

Internal

## Bike Park Comments Received: May – July 2022

**From:** Chris Spencer <chris@nationalmtb.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 2:18 PM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Berkeley Bike Park- Awareness of Limited Vehicle Parking

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Hello,

As a Berkeley resident, member of the Cal Sailing Club, Member of the Berkeley Paddling and Rowing Club and also a mountain biker, I do want to bring attention to the limited parking at the Berkeley Marina. A benefit of a bike-only park will be that cyclists can ride using the existing bike path to the bike park. A concern I have if the park is to be made for uses requiring car-transportation, is adding to the already congested vehicle traffic at the marina. Thanks for your consideration.

-Chris

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**Chris Spencer** | Director of Outcomes, Risk and Safety  
He, Him, His.  
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*We build strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through cycling.*



**From:** Ben Paulos <benpaulos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 11:38 AM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>; Ferris, Scott <SFerris@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Other examples of bike parks

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Ali and Scott,

I got an email from other fans of bike parks, with a couple examples of state-of-the-art bike parks built in Bentonville, Arkansas. (If only we had a massive global corporation headquartered in Berkeley to pay for nice things! And plenty of free space!)

<https://www.thejonescenter.net/bike-park>

<https://americanrampcompany.com/projects/runway-bike-park-springdale-ar/>

Note that the The Jones Center park has three separate areas: Pump Track, Skills Course, and Bicycle Playground.

Note too that their pump track is paved — "one of the largest asphalt tracks in North America." I have the suspicion you are going to be less interested in a pure dirt facility, given the maintenance needs and proximity to the Bay water. I wonder if crushed granite would be a nicer surface for biking, giving it more of an off-road feel without as much maintenance or damage when wet. Though I have no idea of the durability or maintenance of that (or any other) surface, so I leave it to you experts.

(By the way, you may have heard that Dirt World in Richmond got a big state grant. I assume they are going to spend it on some better surface. You might see what they are planning.)

I slightly prefer making the big kids & adults part a "skills park" rather than a "pump track" since it gives more of biking experience. But I am strongly in favor of a bicycle playground for little kids on the east end of the parcel, and an adaptive cycling area on the west end, as Seth Wachtel & students laid out in their plan. I think those parts are excellent and are very responsive to Berkeley needs and values of inclusivity and access.

We certainly heard a lot at the meeting from the skaters and skateboarders about a "street skating" setup. I can see why they would want that but I don't see how the bike park can serve both purposes. It is quite far away from where anyone lives, which means most or all of the skaters will drive or be driven there, which goes against City goals to reduce car emissions and traffic. The only parking will be in the new Brickyard Cove lot. Bikers can of course bike there along the Bay Trail. And in basic terms of fairness, we already have a skatepark, even if it is not their favorite; and we have no bike park.

On a more symbolic level — the City is building more protected bike lines, recently on Milvia, coming soon on Hopkins and the San Pablo Corridor. The ballot measure this fall may put significant money into Complete Streets, which will accelerate pursuit of the bike master plan. I see the bike park as part of that future vision, to promote a non-car culture for our low-carbon future. The bike park is the playful part of the vision. So I see it as more than just a fun thing for kids, but as part of how we instill values in future generations. I don't see where skaters fit in that bigger vision.

But, given the smaller footprint of a street skating facility, like the one in Emeryville, I wonder if it can be located somewhere in the center of town, like near a school or pool or existing park. (San Pablo?) I'll let them scout out spots, I've been through that with the bike park.

Internal

Anyway, take a look at those examples, and thanks for all the forward progress.

- Ben Paulos

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**Bentham Paulos**

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**From:** Peter Martin <peter.martin@getcruise.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 4:25 PM

**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>

**Subject:** In Support of the Berkley Waterfront Bike Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali,

Thank you for your consideration of an East Bay / Waterfront Bike Park. This is something that I am wholeheartedly supportive of.

Why?

- There is not a comparable facility anywhere close and would therefore have big positives impacts on the local Berkeley community and economic development by bringing in resources and money
- NorCal is an outdoor biking mecca and it makes sense to represent that only miles from where mountain biking was invented
- This is a tremendous opportunity to invest in positive health and wellness of the community and it shouldn't be missed
- A bike park like this could have positive downstream benefits of helping to reduce congestion on shared bike and hike trails and providing an outlet for youth in the community

I look forward to learning more about this opportunity and thank you for considering and working towards this.

Thanks,

Pete

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**Pete Martin**

Senior, Brand & Product Marketing  
Cruise

**From:** Julian Henry Alcala <zenloop@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2022 11:30 AM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Berkeley Bike Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali,

I cannot tell you how excited I am about this project. Do you know the timeline on such a project? What completion date would be? Also can you speak to the interest of this project? I know many people who have filled out the survey. Do you have a count on responses? Would love for this project to gain traction. Anything cyclists in Berkeley can do to help make this a reality? Thanks again.  
-Julian Alcala

**From:** Joel Shrock <joel@shrockie.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 2:47 PM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Bike park ideas - Images

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali,

The meeting went great last night. I'm pretty sure the goal was to discuss design of the bike park and not to rally for the cause, so we didn't blast it out to the 10,000 members in our Bay Area Mountain Biking group. I figured it would be better to have more focused design input.

I guess I should have stated in my intro that I'm the advocacy lead for the 10K member group to help add perspective to the skateboarders requests. It seems it got out into some local skate groups and I can hardly blame them for wanting another facility to use.

I've been working up a list of design ideas/ guidelines that I think would help position the park for success. I've been to a lot of bike parks. Pleasanton, Lake Stafford, Truckee (the best in the US), Incline village, Bellingham, Whistler, Lake Cunningham and have learned a fair bit from each of them. Here's an outline of what would be nice to have in the park and different skill zones.

Overall needs:

## Internal

- Sitting area with shade for parents/ grandparents to watch over their rider (not mixed with skateboards)
- Bathroom
- Water
- Jump lines flow eastward, down wind.

Green zone: (push bikes/ early riders)

- Easy pump track. Paved is nice, like at dirt world. A little bigger though.
- Easy features, like a 2"x6" "Skinny" laying on the ground.

Blue Zone: Progressing intermediate riders

- Intro jump line(s): (see Pleasanton Bmx park blue zone)
  - Roll-in to gain speed. wood or dirt.
  - 2-4 jumps in a line. 2'-3' high with 3'-4' table tops
  - All dirt lips and landings okay, wood lips hold shape better.
  - Berm at the end to turn back to the start
- drop zone: (see Truckee bike park drop zone)
  - Could use the same roll-in as jumps
  - 4 drop options. 6", 9", 12", 15"
    - Could be rock drop, or wood ladder
- Balance Skills: ( Stafford Lake skill zone is great)
  - 20" wide wood features to ride over (could be on the way back to the roll-in)
    - Rollers
    - Angle up/down
    - Teeter totter
    - turning pathway with a drop

Black zone: Advanced riders

- Roll-in, if dirt, please add steps. Wood is okay too.
- Jump line. (see incline village bike park)
  - Wood lips are much better. kids trample dirt lips and wear them down.
  - 4' -5' lips, 5'-10' tables. Dirt landings
- Larger drop zone would be cool.
  - 2', 3', 4' drops
  - Downhill dirt landings
  - Could have a ramp to landing, so riders can build up
    - Rollable (both wheels), manual (rear wheel), send (air over ramp)
  - The ride back area to the roll-in could have pumpable rollers on it, like an in-line pump track.

Construction: Good dirt is crucial, and hard to assess some times. Dirt world struggles, There's not enough clay in their dirt so it crumbles and causes loss of traction. They had to do a treatment, like watered down Elmer's glue, but I think it was only marginally successful.

Paving the pump track with blacktop is a way to ensure it holds up well, as well as Wood lips for jumps. I highly recommend wood lips for the black zone. Kids smash the lips at dirt world by walking on them. Many ride the gaps like rollers, just to see if they can.. It destroys the jumps.

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Compacted gravel with cement mixed in is something new.. The waterfront bike park in Bellingham, where it rains a lot, was constructed with this method. It really helps hold things in place. If you would like, I can get you the actual material content there, as my buddy Eric Brown runs the Whatcom County Mountain Bike Alliance that got it approved and built.

I've attached some photos to show the wood lips at Incline, the drop zone at Truckee and the balance skills at Lake Stafford.

I hope all of this is helpful! Please let me know if I can help out in any way.

Best,

Joel

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Joel Shrock  
415-225-6420  
Shrockie LLC  
6050 Lowell St. #112  
Oakland, CA 94608

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-----Original Message-----

From: RobinKibby <robinkibby@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 3:27 PM

To: Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>

Subject: Berkeley Bike Park-hooray!

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WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

I'm so happy Berkeley is evaluating a dirt park for bike riding.

Our middle schooler recently joined Oakland Devo bike club and the pump track has been helpful for beginners to practice and build confidence and have fun on a mountain bike. Our younger child loves it too! Biking is good for their mental and physical health, and I hope more kids have access to this great sport.

Having a park in central Berkeley would make the sport more accessible since it's easier to get there, than up into the hills, and more kids and adults can get outside.

Oakland Devo said the JMP pump track build was quick, but permitting took 5 years! I encourage you to talk to them to find out how to expedite the process. The sooner kids can ride the better.

I hope you'll also consider how to protect the area from crime, given the recent gunpoint robberies.

Sincerely  
Robin Kibby  
Berkeley

**From:** Scott Bartlebaugh <sbartlebaugh@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 1:38 PM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Support for Berkeley Waterfront park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Ali,

I'm writing to provide support for the Berkeley Waterfront Bike Park Project on behalf of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay and our 300+ members. A bike park at the waterfront would be a great asset to the youth and adults of Berkeley providing a safe place to ride, recreate, receive benefits to physical and mental health, build community, and conserve the environment with a planned park in a designated location.

Some key features to consider including:

- Provide a progression of features to enable safe experiences for new riders to begin and build their skills with progressively more challenging features. Unplanned jump lines or features often progress a builder's skills and don't provide as safe an experience for new users. A planned and designated area has the advantage of providing a range of experiences to match varied skills and allow development in a safe manner.

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- Consider a paved facility for features that allow it such as pump track features. While the initial cost of construction is more than dirt features a paved track provides and more consistent and lower maintenance facility and better serves the community with a long term lower cost of ownership and better experience.
- Consider a 'bicycle playground' area that is geared to the very youngest of riders that are on 'strider' type bikes. This can be a very small footprint but is an excellent way to connect with the youngest members of our community and better serve families with children of all ages.
- I've heard there is interest from the skate community on having access. Where possible to design such that features are accessible to both skaters and bikes it would help serve a broader segment of the overall community. Many paved pump tracks also find interest from riders on scooters as well expanding the range of users.

We thank the City of Berkeley for considering this project and hope it becomes a reality. If there is some way the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay can help out please contact us. We have been active for decades doing trail work in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland and in the East Bay Regional Park District. We are also active in the Oakland Pump Track at Joaquin Miller Park and have contributed volunteer maintenance days at Dirt World in Richmond.

Regards

Scott Bartlebaugh

Advocacy Director, Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay  
[www.btceb.org](http://www.btceb.org)



**From:** Heath Maddox <heathmaddox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 11:49 AM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Community Bike Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, this is something I've been trying to follow, but finding it challenging! I was just forwarded your survey by the head coach for Wildcat Composite MTB Club, the Berkeley/Albany/El Cerrito middle school team, but it was just to the survey and had very little info.

I think he probably got a tip from BTCEB. I started googling and searching on the City's website and came up with this [stakeholder interest form](#) which has your contact info, but was very sorry to learn that I and presumably all the families of the Wildcat team who live in Berkeley missed public workshop #1 yesterday. These families are your prime audience and should be involved! Also, the Bike Park Project Info link on the stakeholder interest form ([https://www.cityofberkeley.info/PRW\\_CIP/](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/PRW_CIP/)) is broken, so there's no way for people to find out more about the project online!

Internal

Thanks,

Heath Maddox  
1565 Rose St, Berkeley, CA 94703

**From:** David Taylor <djoelt1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 9:03 AM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Bike Park Comments

Hi Ali,

I was on the call last night but when you called on me I had my microphone turned off!

Just wanted to get my comments in here.

I'm an avid mountain biker and have been to 5 different mountain bike parks.

Progressive drops that get higher with sloped runout would be great – these can't go to a flat landing.

Jump lines that get progressively longer/higher would be great, but again, there needs to be a pretty high starting ramp to gain speed, and that speed will dissipate over the flat ground there so there needs to be room to pedal between jumps or there needs to be another ramp after, say, 3 jumps. That is, you start down a ramp (dirt or wood), go over a few jumps, then bike up a gradual ramp to another drop in.

IN the bike parks I've been to, the difference between easy and intermediate is immense. More gradations would be helpful! Also, the South Lake Tahoe mountain bike park has a stand alone tall jump similar to those on the advanced line that has a run out on the back covered in deep wood chips. This was useful in transitioning from the beginner jumps to the more advanced ones.

The biggest obstacle with the jump lines in the flat ground - all jump lines I've seen slope downward to help the rider maintain speed. Think about how the rider will maintain speed down the track.

That's it! Great idea and will love to see it built.

-David Taylor

From: Endress, Alexandra  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 1:51 PM  
To: Kate Campbell King <kate@northberkeleywealth.com>  
Subject: RE: Bike Park question: skate area?

Hi Kate,

Internal

Thanks for reaching out. Skateboard elements are on the table for discussion, but the highest priority goal for this space is to accommodate mountain bikers and BMXers, given that the City already has an existing Skateboard park.

From: Kate Campbell King <kate@northberkeleywealth.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 1:30 PM  
To: Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
Subject: Bike Park question: skate area?

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I am interested to know if there will be a portion of this area allocated to skaters (skateboarders, inline skaters, etc). We have nearly no resources in the Berkeley park system for skaters, and there are more and more kids getting into these sports.

Please let me know how I could get involved with the overall design to make space for skaters, too.

Kate

Kate King  
2001 Los Angeles Avenue  
510-219-2861  
Kate.campbell.king@gmail.com

**From:** Kevin Brown <kevinubrown1223@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2022 7:12 AM  
**To:** Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Bike park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi I'm happy to hear that the city of Berkeley is going to get a very much needed bike park! I'm hoping there will be a large section of jobs very similar to what the city of Berkeley tore down that the high school kids built? Is there a reason the focus group is only for young kids when there are tons of adults in the bay area in Berkeley that need a bike park? I am a volunteer bike park builder so I would very much like to be involved with the design. Please let me know any more info you can provide me with and how I can be involved. Thank you.

-Kevin

-----Original Message-----

From: Aleta Abrams <aleta\_abrams@pacbell.net>  
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:49 PM  
To: Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
Subject: Berkeley Waterfront Bike Park

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Good idea! Can you please add me to your emailing list?

-----Original Message-----

From: Aleta Abrams <aleta\_abrams@pacbell.net>  
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:49 PM  
To: Endress, Alexandra <AEndress@cityofberkeley.info>  
Subject: Berkeley Waterfront Bike Park

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Good idea! Can you please add me to your emailing list?