

Statement in Support of Seward Bike Park and Pump Track

The community of Seward would be greatly benefited by a public bike park. Most of these benefits are fairly obvious like the promotion of healthy lifestyles and offering youth another fun activity in the summer. Probably worth the expense themselves, these aren't the only benefits to the community.

Because bike parks are geared toward use with mountain bikes, they typically attract a range of age and skill levels. This promotes community interaction and networking. Families, mountain bikers looking to hone their skills, and even runners looking to cross train, the park would be accessible to a variety of users.

While bikes are still most often associated with summer, fat tire bikes could potentially be used year round. These bikes are becoming as popular as mountain bikes in town. Seward already claims the title of "Fat Bike Capitol of the World" (Unofficial decree by Judge George Peck), but this could cement its reputation.

Finally, I will say that I have noticed Seward is missing an opportunity. It is and always will be a runners town, but I was surprised how few "mountain bikers" the town produces. At first I thought it was strange for the same town with Bike Magazine's Trail of the Year. I realized that while area youth have access to mountain bikes and lots of very technical and aggressive trails, beginners don't have access to off-road riding. I believe a bike park is the stepping stone young riders need to develop skills and endurance.

Bikes have a unique ability to unite people across generations and backgrounds. The Seward community would be greatly benefited by a local bike park.

Karl Mechtenberg

Cyclist and Dad

Owner of Seward Bike Tours

"If constellations had been named in the 20th century, I suppose we would see bicycles."

-Carl Sagan