

Bike Skills Park: Emails to Council Members

(Note: This document includes only emails sent directly to the Council. Comments submitted as "Citizens To Be Heard" are published separately by meeting date in the "Citizens To Be Heard" section of this page.)

June 9, 2020

Hello Moab City Council,

It has come to my attention that the proposal for the bike park next to the bike path is getting some pushback, and I needed to put in my voice advocating for it.

I think this is such a wonderful idea and should be implemented. There are so many people that will benefit from this park and I believe it will be so good to the city.

This may be the only opportunity for local families to get to ride since all our trails are far out of town. It won't cause any riff raff /people getting crazy due to the fenced in nature and will be a lovely addition to the bike path and community, without being intimidating like Anonymous park.

Don't kill the bike park!

Cheers,

–Evan Smiley

Dear City Council,

I heard that this bike park is starting to have some controversy around it, and I would like to reiterate my support for both the bike park itself, AND its location. Here are my reasons. Firstly, the largest barriers to entry for mountain biking in Moab are access and cost of a bike that is Moab trails capable. In order to access an "easy" trail in Moab you have to travel to Bar M, which is a 20 minute drive, which severely limits the number of youth that are able to get out there, particularly if they do not have a parent that bikes as well. Additionally, mountain bikes are expensive, having a skills park for beginners that does not require expensive equipment is a great way for youth in this community to participate in this sport without that barrier. My housemate is currently building over 30 youth bicycles which he is donating to Wabisabi which will cost \$40 each.

Secondly, as a career outdoor educator, I believe that the parkway is the perfect place to locate this pocket park. In order to access it, youth will have to travel along the parkway, on non-motorized travel. One of the main teaching philosophies for outdoor education, is that if you can get children to play outside without the use of technology, you will get them to connect to the outdoors. Having them interact with the parkway, the creek, and the pocket park are a WONDERFUL way to have youth spend time outside in our incredible town. Please

My final reason for supporting this park is from an equity and inclusion stand point. The people this park would provide the most use for are the underserved youth in Moab that can't afford transportation or nice equipment. Additionally the fact that the area is ADA accessible, allowing for guardians who have disabilities to access this area with youth make this a wonderful place for the pocket park.

I sincerely hope that the city council does the right thing and continues to support this park and its location. It's time to start aiding our underserved youth in this community, and not let a few individuals with the "not in my backyard" mentality sway your previously excellent judgement.

Sincerely,

–Alexander de Moor

In light of recent discussions about the Robin Groff Memorial Park project, here's some further detail about project background and progress:

- The project was presented to City Council and the grant application was approved in January and February 2019. The application included materials from the City including a letter of support, letters committing \$60,000 in funding, and approval of the location on Parkway off of 100 E. Periodic project updates were reported at the public Trail Mix Committee meetings that take place monthly.
- We used fliers to advertise an outreach event for the project in summer 2019, specifically seeking feedback on the design. Based on this feedback and input from bike park design specialists, we completed two revisions of the park design before arriving at a final version.
- As of this time, Grand County Trails has committed approximately 380 hours of work towards project development, which is approximately \$11,000 of labor.
- Project development included looking at several project sites, including School District property and an in-depth plan for Anonymous Park, but we ultimately deemed that logistical and financial hurdles made these sites unsuitable.
- After finalizing the design, we completed an engineered floodplain analysis of the design – a process that takes a minimum of 6 weeks and between \$6,000 – \$10,000 and is specific to the site and design.
- After receiving our FEMA No Rise Certificate, we ordered the design-specific park features from Progressive Bike Ramps. Total cost is approximately \$29,000.
- Leading up to submitting the grant application, we attended annual UORG grant workshops and the UOR Summit for three years (2017-2019) for the purposes of networking with the Governor's Office, which awards the UORG grant. This is our department's first UORG grant award.

I have serious concerns about how significant project changes or delays would impact the project this far along in the process. Our department's budget has been reduced due to COVID19 impacts, and to adapt, all staff are currently furloughed except for the Director position. I am working 32 hours/month in order to keep up with essential tasks, such as staffing, the budget, and this project. We also have timeline constraints for this project based on grant deadlines and other projects that our department is obligated to complete in 2019. I'm worried that under current challenging circumstances, my department cannot commit enough resources to carry this project through if there are significant changes at the 11th hour. I believe that it is likely that we will need to scrap the project and return the grant, which will hurt Grand County Trail's chances of future UORG awards for outdoor recreation projects.

I recommend that we look for ways to incorporate community feedback into the current project design and the current location. For example, some have expressed concern that this park might impact the riparian area and that they would like to see more green infrastructure, such as swales, integrated into the plan. We would be more than willing to look into ways to include these aspects into the design and see green infrastructure is something that is in-line with the goal of providing an inviting environment for families. This approach will likely be more effective than moving the site, as alternative areas may elicit similar concerns from the community if they are located on the Parkway (riparian) or have vegetation or trees present, have neighbors, or a variety of other factors.

Please remember that there are currently supporters who are not reaching out to City Council because it is an approved project. Our project partners include large stakeholder groups such as the Grand County School District and the BEACON Afterschool Program (which serves over 700 local children annually). In yesterday's closed meeting with Sara Melnicoff and concerned citizens, there were five citizens in attendance who oppose the project. While unfortunately our department does not have the capacity to lead public outreach efforts at this time, we did post on social media and received responses from 74 people in support of the project and two opposed.

As a newly established Grand County department and new partner to the City, we appreciate your continued support and efforts to improve non-motorized recreation and active transportation in the City. I am proceeding with the approved project timeline unless I hear otherwise from the City Council.

Thanks,

–Madeline Logowitz

Dear Councilmembers,

I had not heard of the proposed bike skills park until I read about it in last week's newspaper. I was saddened to hear of the location. That area near the Parkway is very pretty and peaceful, and a bike park just doesn't fit in. A beginner's skills park is a great idea, I just don't think that is the best location. Near the existing bike park makes more sense, or through the tunnel on the other side of 5th West. I hope it's not too late to discuss this issue. I have mentioned it to several people over the last few days, none have heard of it before, and all were dismayed at the thought of it being in the proposed location.

Sincerely,

–Wendy Hoff, Moab

I am a citizen of Moab and just wanted to voice my support of the proposed skills park. I think it is important for our community to get kids on bikes and a skills park would be an excellent way for them to practice different skills that they can then take to the awesome single track that Moab has to offer. I think biking in general is a very liberating tool and this skills park would greatly benefit our youth.

Thank you,

–Felecia Amundsen

Hello City Council members,

I would like to voice my support for the proposed bike skills park off of Mill Creek Parkway. I think it would be a wonderful addition to the city to make mountain biking more accessible to those who do not have their own transport to trailheads, and who are not familiar with beginner trails. I think it will be of great benefit to the local community, from children to adults. Children especially could use more recreational opportunities close to home that can help bridge the current access gap from low income locals to the public lands. I see this park as a stepping stone in the direction of inclusiveness of racially and socioeconomically diverse groups and their access to outdoor recreation.

As a hesitant beginning mountain-biker myself (at age 31), I would use this park. I feel quite intimidated by most trails around Moab, and do not own (and cannot currently afford) a "nice" mountain bike. I would love a place where I could practice skills to gain confidence to go out on trails and also figure out how much I actually like the sport before having to make a large purchase of a real mountain bike. I have several other local friends who feel similarly intimidated by the trail riding in Moab, and would enjoy and use a small skills park.

I hope this project goes through, as I can only see it benefitting the local community. Thank you for its consideration.

–Katie Grauel

Dear City Council Members,

This letter is to voice my support for the proposed bike park. As a local therapist who specializes in working with youth in the community I believe that this will be a valuable asset in increasing access to outdoor sports and recreation. Many students lack the access due to transportation barriers, parent resources or time to engage in the many world class activities such as biking that Moab has to offer. I have noticed that some

entry level riders are intimidated by both the difficulty of terrain and culture surrounding Moab's existing bike park, and this in turn limits their willingness to step out of their comfort zone.

This park would allow youth access to beginner level terrain, hopefully encouraging them to continue participating in outdoor activities.

Thank you for your consideration,
–Stefanie Biron

I am writing to express my support for the proposed bike park and bathroom at the dead end of 100 E. I've lived in Moab for about 4 years - recently left to work a seasonal job for the BLM, but planning to return in the fall.

I often ride my bike along the path system in town to do errands, commute to work and also for fun and visiting friends. The bike paths feel like one of Moab's secret places that has stayed a "locals" spot. I have many peers who also bike and run along the path, and I can't tell you how many times over the years I've heard entertaining and disastrous stories of people DESPERATELY needing a bathroom stop somewhere along the way.

Not only would it provide a place to use the restroom in private without fear of neighbors walking up and seeing more than they bargained for, but it would also protect our little watershed from the human waste that I know is ending up in it due to the lack of pit stops along the path. We are highly conscious of our waste impacts in the desert, so it makes just as much sense to protect our in-town green belts too!

I am also really excited about the potential for the "pocket park." Mountain biking is obviously a huge industry for the town, but it is really intimidating to learn. I lived in Moab for three years before I got a mtn bike because I was scared of the trails outside of town and too intimidated by the skills park on 500 W to go try. I think a small park, with friendly obstacles like the one trail mix is proposing would create a much more gentle introduction for those of us who want to learn, but can't invest in a fancy bike right off the bat. The bike skills park would also be a wonderful hidden gem for the people who already frequent the path and are looking for more spaces to recreate away from the crowds.

I am really excited to see the city developing opportunities like this! Thank you for investing in our little community - and providing ways for us to keep our ecological impacts low with proper restroom facilities!
Thank you!

–Audrey Pefferman

I'm just writing to voice my concern about the bike skills park. I do not believe that developing the parkway is a good idea. Use that money to continue to maintain the trails around Moab, maybe create some more benches and big visual maps along the parkway. We don't need another playground though with all the playgrounds we already have. The peace and quiet of that area and wildlife habitat are needed much more.

Thank you!

Cheers,

–Mark Olson

I'm writing this email to support the Mill Creek Pathway Skills Park.

Moab is a mountain bike destination and is home to a community of mountain bikers. As an avid mountain biker myself, I have learned on and enjoyed our bike park and trails.

I think that the Mill Creek Pathway Skills Park opens our pathway to additional recreation opportunities for bikers of all levels. Being located in the center of town, this skills park is ideally located for all members of our community. In addition, it would make great use of an area that is devoid of vegetation.

I believe it is important to make use of the opportunity to utilize grants that support the creation of new recreation within our community. Trail Mix has designed a recreation area that accommodates new and younger riders. This supports the local youth and newly minted riders.

I ask you to support the Mill Creek Pathway Skills Park. It benefits our local community. It would be a wonderful addition to our pathway.

Thank you,

–Anna Sprout

Greetings City Council,

In light of recent discussions about the Robin Groff Memorial Park project, here's some further detail about project background and progress:

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something that is in-line with the goal of providing an inviting environment for families. This approach will likely be more effective than moving the site, as alternative areas may elicit similar concerns from the community if they are located on the Parkway (riparian) or have vegetation or trees present, have neighbors, or a variety of other factors.

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As a newly established Grand County department and new partner to the City, we appreciate your continued support and efforts to improve non-motorized recreation and active transportation in the City. I am proceeding with the approved project timeline unless I hear otherwise from the City Council.

Thanks,

–Madeline Logowitz, Director, Active Transportation & Trails Division, Grand County, Utah

Hello,

I wanted to voice my support for the proposed bike park. I have seen the city council meeting and read descriptions of the proposed plan and I think it would be a nice contribution to our community. Since it is oriented towards locals and intended for children, I think it would be a nice addition to the parkway.

Best,

–Pete Chuckran

Dear City Council,

I wanted to email you today to help show support for the proposed bike skills park near Mill Creek.

I know to many another recreation park may seem redundant or unnecessary, but i can assure you that it would hold an important place in our community.

Parks that encourage hobbies and skills are statistically shown to reduce delinquent behavior, and encourage a healthy youth community.

Moab is lucky to have the parks and recreation areas that it does, but the town can also recognize that there isn't necessarily an entry level area that encourages people to hone their skills and focus on creating healthy outdoor habits. The current skate park and bike ramp park only provide opportunities for higher level recreators, and there is an opportunity to give younger citizens a chance to feel safe and welcome while learning new life skills.

Beyond the outdoor recreation aspect, I believe that any constructed park or place that encourages youths to gather is a positive. There is a common misconception that providing a public gathering place for teens and children leads to an increase in drug use and illegal behavior, and this is just plain untrue. Most delinquent behavior occurs because bored young people have no place in their community to freely gather and spend time together.

As someone who grew up in a town with very few public places that were designed to encourage an active use of time, i can assure you that teens and young adults would often be forced to illegally gather on private property, which often led to other dangerous behaviors due to the inherent boredom and frustration.

The more public positive options that are available to the community, then the more healthy the community and appreciative the youth of that community.

Yes moab is lucky enough to live surrounded by public lands, but unfortunately those aren't as available to everyone as they seem. So the more encouraging places we can provide as a community, then the more at home our youth and future citizens will feel.

Please give this proposal an honest chance, and consider the long term value and community image it can provide to not only our current town, but the future voters and citizens that will create lifelong memories in that park.

Thank you,
– Kevin Niehaus

Hi Moab City Council, I am reaching out to voice support for the Mill Creek parkway bike skills pocket park. I teach at the high school and while my students are older than those that will use the park, i see a lot of value in providing kids with a space to develop skills and interests that allow them to get to know and appreciate the area in which we live via human powered transportation.

I think that the pocket park also has the potential to broaden the community exposed to biking/outdoor recreation at a young age. And, I feel that having a space oriented toward youth involvement will continue to help us foster an inclusive community.

Thanks,
–Conor Hampson

Moab City Council,

I am writing to express my support of the proposed Robin Groff Memorial Bike Park. My understanding is that this park seeks to provide a safe place for younger children to ride their bicycles. I am supporting this park for the following reasons:

1. A safe place for young kids to ride bikes- Within our city limits, there are two main areas for children to practice riding their bikes on featured obstacles. Those areas are the skate park and Anonymous Park. Both of those areas can be dangerous for little kids as teens and adults practice their skills in those same areas. I have personally witnessed teens and adults collide with young children who they weren't able to see or were traveling too fast to stop.
2. A restroom along the bike path- I am an avid user of the bike path, especially the dog park. There is an absolute need for a restroom along this public path that sees frequent pedestrian traffic as well as those folks who visit the nearby dog park.
3. Why not- We can always use more public spaces that encourage healthy activities, especially for families with young children. It can be difficult to find age-appropriate public spaces that families can feel safe at and that have the proper amenities (restroom) needed while away from home. It should also be noted that I do not think this will bring a large increase of tourists to the bike path. Most tourists will find this park not age-appropriate unless they have small children and are looking for something to do with them.

Thank you for your consideration and I encourage you to support the construction of this park (but please no more hotels),
–Maggie Nielsen

We had a lengthy discussion about this at today's Trail Mix meeting. To summarize:

- This is a City project. Certainly Trail Mix is very much in support of it; and certainly we did help out a lot; but we directed people to complain to the City, not to us. (Both Cory Shurtleff and Kalen Jones were in attendance).

- This is a project from last year (Feb 2019). Comments/objections/etc. are over a year late.
- We did have an open house information session last summer, that was well attended. However many of the now-complaining voices did NOT attend.
 - Cancelling the project at this point would cost the City very significantly; they would need to pay back the \$63,000 grant, and end up with a bunch of bike skills structures with nowhere to put them. (They have been ordered and are in production).
 - The structures are specifically designed for that location, to fit around existing trees, etc. It would be extremely difficult to locate them anywhere. (They are not off-the shelf structures, each is a custom design to fit the landscape).
 - It might be a difficult time financially for the City; but these are 2019 tax dollars, not new money being spent.
 - The location is not really along the parkway; it is along the spur that heads out to 200E. It only interacts with the parkway itself at the (extremely busy) intersection.
 - The Anonymous Park location was considered and rejected. First, one goal was to have this ADA accessible; that is not possible without a huge additional cost off 500W. (Maddie said over \$100,000). Parking is also an issue - the lot at the dirt jumps is often full already. There is also a safety issue with the high-speed dirt jump riders interacting with 8-year-old beginners; rearranging jumps and moving things in that location to have a separate skills area would of course cost even more money.
 - The Parkway location is also far more convenient for everyone - especially school kids, who are the primary target audience. The skills park will have many more users being there, rather than off at the edge of town.
 - The bathroom is really a separate project. It is needed and wanted in that location.
 - Dave Erley of Moab Solutions was in attendance; he acknowledged that moving or cancelling the project would incur significant additional costs. His main objection (and the objections I've heard from many others not in attendance) is that Moab Solutions was not consulted beforehand - however, Moab Solutions is *NOT* an official partner of the City. Certainly they do good things; but they (from what I have been told in the meeting) have no official capacity with the City.
 - We received zero public comments on this for the meeting; and I have not been contacted at all by Sara Melnicoff or anyone else about it. Dave Erley did attend the meeting. (He did not fill out a citizens to be heard form or submit written comments, but in the interest of fairness we allowed him to speak).
 - We did not have a formal vote or anything, but all in attendance were still very much in support of the project.

Hope that helps. Feel free to share as needed.

–Paul Spencer, Trail Mix Chair

Dear City Council, Mayor, and City Manager:

I am requesting a Public Hearing for the proposed Bike Skills Park in the riparian area of the Millcreek Parkway.

Quite a few of us are *only just* hearing about this development. Such comments from friends and neighbors include:

"Stupid waste of money," "Why?" "Can't this be built at the Anonymous Park?" "But it's a place of refuge and beauty."

We request answers to why this is even being considered. Doesn't The City have more pressing projects to fund?

Thank you,

–Carol S. Williams, City of Moab resident

Hi, I wanted to send an email in support of the Mill Creek Pathway Skills Park that has been proposed.

As an active member of the Moab mountain bike community, a certified skills coach and mountain bike guide, I think the skills park will be a very valuable addition to the Moab community. I have worked with a lot of beginner riders working as a coach and guide and believe the skills park would help to be a place that could provide a safe place to work on skills before heading out on the demanding Moab trails. The existing bike park has gotten crowded and is intimidating to newer riders, so a new place for skills development would be a helpful addition. Having the skills park will help to make it more accessible, especially for local kids.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this!

–Julie Cornelius

Hello, I am writing to support the creation of the bike skills Pocket Park in Moab. As a teacher and a mountain biking coach I have seen the benefits of having skills parks for people of all ages and abilities. A bike skills park would encourage people to gain skills on a bike that could directly translate to safer trails and more riders which can stimulate our tourism economy.

Thank you,

–Josh Schult, Moab

Dear City Council and Mayor Niehaus,

When I imagine applying permaculture design principles along Mill Creek's Pedestrian-Bike Parkway I see winding paths leading to sitting areas under the shade of thriving trees nourished from rainwater soaked basins and swales.

The downed cottonwood trees would become playful climbing gyms with swings and rope ladders leading from one trunk to another.

There would be rogue strawberries, thornless blackberries, currant bushes, fruit and nut trees to munch on.

The creek would have little beach hangouts to invite kids to explore.

Clusters of indigenous plants supported by storm collection diversions would show us how to replenish our aquifer by creating rainwater "sponges".

I would prefer to see the city spend money on demonstrating permaculture restoration techniques within our city managed parkway than a Bike Skills Park in a natural floodplain.

How else could we spend \$60,000 with \$10,000 a year maintenance of city funds on our parkway?

I'm not against a Bike Skills Park. It would seem to make more sense to delay this decision for a year or two considering the financial straits the city and county find themselves in currently. This would also give time for more community involvement in the decision making process.

Sincerely,

–Doni Kiffmeyer

Dear Moab City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed bike skills park to be located along the Millcreek Parkway.

I am an avid user of the Parkway, and use it as my primary source of bike and foot travel, as well as for leisure walking and running.

The proposed skills area is at the busiest junction on the Parkway. When I am passing through that area, there are often people congregating near the bridge and hanging out at the junction further north where the path splits. It is a natural place to stop and socialize.

Further west on the Parkway, where the pavement ends, is often quiet. Folks will let their dogs off leash and there are more leisure users than commuters.

As someone who has used the Parkway daily for the last 26 years, I confidently attest that it's the busiest section on the Parkway. People are coming and going and yelling and laughing. Page 48 of the Moab City General Plan cites the following:

Pursue expansion of the parks and open space system.

Action Steps

a. Provide new and traditional park experiences by enhancing and establishing different types of park spaces throughout the community.

Let's support the City's General Plan by moving forward with it's action step by developing a new park experience in an already busy and easily accessed location.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

–Michelle Wiley

Hello Everyone-

In light of the recent emails circulating and the article in the paper regarding the skills park, I wanted to offer a few more talking points of support for this project.

The concept of this skills park will benefit our local young children and their families. The bike park on 500 West is definitely geared more toward skilled riders. To be able to provide a small area for young children that is easy to access will be helpful for them and their families. The fears that the location of this small skills park will detract from the 'peacefulness' of the parkway is a misrepresentation of the parkway. This corridor of the parkway is a place where I have regularly seen some of the local semi-homeless people hanging out, mostly on the bench near the bridge or under the large tree in the shade before you dump out onto 100 West. The bridge over the creek and bench is also an area where kids congregate after being let out of school. In addition, the center of town is not exactly quiet with the sounds of traffic from Main Street. There is also a fear of it being a circus type environment. I think that the concept of this skills park is being misconstrued and warped into something that it isn't. The push to have this park concept moved to the bike park area is another concern I have..the bike park on 500 West is maintained by local volunteers in addition to the funds raised at the fall mtb festival the Moab Ho Down. Without the volunteers and fundraising the park would be full of weeds and the jumps and pumptrack would not be rideable.

More often than not, new trails or concepts related to biking have been met with local pushback. After reviewing the project layout and location, I think it is commendable that the park location and installation has sought to retain all of the large trees in order to not disrupt the natural landscape around it. In addition, the funds that are being utilized for this project and grant money were obtained in 2019, so it is unfair for those opposed to the project to be questioning the fund allocation for it. This type of misrepresentation only leads to more unwarranted pushback.

I support the Robin Groff Memorial Park and feel that an area that promotes non-motorized recreation for young children is a huge plus for our community.

Thank you,

–Tracy Bentley

Hello Moab City Council,

It has come to my attention that the proposal for the bike park next to the bike path is getting some pushback, and I needed to put in my voice advocating for it.

I think this is such a wonderful idea and should be implemented. There are so many people that will benefit from this park and I believe it will be so good to the city.

This may be the only opportunity for local families to get to ride since all our trails are far out of town. It won't cause any riff raff /people getting crazy due to the fenced in nature and will be a lovely addition to the bike path and community, without being intimidating like Anonymous park.

Don't kill the bike park!

Cheers,

–Evan Smiley

Dear City Council,

I am new to town, and one thing that I am enjoying most is being able to get around almost everywhere by bike. The bike path is by far the nicest area to use to travel around because of the trees and shade, and there seems to already be a lot of unique and interesting parks already attached to it. I think another small area, and especially one that is all about getting kids interested in biking, sounds like a great addition.

Also, public restrooms are expensive to maintain, but the alternative is way worse! Having a bathroom there will help to keep the area clean.

Sincerely,

–Aarin Sengsirak

I read the article in the Sun News and want to express my support for the bike park project. I think it's great that there's a grant to fund this project and that it's important to keep improving our town even during times when the budget is tight.

I ride through town on the bike path a lot and am excited to have this addition, and such a great spot.

Please follow through with this great project!

Sincerely,

–Brett Sherman

I'm writing to support the plan to put a skills bike park in along the bike path. It seems like a really great way provide a safe space for little kids to play and learn. Anonymous Park is really a better place for older kids and adults to bike and can actually be a dangerous place for toddlers who seem to be there with their parents more and more frequently.

I don't see that it would distract from the peaceful nature of the bike path. Also, having a restroom facility will not only be a benefit to people walking/ jogging/ and biking but also a benefit to patrons of the dog park. I bike along the bike path with my dog to get to the dog park and sometimes spend an hour or more there. I've often heard people lament that there is no restroom available and sometimes had to hurry home myself. This restroom would have an inadvert positive affect on the pre-existing dog park and the bike path as a whole.

This new skills park will be a great addition to the wonderful Moab parks. It will improve Anonymous Park by reducing the number of little children there and improve the Dog Park by providing an easily accessible bathroom.

Thanks for listening,
–Paige Stuart

I am writing to express my support for the new bike skills pocket park near 100E and the rustic inn. I think it is great idea to have the park there along with another public bathroom. It seems like it could be a great way to introduce young people to mountain biking and it would encourage youth to get outside and have fun, while making that area a little more family friendly.

Thanks,
–Matt McEtrick

My name is Chris Benson and I have been a Grand County resident for several years. I would like to advocate for the proposed bike skills park near 100 East. This would serve many positive functions including giving more opportunity to our local youth as well as provide much needed, sanitary restrooms for this portion of the bike path system in Moab.

This location in particular would provide a recreation/ community building opportunity that is not currently available to "east-side" residents.

Thank you for your consideration,
–Chris Benson

Dear Moab City Council,

I am writing in to advocate for the current proposal for the Trail Mix Skills Park on the Mill Creek Parkway bike trail. I am a Moab resident and a teacher at the Moab Charter School, and I fully support the location of this project and the project's design. This would be a great addition to your community, particularly for youth.

As the Activity Leader for the Mountain Bike BEACON Club at the Charter School, I know we would utilize this park often as it is close to our school and in a very safe location, away from traffic. It would also be a great location for youth to play after school, which is a need we need to fill in our community.

The Moab Charter School is a Title 1 School which means the majority of our students receive free/reduced lunch. Many of our students are unable to participate in the recreation around Moab such as mountain biking because of the prohibitive costs and access. We need to support our youth by providing them with opportunities to participate in the Moab tourist economy. The skills park would provide youth with greater access and opportunity, and would be a great start in helping our local youth to develop skills to make them competitive applicants in the mountain bike guide industry.

Our youth need the City to advocate for them by supporting this project. Our youth, particularly adolescents, need more outdoor spaces designed with them in mind. We cannot provide hopeful futures to our local youth if we do not invest in projects and programs that benefit them directly.

Thank you for your time,
–Larrea Cottingham

Council members, I learned that the proposed MTB skills park along the mill creek pathway is being questioned. I am surprised that a small opportunity to bring Moab into the fold of progressive municipalities across the country embracing these types of community benefits was met with negativity.

I am fortunate to be able to travel across the country for a couple of months each year and visit places such as Burke, VT, Brevard, NC, Buena Vista, Co and the crown example of Bentonville, AR. I urge you to take a minute and educate yourself as to what Bentonville (<https://www.visitbentonville.com/bike/>) has accomplished to attract not only tourists but become a municipality that attracts business people and industry: a healthy outlet filled environment for the youth and an overall feeling of well being. Every time I visit these places I leave with the question of, why is Moab behind the times? Why aren't we an example of this instead of being non existent compared to communities that embrace it?

Over the course of the last few years we have seen major bike industry jobs and companies move to the Fruita, GJ area. These companies like Rocky Mounts and Canfield Bikes just to name a few speak of "community commitment" and " bike culture" as reasons for moving there. Peter Metcalf, founder of Black Diamond outdoor equipment in SLC spoke two years ago at the Moab business summit. At this meeting he answered a question about " what would it take for Moab to be a place that attracts an outdoor company to move its operations here." His answer simply is the community isn't doing the things needed to grab the eye of a CEO or business leaders when compared to so many other towns that do and the overall commitment to quality of life.

We are all well aware after this pandemic that Moab is woefully non diverse in industry and therefore takes an incredible hit economically. We need desperately to diversify from tourism and we have an excellent platform and capacity to bring these companies here. But being a business owner myself, I would not have moved and hired people here if I had young kids and wanted to bring employees here that would be taking a "hit" for leaving their communities.

It's clear to someone that travels and sees what these community rich towns are doing and the diverse growth they are having and how building all of the community extras, even as small as a skills park, play a small role in a much bigger picture of being attractive to outsiders enough to bring their business here.

Let's become educated on these communities and create an environment that attracts. We are behind on this, but we can become leaders.

Sincerely,

–Trevar Bennington, President, AdventSure

June 8, 2020

Hello,

My name is Jared Trader and I have spent the past 6 years working as a bike mechanic at a local bike shop. I wanted to contact the council to voice my support for the proposed Pocket Park along the Mill Creek bike path. I understand that there has been some opposition to the plan and how it may affect the tranquility of the pathway, and I think that such considerations should be addressed - we certainly don't want to lose the natural setting that makes the pathway such an enjoyable place to recreate. Having said that, as a bike commuter who has passed by the plot of land in question hundreds of times, I can honestly say the only recreation I have ever seen taking place there is drinking and/or drug use by adults. To turn this plot of land into a "pocket park" while retaining the natural aesthetic of the pathway seems to me like a much better use of land than the "adult playground" that currently exists there.

Furthermore, I understand that when people think of bikes and Moab, they think "extreme!". I have seen the plans for this park and have spoken with those involved in its design and I think it should be understood that this is not a park where one would find "extreme" mountain biking taking place. Rather, one would be more likely to see families, children, or people new to the sport who just want to practice their skills.

I would ask the City Council to consider the purpose that this plot of land currently serves and to consider the purpose it *could* serve. Please allow plans to move forward and allow this park to be constructed.

– Jared Trader

Good Evening,

I am writing to voice my support for the Moab bike skills park. I watched the presentation at the last council meeting and feel the skills park would be a great addition for Moab's youth. I personally work with youth in Moab ranging from 2-18. The skills park would be a great resource for many children to have a fun family oriented way to increase gross motor, fine motor, communication, social, and problem solving skills. The addition of a restroom allows greater access for families to use the park. I assume many users of the bike path will appreciate the restroom access as well.

Thanks for hearing my support,

–Jaclyn Maher

Hello Mayor and Council:

I am writing to express my support for the development of the Bike Skills Park along the Mill Creek Parkway near 100 west. I have been following the developments of this project in the news and on social media. I feel strongly that the location by 100 west is a good spot to do it, better than putting it by the dirt jumps at Anonymous Park. For one, I think spreading out family/kid attractions throughout town is appealing and second, the 'big kids' (of all ages) at Anonymous Park will likely be intimidating to the little kids who are the target group of the Bike Skills Park.

On a personal note, I run through that spot 3-4 times a week and don't see any issue with adding that feature. Also, adding a bathroom to that section would likely help mitigate some of the human refuse issues along that section of the parkway.

Feel free to call or email if you'd like to discuss further.

–Mike Duniway, Moab

Hello city council. I wrote to you last week to express my support for the bike skills pocket park. I am writing today to once again express my support for the pocket park and reiterate that as someone who interacts with the youth of Moab on a daily basis I believe that the pocket park will be a great addition to Millcreek parkway and increase access to recreation for **EVERYONE** in our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

–Case Bateman

I have ridden my bicycle and walked the parkway almost daily for 3 years.

Here's my experience.

The parkway is cool, clean, quiet covered with shade. It supports an amazing amount of wild life. And its ACCESSIBLE!

I believe this is how it's supposed to be. If you break this spoke off of the hub, We'll all get nowhere fast. Please don't ruin this area. You live here too.

–Jim Wright

Hi, I live near the proposed bike skills park. I am NOT in favor of the location.

No trees should be removed. This is a beautiful quiet green pathway. Please put the bike skills park somewhere else.

Also there's already a bike park over by the hospital. Maybe that is enough.

Thanks,

–Allison VanLonkhuyzen, Moab

To the Moab City Council Members and Mayor,

I'm writing to express my support of the bike skills park proposed for the Mill Creek bike path near 100 E.

As a new-ish mountain biker I love the thought of being able to practice skills at an accessible place in town and not when there's a lot of pressure out on the trail. I also love that this park with focus on youth and support non-English speaking/ESL Moabites' interest in mountain biking as well. It's a great way to introduce members of our population into one of the things that makes Moab so amazing that they might not normally have access to otherwise. The location along the bike path is perfect, a central location at an intersection of so many different paths and ways to get around the city.

I also fully support the bathroom proposed for this location--it's critical! Downtown Moab is lacking a public restroom that isn't associated with a business, and having one along the trail without having to ride up to Rotary or down by the hospital would be such a critical service to many people.

I hope you'll vote to make this a reality!

Best,

–Matt Ribarich

Moab City Council,

We have recently discovered that plans are underway for a young children's biking pocket park along the bike path near 100 S and 100 E. Our family is very excited to learn of this and the show of support by the city regarding family activities, especially for locals. The area of the pocket park is central and can help better build community, which is critical during these trying times. We are grateful that this community-friendly effort is moving forward,

Thank you!

–Dan and Ros McCann

Hi, City Council:

As a Moab resident, I am writing to ask you not to approve the Bike Skills Park in its proposed location. Here is why:

1. I really enjoy having a relatively quiet and undeveloped area in the middle of town by the creek. I looked at the proposal maps and mockups, and I go to that spot often. Any hardened infrastructure that replaces riparian trees and grass lessens the coolness and feel of that ribbon of natural area in town. Also, any infrastructure that attracts more people, especially groups and tourists, will lessen the psychological sanctuary of peace and natural sights and sounds that that spot provides. It's not a good place for even a small development.

2. The bike park on 500 West is already developed, has a bathroom and parking, and a dedicated set of people have worked on it. I've heard from a couple of them that they would be happy to welcome a new set

of equipment. It's very popular. It's accessible by both street and bike path from town. That's where any needed infrastructure expansions should go.

3. Several of our existing parks are already under-maintained. There are also creek restoration efforts along the Mill Creek Parkway that could use funding and attention, and such programs could create areas that are pleasant for kids to hang out by the water and establish nature connections, more in keeping with the existing environment, and beneficial to the riparian area and the water table.

4. I know you guys already know this, but we are in a budget crisis. I have heard that some of this project is funded by existing grants. But even were it wholly funded by existing grants, it still uses staff time and creates a long-term maintenance burden. This is a bad use of our money and attention right now, when we are dealing with low tax revenue, a high tourism burden, and the long-term need for things like affordable housing and drought resilience.

Please don't approve any further hardscape-style development along the Parkway. If the equipment is already purchased and the users of the 500 West park agree, put it at 500 West.

Thanks to all of you for your time and service,
–Laurel Hagen

Hi all, As always I am so appreciative of everyone's service to our city—especially in these increasingly crazy times.

Writing today to say that I think there has been a serious misunderstanding about the pocket bike park with regard to its use and the tone it will set along the bike path.

These types of very low acreage bike parks are popping up around the country. Please see the attached 40 second video which I believe truly illustrates what the atmosphere at this tiny park will be.

I understand that people would be concerned about big jumps or high speed riding, but neither of those is possible in this very small space. Instead it is designed for the use shown in this quick video, and as such will be a very nice addition to our parkway.

[Pocket bike park 40 second video](#)

If other info is needed, please let me know as I can check to see if there are any available statistics on these types of very small parks mostly for very small people.

Take care,
–Ashley Korenblat

June 7, 2020

Dear Mayor and Moab City Council,

I am not opposed to a Bike Skills Park. I am opposed to its proposed location. The Bike Skills Park (BSP) would begin at the cul-de-sac at the south end of 100 East behind the Rustic Inn and extend along the Bike Path, proceed around the corner continuing much of the way to 200 East.

This one green spot that is (to my knowledge) the only irrigated area along the Moab Bike Path would become a hardscape obstacle course for bikers and a magnet for tourists.

What makes Trail Mix and the City think that the community of Moab would rather have a hot dry bike arena than a quiet shady lush green setting in our neighborhood? The whole community benefits from the green serenity of the bike path. The BSP will become a tourist hangout. How can it not? We've got five overnight motel/rentals at the mouth of 100 South.

There are other locations for a Bike Skills Park that would not require sacrificing our beloved community green space. The Bike Jump Park on 5th West is one and Lyons' Park is another.

I read that the City would contribute \$60,000 to this project as well as an additional \$10,000 in maintenance per year. \$30,000 of that would go to a public restroom on the cul-de-sac of 100 South. The other \$30,000 would fund the removal of shade trees and installation of the BSP playground itself. Parking for the BSP is not included in the design with the logic that people will bike to the park. Although, that is not the case at the 5th West Bike Jump where many families drive (and park) to access it. Both Lyon's Park and the 5th West Jump Park already provide public restrooms and parking.

The City can't maintain the parks we already have. Swanny Park needs new trees to replace the dying ones and dead ones that were already removed. Swanny is becoming a sunbaked field and the bathrooms are gross. The Sun Court's weird concrete planter box is a mess of decaying trees. I feel sorry for them every time I pass by. The little Climbing Wall Park on 4th East caddy corner from Milt's intended as a food forest is so neglected the cherry tree died. None of those poor trees ever get pruned or fertilized. The whole corridor along the Bike Path between the new Middle School and the creek is a cochia/tumble weed fest.

Why would the one lush green spot along the Bike Path be considered a great spot for a hardscape bike arena?

I encourage you to reconsider the location of the Bike Skills Park.
-Kaki Hunter

June 5, 2020

The project includes a bathroom for the parkway, which I think most folks (parents anyway) agree is badly needed. I'm sure most human waste on the parkway is from young children walking/biking with their children (they can't hold it - just saying!).

And this pocket park is for small children learning beginner skills. As Evan Clapper said to me: think tired mom who brings her 3 year old on a strider to burn off some energy for 15 minutes. This is not for teens and 20-somethings hucking off jumps like the bike park on 500 W. So, it should complement the purposes of the parkway, not detract from them.

I can say as a mom of risk-adverse young girls, I think a beginner skills park would be a great asset for locals - although I have no opinion about whether the planned location is best and I'm not up to speed on what public comment was solicited, if any (since it was not required).

Thanks -
-Christina Sloan

June 3, 2020

Hello there Moab City Council -
I am writing today to offer my support on the new biking skills park.

Since I have moved here over 20 years ago I've seen much change in the cycling scene -especially with children. From times when barely any kids rode their bikes to school to now when racks are full and the NICA mountain bike program is thriving. We have new trails, an improved bike park and additional bike path.

It's been proven that time outside, whether commuting to school or recreating is beneficial to everyone. Whether it's through programs like <https://outridebike.org/> or through pocket bike parks like this one, we need to provide more opportunities for young and old alike to participate in cycling. With distracted drivers intimidating our children (& parents) off the main streets, parks like this make more sense than ever.

As I travel throughout the country looking for towns that support cycling through programs such as this, it's places like Eagle CO, or Bentonville, AR that rise above and show that cycling is worth investing in. Clearly it's one of the backbones of our community already, so let's help keep it that way.

Finally that area is being increasingly dominated by transient folks "posted up" at the park bench/ bridge crossing. Whether there's illegal activity going on or not, the more presence in that general area, the better to reduce the chance of crime. It's been proven when people are around less crime will happen.

The Mill Creek Parkway is an incredibly valuable asset to our community. This long overdue addition will only make it that much better for us and future generations.

Thank you,

–Mark Sevenoff, Outerbike; Western Spirit Cycling

June 2, 2020

We looked extensively into including it into Anonymous but there were several logistical challenges, including ADA accessibility, parking, and floodplain issues. We felt strongly that ADA accessibility was a priority for a park aimed at including young children to provide for caregivers of all physical ability levels.

Also, we realized that that location didn't serve the goal of this park as well as the site by 100 E. The goal of this park is to be inclusive and inviting to families who might not seek out "mountain biking" but who will enjoy the skills area as another feature of the Parkway - a place where they already feel comfortable. The Parkway is used by a wide variety of Moab's population and so is ideal to include groups who are currently underrepresented in local (and national) outdoor recreation activities. Anonymous Park receives a lot of use, but it is not necessarily a calm, welcoming environment for families with young children who are curious about biking opportunities.

Pros of the selected site include:

- it's tie-in to the City's street improvement plan of 100 E which includes beautification and parking
- the high-use that the intersection receives because of its location between residential areas and businesses (ie City Market)
- it's accessibility from the schools by safe bike lanes and bike path. We wanted families to feel safe traveling to the park by bike.
- it's relative isolation from homes (there's only one nearby)
- the City already had plans to install a restroom at the site but lacked funding, so some groundwork/plans had already been laid
- Additionally, the spot is currently known for illegal activities such as drug and alcohol consumption. When the space is formalized and there are more eyes in the area, those activities will decrease and the location can be enjoyed by more community members.

I saw some posts on Facebook about how the Parkway is for tranquil and calm activities, and that this is the antithesis to a biking skills area. I want to emphasize that there is no reason to believe that this new area will create conflict. The Parkway is currently open to bicycle use, and the biking skills area is designed to be used by any type of bicycle. It also focuses on serving youth and families, who already use this space as well.

–Maddie Logowitz, Grand County Active Transportation and Trails

I watched the city council meeting last week and was shocked to see that a bike skills site is being passed. I know that it is because of a grant, I know that the city and county are paying for part, I know the city owns the land. I am opposed to it. Can we please have a moment of peace and quiet someplace in Moab? Also, a development like that at a time like this..... a luxury and blatant **unnecessary project** when we are in the situation we are in. The wrong place and the wrong time. I am opposed to it.

–Candace

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the new biking skills park along Millcreek Parkway and the great asset I think it would be for the community.

As a rider, local business owner, and member of our community, I think this would be a great asset to not only Moab families, but, bikers and visitors from all over. I think having it accessible in town without having to drive is key. Providing more options for all to get outside and promote what draws people from all over is a great thing.

I hope to see this addition and hope that everyone sees it's value as much as we do.

Thank you for your time.

Happy trails,

–Bryan Nickell, Porcupine Shuttle

Hello City Council, my name is Case Bateman I am an educator in Moab and try to be an active part of the Moab community. I am writing to express my support for the Moab bike skills park scheduled be constructed next year along Mill Creek parkway.

While I am sure that there are members of our community who are against the construction this park I think it will be an incredible addition to Moab for a number of reasons.

First, on my way to and from work I pass by the location of the skills park every day. At this moment it exists as underutilized space that collects trash blown by the wind and serves as nothing but a buffer between the paved path and the construction materials store yard for Emery Telecom. The location of the pocket park is not filled with beautiful trees and it is not a place for community to gather and grow. It is a place outside of the public eye that feels unsafe at night and continues to be a place often patrolled by Grand County EMS as a result of inebriated individuals. Going forward with the construction of the Moab bike skills park would use this space in benefit to the community and create a space that warrants conservation and use and provides a place for people of all ages enjoy Mill Creek park way in the shade.

Secondly, Moab hosts a diverse community of people from all levels of the socioeconomic spectrum. The city is reliant on the income of people recreating here because of the opportunities for recreation it affords to those of us with the means to travel and engaged in these activities. At this moment I feel as though there is a disconnect between the population of people that keep this community afloat with their money and the population of people who keep this community afloat with their hard work. I believe that the opportunities for recreation this place has to offer are closed off to many of the people of this community as a result of the wealth and privileged they require. I believe that the Moab bike skills park would operate as a fun and accessible jumping off point for undeserved people in our community to interact with one of the main reasons that make this place special and provide a location for the improvement of skills needed to even begin recreating on our world famous mountain bike trails.

Lastly, as someone who interacts frequently with the youth in Moab I see the Moab bike skills park as an addition to our community similar to anonymous park and the skate park. I know that many people see these places as unsafe locations that may enable poor behavior or foster undesirable influences. I see them differently.

I frequent anonymous park and the skate park and observe community building on a level deeper than any other place in town. While physically hazardous at times they provide a safe place for youth to recreate and socialize close to home and build community crucial for living a happy and healthy lifestyle. I see youth showing off to their parents and students of my own eagerly asking if they will get to show me a new skill or trick they learned. I see youth from all different ethnicity, households, and ages interacting together and learning from each other. These places are not a stain on our community they are places for the youth of our community to thrive and grow. The Moab bike skills park would be an excellent addition for younger kids and those just entering the world of outdoor recreation.

The Moab bike skills park will not be a place that is dangerous for the community or change a beautiful and appreciated place along Mill Creek. It will be an addition to the artistic nature of our community and provide a place for connection between people and youth of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. All while improving upon a space that currently serves no purpose.

Thank you, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
–Case Bateman

Hello Council-

The addition of a beginner/intermediate biking skills park along Millcreek Parkway will be a nice amenity for local kids and families. It will also help introduce more of our local community to the fun and rewarding sport of mountain biking by helping them to develop better riding skills. The park will also have an area for small children and their striders which is great!

I fully support this project and for those that feel it will be a disruption of the tranquility of Mill Creek Parkway seems a bit silly to me. Our town's tranquility has been disrupted by the sound of razors on our streets and they aren't going away. Let's support more non-motorized forms of recreation within our community is my vote.

Thanks,
–Tracy Bentley

June 1, 2020

Council,

As the father of 2 children who have grown up riding bikes in Moab, and the coach of the high school mountain bike team, I am excited to hear that there are plans to develop an area for young children to enjoy, while developing their skills. I understand this area is grant funded and to be developed with low speed, family friendly use in mind. How perfectly consistent with our well traveled pathway through town!

Our family uses the bike path on a daily basis for commuting, fitness, and enjoyment. Being able to stop along the way with my 8 year old and practice balance and bike control on safe and well thought out features designed for skill development would only add to our path experience.

Cycling is a an activity that brings with it a lifetime of fitness. Last year there were almost 5000 racers in Utah's High School League. Many of those graduating last year will go on to ride in College.... Many on scholarship! As a community, let's work give our kids every opportunity to grow and develop in this sport.

Thanks to Grand County Trails for working so hard to enhance the non-motorized use and enjoyment in our community!

–Colin Topper, Father, Coach-Red Devil MTB

May 31, 2020

Dear Emily -

I do appreciate your response as I know you are very busy. I could see when I watched the City Council meeting that you are in favor of this project, and I regret that I never knew a year ago that this was in the works. I also very much favor projects that support families and especially children as it seems that most everything done in town panders to tourists and money. The people that live here do need more and this could prove to be one of those. But I am still wondering about a few things that you did not address in this response.

1. I am very familiar with the size of the bathroom by the existing pump track, which is substantial. The skill park project area identified at the council meeting for this did not identify any separate area where the bathroom would be. The area circled during the presentation certainly is not big enough to handle the fun ramps and things for kids and a bathroom of that size as well. So, if the bathroom is not in the identified project area, I would really appreciate seeing a blueprint as to where it would be placed. I know that area so well and cannot imagine where it could be without impacting existing riparian attributes. Can that blueprint - or some other representation be shared online?
2. Another concern is the expense of the bathroom to the City at a time when we are in the red. I believe that we were already in the red zone before the pandemic and now it is so much worse. Perhaps this is a good time to create something fun to lift peoples' spirits....and then again perhaps it is unwise to spend money when so many City employees are being let go. Is there any reason at all why this can't wait until we are back in the black? I would feel better if fiscal management and awareness of the crisis situation so many are in these days were more obvious.
3. Because the 'Friends of the Parkway' was not included in the planning and discussions I am fairly certain that there was insufficient public notification for this project. I also know I am not the only one that lives in the immediate vicinity of the project that was not made aware of these plans. Since it may be fiscally wise to delay the project anyway, perhaps having a public meeting to present the plans and discuss this project should take place. That would be my recommendation as well.

I am a big proponent of things for kids. I love the Rotary Park with its musical delights. I enjoy watching the kids gathering and running around at the ball park across the street from my home. I appreciate (and our extended family uses) the pump track. I actively support the Youth Garden Project, manage MARC annual paint outs for kids, and do a lot to support this City, County - and for that matter, the state. But I do think that this one needs some time and measured attention that we can all take part in.

I look forward to your thoughts on this and hope that a well-announced Zoom meeting for stakeholders becomes something that you and the Council would consider.

–margie lopez read

May 29, 2020

Mayor Emily and Council Members -

Today I waked over twice today through the area in question for this proposed park and am more concerned.

It brings to mind more questions beyond what I brought up before:

1. At the meeting there was reassurance that the riparian area would remain essentially whole, although only one cottonwood tree was mentioned. I heard some coughing without details about a few smaller trees being removed, but honestly, I can't see how they can do it all this without seriously jeopardizing the natural beauty — especially considering the size of a bathroom.
2. It seems there is pressure to approve this now even though - remarkably enough - the Friends of the Parkway was not consulted.
3. I reflect on the minimalist skills ramps that were presented to the council to build smaller kid skills. I wonder why that could not be put near the existing pump track for younger kids to use while their older siblings use the other stuff. That way they could leave this peaceful stretch undisturbed. That would seem more efficient and logical.
4. Unless, of course, the main unspoken objective of this project is to add that mid-point bathroom facility? That would be the one the City fully pays for. This confirms to me that it all should wait until the project is fully vetted with stakeholders and the city is on more solid financial grounds.

More thoughts for now. Call if you want to discuss?

—Margie Lopez Read

May 28, 2020

To the Moab City Council:

Regarding the money that is to be spent on a bike skills course....if you have \$30,000 to throw away, maybe you could first give *some* of that \$\$ to the Friends of the Parkway as a thank you for keeping trash picked up since the city doesn't have to pay to have that done....seems only fair.

By the way, WHY does a bike skills course HAVE to be located by the parkway? Isn't the entire Moab area just one big bike skills course that does NOT have to be manmade or have \$\$ spent to create it?

Lisa Braddock

I am writing to express my concern about the management of the City Budget in general with the proposed bike skills park as an example. It is all in the timing.

The proposed park is planned to be built this summer near the Mill Creek parkway, end of 100 E. In concept I love the idea of having a fun place for younger children and I always am pleased by the sound of their voices and laughter. I also like the idea of naming it after Robin Groff, a friend that we sorely miss.

What I fail to understand is why the City is doing this now, at a time when employees are being laid off and are losing not only their salaries but also health insurance. The park plans call for \$30,000 to build a restroom out of City funds. That would buy a lot of health insurance.

I believe it is much more a sign of conscientious good management to try to figure out a way to stop the bleeding before investing in a park. Please defer this great plan until City finances are not in the red and valuable City employees that are being laid off can be brought back into full time employment? Or, at the very least compensated with ongoing health insurance.

Maybe there are other ways to help. Can higher level employees for the City – manager, mayor, etc. – take a small pay cut to help balance the budget? Can some activities or services be reduced instead of laying people off?

I am broken-hearted about what is happening here and it is not the right time to go on as if everything is AOK. We need to pull together, share resources and help each other make it through these difficult times. Parks should come second to livelihood.

–Margie Lopez read

Dear Moab City Council,

I'm writing to express my unconditional support for the Urban Bike Skills Pocket Park. From the proposal it looks like a great way to connect local youth to the outdoors, which is a topic I spend a lot of time thinking about. The fact that it is beginner friendly, is close to the schools, and is ADA accessible (for chaperones) make this a wonderful idea as it breaks down many of the barriers associated with biking for youth in this community. I look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

Sincerely,

–Alexander de Moor

This is not a good idea. The area being suggested for bike skills is already being used as a quiet area close to town. The possible crowding of that area will push out other current use of it by animals, and people biking, running, wading and walking. We already have an area set aside for skills on 500 West. The history of agreements with property owners along that parkway to give right of way, I would think, would not honor them at all. It is one of the places left where you can actually hear the water and other natural sounds. It is right in the middle of the connection of other trails. Please do not approve this place for possible ruin.

Sincerely,

–Marsha Marshall

May 27, 2020

Please do not destroy the tranquil atmosphere of this part of the parkway. All of Sarah's points are well thought out. The money right now is better spent on a person's salary. The location is not a good fit for the reasons given. Please let the taxpayers (LOCAL) have a say in this.

–Bruni Mason

Moab Solutions has a very long and detailed history with the Parkway, and our multiple projects there. (Recycle and trash cleanups, leading volunteer groups, hand removals of weeds and minor trail maintenance, and working with the homeless and patrolling for camps.)

From the city's website, (we are listed at the bottom of the page):

<https://moabcity.org/297/Mill-Creek-Parkway>

We officially began Friends of the Parkway in August of 2004. The City paid for a full or half page ad in the paper announcing the project. I will look for that in my files and send it. We gave regular updates to the council, especially when we started working with the homeless 4 years later, in 2008. I believe I gave the current council an update on the 15th anniversary of the project, at CTBH last August, but I would need to double check that. For many years, at each anniversary, the city would host a display Moab Solutions made in the entrance hallway of City Hall, encouraging more people to join in.

In the beginning years I did a lot of work doing community outreach to nonprofits and others to encourage people to adopt small sections. Carol Hoggard and I worked with the Charter School once a month, doing cleanups and recycling education. I run volunteer cleanup projects on the parkway to this day with various groups.

There are small signs posted on a few places on the parkway advertising the partnership and project. They are small and out of date. At one time, the city website linked to information about Friends on each page of their old website.

From my website: <https://www.moab-solutions.org/friends-of-the-parkway.html> The USU students pictured help us fix the path down to the trail by the bike jumps a few years ago.

For what it's worth, I need to state that at this point in time, I am opposed to this project and am happy to discuss the reasons why if anybody is interested.

Let me know if you need more information.

Sincerely,

–Sara Melnicoff, Moab Solutions

May 25, 2020

I am deeply concerned about the bike skills area planned for 100 East at the Parkway. The parkway is a gem of an oasis within city limits but is getting littered with "thrill" sites that are pushing people out who want to enjoy the calm, the sounds of water and birds, and, a very real concern, be able to walk without fear of being hit by a bike, many of whom are riding way too fast on the "slow biking" parkway system.

The ever-expanding bike jumps near the hospital almost displaced folks who have walked in that area for years and years. Moab Solutions, in coordination with Trail Mix under Sandy Freethy, built a trail from the parking area down to the walking path so that bikers and walkers would each have safe use of that area. We also maintain it as needed. (Side note: Moab Solutions installed, and maintains to this day, recycling at the bike jumps.)

In August of 2004, Moab Solutions entered into an agreement for a partnership with the city when we formed Friends of the Parkway. Since that time we have removed thousands of pounds of trash and recycling, pulled and removed tons of weeds, (which were hauled to be recycled with Jeff Adams of TerraSophia, who uses the organic material to build up land around his dwelling), and worked extensively with the homeless, whose camps were all over the parkway at one time, causing endless headaches for law enforcement and sparking fear in many citizens.

We had hoped that we would be, at the very least, personally informed of any huge changes planned for the parkway. And that our knowledge, based on 16 years of volunteer work and improvements on the parkway, would count for something.

I am opposed to turning yet another natural area into a playground. With pandemics accelerated by human-caused climate disruption, the more naturalized we can keep areas, or restore them, the better for all of us. Thank you.

–Sara Melnicoff, Moab Solutions

I am not sure what a Bike Skills Park is but looking at the description on Google, it seems as if it will be like the Bike Jump on 500 West. I live on 1st East and I often walk on that section of the Parkway. The Parkway is meant for walking and slow biking and enjoying the quiet. I thought that was the intention of the Parkway? The Bike Jump Park on 500 West makes walking there almost dangerous. The bike riders start their rides into the driveway area with no regard to cars pulling in and out. I walk my dogs in both places and it feels like as a "walker" you are being pushed out.

I am concerned that it will be yet another quiet natural area that will be gone.

May I ask where the funding from the City is coming from? And who will maintain the area?

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to share this with the other council members.

–Lenore Beeson

May 24, 2020

I am very curious about what the bike skills park is.

The parkway is getting littered with activity sites, some of which are pushing out those who want to enjoy the quiet, the sound of the creek, when running, and a sense of safety.

The bike jumps by the hospital are expanding often. It is very tricky to weave through the bikers to get to the trail we built so folks could get to the trail without interfering with the bikers.

Moab Solutions partnered with the City in 2004 to care for the parkway. We hope that our input regarding this new site will be considered..

We do massive weeding, cleanup, and homeless outreach on the Parkway.

Thank you.

–Sara Melnicoff