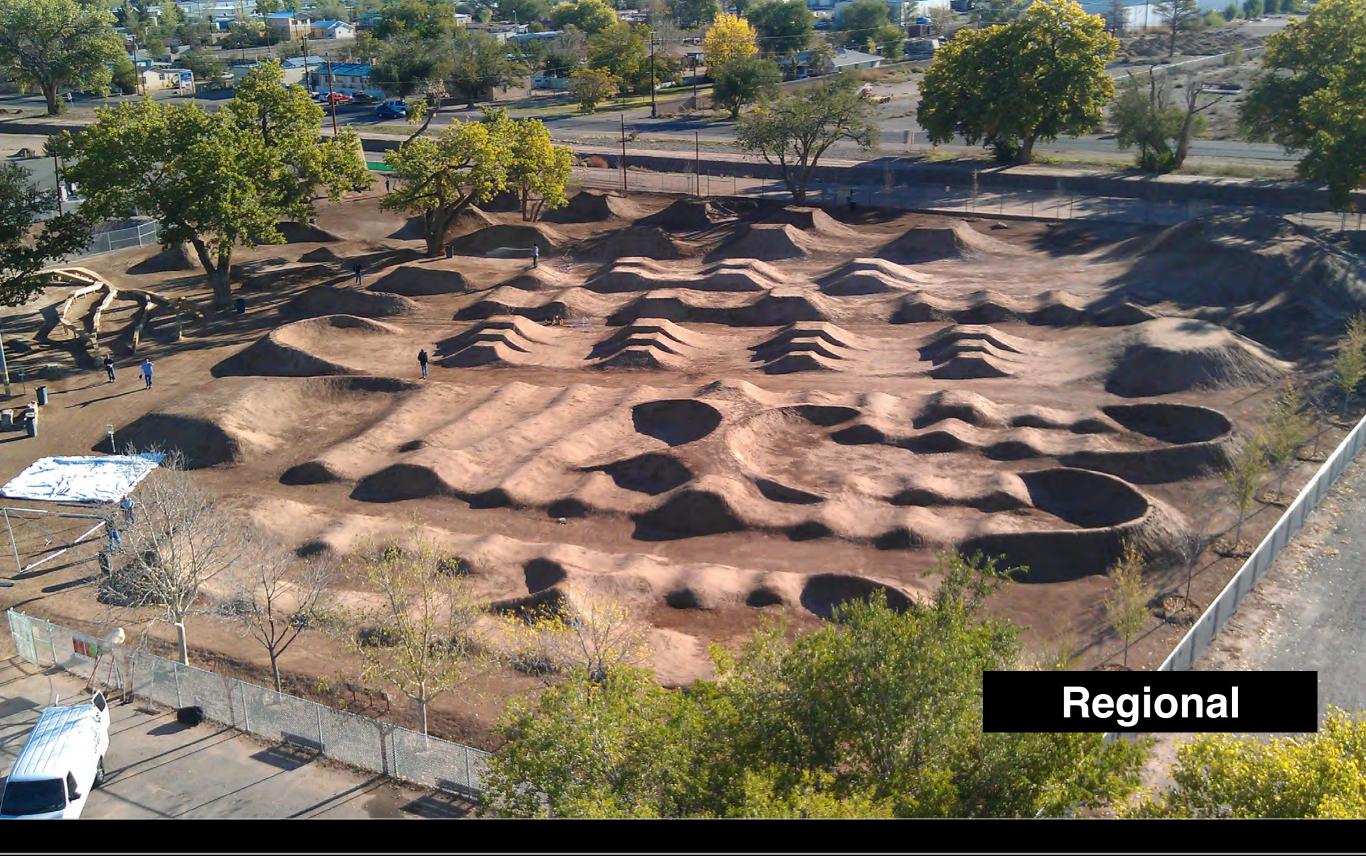
**National** 









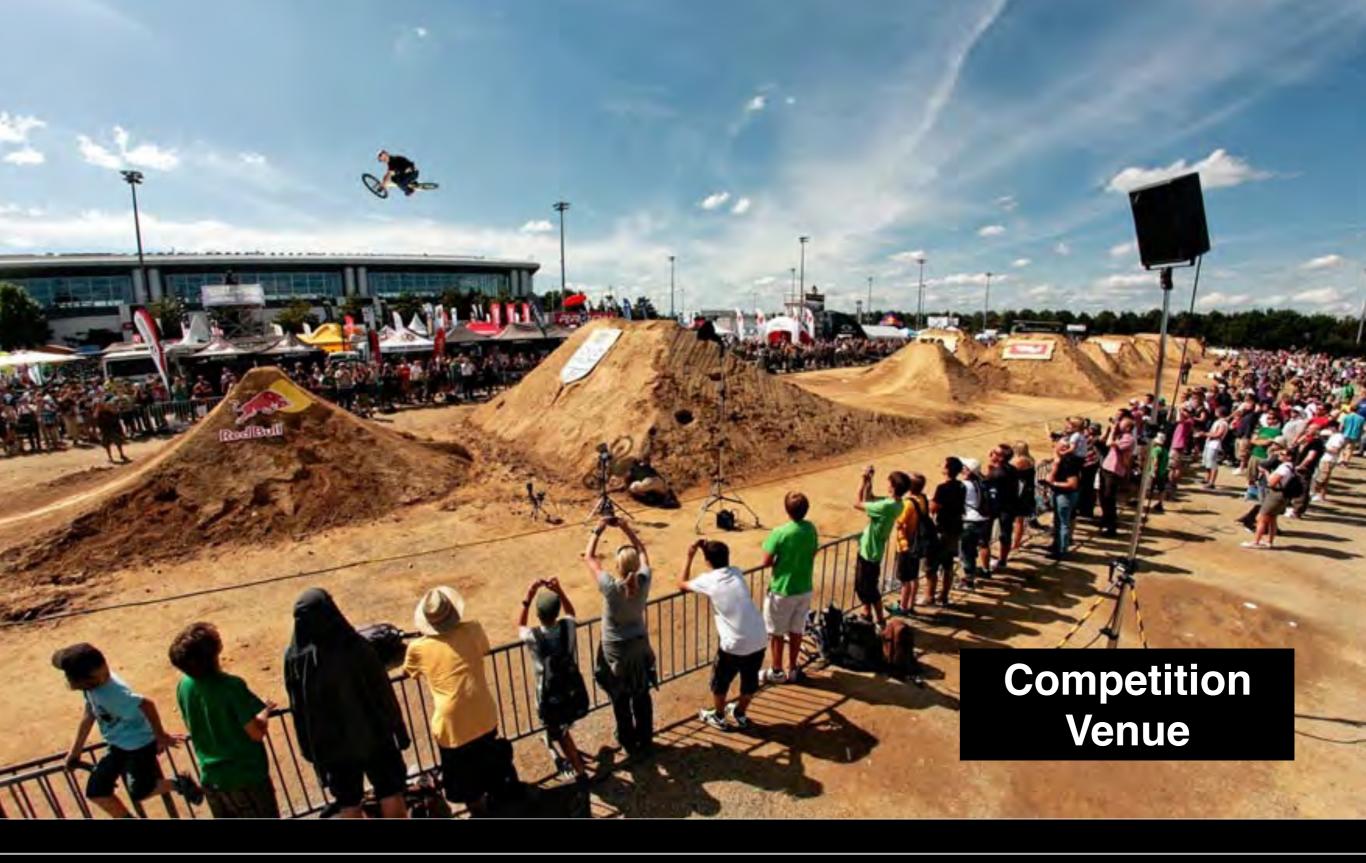
















#### TYPE OF FACILITIES





#### TYPE OF FACILITIES

**Trail Types** 

**Facility Types** 

**Sanctioned Users** 

**Trail Characteristics** 

**Progression** 



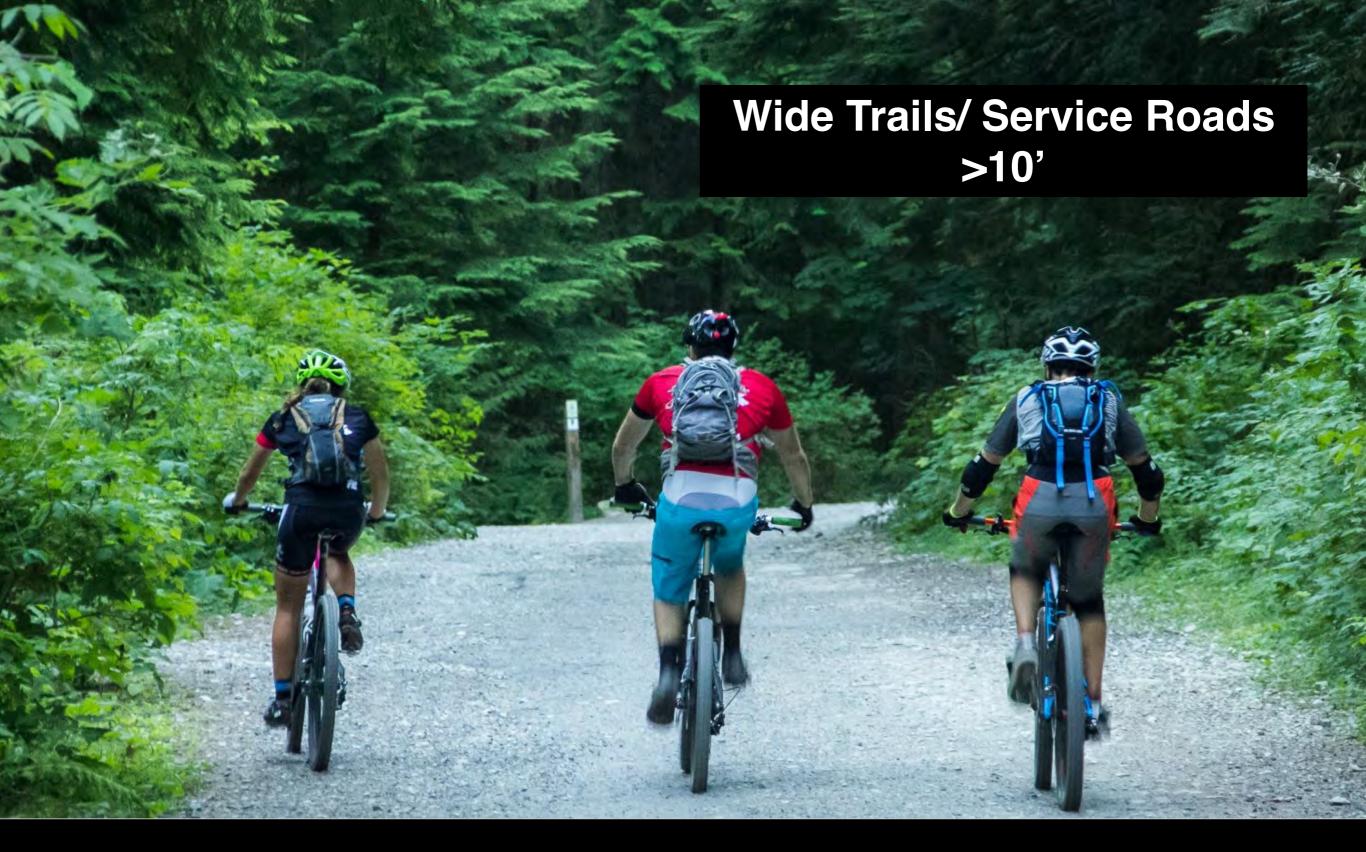
#### TRAIL TYPES

Wide Trails/Roads >10'

Mid-Width Trails 6-10'

**Narrow Trails 3-6'** 

Singletrack Trails 1-3'

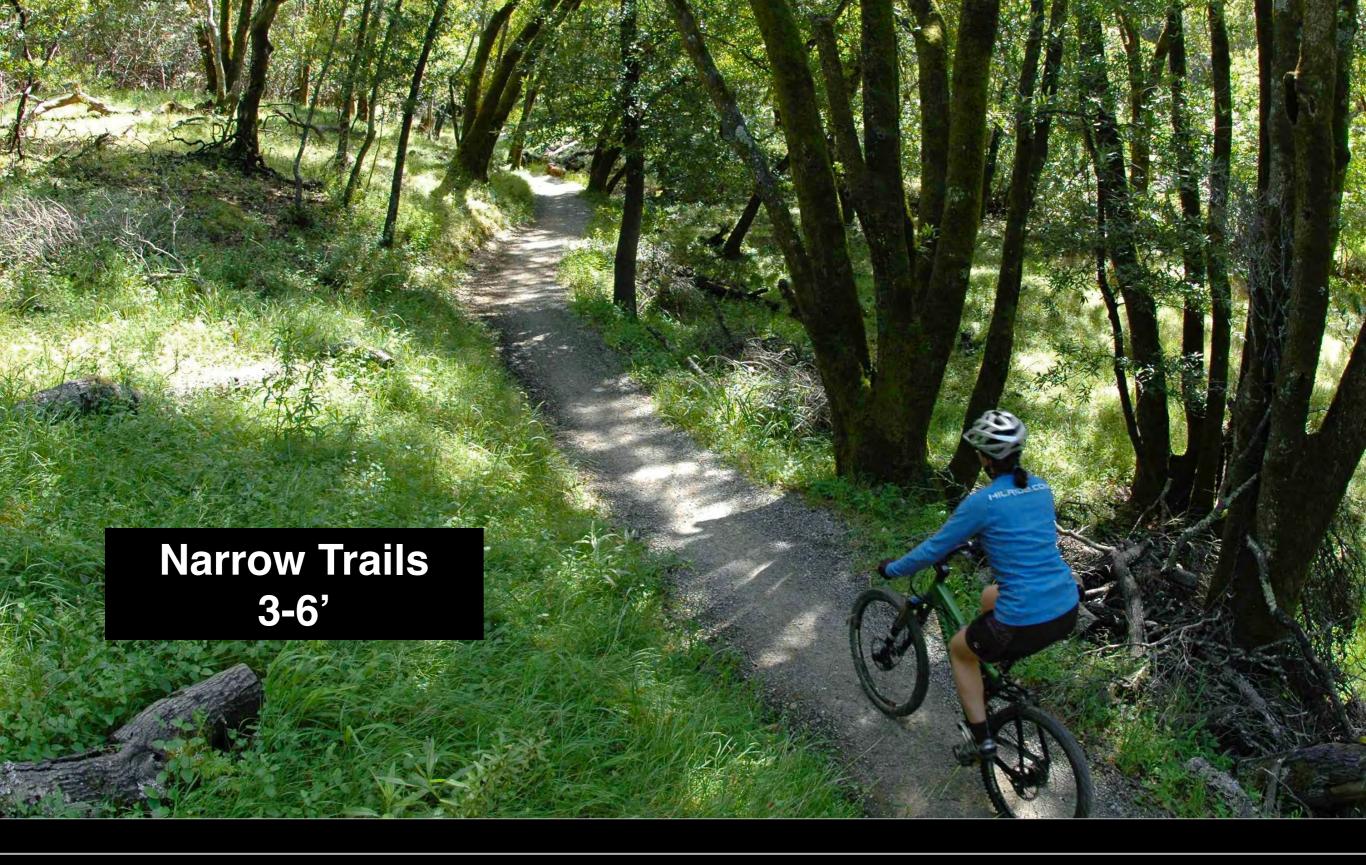
















### HURDE





# BIKE PARK FACILITY TYPES

Kids Facilities
Pump Parks
Skills Facilities
Jump Parks
BMX Track
Terrain Park
Trials
Competition/
Racing Venues















### HILRIDE



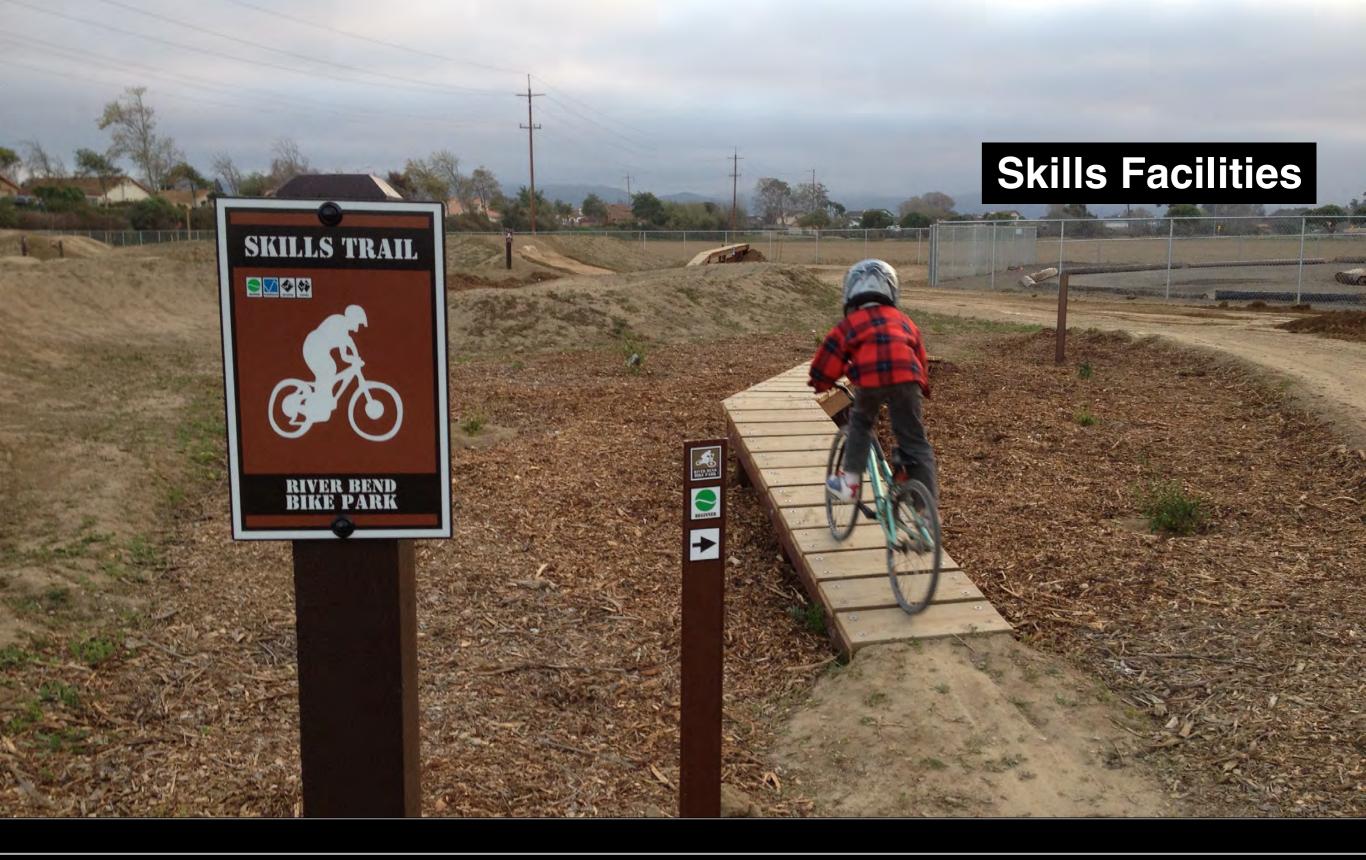




Sea Otter Classic, Monterey, California

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### HURDE





#### HURDE

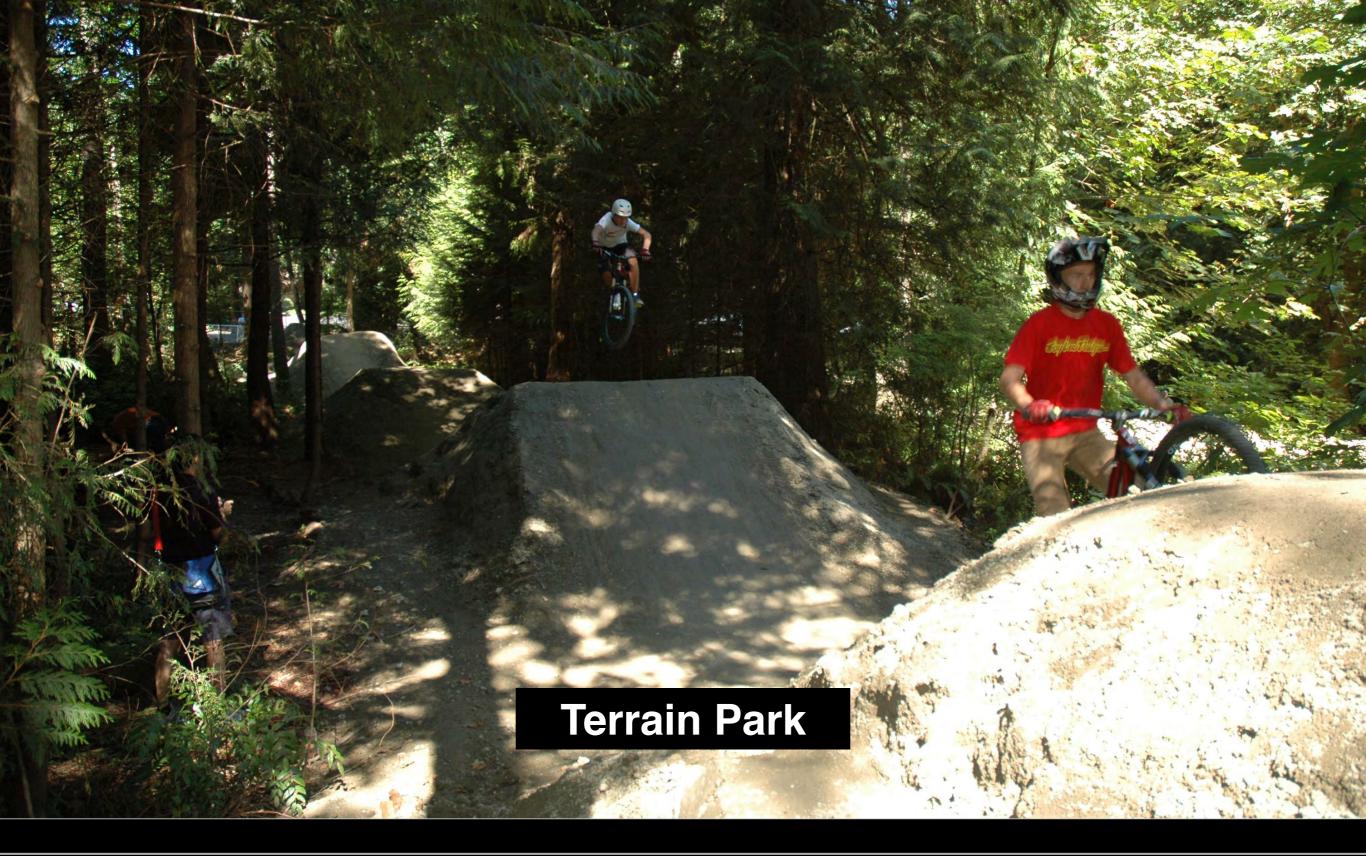












### HURDE









#### SANCTIONED USERS

**Shared-Use Trails** 

**Special Use Trails** 

Single-Use Trails



### HURDE

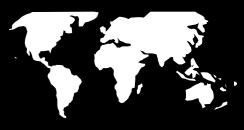








# HURDE









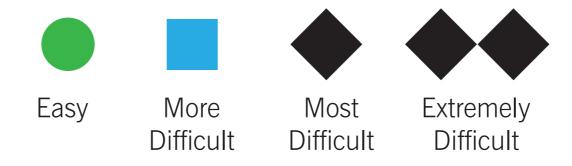
# TRAIL CHARACTERISTICS

Trail Width
Trail Grade
Trail Surface
Natural Obstacles
Enhanced Terrain Features
Skills Features



#### **PROGRESSION**

International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Trail Difficult Rating System

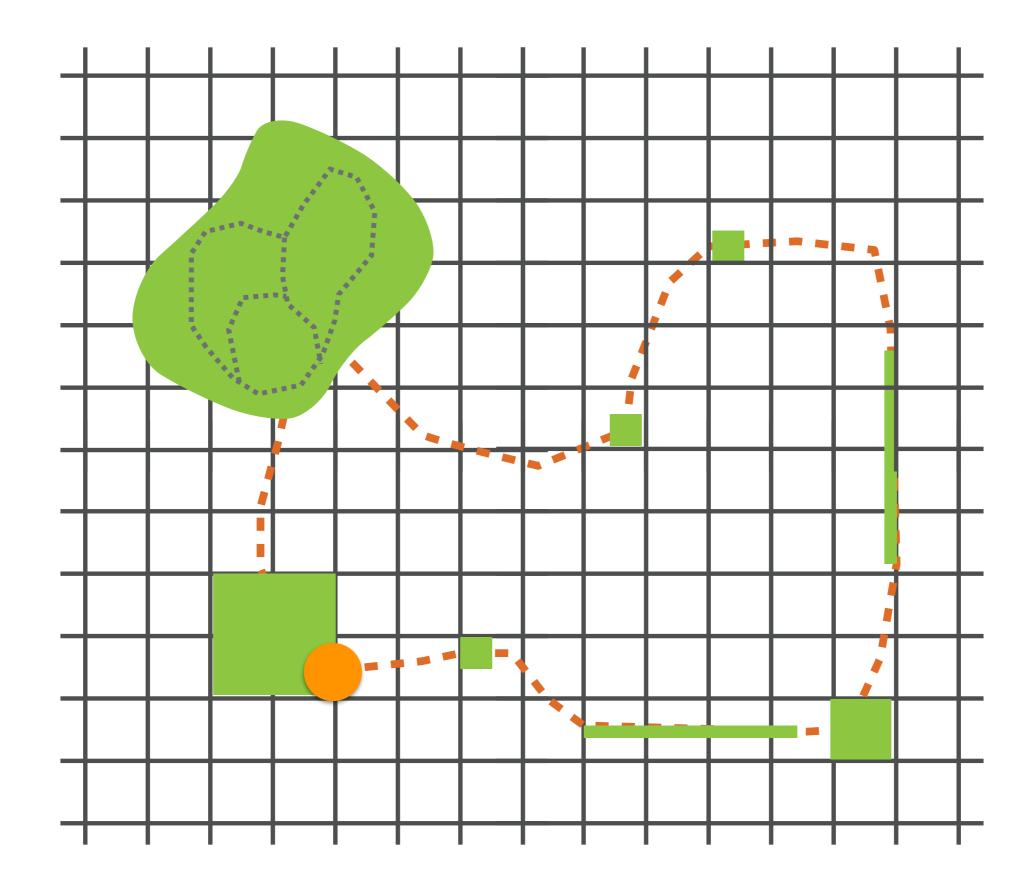


**Beginner > Intermediate > Advanced > Expert** 



#### MASTER PLAN







#### QUESTIONS



# Existing Off-road Cycling Trails and Facilities

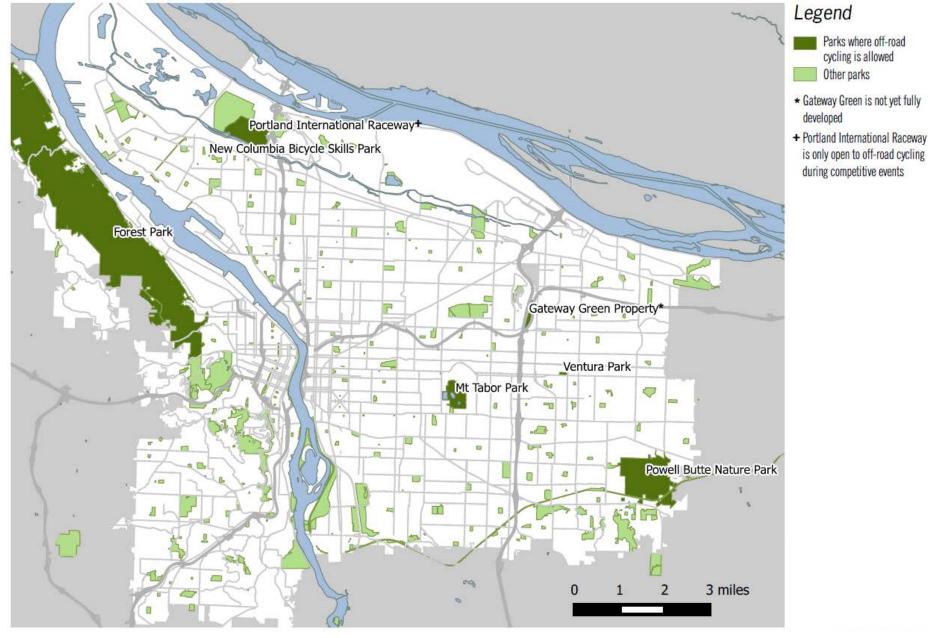


Project Advisory Committee March 24, 2016

#### Where is off-road cycling allowed?

People can ride a bicycle off-road at **7** City-owned locations:

- **Forest Park**
- New Columbia Bicycle Skills Park
- Portland International Raceway (PIR)\*
- Mt. Tabor Park
- Gateway Green\*
- Ventura Park
- Powell Butte Nature Park

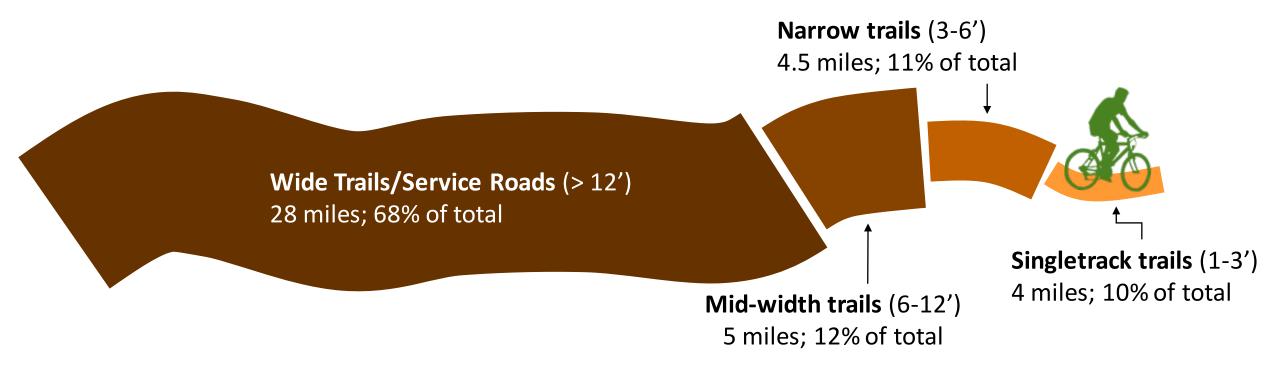


cycling is allowed

Other parks

#### **Existing Trails**

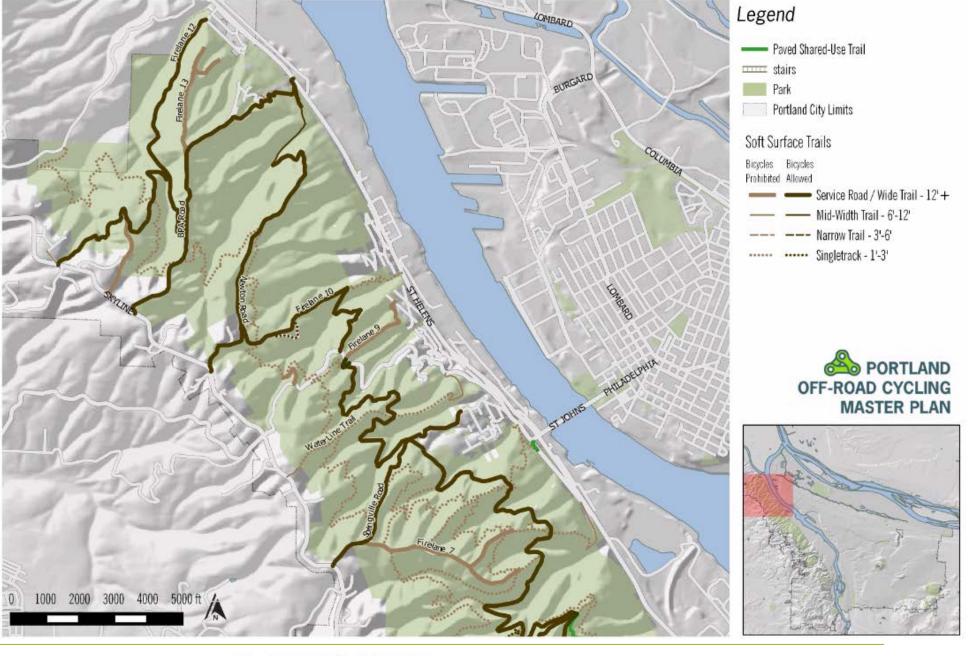
There are currently approximately **42** miles of unpaved trails and service roads on City of Portland property where Portlanders can ride bicycles off-road.



#### Forest Park Northern section



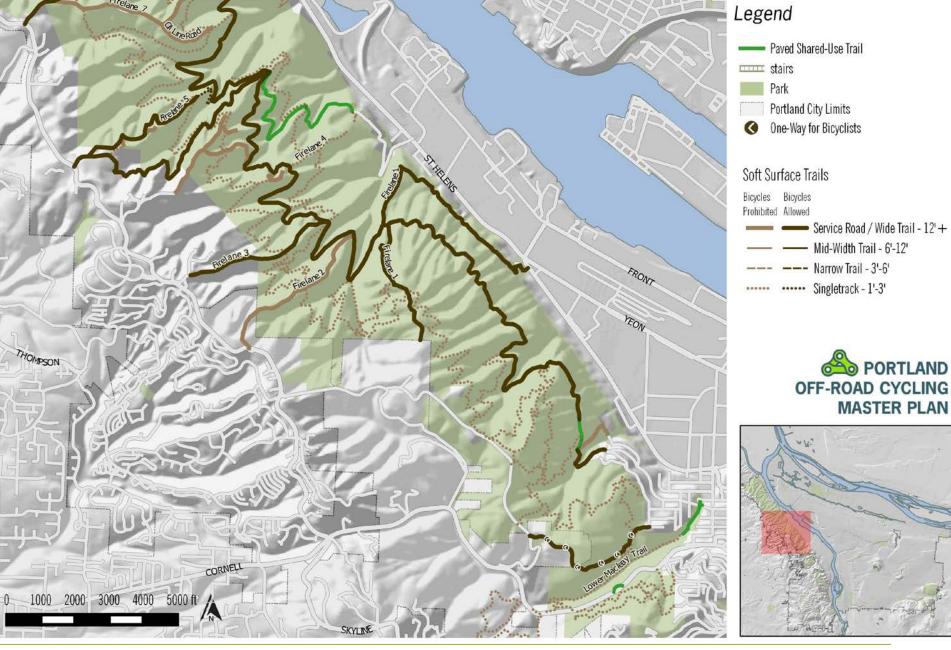
Photo Credit: Jonathan Maus BikePortland.org



#### Forest Park Southern section



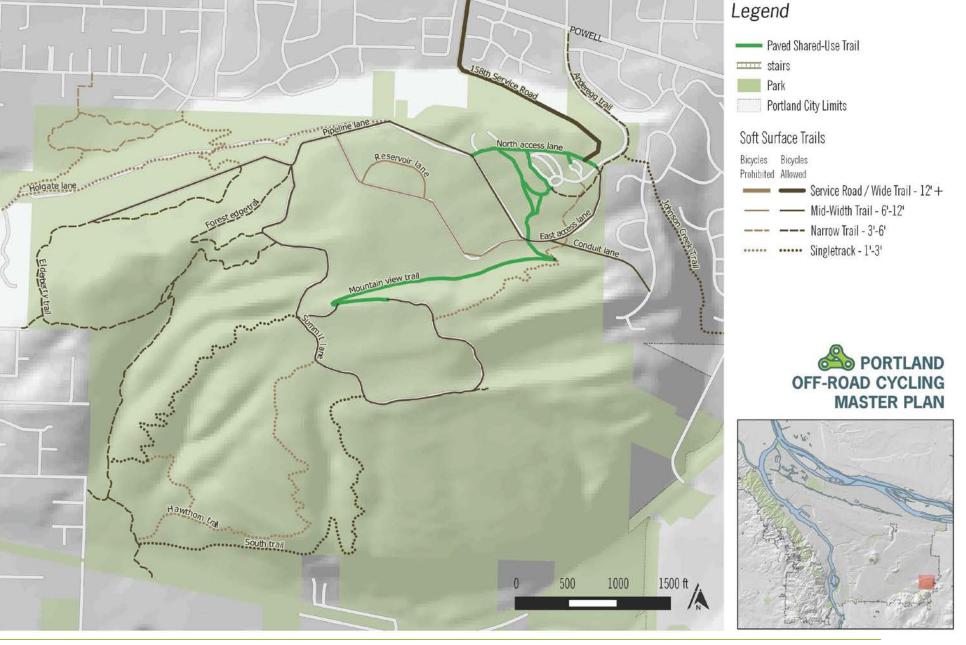
Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn www.bermstyle.com



#### Powell Butte Nature Park



Photo Credit: Jason Van Horn www.bermstyle.com



#### Mt. Tabor Park





#### Skill Parks

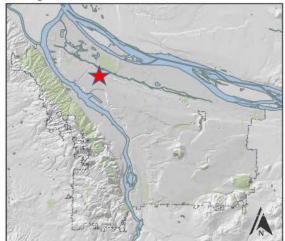
#### New Columbia Ventura Park



Photo Credit: Community Cycling Center

#### **New Columbia**

New Columbia offers beginning and advanced areas for all skill levels, including children.





#### Ventura Park

Ventura Park offers two pump tracks, one beginner level, suitable for very small children, and one intermediate level.







Pump track at Ventura Park



New Columbia Park



#### Portland International Raceway



Photo Credit: Jonathan Maus BikePortland.org



Photo Credit: Victor Duong

