

THE DIRT ON THE NORTH VALLEY BIKE PARK

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WHAT IS A BIKE PARK?

- ▶ IMBA's *Managing Mountain Biking*: “While there doesn't seem to be a set recipe, the ingredients usually include a variety of natural obstacles such as rocks and logs...along with pumps tracks and dirt jumps, all collected in a compact setting. Picture a skateboard park or snowboard park designed specifically for mountain bikes.”
- ▶ NOT A BMX TRACK! (...but suitable for MTB *and* BMX)
- ▶ Open to the public
- ▶ All ages and skill levels
- ▶ Progressive skill development

LOCATION

- ▶ North Valley, Bernalillo County, New Mexico (Albuquerque Metro)
- ▶ 2.3-acres at the Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center (9800 4th St.)



HISTORY AND CONTEXT

- ▶ 1980s-2007: BMX track operated by Duke City BMX
- ▶ 2007: Duke City relocates to multi-million dollar covered facility
- ▶ 2007-2010: BCPR receives inquiries from a few citizens/organizations to operate a bike park. BCPR opts to construct bike park, but efforts stall.
- ▶ Summer 2010: Old BMX track closed by Risk Management, leading to rider/neighborhood efforts to preserve site for BMX/MTB riding.
- ▶ Fall 2010: BCPR re-starts efforts to plan, design and construct bike park.
- ▶ October 2011: North Valley Bike Park opens

BMX TRACK: HISTORIC PHOTOS

1991



2002



BMX TRACK: RISK CONCERNS



PRE-PLANNING

- ▶ Research, research, research
- ▶ Educate, educate, educate
- ▶ Risk Management Dept. buy-in
 - ▶ Insured Designer
 - ▶ Licensed and Insured Contractor
 - ▶ Not excluded use in County's insurance policy
- ▶ Purchasing Dept. buy-in
 - ▶ Identify planning/design/construction oversight consultant
 - ▶ Use on-call landscaping contractor to construct
- ▶ Timeline: Complete project from start to finish in 2011

PLANNING AND DESIGN (JAN.-JUNE)

▶ Hilride Progression Development Group

- ▶ Conduct outreach
- ▶ Prepare overall master plan and cross sections for all features to guide construction
- ▶ Design signs
- ▶ Draft risk management and maintenance recommendations
- ▶ Lead maintenance training
- ▶ Provide construction oversight

▶ Public Involvement

- ▶ Initial site visits and public design meeting
- ▶ Iterative dialogue on plan drafts through email list and bike shop visitors

INITIAL SITE VISITS



PLANNING MEETING



LEGEND

TREES AND VEGETATION

- EXISTING TREES
- PROPOSED TREES

INFRASTRUCTURE

- PICNIC TABLE
- BENCH
- SHADE STRUCTURE
- TRASH CAN
- WATER COUPLER
- ELEVANCE SIGN
- NO PARKING SIGN
- MAINTENANCE ACCESS
- 10' ACCESS CORRIDOR

RIDING FEATURES

- LOOP TRAIL
- ELEVATED TRAILS
- RETURN ROUTE
- SCALED RIDER
- WALL RIDE
- PUMP ROLLER
- TABLE TOP JUMP
- HIP JUMP
- GAP JUMP
- STEP UP
- STEP UNSTEP DOWN
- 90° BERN TURN
- 180° BERN TURN

RIDING ZONE AND AREAS

- BEGINNER LOOP TRAIL
- KIDS TRACK
- PUMP TRACK
- PROGRESSIVE DIRT JUMPS
- BMX DUAL TRACK
- ADVANCED EXPERT DIRT JUMP LINES
- NORTH SHORE TRAILS AREA
- TRIALS AREA

DIFFICULTY

Difficulty Level	Symbol
Beginner	[Green Circle]
Intermediate	[Blue Square]
Advanced	[Black Diamond]
Expert	[White Diamond]

Progression Based Bike Park

Difficulty Rating System

Rating	Symbol
Beginner	[Green Circle]
Intermediate	[Blue Square]
Advanced	[Black Diamond]
Expert	[White Diamond]

NORTH VALLEY BIKE PARK, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

MASTER PLAN

0 20 40 60 80 100 FEET

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
BASE MAP IMAGERY: GOOGLE EARTH
SCALED: WESTWIND LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION INC.

SCALE:
1 INCH = 20 FEET

CONSTRUCTION (JULY-OCT.)

- ▶ Total cost for design and construction: \$420,000
- ▶ Westwind Landscape Construction: Inexperienced with bike parks but quality contractor
- ▶ Hilride provided construction oversight
- ▶ Key local riders test rode during construction
- ▶ Demolition, grading, drainage, fencing, dirt, wood and rock features, benches, tables, shade shelter, trees and irrigation
- ▶ Finding the right dirt is key! High clay content is desired
- ▶ Trial and error: Not everything was perfect the first time
- ▶ Trespassing was an annoyance.

CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS



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MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Access to water and surplus dirt
- ▶ Maintenance training for employees
- ▶ Recommended tool list
- ▶ BCPR provides basic maintenance services
- ▶ Rider efforts to assist with maintenance and fine tuning

QUESTIONS?

