

Jump and Bike Skills Association of Calgary

Response to

Medicine Hill / Paskapoo Slopes Park Plan: What We Heard Report

October 2025

The Jump and Bike Skills Association of Calgary respectfully acknowledges the cultural significance of the Medicine Hill and Paskapoo Slopes area to Treaty 7 First Nations. Through ongoing advocacy for responsible land stewardship, we hope to preserve these spaces and learn from them as they continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Background

The City of Calgary's engagement for the Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park was launched to help shape the future of one of Calgary's most ecologically, culturally, and recreationally significant natural areas. During Phase 1 of the engagement, public input was gathered through surveys, open houses, workshops, and online platforms, ensuring a broad and inclusive understanding of community values and priorities.

For decades, the Paskapoo / Medicine Hill area has been a valued space for bicycle riders seeking to ride their bikes and develop their skills. In the absence of designated infrastructure, some riders have built and ridden unsanctioned dirt jumps, which have occasionally led to conflict with other park users and concerns about environmental impact. Although this group was not explicitly identified in the City of Calgary's *What We Heard Report*, this distinct subset of the cycling community has needs that differ from other riders and users of this space. This review was created to build on the existing report by exploring the responses specific to bicycle jumps.

Method

We reviewed the responses from the *What We Heard Report Verbatim* document for relevance specific to bicycle dirt jumps. These responses were reviewed in duplicate and their inclusion was based on the consensus of the reviewers. Quotes were extracted and categorized to reflect both support and criticism of dirt jump infrastructure.

Results and Discussion

Fifty-two (52) responses were identified that were specific to bicycle jumps (Attachment 1). Of these, 39 were favourable to the development of bicycle jumps and 13 raised concerns regarding responsible land management and conflicts that riders and trailbuilders have had with other users.

The responses revealed five key themes:

1. Support for Public Dirt Jump Infrastructure

There was strong community demand for professionally built, city-sanctioned dirt jumps. Respondents referenced successful models in Chestermere, Canmore, and Lethbridge, and emphasized the need for accessible, safe, and inclusive facilities for all skill levels.

"This is a great, natural location for a public bike skills park and dirt jumps."

"This would be a great location for a publicly sanctioned dirt jump park (similar to the Chestermere bike park) to foster healthy lifestyles."

2. Environmental Stewardship and Responsible Recreation

While many supported dirt jumps, there were concerns about ecological degradation from unsanctioned jumps. Respondents called for integration of dirt jumps in a designated space, protecting wildlife corridors and sensitive grasslands.

"It's vital to protect its [Medicine Hill / Paskapoo Slopes] natural beauty and Indigenous significance while also supporting responsible use—like maintaining trails, adding bike dirt jumps thoughtfully, and preserving wildlife corridors."

"The lower slopes that transition to prairie have huge bike jumps that idiot kids made, these need to be remediated."

"By adding areas with public bike jumps, you could reduce the desire for mountain bikers to build their own features on and off of existing trails."

3. Youth Engagement and Urban Accessibility

Bike jumps were seen as essential for youth progression and active lifestyles. Improved access within Calgary would reduce long drives to distant parks and support climate-conscious recreation.

"My family and I would visit the park way more often if the mountain bike trails were improved and a dirt jump bike park were built. Lethbridge and Canmore recently added dirt jump parks to similar parks, and they've each been a big success."

4. Shared Use

The park is valued as a shared space. Many respondents advocated for coexistence among bikers, hikers, and dog walkers, emphasizing mutual respect and stewardship. Meanwhile, concerns were identified regarding unauthorized use of the land.

"A welcoming and inclusive park has spaces for all ages and interests—like dirt jumps for bikes, accessible trails for walking, quiet areas for reflection, and open fields for play."

"At times the mountain bike community tend to be disrespectful. They dig up native plant species to make more exciting trails with jumps and berms."

5. Call for City Leadership and Long-Term Planning

Respondents urge the City of Calgary to take a proactive role in planning, funding, and maintaining bike jump infrastructure. Collaboration with trailbuilding organizations and community volunteers is seen as essential to successful development that meets the needs of all users.

"Calgary does not currently offer any city managed site for Mountain Biking or Dirt Jumping, this would be an incredible spot for a City of Calgary Park to fulfil this need!"

"We want to express our support to develop publicly sanctioned dirt jumps in Calgary. Paskapoo slopes would be an ideal location for these dirt jumps."

Conclusion

Many responses addressed the unmet need of the Calgary riding community and identified opportunities to improve access for recreation while promoting responsible land stewardship practices. Survey respondents acknowledged the conflicts that have existed between unsanctioned trailbuilders and other area users. The Jump and Bike Skills Association of Calgary proposes that many of these challenges would be mitigated with the development of sanctioned bike jumps in Calgary.

We call on the City of Calgary to collaborate with community members and the Jump and Bike Skills Association of Calgary for the creation of publicly sanctioned dirt jumps. These would reflect shared values and priorities by being safe, inclusive, environmentally responsible, and aligned with Calgary's commitment to low-impact recreation, stewardship, and community connection. We respectfully request continued engagement with our organization and its supporters throughout future planning phases to ensure community voices are meaningfully included and our expertise and experiences are considered in shaping the future of the area.

We would like to thank the City of Calgary for their commitment to engagement and ensuring public spaces reflect community needs. The transparency offered by posting the verbatim responses allows for improved understanding of the survey results by incorporating multiple viewpoints.

References:

City of Calgary. (2025, October). *Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park: What We Heard Report*. https://engage.calgary.ca/download_file/13540/2901

City of Calgary. (2025, October). *Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park: Verbatim Comments*. https://engage.calgary.ca/download_file/13539/2901

Attachment 1: Verbatim Comments Specific to Bicycle Jumps

Attachment 1: Verbatim Comments Specific to Bicycle Jumps

The following quotations are directly from the City of Calgary's What We Heard Report: Verbatim Comments (October 2025; available at: https://engage.calgary.ca/download_file/13539/2901). The responses were screened and assessed for relevance to bicycle dirt jumps. All identified responses were included and are referenced by the line in the original publication.

Q5: What do you appreciate most about the current Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes site? Select up to five. ("Other" responses)

121 The bike trails and jumps!

134 Bike jumps

Q6: What barriers, if any, have you encountered when accessing the site? ("Other" responses)

174 Dirt bike/ bike trails have been created by riders digging up areas and building jumps and more damaging nature and more unacceptable.

199 At times the mountain bike community tend to be disrespectful. They dig up native plant species to make more exciting trails with jumps and berms. They cut new trails leaving no quiet spaces for the wildlife to escape human disturbances. As well they seem to have an attitude of entitlement and that all other users should make way for them and their usage of the park.

244 keep it wild or build a bike park similar to the bike ranch in kamloops

264 looking for dirt jumps for biking

267 Lack of sanctioned bicycle dirt jumps

318 Not enough bike jumps and features

Q8: What ideas or suggestions do you have for protecting and caring for the natural environment of Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes as more people start visiting the park? [open text 500 characters]

456 Restrict access to sensitive nature areas, stop (and enforce) bikers from destroying the natural habitat by taking their shovels and building their own paths, creating jumps and more.

552 Continue to welcome and allow all user types, including bikers. Collaborate on how to prevent erosion, maintain trails and support all users including bikes. Other municipalities offer spaces that include world class mountain bike trails, parks and have hiking and biking trails in same area that are maintained by city paid experts/ trail builders and maintenance (Langford has the gravity zone adjacent to Jordie Lunn Bike Park).

594 Mountain bikers will always rebuild what the city destroyed. So maybe making a section for trail build to do as they please would not have so many people hating the city for destroying their builds and features. As the city doesn't have any public dirt jumps or specific mountain biking trails many people will just build anywhere so they can ride. Making public dirt jumps or trail systems for mountain bikers would give people a place to do what they love and not hurt paskapoo slopes.

651 By adding areas with public bike jumps, you could reduce the desire for mountain bikers to build their own features on and off of existing trails.

660 To ensure the protection of sensitive areas it is imperative that designated recreational areas are facilitated by the city. Removing bike jumps is nonsense. Instead, create places where kids, and others, can ride safely for FREE.

691 First - keep it natural. Signage is important and bylaw enforcement, but also education. Kids play in there and that's amazing - teach them about making bike jumps thoughtfully, and making them natural and not leaving a hole elsewhere. This area is a beautiful, natural reprieve for so many in the area and it's important

972 Limiting people from constructing biking ramps/bridges/features. Designating certain paths for foot traffic and others for bikes unless the trail is wide enough to accommodate both.

982 We need some mountain bike trails and jump park here. Like many city's in BC have, Calgary is really lacking in this as an outdoor recreation city. There is a bike park next door but not everyone can afford the expensive lift tickets

993 This is a great, natural location for a public bike skills park and dirt jumps. Reference Chestermere family bike park, Blackfalds public bike skills park and dirt jumps, Devon public bike skills park and dirt jumps etc

1014 More mountain bike trails, jumps, and ways to access the area

1020 Sanctioned professionally built bicycle dirt jumps in a designated area for all skill levels

1155 Would like to see part of the development be set aside for a city bike park similar to the Kamloops Bike Ranch. Wind port is great however it is only open for a small portion of the riding season. Kamloops embraces mountain biking and the vibe in Calgary is to prevent biking in natural areas. For this reason being deliberate with a plan for biking and hikers would be beneficial.

1255 Keep maintaining the mountain bike trail network that exists, and have trailbuilders like CMBA add a few more cool trail options. If the trails are well built and have variety (mix of greens, blues, blacks, and jump trails), the people on bikes will stick to the trails and not cause damage to vegetation off trail.

1332 It was incredibly disheartening to ride in Paskapoo today and discover that the long-standing bike jump at the bottom of the hill has been flattened. Adding to the frustration, the City has installed "no digging" signs—without any consultation or advance notice. The area now looks far more damaged and neglected than it did with the jump in place. This feature wasn't just a pile of dirt—it was actively used and enjoyed by the mountain bike community every day.

1426 Stop kids who cut down trees and dig jumps for their bikes.

1468 Not allowing for people to create their own trails or jumps. More available garbage disposal and more signs for orientation but also education on the significance of the land.

1479 Repair bridges, better creek crossings, have work parties to remove invasives (eg hedge type bushes from urban areas), realign steep trails which cause people to make side trails, stop trail braiding and forbid bike jumps, etc.

1542 The lower slopes that transition to prairie have huge bike jumps that idiot kids made, these need to be remediated. They cut into the prairie grasses. The upper mountain bike slopes are

about 80% quality trails, there's 20% that are on such sideslopes and erosional areas that could use bridges and such.

1569 Do not permit new bicycle jumps or creation of new do-it-yourself trails.

Q12: What ideas or suggestions do you have on how the park can help people learn about its natural and cultural history? [open text 500 characters]

2782 The history of trail and jump building there

Q13: Which values do you think are most important for shaping the future of Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes Regional Park? (Select all that apply) ("Other" responses)

3050 Building more trails and jumps for people to cherish and enjoy the area

Q14: What does a welcoming and inclusive park space look like to you? [open text 500 characters]

3418 create a welcoming bike park for mountain bikers and trails for hikers with clear signage. you can engage lots of volunteers including kids and teens for jump building etc.

3430 Better established trail networks for walkers, runners, and bikers. Maybe including a board walk like the one in silver springs would make the park feel more like a destination rather than just some green space. I would frequently run into bikers at the now removed step up jump, and almost every time, speaking with them revealed to me that it was their first time in the park, indicating that few return.

3471 A welcoming and inclusive park has spaces for all ages and interests—like dirt jumps for bikes, accessible trails for walking, quiet areas for reflection, and open fields for play. It includes clear signage in multiple languages, Indigenous place names, and gathering spots that invite connection. It feels safe, cared for, and reflects the diverse ways people enjoy and belong in nature.

3484 We want to express our support to develop publicly sanctioned dirt jumps in Calgary. Paskapoo slopes would be an ideal location for these dirt jumps. Looking at the positive response to Calgary's pump tracks, we can easily see the impact that these spaces provide to their communities. Providing accessible and safe dirt jumps is an initiative that promotes health, fun, and skill development within the context of welcoming and inclusive park space.

3491 A place with lots and trails and jumps to enjoy so we can continue to value and advocate for the area

3554 Improving the mountain bike trails and adding a dirt jump bike park while adding features that promote cultural awareness would enhance the value of the park.

Q15: Is there anything else you'd like us to know about the Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes site? [open text 500 characters]

4062 Paskapoo is where we learned to mountain bike. Its technical trails are part of the fun challenge. Teens and kids and adults mountain bike there. We hope that the city does not pave paths, gravel paths or block paths already created. We enjoy the challenging terrain. We hope you work with the CMBA who maintains trails. We hope the city leaves any features such as jumps as is. Many of these have been there for decades so it is more disruptive to the landscape to remove them now after many years

4096 This is a prime location to support the growth of local dirt jumps in Calgary, and the implementation of a park like this would be extremely beneficial to new and existing dirt jump athletes in Calgary.

4160 Calgary does not currently offer any city managed site for Mountain Biking or Dirt Jumping, this would be an incredible spot for a City of Calgary Park to fulfil this need!

4267 Other priorities are safety: bike and sled jumps in particular; boardwalks to protect creeks; trail maintenance to prevent trail widening and braiding around muddy spots.

4379 The bike trails need to be worked on, they need proper design, maintenance and removal of unsafe features such as wood jumps. There needs to be a bike trail layer plan and elimination of “pirate trails” and features

4396 Wanting to keep this park as wild as possible. I do not support paving all the trails. It will increase traffic and take away from the quiet natural nature of the park! There are lots of other parks that are accessible. Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes is a rare blend of ecological, cultural, and recreational value. It’s vital to protect its natural beauty and Indigenous significance while also supporting responsible use—like maintaining trails, adding bike dirt jumps thoughtfully, and preserving wildlife corridors. This area can be a model for how urban parks honor the past, serve the present, and protect the future.

4419 This park is a very important recreation space for outdoor activities. Hiking, running and biking here is a great option that keeps us appreciating local spaces. It should have more funding for bike trails, signage, maintenance, and allow for progression for youth especially. They need improved downhill trails, climb trails, dirt jumps, xc trails and more. Better access to this site also helps with climate change, as we are otherwise driving 45+ minutes west.

4424 How can we get more trails and jumps put in?

4429 This is an ideal location for public bicycle dirt jumps, users will continue to access the site for this purpose and if built properly and professionally it would be responsible stewardship of a culturally significant space that meets the needs of Calgarians

4491 My family and I would visit the park way more often if the mountain bike trails were improved and a dirt jump bike park were built. Lethbridge and Canmore recently added dirt jump parks to similar parks, and they’ve each been a big success. Calgarians need places to recreate within the city. Having to drive to Chestermere, Canmore, or Bragg Creek every time we want to mountain bike or dirt jump seems excessive. Calgary needs dirt jump bike parks, and this is a perfect spot for them.

4531 It is already a wonderful natural space well used and respected by surrounding residents. Guidelines to adhere to such as what you take in you take out, remove your waste, no structural changes to the land within permission as there are bikers would make jumps etc. This has been a shared space with those who walk with dogs off leash, biking enthusiasts and those that choose to run for decades without any issues. We enjoy this natural area and prefer no permits for development. Keep it wild!

4688 Limit the building of bike jumps.

4971 Build bike jumps in the trees

4948 Officially close sensitive grassland areas to mountain biking such as this site where bikers have built a step up jump by excavating the hillside. Create barriers so bikes cannot bisect coulees at high speed. Install signage and improve ways of 311 reporting

4957 This is another mountain biking progression area - the kids love testing out their jumping here. Please do not let the "hoping for zero risk" lawyers bubble-wrap all the fun spots.

5059 This would be a great location for a publicly sanctioned dirt jump park (similar to the Chestermere bike park) to foster healthy lifestyles

5061 Build dirt jumps here!