

Duluth Traverse
Bicycle Playground/Skills Area
Community Survey
Summary of Results

October 2024



About Bicycle Playgrounds

Bicycle playgrounds/skills areas are intentionally designed skill development areas with bike-optimized features that allow riders to explore and progress their abilities in a fun and easily repeatable environment. While the specific features vary depending on the targeted skill level, bicycle playgrounds/skills areas often include elements like a pump track or rollers, wood bridges, tunnels, teeter-totters, logs, balance elements, and progressive jumps and drops.

About the Survey

The City of Duluth, in partnership with the Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS), surveyed community members on preferences and priorities related to the development of a future bicycle playground/skills area in Duluth.

The survey was open to all persons and conducted using an opt-in, open participation format. While the City and COGGS made concerted efforts to invite all community members to complete the survey using social media, email lists, newsletters, etc., the individuals who self-selected to take this survey represent persons who are more engaged with Duluth's park and trail system than the average community member.

The survey was open from August 8, 2024 – August 31, 2024, and a total of 704 survey responses were received during this timeframe.

Top 4 Takeaways

1. Design for beginner and intermediate riders.

Most survey respondents said Duluth's bicycle playground/skills area should be designed for beginner riders (86.2%) and intermediate riders (78%).

2. Focus on the fundamentals.

When asked which features are most important for Duluth's bicycle playground/skills area, survey respondents were most likely to say a pump track (73.6%), balance features (62.6%), and berms or cornering features (62.6%).

3. Access to trails and bathrooms is important.

When asked to think about the area around the bicycle playground/skills area, survey respondents were most likely to identify nearby trail connections (71.6%) and access to restrooms (65.3%) as the most important amenities.

4. Lester Park is a preferred location.

Based on an average weighted score, Lester Park scored highest among survey respondents when asked where they'd most like to see a bicycle playground/skills area.

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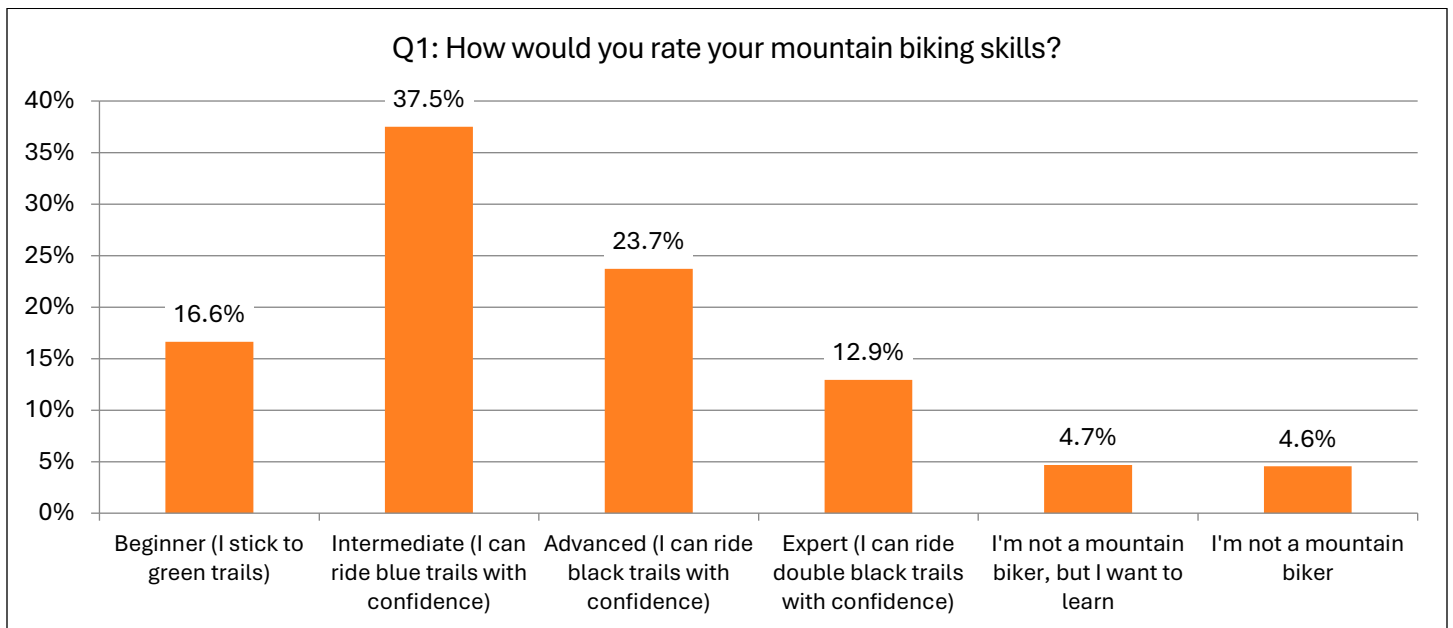
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Section 1: Summary of Survey Questions and Responses

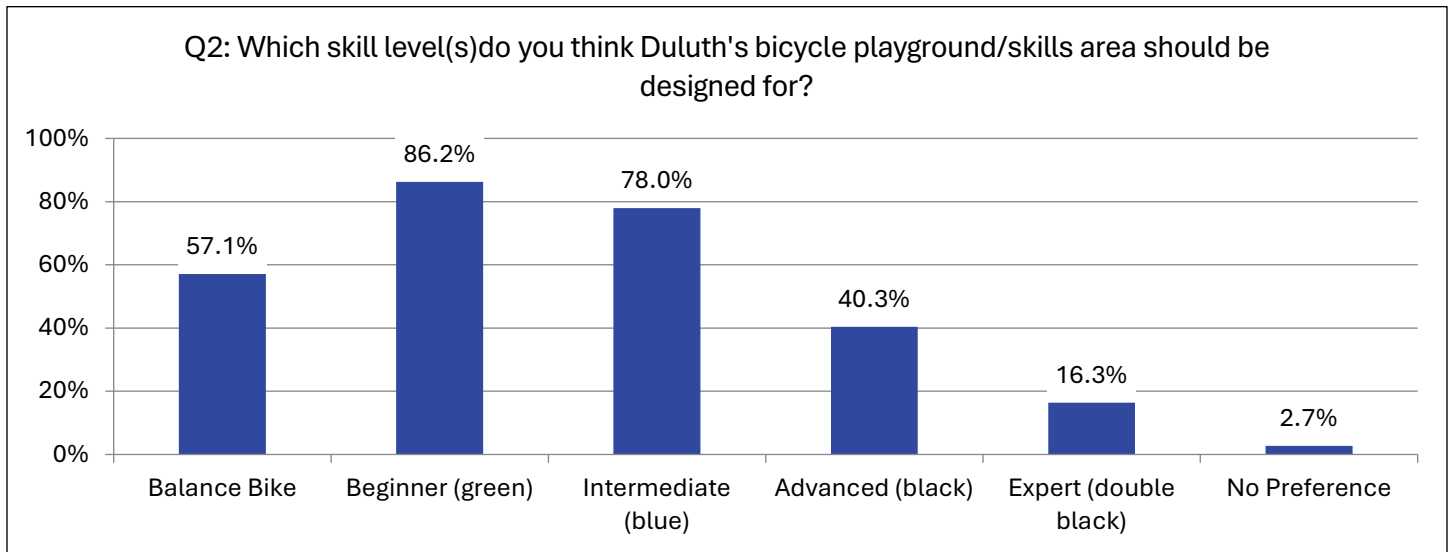
Q1: How would you rate your mountain biking skills?

Response Format: Required, Select one



Q2: Which skill level(s) do you think Duluth’s bicycle playground/skills area should be designed for?

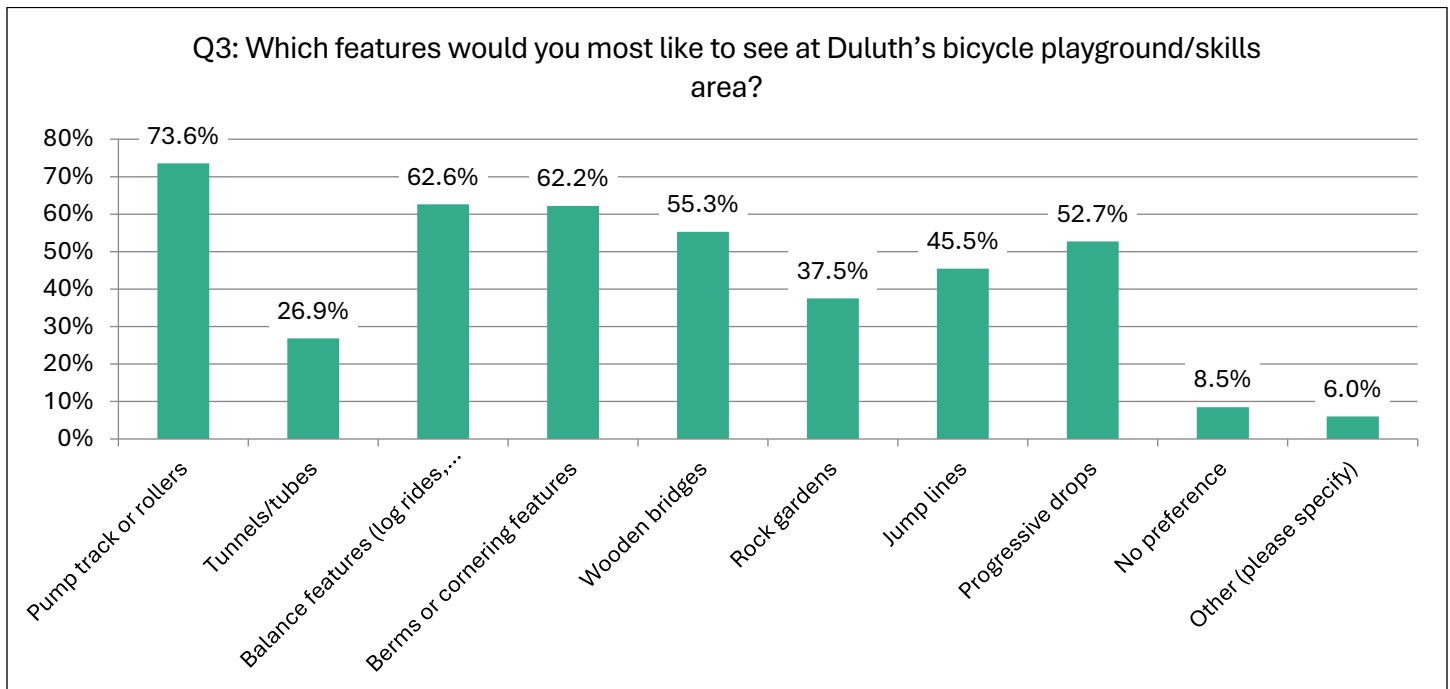
Response Format: Required, Select all that apply



Q3: Which features would you most like to see at Duluth’s bicycle playground/skills area?

Response Format: Required, Select all that apply, “Other” with an open comment box

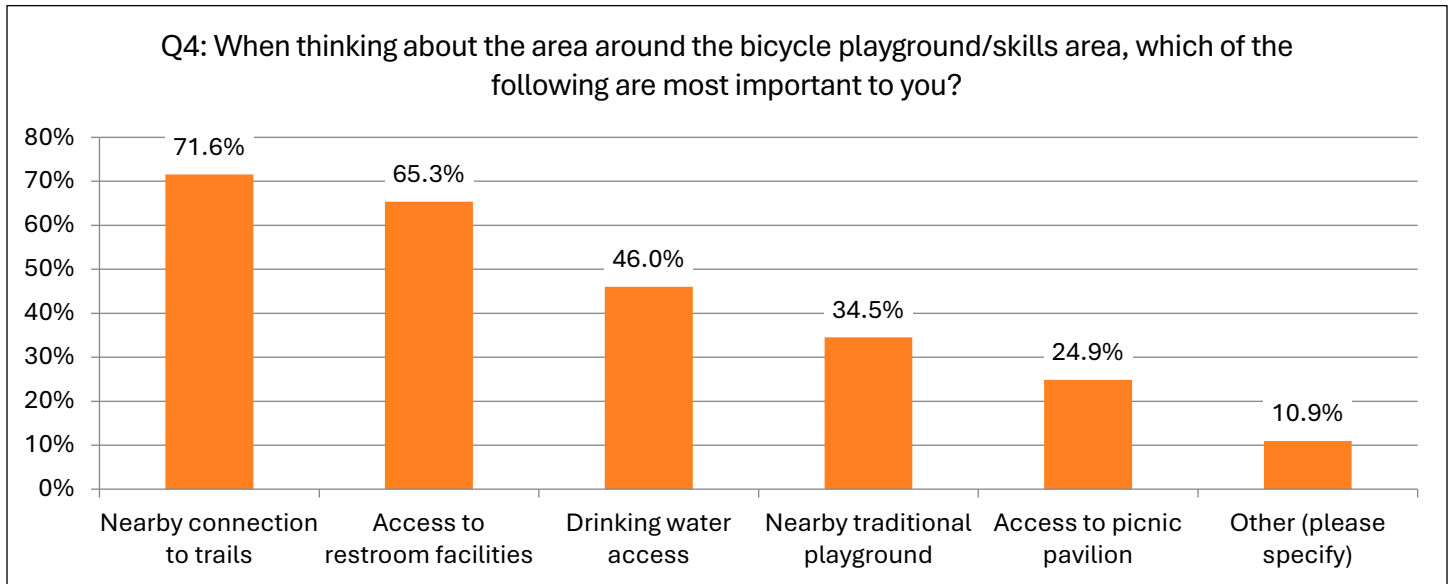
Of the 704 respondents, 42 provided responses for “Other”. See Section 3 for “other” responses.



Q4: When thinking about the area around the bicycle playground/skills area, which of the following are most important to you?

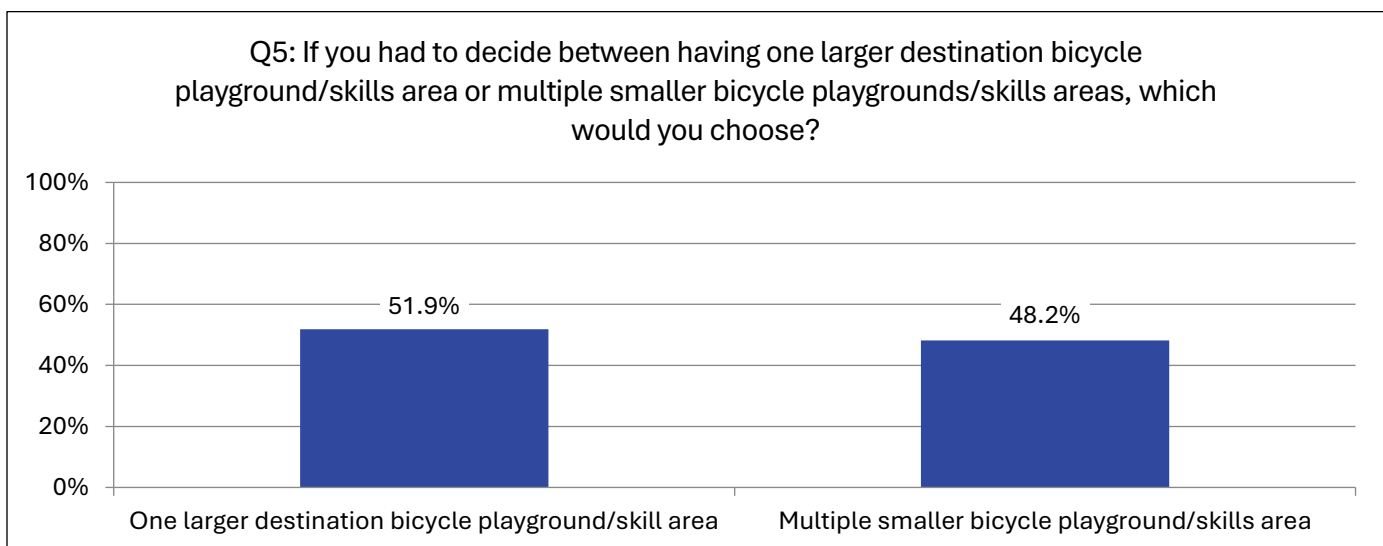
Response Format: Required, Select all that apply, “Other” with an open comment box.

Of the 704 responses, 77 provided responses for “Other”. [See Section 4 for “Other” responses.](#)



Q5: If you had to decide between having one larger destination bicycle playground/skills area or multiple smaller bicycle playgrounds/skills areas, which would you choose?

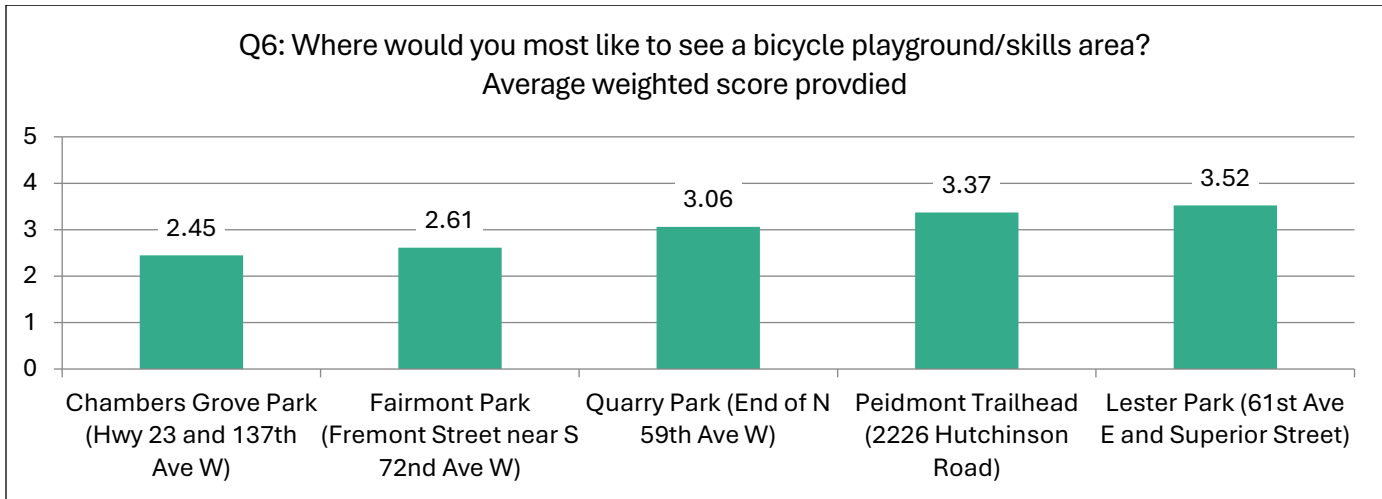
Response Format: Required, Select one



Q6: Where would you most like to see a bicycle playground/skills area?

Response Format: Rank the following options where 1= your highest priority and 5= your lowest priority.

The score provided in the graph below is the weighted average for each location where the highest score was the most preferred response.

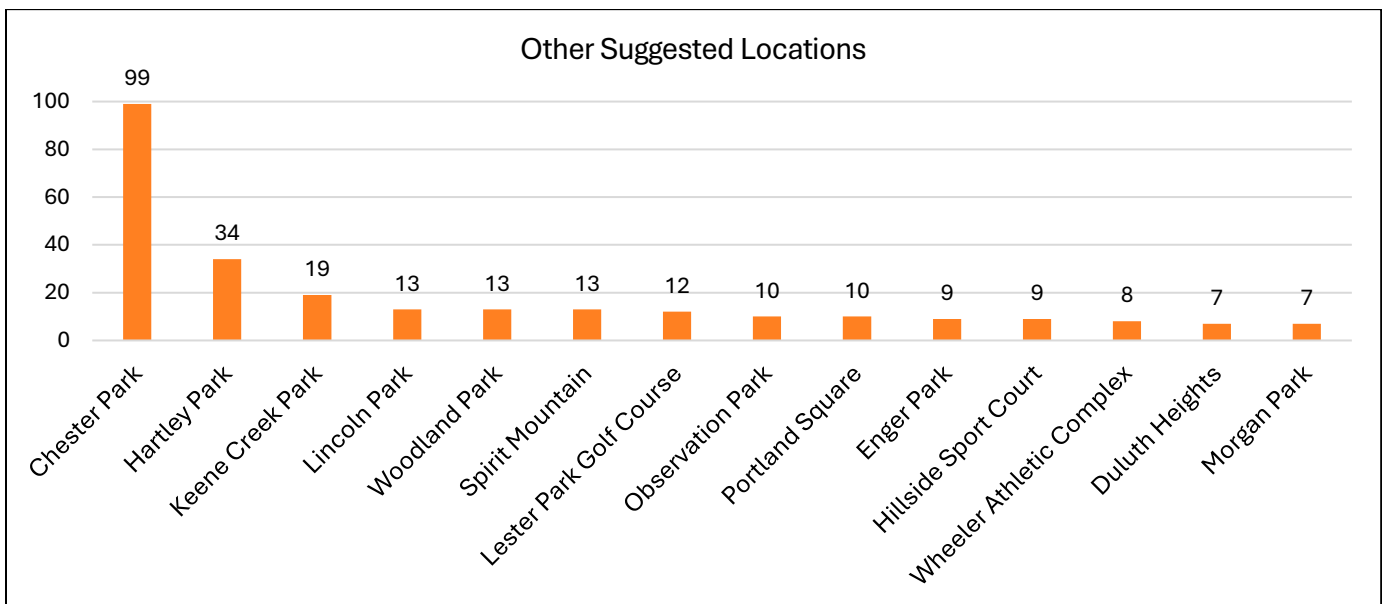


Q7: Are there any other locations that should be considered for a bike playground/skills area?

Response Format: Optional, Open Comment Box

Number of Responses: 350 of 704 (48.7% responded)

Of the 350 responses, there were common suggestions as summarized in the graph below. Bars indicate the number of responses that included the park for the completed responses. Some responses contained more than one park suggestion. [See Section 5 for all responses.](#)



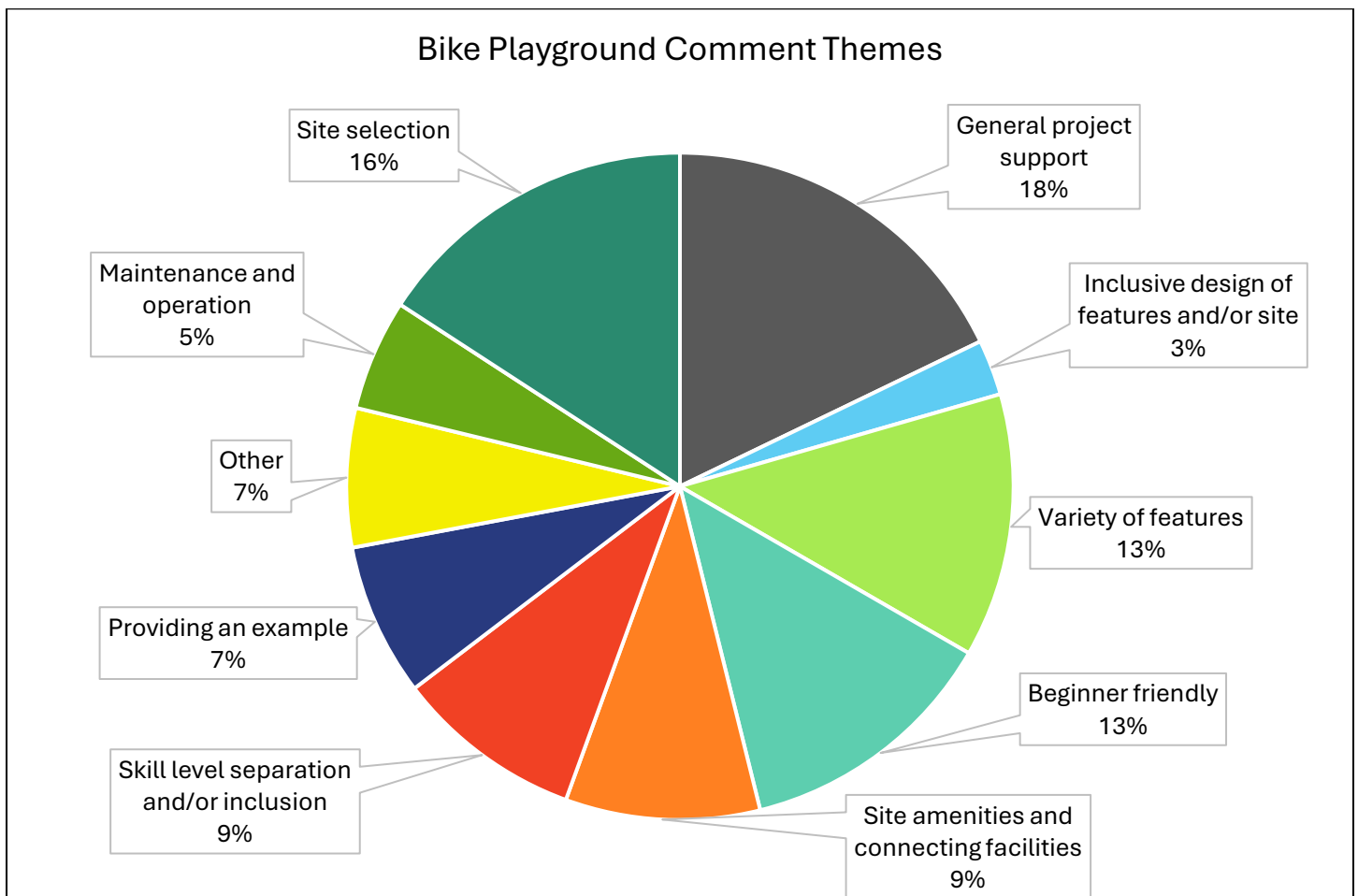
Q8: What other thoughts, questions, or concerns do you have about a potential bicycle playground/skills area?

Response Format: Optional, Open Comment Box

Number of Responses: 256 of 704 (36.4% responded)

Of the responses, there were common themes for responses as summarized in the pie chart below. Comments were categorized into 9 common themes and an “other” category for remaining comments.

[See Section 6 for all responses.](#)



Section 2: Respondents' Demographic Summary

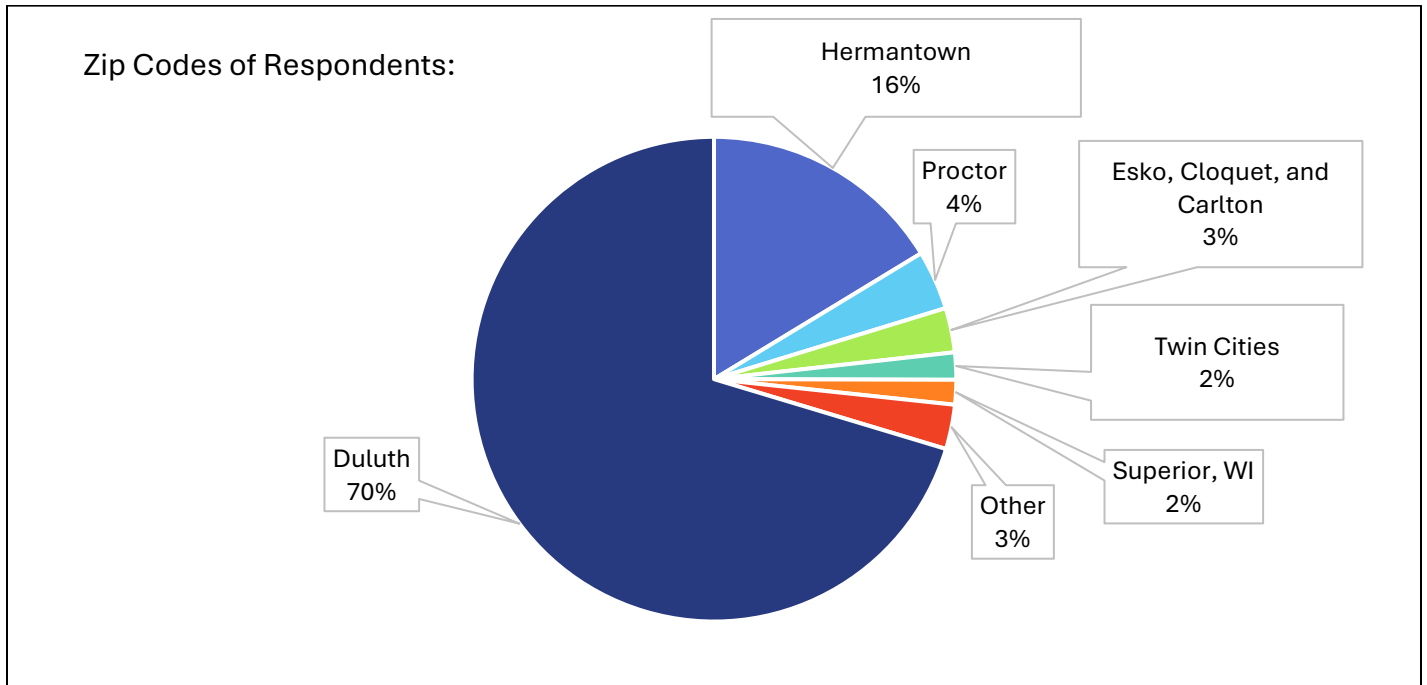
All demographic questions were optional.

Which zip code do you live in?

Number of Responses: 607 of 704 (86.2% responded)

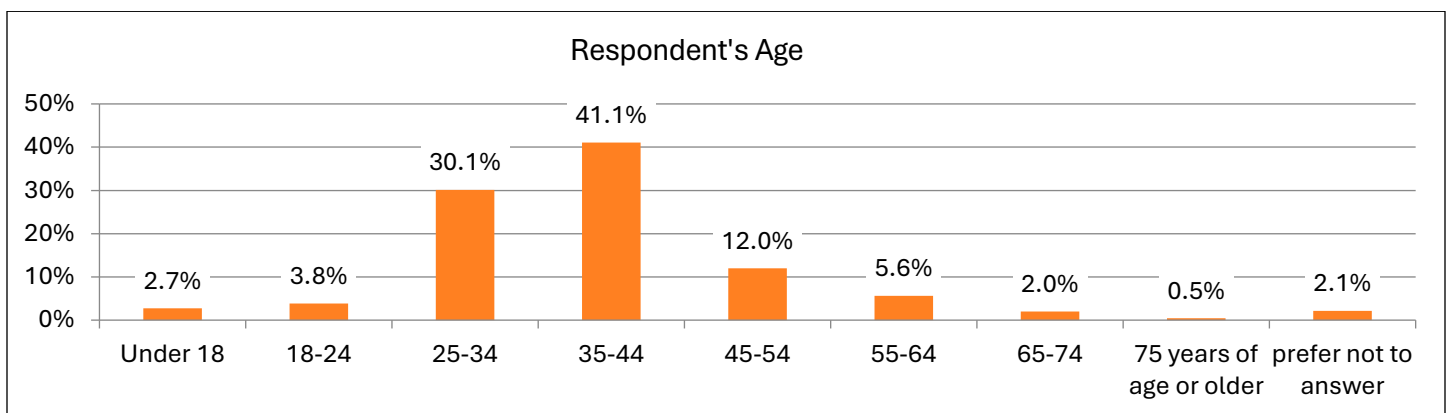
Responses are categorized in the graph below.

“Other” includes: Marquette, MI; Dane County, WI; Marathon County, WI; Sparta, WI; Ashland, WI; South Range, WI; Washburn, WI; Hastings, MN; Knife River, MN; Two Harbors, MN; Cohasset, MN; Eveleth, MN; Saginaw, MN; (2 Bayfield County, WI; Denver, CO; Bosler, WY; and Whatcom County, WA.



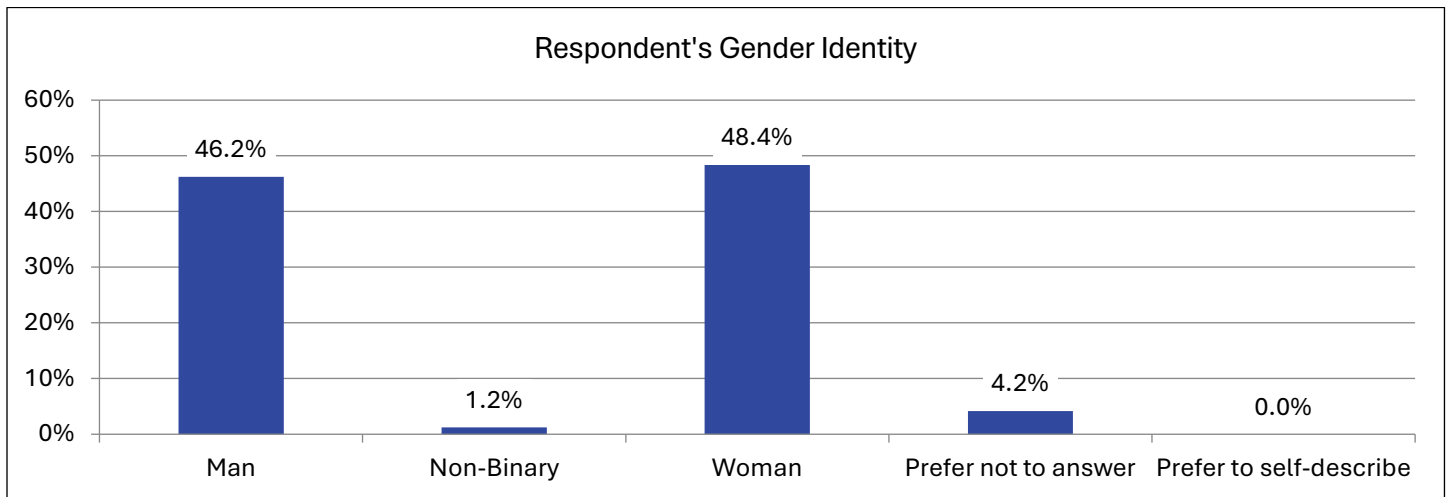
What is your age?

Number of Responses: 657 of 704 (93.3% responded)



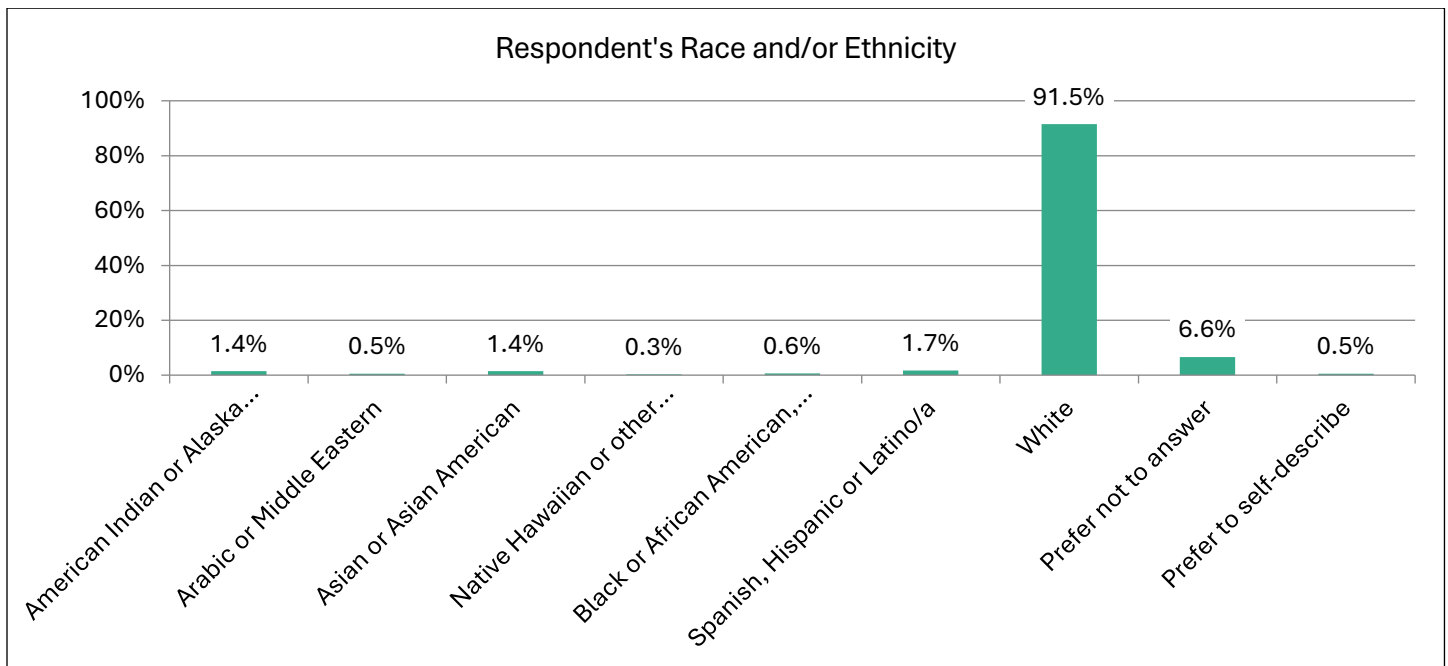
What is your gender identity?

Number of Responses: 647 of 704 (91.9% responded)



What is your race and/or ethnicity?

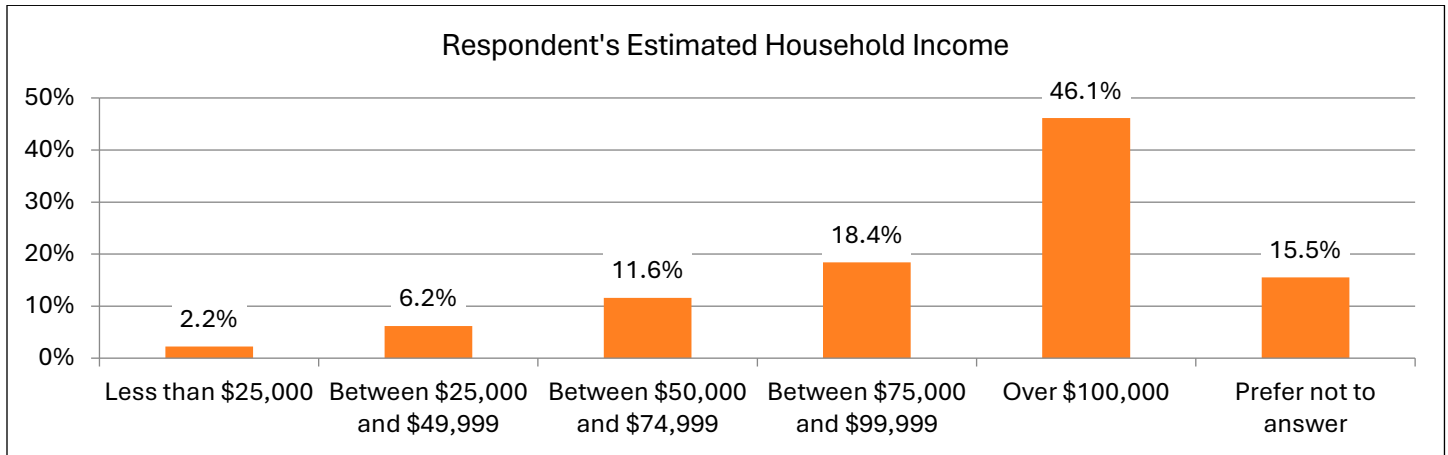
Number of Responses: 633 of 704 (89.9% responded)



How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year?

Number of Responses: 631 of 704 (89.6% responded)

The median household income in Duluth is approximately \$59,583 (2022 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates).



Do you, or a member of your family, have a physical, mental, or emotional condition that limits and/or significantly shapes your participation in work or society?

Number of Responses: 636 of 704 (90.3% responded)

40 respondents indicated “Yes”, which represents 6.3% of those that supplied a response.

Section 3: Feature Comments – Q3 “Other” Responses

Q3: Which features would you most like to see at Duluth’s bicycle playground/skills area?

Of the 704 respondents, 42 provided responses for “Other,” with 21 suggestions for specific features, 8 commenting on beginner and children friendly features, 4 commenting on a need for inclusive features, 3 suggesting that the playground could serve other wheeled equipment, and 3 suggesting a paved pump track. Full responses are below:

Specific feature suggestions (21)

Absolutely progressive drops, and the other things go nicely with that.

Progressive jumps

Trampoline

Air pump/bike maintenance station

WALL RIDE

Wheel lift practice, up and overs.

Balance features just on a flat 2x6 to get familiar with bridge narrow but no fall

A-frame

Steep roll downs

Other techy rock features

Rope swing

Air bag or mulch jump

Progressive jump line please!

All weather section

Smaller progressive loop trails.

Lily pad

Flow track - See the recent ones built in the Madison WI and Bentonville, Arkansas.

Mulch jump for experienced riders to practice tricks and if possible an airbag but I understand that’s not very likely. Also a foam pit would be sick.

Small drops—6” or 1’

Progressive jumps and drop features!!

Ramps

Beginner friendly (8)

Don't need to create advanced features in Duluth, terrain already provides that

Beginning tracks for learners/striders

Kids features

Kids area!!

Anything appropriate for small kids

Focus on beginning riders, our current trails provide the rest

Kid features!!!!

Helpful to have all skill levels so many people can practice

Inclusive features (4)

Need features suitable for adaptive mountain bikes

I have a son with Down syndrome and there are no safe off road trails to use of which I know in Duluth

Accessible activities

A wider loop that is still flowy for people to try using hand bikes or other accessibility tools like track chairs.
So it can be more inclusive.

Serve other wheeled equipment (3)

Why not simple urban style skills. Stopping turning maneuvering. Does it have to be all mountain bike skills?

Skateable Surface for the Pump Track!--Cable WI has a nice model.

True skatepark with large enough transitions for bikes like nearly every town in the western u.s.

Paved pump track (3)

Paved pump track is #1 thing that can develop children's skills.

Asphalt pump track

Concrete pump track (not dirt)

Other (3)

Access to water & bathrooms!

Other places I've been have great bike parks, they are always filled with people learning. It's quite a surprise
a city like Duluth doesn't have this

I honestly don't know what a lot of these mean

Section 4: Site Comments – Q4 “Other” Responses

Q4: When thinking about the area around the bicycle playground/skills area, which of the following are most important to you?

Of the 704 respondents, 77 provided responses for “Other,” with 19 commenting on parking, 19 providing specific amenity or infrastructure comments, 10 on being convenient and/or centrally located. Full responses are below:

Parking (19)

“Parking” (6)

Access to parking to allow for bringing littles there.

parking lot

Safe parking / traffic

Near parking lot for parents to park and supervise kids

Safe location and parking

Parking, if it ends up way out west most people will drive there.

Parking; camping

Paaarkinnng!!!!

Parking would be great

Shade and extra parking

Close access to parking is key for parents with young kids!

Easy and safe parking

Easy parking

Area that is safe for kids, parking readily available

Specific amenity or infrastructure comments (19)

Signage

Tool station

Integrated traditional playground equipment

Bike maintenance and wash station

Good toilets

Definitely access to a mini-biff/bathroom/changing stall :)

Changing stalls

It will only let me pick this one. Restroom, water, access to trails

Outdoor splash pad

Being away from a traditional playground or dog park

Shade

Bike tools/air/check station

Benches for non-bikers to watch their family/kids

I love the way cuyuna has a changing area, restrooms, and a parking lot. It helps to be able to unload kids right at the park.

Seating and shade for parents and participants

it is nice to have a picnic pavilion, benches, etc so families can gather and play

Grills for cooking out. Saunas

Bathrooms are great, even if it's a porta-potty.

Use opportunity to make a new trail head parking lot, bike park, changing rooms, etc. connecting to the DT

Convenient and/or centrally located (10)

Centrally located & near areas where kids/younger riders congregate where such a thing does not exist (i.e. Chester)

Central area of city

Central location

Convenient for most Duluthians to get to.

Central location and parking

Centrally located

Location convenience

Centrally located within town or by a large central hub for biking (spirit, mission, piedmont, Chester, Lester)

Nearby food. Conveniently located for Duluthians

Easy access in or near an area that is already well used for other purposes (trailhead, playground, etc)

Other (23)

Places kids in the lower income areas can get to with a bike.

Consider public transit, equity for those that don't own cars to get to the location. If possible two or three locations. Keep it simple and maintainable. too often we build things in in areas that have barriers to those that can't travel across town.

available Bus transportation for kids

Need to focus some of this in formally designated environmental justice neighborhoods

Proximity to user groups, ex schools, other similar rating trail system

Safe, clean drug free area

East side of town

Long beginner trail for kids to ride

Trail manners, especially off leash dog awareness - keeps me from taking my kid out on trails.

All about that bentonville airship vibe...

a place without loud engine noise or unhealthy exhaust

Not right on top of existing trail systems

Access to local neighborhoods

Don't care- I won't use these

Nearby home

Ideally, all these options. Our town is really lacking facilities that work on the all-ages-stages-mobilities model. I know that makes this a challenging idea. Maybe at Chester? Could it fit or get worked into where the old tennis courts were? Then you would have restrooms, playground, you could make an official connection from the bowl area up to the Rim trail. But. We seriously need some picnic pavilions in this town, we have so few. So, my vote is Chester. Centrally located, in a neighborhood, a great tourism destination, has parking, has hiking, maybe add a crushed gravel accessible trail on the uphill side of the creek for wheelchair users. Could be a really great thing. Thanks for this opportunity! Also, I don't want to answer question 5 as I think it should be both. Have one large one. Then add multiple smaller skills area at all the major hubs (Lester, Piedmont, Lincoln Park, Chester, maybe up by Marshall School, Fairmont, and Chambers Grovenear Haines maybe, too?) People shouldn't need to have a car to access this. I also think a small pump track, or maybe even a paved type skate/bike/bmx area at Portland Square would be amazing. We just got back from Winnipeg. Check out their bike/scooter/skate park at the Forks, it was truly incredible. People of all ages, abilities, and modes were using this very impressive park. Here's a link:
<https://www.newlineskateparks.com/project/plaza-at-the-forks-winnipeg-mn/>

Our kids get tired pretty quick at ages 2 and 4

Access from the lakewalk would be ideal

Finish the one at Keene Creek

As a family of 5, we've really appreciated the accessibility to all levels in the Bentonville, AR area. For example, towing a child in a trailer to a balance bike friendly bike playground, or having loops of nearby trails for older siblings to ride nearby while the younger play on the bike playground.

Keen's Creek Park in Hermantown is the Ideal Location

Near a brewery!

Safe neighborhood for beginner bikers, so close proximity to our house (multiple small biker playgrounds would be best!

Just a skills park with progressive jumps lines. Duluth has nothing like that

Close bikeable neighborhood access

Safe neighborhood with good parking, would prefer east duluth close to home

A location where potential riders who live lower on the hillside don't have to climb significantly to get to the playground.

Fairmont park behind the zoo would be a great spot

Section 5: Location Comments – Q7 Responses

Q7: Are there any other locations that should be considered for a bike playground/skills area?

There were 350 responses. Comments are categorized below for the most common stand-alone suggestions (i.e. the comment only references one location), which included Chester Park, Hartley Park, Keene Creek Park, and Lester Golf Course. There were XX other responses that include multiple locations within a single comment, or some other broad comments.

Chester Park (49)

“Chester Park” (14); “Chester” (8), “Chester Bowl” (7)

Chester Bowl, with access to trails from lower parking would be great - as far as I know all trails from lots/chalet/playground do not allow bikes!

Chester park near chalet, serves varied economic demographics and has established reputation and existing facilities

Near Chester!

Chester Bowl. It should be centrally located & in an area that is "traditionally more underserved for bike access." Also in an area that it would be a "destination" and there are already events/people who use the space for younger kids. Chester Bowl is an obvious location because it is already a hub for younger skiers so adding biking development would be great, it is centrally located, it serves a mixed group socioeconomically (unlike Lester Park), and is very accessible with facilities already in place. Chester Bowl also has seen a large growth in park use with little investment from the city over the past 5-10 years. This investment in a high traffic area such as this would be used often and offer skills in an area that does not have features like this.

Unrelated but I've always said there's enough room for a downhill run by Chester Creek starting at the bottom of Chester bowl and ending at burrito union, I would personally help build the trail especially since the path there is walking only

The “gravel pit” area in Chester Park on Kenwood would be a better use for that space than for storing piles of rock. It is also on the DT and convenient for many to get to. And on a bus line!

Chester Park No 1

Chester would be number one!!! It's so central and has lots of space! Plus there will be a new trail head/ski chalet that could be used.

Chester park the DT runs through it and there is plenty of unused space available

Upper Chester

Chester Park (area with gravel piles)

Chester Bowl, or a central location in the city

Chester Bowl would be ideal!

Chester Bowl would be an excellent place for a bike playground. I would put that as a top priority location.

How about the soccer field at Chester that seems owned by those people who let their dogs off leash at 4pm every day? The city knows about it but won't put an end to it. The rules don't apply to these dog owners and everyone else gets chased and jumped on. They call it “yappy hour” and insist their

Lester Golf Course

Lester Park Golf Course

On the former Lester Park Golf Course

Lester Park Golf Course

The old Lester Golf course

The old Lester golf course!!

Other (245) – Including comments that mentioned multiple locations

“Lincoln Park” (4)

“Observation Park” (3)

West end adjacent to Michigan Street, Park Point airport end, Morley Heights

Enger, Observation Park

Bayfront and Chester should be considered. Mini-playgrounds would benefit certain neighborhoods such as Duluth Heights.

Chester Bowl, hillside sports court, wheeler, Woodland Community Center, Portland Square, Lower Chester

hawks ridge

Lincoln Park would be an excellent place for this

Observation park, Keene creek park

Chester Bowl/Marshall/Bagley/UMD

Lincoln Park, Portman/Lakeside

Chester Park, Lincoln Park MS, Harbor Highlands, Empty lot of St Mary’s hospital, Bayfront or Lot D

Chester Bowl, Hartley, Bagley

The land that the guy wanted to develop in Hawks Ridge

Chester Bowl, Washington Square (lots of unused space), Several parks in Lakeside sit empty

Hartley Nature Center, Chester Park

Chester Park/Chester Bowl, Hartley

Hartley, chester in soccer field or tennis courts that are rarely used

Hartley, bagley

Lincoln park, Duluth Heights, Enger Park

The empty hillside by super one / play it agian foods in kenwood, Lester park, Somewhere in Hermantown

Hartley. Chester Bowl. Bagley.

Observation Park! Observation Park has so much to offer our community. Not only is it centrally located between East and West Duluth, but it is also at the heels of the Traverse Trail and the SHT.

Observation Hill Park is underutilized and needs some new energy. A bike playground/skills area would be an amazing addition to the Observation Hill neighborhood!

Hermantown (YMCA?), Upper Chester, Hartley, Bagley

Spirit Mountain or zoo area

Hartley park, Spirit mountain

Chester and Woodland

Hartley, Chester bowl

Observation Park, Chester Bowl

Keene Creek park, while it's under a freeway it has a park, dog park and was suppose to have this style addition. It's in an area that is accessible to those that may not be able to travel across town. The New Gary Rec Center is a up and coming area as well. Skate park, dog park, multi use sport court with plenty of family's within walking distance. Memorial park could use some cool kids additions for the same reasons. Valley Youth may have a new center there as well.

Portland Square, Chester Park, Any park/Green space within walking of urban, density. I feel that the options listed above, (other than Lester park) are missing the point to capture the most users in need for beginners.

Portland Square and/or Chester Park. Somewhere more centrally located. Cascade park would be an excellent jump line park.

Hartley or Lincoln Park because these are both centrally located.

Woodland/hartley area

Chester or Hartley

Lester park golf course, university park (60th ave east)

Hartley, Chester. The west end already has spirit mountain.

Chester; Hillside Sport Court Park

Bagley , Hartley

Portland Square Park, Hillside Sport Court Park

Chetser/downer

Chester, Washington square on superior st., Portland Square, Bayfront

Need to focus something in the Irving Park, Fairmont, Spirit Valley neighborhoods

Woodland Community Center, Chester Park, Lower Chester Park, Hillside Sport Courts, Portland Square, Wheeler Athletic Complex

Grant Park, Wheeler Athletic Complex, Morgan Park

Wheeler seems to have a lot of space for more. Keene (Hermantown) is in development but may have an area to devote. Stebner Soccer Park area is pretty empty by the giant lot in the front before the soccer fields. Maybe even some of the small mid-community "parks" that are just empty green

space could be utilized. Something more centralized and accessible to main Duluth would be nice for kids to access. Most of the options listed above are a bit of a drive one direction or the other.

Midtown skate park area or Gary New Duluth skate park area

1) Hartley Park - Building more features in the Pines Loop. The current loop is a great set-up with a lot of potential. 2) Chester Bowl - The lot on Kenwood that is being utilized to store gravel is not the best use of space. 3) Portland Square on East 4th Street

This survey does not match the post. Portland Square and Hillside Sport Courts are the best options or something way out west, NOT Chamber's grove.

Something in the heights. It's a bike ghost town north of Pecan

Chester Park, Bagley/ UMD, Enger Park, Observation Hill. The more centrally located in the city, the better

Hartley, Chester, Bayfront

Wheeler Complex, Anderson Rd, Harbor Highlands/ISD district office area

Doesn't really matter to me where it's at.

More central

Pike Lake recreation area by Pike Lake School

Please disregard my answers to question 6. I am not familiar enough with the sites to share an informed opinion.

Would be willing to drive a ways for a good progressive skills park. There is no good place to work up to bigger drops.

Brighton Beach area may be a unique option, as it has proximity to the Lakewalk trail

Near Lester/Amity Chalet

CJ Ramsted could be an option. The trails are less used in the summer months when there is not snow available for snowmobiling.

Portland Square

Areas that are more bike accessible. Piedmont is great but small lot and very hard for most to bike to.

Woodland community center

Lincoln park middle school.

The park should not be up the hill (as in Piemont) or anywhere on the east side of Duluth. It should be located somewhat centrally and toward the bottom of the hill (one could always take the bus back up the hill). I would prefer to see smaller parks across the city. Smaller parks around the city would provide better access to younger people without having them being driven to a central place.

Do they have to be near trailheads? Put one in an urban area. Collaborate with the school district for property.

How about something more central? All of the above are on one end of town or the other. Or else pick one location at either side.

Hillside!! There's not a lot of green space around and it could be a great way to make more community in the area

Spirit mountain area

Where in Quarry Park? Don't forget there is a disc golf course running through there.

By UMD's connection to the dt or Chester park

Wheeler athletic complex

Pine valley in cloquet

Jean Duluth Soccer area

Kenwood area

By the chalet on seven bridges

Hillside!

Riverside park has space and great access to trails

Under the freeway at Grand?

Morgan Park Community Center. Lots of unused land surrounding it, and playground already in place.

Lester all the way. Easily makes the most sense. Especially if you are targeting tourists. Can start a big day on the DT from there.

A more central location. These spot are all on the ends of town

Rock ridge school in lakeside. Washington park

Any open space along the Traverse.

Near Jean duluth soccer fields could be cool. It could add a cool aspect to the complex.

Wheeler or Spirit

I think question 5, I'd say multiple (like 2) medium sized playground/skills areas.

Keene Creek, Oneida Park area

Something more centrally located would be great but also near an area with lots of trails.

I wish there was an option to choose 2 destination playground/skills parks. One on the East (Lester) and one on the West (Fairmont, Piedmont, or Quarry). Chambers would be great but the ability for kids to ride, rather than drive, to the park should be a consideration.

Spirit mountain, can be improved and made bigger

Eventually the Hermantown YMCA. They are interested in hosting one.

Woodland Community Center

Maybe one in east Duluth and one in west Duluth. Don't often drive to the opposite end of town.

Woodland & Chester

Morgan Park

Waterfront area by Bayfront. Near UMD or Scholastica. Chester bowl area.

Wheeler Athletic Complex - lots of parking, bathrooms

The bike park should ideally be centrally located in Duluth. Places like Chester or Hartley parks would be ideal as they also have access to already established beginner and intermediate trails. The further east or west that people need to travel to use the facility, the lower the use rate will be.

Spirit Mountain, Merritt Park

somewhere closer to downtown and canal park?

Woodland Community Center and Hartley Nature Center

Somewhere in Lincoln park or the mall area

Incline Village development at Central HS property

I'd like to see bike playgrounds spaced throughout the city in a balanced fashion.

Woodland Community Center, Chester Park

Near old central school

Somewhere in Central Duluth

Grosvenor Square in Lakeside; currently unoccupied (I believe). Centrally located and embedded in Lakeside, close access to the Lakewalk.

The asphalt wasteland in West Duluth, in front of the vacant Kmart would be a PERFECT place to invest in the community by developing a whole bike recreation area there. Accessible, visible, and bringing outdoor lovers to the heart of West Duluth.

Near Marshall school; centrally located and they always have a parking lot with trail access; administration interested in partnering with the city

Near the Zoo, it is a beautiful area and easy access from Grand Ave and the freeway.

Anywhere on the East side of town. Lester Amity chalet area would be a great location.

Hartley Park or Brewer park

Spirit mountain. Improve existing pump track or make separate skills progression area

Near twin ponds/ Enger

Marshall School/former Central High/St. Scholastica area, if permissions could be secured. This is the most central and accessible to most of Duluth.

Hartley; the area north and northeast of the pond

On the football/tennis/softball fields where central highschool used to be

West Duluth

Woodland or Rice Lake

Enger Park

Chester Bowl, Lester park golf course? That park by the zoo tucked up to the DWP?

N/A, Piedmont Hutch lot is a great spot.

Pine Valley in Cloquet.

West end

Chester or Hartley or Lincoln Park

Progressive jumplines

Chester Park? Somewhere in Woodland ?

Jefferson square

Thanks for starting to do this work-- I really appreciate it.

Chester bowl, UMD or St. Scholastica,

The dirt jump area by / under the freeway near 63rd Ave W

Lester Park Golf Course, Lester Park Chalet area

Near the base of Spirit Mountain.

Not spirit mtn

Superior

Near the Lincoln park school in a disadvantaged neighborhood that is still close to a trail center with a nearby green trail and a system with a diverse array of difficulty in trails where riders can then practice their newly honed skills. Having the park near a middle school would open programming and the ability to build outdoor play into the school day.

Adding small areas at existing parks would be nice. Specifically for littles using balance bikes.

Chester or hillside. Hillside sport complex?

Lincoln park or Harrison Park. Would be nice if it was more accessible by community close by

As a lakeside resident, I have daydreamed about BMX trails in the small sections of woods behind Grosvenor square or Manchester square. It would really only require a small upfront investment in mini-ex/skid work then maintained and updated by volunteer with shovels.

Woodland, Park point in o e of the vacant lots... Near downtown

Chester or central hillside. Somewhere equal access east to west.

Spirit mountain, Somewhere adjacent to or accessible via Lakewalk, Lower Chester Park

Norton Park Playground?

Snively ski area and or Braden Peak area

Kenwood avenue across from the Chesterwood apartments. Where the city currently keeps some dirt piles.

Chester and Keene creek park

Keen Creek Park in Hermantown. Parking, direct access potential to Brewer, natural hilly landscape for skills track. new playground, paved city trail connection, safe, space and room to grow, parking for events.

Woodland Athletic Fields, where the unused baseball fields are now. Easy connection to the DT and Hartley trails, and existing park infrastructure is already there.

I really think the city should consider improving or maintaining the current playgrounds rather than meeting the needs of higher income people who can afford expensive mountain bikes. Parks are suppose to be accessible to all, not just the wealthy.

Chester or a place nearby Marshall school trails

Spirit mountain at the top.

Below spirit mountain

central hillside

Chester, old central hs

Chester Park right in the middle of Duluth.

Cloquet!

Please stop putting things at spirit. The park our tax dollars paid for below spirit is like grandfathered in and they act like you need to pay for it

The gravel pit area behind Chester Bowl, along Kenwood. The grassy strip of land between Central School and Harbor Highlands that currently connects Antenna Farm and Marshall

Maybe around the Arlington soccer fields or Twin Ponds areas if there's room.

Congdon Park school/Tischer Creek area

Hartley Nature Center, Playfront Park / DECC

Anything out by mission, or even around spirit mountain.

West Duluth/spirit mtn/Lincoln park already have great areas- bring one to East Duluth please so we don't have to drive so far for our littles! Love Lester park idea (nobody uses the 1 regrown baseball field there anymore! Love its proximity to the natural-y playscape there, as well as real mountain bike trails for older kids and adults!)

Chester park but lakeside is best

Chester or Hartley but lakeside makes the most sense

Somewhere closer to Esko

Expansion to existing assets at Spirit Mountain

Something more centrally located- Duluth Heights area? All of the site locations are pretty far east or west, except Piedmont.

Morningside?

Rice lake area

Keene Creek Pak off Okerstrom Rd

Gary new Duluth

By Enger, Lincoln Park by the middle school

The old central school

Norton Park

Portland Square. It's in the middle of the City! and garners access for kids that can't get to all of these remote locations. That could be the best place for this and would get a lot more folks back into downtown and it's closer to all the Transforming Transportation initiatives in Duluth. We've got to encourage and implement more walking or riding than driving to parks to ride bikes or skate.

In Morgan park...if hockey gets discontinued you could use the old rinks...there are three...maybe 3 different levels

Anywhere on the East side of Duluth. Hartley. Lester Park would be great! Lester Park Golf course could accommodate a larger skills area.

Smaller bike park feature areas along/near all traverse trailheads

Park point near picnic area,

Morgan park / Gary , west Duluth

Thompson Hillside

Anywhere with proximity to elementary and middle schools. Near Wheeler or Lincoln Park Middle School?

Lincoln Park - With Twin Ports Bicycles, Stewarts Bikes, and soon Continental in the neighborhood, it would be great for classes, Or the base of Sprit Mountain.

I just think that prioritizing something centrally located or an underserved community would be best.

Enger/Central Park with closure of lane on Skyline. Observation Hill park.

Piedmont trailhead might be a good location if you cleared some of it out, I ride there often and a lot of people come from out of town to ride those trails

Hartley, chester?

Hawk Ridge, or an expansion into the downer park area off of vermillion since those locations have much more rapid elevation change for jumps and drops.

Chester park, woodland community center, Lower Chester, Portland square, Lake walk, along the cross city trail.

Merritt Park, Wheeler Sports Complex

Morgan Park - Good Fellowship community building park. There are so many younger kids in the neighborhood looking for something to do because they out grew the park. Would be nice to have a mini skills park for them to progress. It would also be rad to have a trail that paralleled the new water front trail.

Morgan Park area!

The land right above the Hawk ridge trail.

Merritt park

Hartley. Portman

Wheeler

Marshall High School, Downer Park

The east end is very lacking

Hartley, Chester Park

Chester, old central highschool, more town centric for urban use.

Something in the Duluth heights area! Lacking options in this part of Duluth

GND Rec Center

hartley. keene creek.

Duluth Heights Park

Perhaps the old Central high school campus.

Hartley, above Glen Avon

Twin Ponds/Enger...maybe some marginal golf course property or the backside of Enger from the tower to Hank Jensen Dr.

Portland square across from ski hut would be a good location. It has water and restroom access. Or chester park

Merritt Park has a large open area just off of the basketball court that is unused.

Bayview heights

Marshall School

Something centralized would be ideal. Putting it on one end of the city or the other would be geographically limiting.

Many of the trail hubs/miles are located more on the western side of town and I think a Lester based park distributes some of that trail traffic a little more.

Hartley, Chester

Chester Park, Bagley, Hartley, Woodland Park

Merritt Park by Denfeld School has a tiny playground but a significantly large empty field. This location in town is filled with young families who need more for their children.

Chester Park, west Chester, Morningside trails, Enger

Hillside area - Hartley, Bagley, Chester

Merritt Park, Irving Park

Woodland area or Hartley area

Brighton beach or anywhere on the lakewalk

don't put it at Quarry, that has a special use already, don't put it at Piedmont which you spelled wrong, not enough parking, don't put at Chambers has a different purpose.

The new Brighton beach play areas seem lacking, bike playground would be a wonderful addition!

Hartley or chester

Section 6: Other Comments – Q8 Responses

Q8: What other thoughts, questions, or concerns do you have about a potential bicycle playground/skills area?

There were 256 responses.

Comments were categorized into 9 common themes and an “other” category for remaining comments. Comments mentioning two or more themes are separated below.

Inclusive design of features and/or site (6)

Please, please, please make sure this facility and all its activities are inclusive and accessible for all folks.

This would include the bathrooms, parking, trail components (many wheelchair and walking device user ride three wheel mountain bikes), sidewalks, etc. I can be contacted if you would like a non-profit that I am a board member of to help in this planning. Our focus is to ensure development is inclusive and accessible for all.

I would want them to be accessible to different types of bikes for people of all abilities.

Again, a playground/skill area should be required to contain elements suitable for adaptive mountain bike progression.

Make it accessible for people with disabilities.

Please make sure this is an inclusive area for children of all abilities, and disabilities

Make them adaptive bike friendly!

Maintenance and operation (13)

Graffiti, kids ruining it

Long term continued maintenance would be the biggest concern.

The bike repair stations around Duluth have been vandalized to the beyond usable. I don't know what can be done to avoid that, but perhaps keeping abuse in mind as it is being developed would help keep it usable, even with some abuse/vandalism.

Who will maintain the skills area? The traverse and clusters do not receive the routine maintenance required right now so how does adding another park requiring maintenance.

Maintenance and who takes ownership to keep it clean and inviting

Educate the public to LEASH their dogs or stay off trails. I have talked to several people who do not use the trails because of this issue (hikers, walkers, bikers, & families).

Playground/skills areas should provide guidance regarding how to interact with other cyclists and non cyclists while on bicycles.

Please add signs that say helmets are mandatory

Sign with qr codes to show videos on how to do the skills.

Would be nice to see more mountain bike programming for younger kids. Really enjoyed share the shred at Spirit!

Ability to hold clinics, groups, and families of all levels

It would be cool if you had a rental Booth area with different bikes for kids who can't haul their bikes to the park. This could be a partnership with ski hut or other bike store potentially.

Maybe it'd be possible to add/create a bike library of some sort to let newer riders have a bike to try things out.

Skill level separation and/or inclusion (21)

A space for young kids separated from older kids, so that is safe for toddlers and preschoolers.

Would love there to be features for all different abilities so that families with all different skill level riders could enjoy the space/time together.

Great idea, thank you for pursuing this. As a parent of 3 kids 6-13 years old I would love to see some separation between the different components so that the littles-intermediates could safely practice safely without feet of being run over.

Hoping it's for small kids only, having bigger kids/teenagers with little balance bike kiddos nearby doesn't sounds the safest or the best idea as a parent myself. Would love to take my young kiddos though!

It is imperative that the facility mostly caters to beginner and intermediate riders while also having features that can gradually build skill development (for example balance features should not all be 3 feet off the ground, there should be a progression from low to high heights).

Its going to be to easy we should have a easy and medium and a hard and expert trail run.

Progression from kids to adults

Not have very many things for toddlers kids because then they slow down things and it isn't as much fun!

Hopefully enough progression up to black/double black diamond features. Always a bummer when a skill park caps out too quick because once there's nothing to work towards, you quit going....

There MUST be a feature/lines for advanced riders. These are things everyone else can progress their skills towards riding.

I struggled to fill in this survey because I would like to see a bike playground focused on kids, and also one for intermediate riders like myself to improve.

Making sure that there would be an area for all skill levels from toddlers on balance bikes to older teens and adults. Some paved paths and natural trails.

I think a large one will be VERY popular! Progression feels important. Something for kids of all ages from littles on kick bikes to folks trying their first larger table tops.

Please design in a way that keeps larger/faster riders away from smaller / novice riders

Would love to see both family friendly options as well as more advanced blue to black skills areas so more advanced riders can build skills.

It would be nice to have the more expert/skilled part be completely separated from the park for younger or newer riders for safety purposes.

It would be great to have one for small kids but also one for big kids

Duluth doesn't have anything to bridge the gap between intermediate and expert features. We need something to help those of us with good working amygdalas who desire to progress our skills.

Making sure kids have the ability to participate without older kids/ adults taking over.

Love the idea! Have an 9, 4, and 1 year old. It can be difficult to find a place that all 3 can play at different levels. Both 9 and 4 year old bike. 9 year old is mt bike, 4 year old is riding a strider bike but loves to do trails with older brother.

I am not a mountain biker but my husband is and I do road bike. Biking is important to our family and I think anything that allows kids to explore and Learn and play with bikes would be beneficial (even if it doesn't fall into the mountain bike category) please also consider families with mixed aged children! Having shade for babies, variety for toddlers, benches for parents, skill building areas for older children would All be very appreciated!

Variety of features (29)

Jumps, lots of jumps

Progressive rock roll simulating features should be considered in medium skill level parks, can be constructed with wood if boulders are not feasible.

Pump track would be extra sweet for skateboarders too!

A jump line where bmx bikes can ride would be cool.

tunnels would be great in the balance bike area.

Will there be quality dirt jumps?

There are so many rocks on Duluth trails that I don't think having a rock garden at a skills park matters

Just a soft spot to land-sand or recycled tires to land on if they fall.

I would like to see a paved pump track with multiple lines. this means it can be ridden in a variety of conditions, and the multiple lines allow for different skill users to be on it at the same time.

A paved pump track would be a phenomenal addition to this plan!

Paved pump track!

I think an all weather (e.g., asphalt) or covered pump track in Duluth would benefit a wide range of riders (striders, beginners, intermediate) and offer a rainy day alternative when trails are closed!

The pump track should be paved. Preferably a Velosolutions pump track. People of all ages and skill levels can use them and they're so much easier to maintain. Pump tracks can either be the most amazing thing ever, or utter garbage. And it's hard, really hard to make them good. Have it done by the professionals who build pump tracks. Not by a trail builder. The one at Spirit is not a good example of a pump track.

If there is a paved pump track people will come. First hand have witnessed what a good paved pumptrack can do for a biking community.

Velo solution pump tracks are the best. Dirt pump tracks require too much Maintnace and dont roll fast enough. Example spirit mountain pump track

Duluth lacks progressive drops and jumps for beginner/intermediate level riders. Also, all weather/weather resistant features would be so helpful here

A cement/asphalt pump track would be ideal and a huge addition to our community. Any other small features or rollers would be a bonus and would fill a gap in our trail network!

I love the idea of a progressive park for all abilities from balance bike through jump lines and progressive drops

Just make it progressive. Like actually progressive. I'm a good female biker & certified mtn bike instructor and it seems too many skills park's are built and planned by expert riding men.

Be sure the features are progression based...meaning starting off very simple and ending with very difficult
Skill progression would be great.

I think to really round Duluth out as gold MTB destination we need a progressive skills park with progressive jump lines and progressive drops. We don't have anything like that.

A safe place to work on feature progression

The bicycle playgrounds should take into account the facilities at Spirit Mountain and Keene Creek and not overload areas of the city which already have dedicated elements.

I love the idea of a bike playground. But is it only for kids? I have a teenager that wants to ride harder mountain bike trails, but he could really use a place to practice. I'd love to be able to practice too in a place where if I break all the bones in my body at least an ambulance can get to me! Then I may have enough confidence to go riding with my son.

Thought: Jump lines are not needed because Piedmont already has a good jump trail close to the parking lot, there is Spirit for downhill riders, and Keene Creek has the "in-process" jump park.

Have a wide variety of skill options, hopefully the pedal back to the "top" of the features isn't too much work. But a hill should be incorporated

A course for advanced and less advanced riders

I think having multiple trails on a good slope that can be lapped (like a mini self serve bike park) would be great. It's a great way to progress and learn bigger and faster features. Green/blue jump trails with drops and berms alongside black jump trails with large tabletop jumps, step downs, higher speeds, and large walled berms. All features could be "rollable" so nothing would be mandatory when learning the trails. I think the hillside at Quarry would be a perfect place for this style of "bike park". It's easy access and has a good constant slope with room to make multiple decent length trails. Perfect place to go and do lap after lap until you're too tired to climb again. Most riders these days are looking for the wider and faster, flowy, freeride/bike park style trails that are endlessly addicting and hoots of fun with friends. If built well, I think this would be extremely popular.

Site amenities and connecting facilities (16)

Parking would be nice for families and/or people that live on the other side of town

Enough parking. The draw of more bikes on the trails and the trails should be one way.

Make sure there's enough parking!

Safe/adequate parking near the bike playground/skills area

Garbage cans

Nice to have: basic bike care stand (air and wrench), shade (trees fine!), at least a single bench/seat option (thinking of non-riders who may be bringing kids over)

Bike repair stand, restrooms, shade

All of the locations in 6 have really small parking lots and also not sure there are permanent bathrooms - only some at Chambers and Fairmont. Piedmont and Lester are already really busy parks.

A spot for food trucks to park would be a nice addition.

Include a splash pad? Bike rentals? Food truck access?

Good parking available with bathrooms near by and water available.

Integrate a splash pad near one of the parks of building in a water feature for summer. If multiple smaller parks recommend having different skill levels for each to meet the needs of kids at different levels

I think it would be nice if a potential bike playground had something else there for recreation so that families with a kid who is interested in biking can go with a sibling who isn't but they won't be bored. It would be great if it was a place where people could make a day of it, so bathrooms seem super important!

I love the idea of having someplace that is made for the whole family. Bathrooms and a variety of skills levels. Also if there's a partnership that makes renting bikes more accessible, that would be so cool.

Please consider more family friendly features vs. tourist/adult mountain biking. Our playgrounds are seriously lacking compared to comparable population cities. Consider adding a simple splash pad, would be a huge draw and feature for the community!!

It would be wonderful to have a campground for vans, small RVs, and tents. Make it a destination.

Beginner friendly (25)

These skills parks are so helpful in getting new riders into the sport and helping kids grow their confidence on bikes in general. We should have these everywhere!

More beginner friendly trails are needed in Duluth. Bike playgrounds can be a bridge that advance riders into mountain biking. Neighborhood accessibility is important step in ensuring use for wide swath of demographics. Bike parks near other community parks will help with introduction to sport from those who don't come from mountain bike background.

Duluth has a lot of trails for intermediate+. Many of our green trails are challenging for kids/newbies. I would love to see these spaces help get people comfortable enough to tackle the rest of our trail system.

Would love to see bicycle playgrounds in Duluth. Provide for kids and beginners first and build up to advanced features. This make all of Duluth trails more manageable to learn and grow as riders.

These areas should focus on children and first time level riders before creating more options for advanced riders. They should be accessible by users without necessarily needing auto transportation.

I design and build mountain bike facilities for a living and have young kids and just keep in mind the "true beginner" needs for kids and those just learning.

Simple is best! Focusing on basic (and affordable) elements that can help beginner riders develop skills. A dirt pump track with a few bridge/roller features would be amazing. With adequate parking where parents could watch kids from the parking lot

Focusing on a large area for striders/kids to help build fundamentals

I did not renew my COGGs membership this year because the group continues to prioritize projects like this rather than creating trails that I can actually ride and enjoy. I can comfortably ride blue trails everywhere else I've gone. Many of the blue trails in Duluth terrify me.

Beginner stuff is the most import! Get something to have kids start young and comfortable and with a safe clean environment for parents to feel the same.

More beginner trails in general

my biggest concern is that the trail systems here are not for families or beginners. It seems when new biking is brought to duluth there is very little thought into fun easy accessible trails for families to grow in biking

It would be awesome to have beginner focused features to help riders practice skills to level up!

No concerns, this is awesome, we need more of these! I want multiple large ones throughout the city. We need multiple locations because the city is big and people use the parks nearest to them so it's important to have multiple bike playground / skills areas but they also need to be awesome. We have incredible bike infrastructure for people that already mountain bike but if you are a beginner or kids & family, there's not that much, we want more of a bike culture in our community - it's good for the people who live here and will also bring tourism here like Bentonville - families travel there because of the bike playground/skills areas and family friendly trail system. Let's be that too!!

Kid friendly features!

Please gear this towards beginners! There is already more than ample attractions for more advanced riders. It's too intimidating for beginners to have more advanced riders swarming around--and they will. Please please please design this for new riders!

Make it kid friendly and kid xc skiing friendly for winter short loop

A skills area would be great. I've been a beginner for a long time because I don't know where to go work on skills except for on the trail where I don't know what I'm getting myself into.

If it's geared for balance to intermediate that gives kids a chance to grow and learn and use it longer. Then once they hit black they can go to spirit. Spirit has less options for beginners.

Focus on beginners! The hills, horrible sidewalks, and dangerous streets are impossible places to teach beginners to ride a bike, and bike-riding is an important life skill.

More kid friendly the better.

Destination for young children where those with resources will travel, and those in the neighborhood can easily use

Intention should be for progressing young/new riders, not building more jumps/drops for experienced riders. If one large park is built, it might be cool to have a small loop designed after each trail system to showcase the variety of trail surface and features you can expect across the system. Narrow flow like Mission, Rooty like Hartley, Rocky like Hawk Ridge, etc.

I have young children who are just learning to ride bikes, so my interest would be anything that is welcoming to young beginners as an opportunity to develop. Love love love this idea -- thank you to all who are spearheading this!

Making sure it can target teens and adults. Not just kids of expert mtn bikers. Starting at 45 and 14 we're having a hard time finding places to learn that don't involve little kids or programs geared just

toward low income. Which is fabulous but the middle ground is hard to find for my 14 year old and not have him feel judged for not knowing already.

Site selection (32)

Vandalism and homeless people. Make sure it's well lit and safe

Safety, supervision,

Needs to be in a safe area.

Concerns about certain areas of town were there would be more riff raff. Just the general safety and location is important.

Public safety and cleanliness of a bike playground is a big priority our family, as we have multiple kids, including toddlers. My concern with some of the proposed areas is high drug use, and needles on the ground.

I really hope we think about equity in access to such places. Some families are more able to travel to these assets while others that need it the most don't. Location is the key. Once the Cross City Trail gets completed western Duluth will be better connected so thinking about the future is important as far as accessible without cars.

Make sure site is accessible on bus and/or bike routes so people can get to the site without a vehicle.

Skill parks need to be accessible to the entire community. Places in higher income areas or that require a car to get to increase barriers to an already exclusive sport.

At least one skills park should be central and accessible to families/kids without driving.

It should be centrally located in Duluth so it is easily accessible for all

I think a more central location to service the majority of Duluth would be much more appreciated. I love Chambers Grove but it's a long drive away from me. Fairmount Park doesn't make sense because Spirit mountain is right there and they already have a pump track that is accessible to anyone that wants it. University Park (60th and Congdon Blvd) lakeside is an open space that isn't used much and it would be really cool to have some kind of kid pump track there.

Centrally located on the DT seems like a good way to allow ease of access for more riders!

Central location for easy access

A more central location would be preferred. If you go that far west or that far east you are building this only for people who have access to transportation, and especially not for kids who don't have cars. Mission doesn't have a dense population surrounding it, if we build the park there you force people to drive there. It's a time commitment, it costs gas, and it means people without cars (including kids!) cannot use the park. Why would mission even be considered other than there is some space that other more central parks already have? Fairmount is a bonkers drive for the major of the Duluth population too. Was equity considered? Who is this for? If this is for bike bros, put it anywhere. If this is for the community, put it where the community is.

Several smaller locations make it more accessible to people of different economic backgrounds

I think it would be fine to have multiple smaller family-friendly spots

Please focus this FOR DULUTH RESIDENTS, not as a tourist draw. Spreading out (two rather than one) and locating in more localized neighborhoods along the DT is preferable to making one large “destination” trailhead/park for visitors.

I was torn on having one big playground/skills area or multiple. I ultimately ended on multiple because Duluth is very spread out and I think we need to get access to these to as many areas in town as possible.

One large destination one would be great, however, I answered multiple smaller ones because I have doubts on whether any of these space could handle the parking for a destination bike park; these lots are already full. If you could solve parking and have real trail head amenities, that would change my answer

Multiple skills parks would be nice but one large with multiple levels of skill ares would be ideal.

Accessible to everyone! More locations.

Chamber's Grove, Quarry Park have different thing going putting a bike park in would change that.

Pump track at Chester Bowl

Would it be built on existing infrastructure/at current park or new/developing area

Easy for parents to supervise and easy access for people riding to the area

If you have it in west Duluth we would likely not go.

I'd like to see the skills parl on the east end as Spirit Mountain has a pump track amd skills park already on the west side of town.

It seems the west side of the city has been the focused area for developing mtb features and trails. Perhaps focus could be put on the far east side of the city.

We also feel like there could be ample space in some of the wooded area to create a green mountain biking trail in the Morgan Park neighborhood. In talking with kids at the playground, I think it would be a great addition to the area and give older kids something to do rather than getting into mischief. :)

Ultimately I think the most important factors to consider are #1 accessibility (benefits all rider levels) and #2 volume of use (is placed somewhere where it will actually be utilized by this wide variety of riders). For example, Quarry Park is a poor choice IMO because I never find myself there and I doubt many beginner riders would opt to park here to make the trek up the Quarry trail. It is just not a popular spot, and personally I doubt that a skills park would draw a diverse group of people here. Lester and Mission on the other hand are ridden by riders of all abilities and are also already popular. I give the edge to Chambers because it could use some additional draw to get more people out there, and because Lester Park is already a bit crowded, people-wise. That leads me to my one concern: misuse by non-riders. Kids are great, but I could see playground-goers at Lester getting in the way of riders using the skills park and risking injury.

I don't think we should sacrifice existing utilized green space for this type of thing. There is a shortage of areas in town to just kick a soccer ball around or have kids play tag or other games that require a small open grass area. There is value in holding onto those spaces.

West end would be wonderful for some of these parks. East end of town has huge playgrounds and parks. West end is lacking even though it is a hugely growing community with young families. I think a playground like this should be considered in this location.

Providing an example location (7)

Knoxville has a great pump track - take a look. Railyard in Rogers is a great skills park

Please PAVE a pump-track, so it will last better than dirt. Knoxville TN has a great example of one.

Bentonville as an example. Have lots of room for future features, have a paved, all weather option.

The skills park in Cable WI at the Cable Recreation Park is a great example of what Duluth should consider.

It has varying levels of difficulty and is redundant for riders with different skill levels

The park in Cable is great inspiration, but less used than a similar park would be in Duluth.

It might be worth exploring paved skills courses, like are becoming common in Bentonville, AK.

Bayfront could be a really cool place for a skills park. Or... you could go wild. You could make an incredible park like The Forks area in Winnipeg (by the way, Canada and Manitoba are kicking our butts in land acknowledgements and recognizing historically significant places and not trying to hide the impact colonialism has made.) Just think of a community gathering place in Canal Park that could make places for people instead of for cars. I do think that having multiple locations for pump/skills courses, and some green trails would be very beneficial. I didn't learn to mountain bike until I was in my 30s. It's an intimidating sport. I don't like being on trails with drop offs. Having places that are rolling and wide will help more people learn and love this form of recreation, and that, in turn can connect people to using bikes as transportation. This is all good stuff. We can and we should do this stuff. The new Sagamore unit in Cuyuna is another place that is just incredible. Can't we have some of that? So there are trails and spaces for all? Thanks for giving me this forum.

Other (19)

Love the idea. Go with something that is financially feasible now with room for expansion later if we can do more fundraising

Allow for potential enhancements. Features for all levels.

I'd encourage a design that is scalable if possible and add a skate component to the park.

Cost for the city.

Why are we pursuing a second bike park when COGGS doesn't have the volunteer power or funds to finish the one they've already been working on for a while? Why does COGGS get to build whatever they want, to include new trails within arms reach of other trails, when other trail users are denied?

I'm concerned about communal green spaces being threatened by one user group that already has shown its disregard for nature and it's disrespect for other trail users.

I do not like the idea of more bike trails or bike focused parks throughout Duluth. You can not go to a single park or hiking trail without running into bikers. The solitude that one use to experience is now gone as bikers rip up and down trails. Not to mention how many of them allow their dogs to run with them or off leash as they are biking. You can't tell me that they stop to pick up their dog's poop as they bike and do not see them in the woods.

Partner with Superior

I would rather the city update current parks with more handicap accessibility and improvement of current sports equipment over the addition of a bike park.

Should have made questions 2, 3, & 4, rank choice.

Weight the opinion of Duluth Devo representatives. They are a key user group.

I don't have a large preference on location!

V solutions makes very high quality pump tracks

I think the Lester Park Golf Course area could be utilized for much more than what it's being positioned for. Off leash fenced in dog park, dusk golf course, food truck/ concerts in the park venue, movies in the park venue.... Just a few ideas. I know we need housing but can't we do both?

Minimize impact on open green space used for unstructured play by children through adults. Duluth has a lot o bike optimized trails as is, with most being green -blue level (and most recently many black/expert level trails being developed. Minimize impact on existing foot trails and park structures/areas so that those who chose not to cycle, or are concerned about interactions with cyclists (trail etiquette being what is is, a neglected topic) have a place to recreate safely

Like I said above stop enabling spirit mountains ---- management

Is there a way to make this city investment more equitable to people who don't buy \$5,000 bikes? Mountain biking is not for poor people. I assume COGGS is providing a lot of funding and labor.

Will actual riders be the ones building the trails?

Where do I sign up to help

General project support (47)

We need this

Love this survey and idea!

These are so vital and easy for kids to use and build skills!

Let's do this!

I love this idea!

Duluth is a mountain biking destination. I live in Washburn, WI and I love riding in Duluth. A bike park helps bolster the mountain biking opportunities. This isn't just another trail- it is its own unique feature. I would drive to Duluth just to ride a nice bike park.

I'm excited, that's a interesting idea, especially since so many bike trails in Duluth

What an amazing project! Nice Work Duluth!

This needs to happen for the community. Having a skills park accessible for anyone to be able to get into the sport would make a drastic difference.

Let's rip

Very exciting about this. Would be awesome for it to be accessible for striders all the way to expert riders.

Family friendly where both young kids, youth and grown ups can all bike

We desperately need bike playgrounds! PLEASE

Great idea. Do it.

Duluth is well behind the 8 ball on this

Duluth is in need of a good skills park.

I think this would be a great thing to have in the community. Anything extra we can have to do with our kids in a controlled setting that is outdoors is always a plus.

Excited about the possibility

Why don't we have Bicycle Playgrounds already. The City has been very successful with their mobile bike fleet and introducing the bikes within the City but the next step is to get kids on bikes with closer access to trails. I like the idea of having a larger destination bicycle playground at Spirit Mtn and smaller bicycle playgrounds throughout the city but I think if based upon available resources it would be most beneficial to have smaller playgrounds throughout the City.

Would be awesome!

I think this is really great! I visited Bentonville this spring and had a really great time with the progressive drop and jump lines at their skills park.

Bike skills parks are crucial to advance MTB skills! Great warm-up before you hit the trails.

Please make one!!!!

We would love a place for kids to practice!

Great idea.

It will be awesome to have this for all ability levels and draw lots of people.

Long overdue! A necessity to stay relevant.

This would be SO amazing to have, especially with all the biking interest from young riders in our area!

Please make it happen. We need a place to be able to take kids to learn to ride trails but we also need a place for riders to progress their skills. One big park would be better than a bunch of smaller ones

I love the idea for balance bikes!

I think it is an excellent step for Duluth to make both in terms of bringing in tourism and outside dollars into town and in terms of making outdoor recreation and mountain biking more accessible to our communities.

This sounds awesome

I think it would be a great place for people to practice skills in a more controlled area and where it is easy to repeat a skill and ride a feature over and over

These are the best things ever!

VERY excited about the possibility of progressive drops! Would love a place to practice with an easy entry.

It would be sweet and would really benefit the community. I also think a dirt jump portion would be very cool and I also said earlier in the survey a mulch jump would be a very safe way to practice tricks and would benefit us.

Bicycle playgrounds are a key missing piece to the current bike infrastructure in Duluth. Other major mountain biking communities and destinations have bicycle playgrounds and skills areas. They are a great place for kids and adults to develop skills. They are also a great place for community members to gather and socialize.

I have observed similar areas in Europe and they seem great!

Duluth's wonderful trail system would be benefited by the development of features for beginner riders. Long sections of the Duluth Traverse are highly accessible to beginner riders, but trail features, other users, and the commitment level needed to access those sections create barriers to falling in love with mountain biking. Creating a trail that gives new riders a comfortable space to practice basic trail features will multiply new trail user's enjoyment of the Duluth mtb Trail system

I think it is a fantastic idea that would get a good amount of use as long as it's welcoming of all skillsets.

This would be amazing. Having lived somewhere with parks like this, they are great for learning skills, building community, and getting people outside.

This is a wonderful concept that I could see being very popular with children. The skateparks are tailored to a different type of rider and are often dominated by skateboarders (as they should be), so a bicycle specific park like this is such a cool concept for kids who prefer to bike.

It would be great to have more spaces for youth have fun in Duluth. Duluth desperately needs more activity spaces. It would be great to have this space for my children

I love this idea so much! I love the idea of having multiple skill abilities in one park too. My family would be big users of this!

This would be a great addition to the already wonderful trails that Duluth has to offer.

I think it's a great ideal and my kids would love a place to practice their skills.

I think it's a great idea to encourage skill growth in biking and I'm excited to see this hopefully come to fruition.

Comments categorized as 2 or more themes (41)

Will there be the potential to link different parts of the park. Jumping off one berm to another section of trail?

I would like to see a park not geared towards only one skill level but a place where people of all different abilities could have fun - little kids to adults

Just build it. We're 10 yrs behind west Salem, WI.

Progressive skill lines with drops, jumps, skinnies that scaffold learning are notably absent throughout our system. I am on the Hartley Park trail crew and would gladly volunteer time to help build this.

Just looking for more opportunities to get kids playing and confident on bikes. With Spirit already having a pump track and some features it would be great to have something centrally located, up the hill, or on the east side... although the new Pines Hartley trail is a great beginner loop

Along with playground features, a central hub with progressive green, blue, dark blue lines would be sweet. Think Marquette South Mtn progress park or Castle Hub in Bentonville...as long as we're dreaming

We need more trails like the green trails at Hartley, something more flat but has some variation and obstacles for kids to learn on.

Accessibility, Safe location, Well maintained

Kid-friendly! I like the idea of something not located far-far-west, but I also don't necessarily want Lester Park proper to be congested

The bike playground areas would be for all ages, I assume. It would be ideal if it were accessible to kids who could bike there. If in various locations, would it be segregated by skill level or a variety of levels at one playground with many accessible across the city (eventually)? Any of the options would be great. A safe place to practice handling and build skills would be a wonderful addition to our community as well as contribute to safety on the trails, grow interest in biking, and provide networking for people to meet other bikers. It would also build awareness of the fantastic biking community we have that people may not even realize exists.

Having worked with kids (mine and others) to develop bike skills, offering a broad range of features is important for them to progress into the sport. The greatest need is at the beginner development end of the spectrum, to hook riders into the sport. As riders progress there does need to be more difficult (black/double black, big jump lines etc) to keep them engaged, especially as teenagers. Spirit MTN is doing a good job at offering some of the more difficult features but that is pay-to-play. Since many of the features in skills parks can be used with a BMX-style bike (less expensive than a Full Sup MTB) low cost & inclusivity should be a consideration.

Something on the east side of town. Parking availability.

Would love to see a course similar to Cuyuna beginner area. An accessible area to introduce young riders to typical mountain biking terrain. Hartley pines area is another good example, though it's kind of a pain to get there.

To have a successful skills park I think it needs to have accessibility to a building with some facilities. As a family, we really enjoy biking at the Winman trail system in WI. It has a main chalet with bathrooms, changing rooms and vending. A skills and pump track area, hammocks and picnic tables and a fire pit. All this is the hub for a network of mtb trails. It's very family friendly but serves all skill levels.

There is a lack of good trails for young riders. Having a skills area connected with trails that 12 years and under could manage would be amazing

We just went to Cable bike park today and were talking about how awesome it would be having something like that in Duluth!

All skill levels, Multiple entry points so lots of bikers can go at once, Keeping it maintained

Perhaps some signage on how to properly use the features to prevent injury.

I love to see when there are side-by-side progressive options. It's also nice to have plenty of space to "set up" (get on your bike and take a few pedals) before hitting things like jumps and drops. And making sure there is a good flow without intersections that could cause collisions.

Variety of features to support various level of skills

Family friendly with viewing

How accessible the trails would be for the local communities. For example, are there trails, paved or unpaved, that kids could ride to get to the bike park

I think this is great. It would be nice to have a progression of features from beginner to advanced. I think things like berms, rollers, jumps, and drops are more important than "balance" and wood features as we need the former skills to progress as riders on our trails. The latter are "cool things to do" but aren't as useful in helping a beginner progress to being able to ride DM (for example). I think Chambers Grove is a great park that is really far away from most users. I feel a skills park there would be very under utilized, especially by youth (a huge user group for something like this). The venues in the middle of the city—Fairmont, Quarry, Piedmont seem to make the most sense to me.

Duluth has all the potential to be like Bentonville Arkansas, let's get there.

I think a safe place for kids to learn to bike with a nearby park would be a game changer for kids in the area. It's so hard to find anywhere to teach kids to bike.

It would be really wonderful if Duluth had a bike playground geared towards kids, many of the trails in Duluth are quite technical and tricky for kids. I know so many families that go to cable WI for their kids bike park

Please do not waste a bunch of money on a paved pump track. They are expensive, serve a small percentage of riders, and people get bored of them quickly. Colorado has a lot of great examples of well executed bike parks/adventure parks, with Frisco bike park being the best example

Parking and summer winter access

Please locate in a safe location where parents can teach and pass on their love of biking to their kids. My 3 girls and wife loved the beginner trails at Tioga and Cuyuna. We need more entry level loops here in Duluth. Get Hermantown parks/rec on board. There are a lot of bikers on top of the hill. Adults will benefit from a skill area just as much as kids..

Duluth needs a trail center to ride to and from. Parking should be adequate and access to amenities would be nice. A truly community space that feels like the "living room" for the mountain biking community would be amazing.

It needs a concept/identity/brand. This would make it a bigger draw for tourists and locals alike. Tie in materials that relate to the name and theme of the park. Have nice signage. Have a few unique features that make it a destination. The Railyard in AR comes to mind.

Make it challenging for experienced adults as well as kids. To often these bike playground only cater to kids 7yo and younger. Make jumps, berms, rollers, give something the young kids can watch and aspire to ride once they master there skills.

I love the ones they have at Tioga and Cuyuna. Making them easily accessible to riders of all abilities is critical. Thinking of parents with very young riders, having the park easily accessible from a parking lot with restroom/picnic amenities would be key.

There is a great green beginning track at Tioga as well as a more advanced track at the top. We go every year and the kids progress quickly but as a parent I can still ride with them by taking the easier route in the skills area. Also be sure to include adequate bike parking and a tool station to fix your bike and pump up tires.

Something similar to the railyard in Rogers Arkansas made with the velo tech solutions is what we need in Duluth! With features that beginners can work on and improve there riding skills but also features that will continue to challenge advanced riders big whale tales and jumps!

This is a huge need for the community and will help introduce the next generation of mountain bikers to the sport. This is the generation that will live and maintain the trail infrastructure that Duluth has worked so hard to create and maintain. There are many trail experiences for intermediate and advanced, but limited opportunities for parents with young kids of vary skill levels that don't have the physical stamina for climbing, but would enjoy an easy pedaling skills park for hours. A couple examples of successful results with similar efforts include: - Carver Lake Bicycle Playground <https://youtu.be/DbtE1Xt2u0k?si=ALTNNd2oL1CpR2Uc> - Bentonville, AR <https://youtu.be/4Vmtqh4kCjg?si=n7El8nKXtkkV475J>

An ideal bike playground(s) would be situated close to residential areas with safe and easy accessibility by bike. Getting kids to develop skills and interest requires that they be able to get to the bike park without needing to transport bikes by vehicle.

Would be great to have both a big skills area, but also a dedicated playground/skills area for the really little kids so they have somewhere they aren't in danger of being run over :) Sort of like the Railyard in the Bentonville area!

All ages learning to ride bikes for the first time...how to keep them safe

I think it should be close to a neighborhood where local kids can bike there on their own to play. I think most Duluth trails are pretty tough for beginners, so something easy or intermediate would be great!

The high school track surfaces are nice and soft and smooth--perfect for a new rider to build confidence and speed! We honestly would only use one in our end of town (East) due to after-work proximity. My kids are 2-4 and just getting interested. Strider bike rental program? Thanks!