



Minneapolis is home to the best park system in the US and ranks among the best cities for cycling in the nation year after year, but off-road biking options are very limited. We would like to see that changed by partnering with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other land managers to bring additional off-road riding options to our city.

A network of off-road trails and bike parks will provide kids and adults with an opportunity to learn new bike skills, gain confidence on their bike in a controlled environment, expose them to the outdoors, provide an alternative option to traditional sports, promote an active lifestyle, and introduce mountain biking to members of the community who don't have the means or desire to access suburban and rural trails.

#### **Why a Bike Park:**

- Biking is the most popular outdoor activity for youth ages 6-17
- Biking promotes confidence and healthy lifestyles
- Bike Parks get kids and families outside
- They promote active transportation
- They provide an activity where the entire family can be involved
- Features are designed to be enjoyed by people of all skill levels
- Provide exposure to mountain biking for people who generally wouldn't have access to the sport
- Provide safe and controlled environment for outdoor, off-road bike riding
- Creates a place in the community to form new relationships and strengthen existing bonds

#### **Why act now:**

- Minneapolis Park and Rec Board (MPRB) is going through Master Planning for all service areas now
- NPP20 signed in 2016- \$11M more per year on Mpls parks until 2036
- MPRB wants public input on what the parks of the future will look like
- Provides additional differentiation to the nation's best park system
- Minneapolis has multiple high school teams (and popularity is growing)- kids need exposure to the sport at an early age just like all other sports
- Opportunities to extend off-road biking programming for kids and adults
- The community wants it and is willing to help make it happen

#### **Project Phases (Proposed):**

- Pilot in South Minneapolis in 2018 (in progress)
- Advocate for bike parks to be added to MPRB master plans (in progress)
- Identify funding sources for the implementation of bike parks in the master plans
- Explore bike programming options

#### **Why a South Minneapolis Pilot:**

- South Minneapolis residents are 20% more likely to mountain bike than the national average
- 33% of Minneapolis's population lives in this area
- 1 in 5 household don't have access to a vehicle
- Close proximity to regional parks and trails that draw over 4.5 million visits per year
- Dense population with significant paved bike infrastructure
- Geographically furthest from Theo- the only current off-road biking option

#### **How you can help:**

- Reach out if you have connections to donors or grant opportunities, influence with the MPRB, or you would just like to help provide youth and underserved populations with access to off-road biking.
- Join 'Minneapolis Bike Parks' Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/mplsbikeparks/](http://www.facebook.com/mplsbikeparks/)
- [www.mplsbikeparks.org](http://www.mplsbikeparks.org)

