

A Proposal for the Improvement and Expansion of the Mountain Bike trails at Blue Mound State Park



Goals:

1. **The upcoming master plan amendment at Blue Mound includes a review of all recreational trails in the park.** CORP seeks official approval of all existing and currently incomplete bike trails. In addition we propose the construction of a new trail loop, to be located in the north-west boundary area of the park. We want Blue Mound to achieve “Epic” trail status. CORP proposes that we should build a bigger, better trail system at Blue Mound.
2. **More beginner level trails are needed at Blue Mound.** We have done a great job of providing expert riders with challenging trails. We need to convert some of our expert trail to beginner trail so that everyone who wants to can participate.
3. **The bike trails can contribute more to Blue Mound’s income.** Among other ideas, there has been a legislative proposal to make the state parks self-supporting. Improved and expanded trails will contribute to the park’s finances by selling more trail passes and vehicle stickers.

Proposal:

1. **Improve accessibility by modifying the Short Mound Loop (see attached map) to make it suitable for beginning riders.**
 - a. Nearly all small and medium rocks will be removed from the tread.
 - b. The tread will be widened.
 - c. Large rock features will have alternate ride-arounds built.
 - d. Stream bed crossings will be improved to make them less challenging to cross.
 - e. Areas with steep climbs will be rerouted with reduced slope for greater sustainability.
 - f. Reroutes to the Short Mound Loop built in 2013 and 2014 have begun the process.
2. **Upgrade trail in other areas of the park.**
 - a. Over Lode will be improved to reduce overall difficulty, but increase fun.
 - i. Steep trail sections will be rerouted to have their grade reduced.
 - ii. Trail will be rerouted around old roadbeds.
 - iii. Climbing turns will be improved to in-sloped turns.
 - iv. The result we will aim for is “flow trail”, accessible with optional challenge.
 - b. Holy Schist will have eroded trail sections rerouted or repaired, but will remain expert.
 - i. The endmost section was rerouted in 2010, eliminating heavily eroded trail.
 - ii. The boundary adjustment reroute built in 2014. We designed it to eliminate eroded fall-line trail, and added great new features.
 - iii. Another reroute to eliminate eroded, fall-line trail has been approved and work will begin in 2015.
3. **Expand the trails to complete CORP’s long-term vision of the trail system.**
 - a. Finish the Pokerville trail loop. This will add expert, sustainable trail to the system.
 - b. Add a new loop in the northwest area of the park (see attached map).
 - c. Additional trail in Over Lode and Holy Schist will be added to meet the 20 mile requirement for International Mountain Biking Association’s Epic status.