



Mountain Bike Community Profile

Central Okanagan

SURVEY AT A GLANCE

Top Five Mountain Biking Spots in the Kelowna Area:

- Knox Mountain
- Myra - Bellevue / Crawford
- Mission Greenway
- Gillard
- Powers Creek

Top Two Issues:

- Development of new trails
- Maintenance & protection of existing trails

Types of Facilities desired:

- Single Track/Off Road 354
- Touring / Pathways 314
- Downhill / Freeriding 308
- Skills Training Park 292

To view the full report visit www.kelowna.ca and go to Residents, Parks, Parks Projects.

Winner of the Norco Mountain Bike Sponsored by Gerick Cycle & Sports - R. Bayliss

FOR MORE INFO . . .

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The City of Kelowna, the Regional District of the Central Okanagan and BC Parks have combined resources to develop a regional Mountain Bike Strategy. The first step in preparing this strategy was to learn more about the size and demographics of the mountain biking community, and issues encountered by other BC communities that already have established mountain biking facilities. Following are the results from four workshops, an on-line survey and interviews with other mountain biking communities.

On-line Survey Results

- 651 responses; 75% of survey respondents reside within Kelowna's city limits, and 12% on the Westside.
- 72% of respondents male; 28% female.
- Nearly equal interest in touring/pathways, cross country, downhill/freeriding and urban/street. The two youngest age groups (15 to 24 years old) prefer downhill and free riding disciplines; mountain bikers aged 25 to 54 years old prefer cross country and cyclists older than 55 prefer touring and pathways. It appears as mountain bikers mature their interests shift.
- 70% of all respondents cycle at least 1 to 2 times per week, with more than 14% cycling 5 or more times per week.
- 86% claim to be intermediate/recreational skill level, while only 9% identify themselves as extreme. 14% identify themselves as novice riders.
- 72% of respondents ride in the spring, summer and fall.
- The two top reasons for mountain biking are fun/enjoyment and health/fitness.
- 76% bike outside the Kelowna area a few times a year.
- 80% of respondents feel that mountain biking opportunities in the Kelowna area are good to very good.
- 85% feel it is important or very important to provide mountain bike facilities.
- The two top roles of the mountain biking community should be trail construction and maintenance.
- 28% are not willing to pay for improved services, while 72% are, (33% are willing to pay between \$1 and \$20 per year, 17% are willing to pay between \$21 and \$40 per year and 22% are willing to pay more than \$40 per year).





KELOWNA MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

Would you be willing to let us forward your contact information to the Kelowna Mountain Bike Club?

If so please email bdavidson@kelowna.ca or call 469-8837

Issues and Solutions

Through research and interviews with other mountain biking communities several common issues were identified including:

- Trail use conflicts amongst non-motorized users (including hikers, bikers and equestrians) and motorized vehicles (dirt bikes, ATV's);
- Construction of non-sanctioned rogue trails;
- Lack of amenities and consistent signage with trail difficulty ratings;
- Risk management - including potential for injury and risks incurred by land managers;
- Environmental impacts - existing trails and construction of new trails that impact the environment and potentially create erosion;
- Trail design, construction & maintenance - multi-use trails are often constructed by volunteers, organized clubs and others;
- Planning and coordination - multi-use trails are often multi-jurisdictional spanning City, Regional District and crown lands.

Proven strategies to overcome these challenges:

- Involve all user groups in discussions and planning;
- Identify motorized and non-motorized use areas and post notification of designated trail uses;
- Provide sanctioned Skills Parks / Technical Training Areas (TTA);
- Adopt trail design and construction standards;
- Develop maintenance and inspection schedules;
- Ensure inspectors hold current Canadian Playground Safety Inspector (CSPI) certification;
- Ensure all staff and volunteers have obtained IMBA trail building qualifications;
- Develop signage standards and clearly mark features with the appropriate level of difficulty;
- Implement emergency response procedures;
- Ensure appropriate liability insurance;
- Provide facilities to meet the needs of 90% of mountain bikers;
- Follow environmental regulations and best management practices;
- Encourage use of existing sanctioned trails;
- Educate trail users on the importance of environmental stewardship;
- Decommission trails in environmentally sensitive areas;
- Develop a Trail Coordination Committee which includes representatives from all levels of government and stakeholder groups.

Next Steps

- Completion and adoption of a Mountain Bike Strategy in 2008 as approved in the current budget.
- Locate, design and estimate costs for a Mountain Bike Skills Park, subject to budget approval.
- Preparation of a standards manual including construction, maintenance and signage standards, as a future initiative.