

NOTICE: Proposed Bike Pump Tracks Would Dramatically Alter Ashland Creek Park



The Proposal shows this photo of an asphalt pump track that would cover about 90% of the native grassy areas within the park pathways.

Asphalt mounds and tracks would violate all of the fundamental aspects of the Master Plan, and would remake the park environment and use forever.

A Proposal was made May 14th to Ashland Parks & Rec Commission to amend the Master Plan for Ashland Creek Park to permit construction of asphalt bike pump tracks covering about 90% of the native grassy areas within the park pathways. The proposal is currently under consideration by the APRC. During the presentation, the APRC stated that while they are interested in pursuing other possible locations, they would not rule out Ashland Creek Park.

The Ashland Creek Park Master Plan, developed based on an extensive public involvement process is explicit that Ashland Creek Park is intended as a space for a community garden, open space with native meadow grasses, walking trails, meditation space and a family playground and picnic area with minimization of impervious paving. The Master Plan cites Lithia Park as “inspiration” for the park, and states “creating a strong connection between these two parks and accentuating their connection to the creek will help instill the idea of the creek flowing through the city.”

Much of Ashland Creek Park is located within the 100-year floodplain and it abuts the sensitive riparian area of Ashland Creek. Ashland Creek is Ashland’s most important natural resource and a critical headwater of Bear Creek and of the Rogue River.

Encroachment of and development in floodplains and in or near the riparian area, particularly those developments which introduce impervious surfaces, such as a multi-acre asphalt bicycle pump track facility are not appropriate within the Ashland Creek floodplain or near its riparian edges. The sculpting and raising of land areas within the floodplain is detrimental to the capacity of the floodplain to dissipate flood waters.

LET’S TAKE ACTION:

1. Make your opinion known by emailing all the Parks Commissioners
www.tinyurl.com/apcform
2. Make our Parks Director, Michael Black, aware of your concerns
parksinfo@ashland.or.us
3. Connect with *Friends of Ashland Creek Park*
Get More Info: www.FriendsOfAshlandCreekPark.com
Contact: FriendsOfAshlandCreekPark@gmail.com

Ashland Creek Park



The proposal includes 3 asphalt tracks: next to the Ashland Creek Park Community Garden, on both sides of the playground, and in the native grassland within the path loops, and offers this rendering.

Any impermeable surface would harm the riparian zone, contrary to goals of the Master Plan.

Ashland Creek Park is a historical site for the Applegate Wagon Trail, and a Native American cultural site. Clearly a modern bike park is inconsistent with and would diminish the setting of this historic location. In addition, the park has been designated a Pollinator Garden in partnership with BEE CITY USA, and the Pollinator Project Rogue Valley. Bees require access to native plants, a water source, and uncultivated/undeveloped areas to thrive.

The Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association Proposal seeks donation of park land and has a proposed budget of \$200-250k for full buildout. Creating new bike tracks, or improving the existing BMX park next to the water treatment plant, may make sense. However Ashland Creek Park is not the right space. It makes no sense to scrap the Master Plan for Ashland Creek Park or to undermine the essential nature of what the community asked for and agreed upon after years of community involvement. This proposal is inconsistent with the community interest at large and is harmful to Ashland's natural, cultural, and open space resources and is also harmful to the Bear Creek Watershed at large.

FRIENDS OF ASHLAND CREEK PARK:

Friends of Ashland Creek Park is a group of community members who are organizing to protect the park and its vulnerable natural, historical and cultural resources.

To connect with us, for more information, and to be kept apprised of developments concerning the proposed bike pump track in Ashland Creek Park please visit our website:

Website: www.FriendsOfAshlandCreekPark.com
eMail: FriendsOfAshlandCreekPark@gmail.com

Please share this information with people in our community who may also have concerns. You can download a digital copy of this flyer on the website for distribution.

Thank you for helping to protect this beautiful park and its vulnerable natural, historical and cultural resources.