

We just keep rolling along at the

Ada County Bike Park



In April when the Ada County Commissioners accepted an offer by the City of Eagle to purchase about 49 acres of property in northwest Ada county near the corner of Old Horseshoe Bend and Floating Feather, an existing lease agreement was cancelled for the adjacent county property. Already a part of the county's **Hidden Hollow Landfill buffer area** and laced with recreational trails developed in part by the now defunct Idaho Velodrome Cycling Park Association, the property has been a **regional trails hotspot** for several years. Now with the support of the Commissioners and in cooperation with Ada County Operations/Landfill, our department has assumed management responsibilities for the existing trail system on county property.

Although the area is enjoyed by a variety of trail users, the predominance of mountain biking and the initial creation of some bike-specific trails at the site has led most users to refer to it simply as **"The Bike Park"**. Whatever you choose to call it, it's well worth a visit. With 13 named trails totaling approximately 10 miles (6+ miles of multi-use cross country trails, 2 miles of downhill only mountain bike trails, and 1+ miles managed by Ridge to Rivers) packed into about 310 acres of county property with stellar views, there's something for everyone. If you're a first timer it won't take long to realize how distinct some of the trail features are when compared to any other trail region in the foothills. And if you're already a regular visitor you've likely noticed the



improvements we've made since April to enhance user experience, create clarity, and promote safety. We'll continue to work with existing user groups in the short term to complete a few more high priority items (including the unfinished "Flow Trail") and then we'll be reaching out to adjacent landowners, neighbors, and other trail users to encourage broader community input, involvement, and volunteer participation. We intend to initiate outreach later this year.

The following are some of the improvements we've already made along with additional items slated for the near future at the **Ada County Bike Park & Public Recreation Area**:

- Conducted comprehensive trail condition assessment, site assessment, and photo inventory
- Prepared Custom Soil Resource Report for property using USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey
- Gathered input from the Ada County Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board, City of Eagle Parks staff, Boise Area Mountain Bike Association (BAMBA), Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association (SWIMBA), Ridge to Rivers, and Healthy Hills Initiative (HHI) regarding past management practices, strategies, and objectives
- Performed trail corridor weed maintenance on all trails with county staff and SILD crews
- Installed new carsonite trail markers and/or steel 4x4 trail posts with directional arrows and new trail name decals at 36 locations
- Installed steel 4x4 trail posts with new informational and safety signage at the entrance of each of the three downhill specific mountain bike trails
- Installed steel 4x4 trail posts with new informational and safety signage at the outlet of each of the three downhill specific mountain bike trails indicating "DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKING ONLY"
- Installed carsonite and/or steel 4x4 trail posts with new safety signage with "EASY WAY AROUND" alternate routes at unique trail features and "YIELD" signage at existing crossings
- Purchased trail maintenance tools, equipment, and storage facility for organizing and leading volunteer trail maintenance efforts
- Purchased and planning fall installation of several segments of doweled two-rail fencing near trail crossings, junctions, and erosive areas to enhance safety and discourage trail braiding
- Planning completion of the "Flow Trail" and repair of existing intersection with "Junk Yard" trail

