Los Alamos Bike Park Working Group 2025 Update

PRESENTATION TO THE LOS ALAMOS PARKS & RECREATION BOARD 06/12/2025

LA Bike Park Working Group Goals



Outline **community benefits** and **requirements** for a bike park



Assess pros and cons of suitable **locations** for bike parks in Los Alamos County



Gauge community sentiment



Demonstrate community support

What is a bike park?



Why does Los Alamos County need a bike park?

Large mountain biking community

- Tuff Riders (120+ members; 30-year history)
- NMCL MTB Team (>150 student athletes since 2019)
- Tuff Tykes (grown to 100+ families of 2-12yo kids in 2yrs)
- Many others not in organized groups





Los Alamos Mountain Bike Riders Rise To The Challenge: Thrilling Finishes At New Mexico Interscholastic Cycling League Season Finale

Submitted by Carol A. Clark on November 4, 2024 - 8:36 am



Difficult Trails

Trails suitable for intermediate and advanced riders but *difficult for beginners, including children and teens*



Skills development an essential part of *any* sport

- Need safe place for skill progression for children, teens, and adults alike
- Community hub for skills and etiquette education

50 Benefits to Los Alamos County

**County priorities*

- **Increased** health and outdoor recreation
 - Quality of Life/Health, Wellbeing & Social Services 0
 - Bike parks are fun! 0
 - Adds to the many amenities that make Los Alamos a 0 great place to live
- Support for families looking for stuff to do
 - Place to bring kids to learn biking skills Healthy activity for kids and teens 0
 - 0
- *Community Hub* and platform for educational programs
 - Teach bike skills, trail etiquette, bike maintenance 0
 - Quality of Life/Educational, Historical, Cultural 0 Amenities
- Potential tourism revenue
 - Economic Vitality/Tourism and Special Events 0





50 Design Requirements, Community Benefits, Costs

- Contacted builders to determine design requirements and costs
 - 0
 - Pump track: \$250k, 1.5 acres minimum Full bike park (pump track + intermediate features): \$500-800k, 2.5-5 acres 0 minimum
 - 0 World class NM trail builders
- Assessed benefit to Los Alamos County
 - 0
 - 0
 - Place to learn biking skills Healthy activity for kids and teens ADA-compliant pathways ensure accessibility for all community members. 0
 - Return on investment 0
 - Quality of Life/Mobility 0
- Explored potential supplemental funding options
 - 0
 - IMBA Grants (matching up to \$30k) State Funds (matching \$100k-1M), in-kind 0 county contributions possible)
 - Foundations (Saris, others) 0
 - Concessions 0
 - Volunteer partnerships for maintenance 0

Beginner-Friendly Pump Track



Beginner-to-Intermediate Skill Features





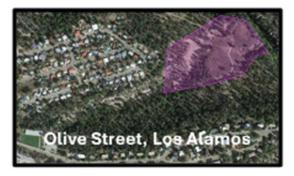




- Scouted four locations in Los Alamos and White Rock
- Assessed pros and cons
 - Zoning
 - Access
 - Infrastructure
 - Conflicts
 - Meet Requirements
- North Mesa and Overlook determined best locations for Los Alamos and White Rock, respectively











- Developed Los Alamos Bike Park Survey with help from Los Alamos Places and Spaces
 - Introduction to bike parks, commitments needed, costs
- Distributed widely
 - LA Places and Spaces distribution
 - 13 user groups (>270 participants); personally contacted those with past history of conflict
 - Editorial in Atomic Daily and LA Daily Post
 - QR codes
- Findings
 - >89% support a bike park in LA! (>55% non-bikers)
 - Large majority préfer N. Mesa



Los Alamos Bike Park Survey

BIUGX

The Los Alamos Bike Park Working Group is seeking community input about support for and priorities for one or more bike parks in Los Alamos County. Bike Parks are environments for children, teens or adults who want to learn essential bicycle riding skills in safe and fun conditions. They are purposely designed areas with asphalt and dirt surfaces with various fun and challenging features such as pump tracks and jumps to help riders develop skills like balancing, turning, jumping, and handling their bike. Generally an area of 1 to 2 acres is needed for each beginner level bike park (pump track) and 2 to 3 additional acres would be needed to add features for intermediate-level riders (jumps, berms, and drops). A typical bike skills park can cost anywhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000 per acre to build, depending on the complexity of the features, terrain, and required site preparation which can be covered with a combination of nonprofit grants and state-

Survey Results – 271 Participants as of 6/5

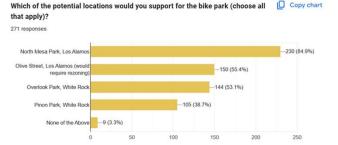
SUPPORT

How supportive are you of the idea of develo County?	ping a bike park in Los Alamos
271 responses	
11.4%	Strongly Support Somewhat Support Neutral or don't know enough about it to say Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose

REPRESENTATION

Are you or a household member affiliated with the following? (check all that Copy chart apply) 271 responses Tuff Did -73 (26.9%) Tuff Tyke -23 (8.5%) IMBA (International Mounta -62 (22.9%) Bike Association Los Alamos High School -27 (10%) Mountain Bike Race Tea any LANL bike gr -32 (11.8%) 150 (55.4% 100 50 150

LOCATION

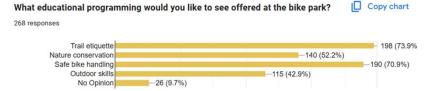


89% of Surveyed Residents Support a Bike Park in Los Alamos

55% of Surveyed Residents Non-Bikers 85% of Surveyed Residents Prefer North Mesa Location

Survey Results – 271 Participants as of 6/5

REQUIREMENTS



Trail Etiquette #1 Priority for Education Programs

Concerns:

- Cost
- Lack of Advanced Features
- Proximity to Stables / Rodeo Grounds



Benefit Area	Estimated Impact
Local Spending Boost	\$100–\$300K annually (conservative est.)
Tourism Attraction	5–10K new visitors/year
Health Cost Savings	Increased accessibility to active lifestyles
Community Engagement	High, especially for youth & families
Maintenance Costs	Offset by increased use and GRT





Building bridges





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Community Support for Bike Park at North Mesa Recreation Area

- > 26 acres on North Mesa slated for rec development
- March 12th Listening Session
 Over 100 bikers
- April 17th Planning Workshop
 - *Every design* included a bike park

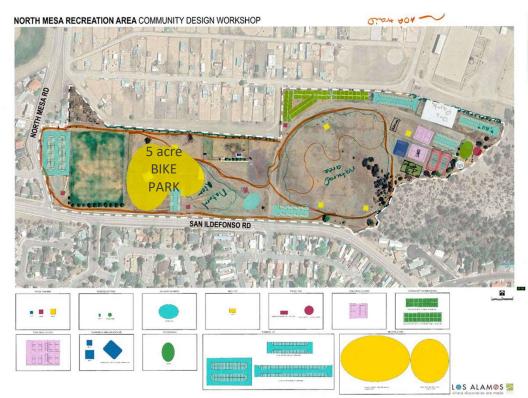
North Mesa Recreation Master Plan Listening Session Draws More Than 100 People, Many Of Them Cyclists



The Ask: County Support for N. Mesa Bike Park

Why?

- Large MTB community in Los Alamos with no bike-specific infrastructure
- North Mesa Site ideal location
 - O Properly zoned
 - O Ease of access (On bus route, Proximity to LA Middle School)
 - O Existing parking and restroom facilities
 - O Undeveloped space
 - O Ideal size and existing slope
 - O Challenge: connectivity to existing trail system
- Strongest support from community at large and biking community
- Bike community has shown strong civic engagement with the project
- Large, long-standing and growing bike community has been patient with decades of other failed projects (BMX park, flow trail)



YESI IN MY BACKYARDI FILM FESTIVAL

tailwind

1.1.10

spen

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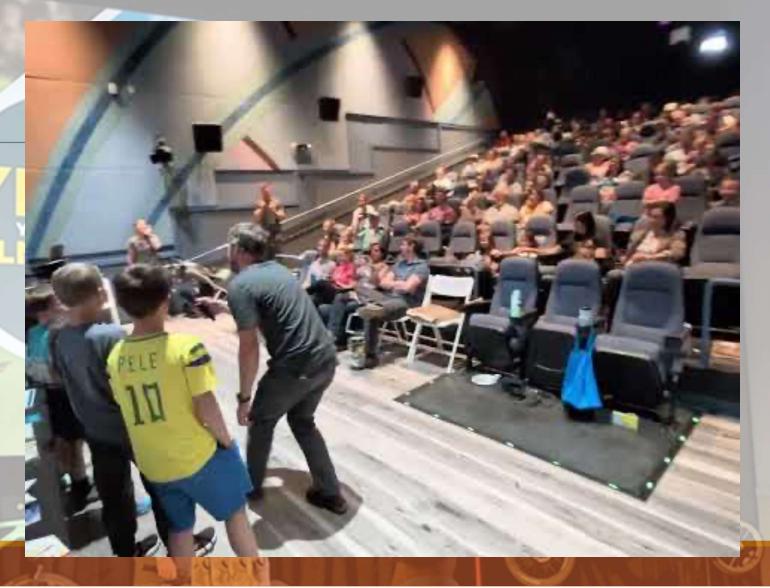
- May 10th, Yes In My Backyard Film Festival—sold out show (>100 seats)
- Local and National sponsors
- Demonstrated community support for a bike park



By CAROL A. CLARK Los Alamos Daily Post caclark@ladailypost.com

Mobile Bike Works Santa Fe launched its Los Alamos service on May 10 by helping sponsor the YIMBY Film Festival, a sold-out evening of cycling-related films benefiting Tuff Tykes Bike Club, at the SALA Event Center. The enthusiastic turnout was a reminder of how much Los Alamos cares about cycling.

"Riders in Los Alamos are passionate about their bikes but haven't had their own bike shop for a while," Co-owner Todd





- Non-profit driven community effort in collaboration with Los Alamos County
- Bike community helps pursue grants and funding to get appropriate features built and drive down cost
- Guidance on what makes a good bike park
- Collaboration on maintenance using extensive community trail building/maintenance experience



References

- <u>Funding opportunities</u>
 - IMBA Trail Accelerator
 - <u>NM State Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grants</u>
 - Saris Foundation
- Trail Builders
 - <u>Rocket Ramps</u> (NM Local!)
 - Jagged Axe
 - IMBA Trail Solutions



THANK YOU!

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