

Bike Recreation Sub-Committee Meeting



May 16, 2022

Define Problem / Task

Clearly identify and define the topic. What are we trying to fix?

For example, instead of saying "staffing", the "problem" is that we do not have enough time/staff to manage current system.

Turnover over Volunteers leads to projects not moving forward / continuity / accountability.

Community members do not have a clear path to initiate new amenities.

Research

What is happening elsewhere? What are some successes? What are some failures?

Benchmark Other Communities:

Community A has a dedicated staff person who managed bike and skate recreation and they do X job.

Community B has a volunteer staff person who manages the pump track. The volunteer coordinator is retiring in 1 year, what happens?

Community C has the Park Planner managing efforts of the BMX Course

Identify Industry Standards, Trends

Who are the industry leaders in BMX / Pump Tracks / Mountain Biking Trails?

What are relevant Publications in the industry?

Are we seeing a rise of pump track amenities being added? Where are they being added?

Research Other User groups

What organizations have other communities worked with to accomplish projects?

Were local retailers / clubs engaged in project creation / maintenance?

Who are the key stakeholders that need to be identified?

Recommendations

We believe for a successful bike management program we should have X based on benchmarking of other similar communities.

These are some trends we've seen in the industry, which shows growing demand for groomed mountain biking trails.

We should be engaging with these stakeholders or organizations, which will be beneficial to the long-term success of the project.

Goal 1: Evaluate community preferences around bike recreation



- Review and summarize previously collected data
- Identify and update additional data needs

Data Gathering

- Review data received from previous surveys and current PROS plan
- Utilize focus groups in PROS Plan to ensure engagement from bike community
- Tabulate data to identify key points and community preferences
- Identify potential areas are missed by previous collections

Goal 1: Evaluate
community
preferences around
bike recreation



Compile research to establish preferences related to bike recreation

Goal 2 – Provide guidelines for the development and maintenance of Pump Track



- Develop criteria for site locations
- Develop criteria for site design
- Establish a public process for decision making regarding siting a pump track

Potential Pump Track Site

- Research other pump tracks to define must haves for pump track location
- Develop a list of potential A2 Parks locations that meet researched needs
- Evaluate list of potential locations based on internal understandings
- Develop list of stakeholders surrounding potential locations

Goal 2: Provide guidelines for the development and maintenance of Pump Track



Develop a list of locations that meet the researched needs

Pump Track Design and Maintenance

- Research other pump tracks to define must haves for pump track designs
- Benchmark & gather comparative data on pump track development and maintenance
- Identify potential concerns and opportunities related to pump tracks
- Outline potential partners and collaborators

Goal 2: Provide guidelines for the development and maintenance of Pump Track



Generate design ideas to support the public engagement process

Public engagement

- Research public engagement processes for other pump tracks
- Review public engagement process for other Ann Arbor Parks initiatives

Goal 2: Provide guidelines for the development and maintenance of Pump Track



Create a public engagement plan for Pump Track to garner support which would include potential site locations, design processes and engagement opportunities

Goal 3-Develop Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities



- Staffing
- Risk Management
 - Safety standards for bike park features and jumps
 - Rules and enforcement
 - Signage and communication

STAFFING

- Identify benefits of & needs for a dedicated staff person to lead bike recreation conversations and coordination.
- Benchmark & gather comparative data on bike recreation staffing models
- Explore estimated annual staff support for maintenance
- Outline potential responsibilities

Goal 3

Research Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities



Compile research to make recommendation for a staffing model

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Define risk management
- Identify key elements of a risk management program and goals for bike recreation
- Research other cities and municipalities and their bike recreation rules, risk management, and safety standards for unsupervised trails and amenities
- <https://imbacanada.com/designing-a-risk-management-program-for-mountain-biking/>

Goal 3

Develop Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities



Develop and draft a risk management plan for bike recreation trails and amenities

RISK MANAGEMENT – Identify trail/bike course design, construction, and safety standards

- Explore industry standards through researching contractors, consultants, or other municipalities/organizations who manage/design bike recreation trails, jumps, and dirt bike courses
- Research approval process, certifications, and safety standards for volunteer built trails and features
- Propose a trail/course difficulty rating system

Goal 3

Develop Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities



Establish trail and bike jump design and construction policy

RISK MANAGEMENT – Rules and Enforcement

- Research rules and regulations pertaining to trail riding and bike recreation locally/regionally/nationally
- Assemble best practices for trail riding and bike course safety including etiquette and natural area preservation goals
- Research, explore..... Emergency Action Plan

Goal 3

Develop Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities



Propose rules and regulations for bike trails and recreation within Ann Arbor Parks

RISK MANAGEMENT – Signage & Communication

- Identify purpose and role of signage (ie- indicate trail difficulty, remind visitors of trail rules, encourage responsible riding, etc)
- Research best practices, examples for trail branding, reporting trail conditions
- Explore County branding, establish goals for Ann Arbor Parks trail brand
- Explore map options (digital; onsite signage; qr codes)
- Identify goals for bike recreation website.

Goal 3

Develop Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities



Propose bike recreation signage and communication plan

Goal 4- Provide guidelines for community involvement and volunteer stewardship of bike recreation amenities

Goal 4

Provide guidelines for community involvement and volunteer stewardship of bike recreation amenities



- Develop framework, protocols, and structure for volunteer maintenance of bike trails and bike amenities
- Establish trail inspection and maintenance policy for staff and volunteers
- Identify avenues for community input and influence on bike recreation goals and issues moving forward

Establish framework for volunteer maintenance

- **Research and develop protocols, structure, and guidelines for volunteer maintenance of bike trails and bike amenities**
 - Establish and outline instructions, standards, approval steps and expectations for how volunteers can assist and what type of equipment can be used, how, training required, safety protocols, legal permissions, etc.
 - Standards and protocols for proposing new recreation features (jumps/berms/trail obstacles)
- **Develop simple protocol and system for volunteers to report, record and highlight volunteer hours/efforts/results**

Goal 4

Provide guidelines for community involvement and volunteer stewardship of bike recreation amenities



Create bike recreation volunteer maintenance guide and application that outlines how community members can gain permission, get training, and support bike trails and amenities

Sub-Committee Timeline



- **May 16** - Confirm Goals, Assign Tasks
- **June 20** - Progress Update - Questions - Challenges
- **July 18** - Progress Update - Questions - Challenges
- **August 15** - Share and Discuss Recommendations - Share all information week prior so we can discuss
- **September 19** - Rough Draft of report - share before meeting for feedback. Review Presentation for Sept PAC
- **September 20** - PAC Update - What direction are we going, comments from PAC
- **October 17** -Final Draft Discussion - Email Report week prior - review for comments (minor) / Prep for PAC
- **October 18** - PAC - Share Final Report
- **November 21** - Debrief - Next Steps

Bike Recreation FOCUS Group

- Identify group representatives to invite
- Develop list of Bike Recreation questions to include in Focus group meeting

PROS Plan
Items



Action item – Please send ideas to Josh by Monday May 23rd