

FAQ's about the Proposed Lafayette Bike Park

1. Why is the City of Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Department considering building a bike park?

Residents of Lafayette have always enjoyed bike riding as evidenced by the number of children who ride their bikes to school and the number of people who use the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail as a bike route to the parks and the downtown. Additionally, for decades, local youths have been building unauthorized bike jumps along Las Trampas Creek and other environmentally sensitive areas in the Community Park. In the past several years, interest has grown with the increase in popularity of BMX riding (non motorized bicycle stunt riding). Following a request for a bike park from an organized group of local bike enthusiasts, the PTR Director and PTR Commission thought it was important to address the environmental effects of unsanctioned bike jumps and simultaneously enhance recreational opportunities by providing an area for bike riders to enjoy their sport in a clearly designated area within the active use area of the Community Park.

Based on the number of people who attended stakeholder meetings, wrote letters/emails and attended Commission and Council meetings, there are a significant number of Lafayette residents, of all ages and ability levels, who want this facility and who would use the facility themselves or know someone who would.

2. Why is the south-end of the Lafayette Community Park being considered as the best location for a bike park?

The PTR Commission and staff believe this is the most suitable location for the following reasons:

- 1. The Community Park is the only city-owned property that has the space and supporting facilities for this type of use, i.e. emergency access, restrooms, parking.*
- 2. The Park's proximity to the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail provides bike access to the site.*
- 3. The south end area was designated for active use in the 1988 adopted Community Park Master Plan. Conversely, the north end and central sections of the park are designated to remain in a more natural state.*

3. What are the next steps in the bike park process?

The proposed bike park project must go through a public planning and environmental review process. Data for the environmental review process is currently being gathered. Once this is done, the information will be submitted with a hillside development permit application to the City Planning Services Division for review by the Planning Commission at one or more public hearings.

4. Where will the funds come from to build a bike park?

The Parks, Trails & Recreation Department receives park facility fees from developers that can only be used for park and recreation facility projects such as a bike park. The Parks Facilities Fund currently has adequate funds to build a bike park as well as two other capital projects. The Department also applies for parks and recreation grants and receives donations and contributions from individuals and groups.

5. Who will use this facility?

The facility is being designed for bicyclists of all ages and abilities. Mountain bikers and bmx riders will have a choice of design features that will challenge beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

6. What about maintenance of the bike park?

As with all park facilities, monitoring and maintenance will be performed by Parks, Trails & Recreation Department staff. The jumps will have to be kept to specific heights and standards set forth by the park designer and the City's liability insurance provider. Park repairs will be made by city staff and trained volunteers (signage at the park will have contacts for joining the volunteer program). If a feature in the park does not comply with the guidelines it will be taken down by the city. Seeding, weeding and trash pick up will also be performed by Parks, Trails & Recreation Department staff.

7. What is the City's liability if the bike park is built?

City staff met at the proposed project site with a representative of Municipal Pooling Authority (City's liability insurance). They provided documentation indicating the city would be covered for this type of park so long as it:

- 1. Adopted procedures and requirements intended to ensure the safety of participants*
- 2. Engineered and designed the park to be in compliance with ABA/NBL guidelines.*
- 3. Made sure the M.P.A. approved the design.*
- 4. Provided an appropriate barrier between participants and spectators.*
- 5. Installed appropriate signage and routinely inspected and maintained the park.*

8. Why can't the bike riders just go to the Moraga Skate Park?

When the Moraga Skate Park was built it was specifically designed and approved for skateboarding. Bike riders are not allowed to use the park.

9. How can I voice my opinion about this project?

- 1. Send letters to: Lafayette City Council, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210, Lafayette CA 94549 or send an email to: cityhall@lovelafayette.org*
- 2. Attend City Council and PTR Commission meetings. Agendas are posted on the city website at www.LoveLafayette.org*
- 3. Call Jennifer Russell, Parks, Trails & Recreation Director at 925-284-2232.*

Approved by the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission on May 12, 2010