

Doug Rauh's comments:

From Sakai Property priorities list.

CATEGORY 2: More complicated projects. Require some additional funds, expertise, regulation.

BMX or pump track

Mountain bike trail and/or park

Paved trail for bicycles

As you can see the community has already considered Sakai Property as a possible location for a bike pump track if there was sufficient community interest.

At the second meeting on future uses for the Sakai Property the possible uses will be reduced to a manageable number in order to allow in depth study of each use.

I would like to ask Parks to invite the Bainbridge Island Mountain Club, Gear Grinders, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance West Sound Chapter, John Benjes and Tessa Vroom to the second meeting on the review of Sakai Property Uses.

It would appear from today's article in the Kitsap Sun there is community interest in more biking opportunities on the Island. Sakai was not mentioned in the article but it's location next to the High School and plenty of after school parking at Ordway Elementary School make this one of the locations that should be considered for a bike pump track.

The Bainbridge Comprehensive Plan calls for 50% of all new growth to be located in the Winslow downtown core. This makes Sakai ideal for access by bike without the need for a car.

Within a mile of Sakai there is one High School, two Middle Schools, and one Elementary School that could provide a large source of kids wanting to use a bike pump track.

As a senior citizen who has never mountain biked, it appears to be good clean fun for youth with lots of energy to burn.

Thanks.

Doug Rauh

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/local/bike-track-proposed-for-battle-point-park-2d15bc2e-da92-6f5c-e053-0100007f3769-371219831.html>

Bike track proposed for Battle Point Park

Yesterday 4:50 p.m.

By [Rachel Seymour](#) of the Kitsap Sun

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND - While work on a [Poulsbo bike pump track](#) is expected to start in less than two weeks, **Bainbridge Island could have a track coming to Battle Point Park.**

The **Bainbridge Island Mountain Club** and the **Gear Grinders** mountain biking group, along with the help of the **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance West Sound Chapter**, presented a track proposal Thursday night to the Bainbridge Island park district board. The alliance also is responsible for the Poulsbo pump track.

Though the Poulsbo pump track should be finished in about six months, the West Sound Chapter president said it doesn't mean Bainbridge doesn't need a track of its own.

"We have soccer fields in Poulsbo," Brian Kilpatrick said. "We still need them in other places."

Each of the bike groups involved touted the need and demand for a pump track, which would be for all ages.

A pump track has a series of bumps that can be ridden without pedaling. The name refers to the pumping motion riders use to maintain speed.

Children on the island want to learn mountain biking skills, said **John Benjes** with **Gear Grinders**.

One of those is **16-year-old** Tessa Vroom.

"As a freshman biking for my first time, I was terrified of the trails," she said. "I didn't know how to go over roots, I didn't know anything. I was really scared."

That was three years ago.

Although Vroom is more comfortable with mountain biking, she told the park commissioners a pump track would be good for her and other bikers to learn turns and be more comfortable with up and down movements of the trails.

"There's nothing like a pump track to get kids into mountain biking," Benjes said.

The mountain bike groups are suggesting a smaller pump track, along with a larger one, similar to the Poulsbo proposal.

While the Gear Grinders and their partners recommended the track be at **Battle Point Park**, and the park commissioners were leaning toward that site, they also presented three other possible locations - **Strawberry Hill, Fort Ward** and **Hilltop parks**.

Strawberry Hill and **Fort Ward** lacked the connection to trails that the bike groups were wanting, and **Hilltop Park** had **less visibility** than Battle Point, Benjes said.

Even though the track would be on park property, the cost of building it would fall on the mountain bike organizations.

Benjes estimated the track will cost about **\$6,000**, which includes about **\$4,000** for **dirt**.

Park officials will meet with the mountain bike groups to discuss a more specific design for the track before having a public hearing.

Depending on design, landscaping also could be incorporated to change the overall appearance of the track.

"It doesn't have to look like piles of dirt everywhere" Kilpatrick said.

About Rachel Seymour

Rachel Anne Seymour covers Poulsbo, North Kitsap and Bainbridge Island. She also manages social media for the Bainbridge Islander, a weekly publication for island residents. She graduated from the University of Kansas School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and has been working at the Kitsap Sun as a multimedia journalist since January 2014.

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