

# SPRD boosts cycling culture in Sisters Country

Cycling has long been a centerpiece of Central Oregon culture, and that culture is further developing itself at Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD). Through the work of community members and business leaders, biking programs and a bike park are taking shape.

Andrew Loscutt is coaching a mountain biking program this spring through SPRD. Open to middle school and high school students (younger ages require approval by Coach Loscutt) the biking program will teach kids the fundamentals of riding off-road. Andrew, an employee of Sisters Athletic Club with roots in coaching track and field, is a passionate mountain-bike rider and supporter of life-long youth sports.

Coach Loscutt is excited to get this program off the ground.

"This is a special opportunity for kids to explore their surroundings," he said. "Getting out in the open forest and sunshine is something every kid needs to experience. In the SPRD mountain-bike club, there will be no shortage of opportunity for these kids to get out."

Registrations are still being taken at SPRD, and

the first practice is set for the week following spring break. Contact SPRD at 541-549-0291 to get more information and register.

The mountain-bike program is just the beginning of what is planned to come for biking in the Sisters community. Blazin Saddles, SPRD, and Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA) have been working together to conceptualize a mountain-biking park. Renderings of the proposed park have been released. Situated adjacent to the Sisters Skate Park, the mountain-biking park will consist of a pump track, wood features, jumps, and balancing and technical areas. Beginners and advanced riders will be challenged on this one-acre track.

According to Joel Palanuk, chair of COTA's Sisters chapter, "Our concept is designed to offer skills development for as many phases of mountain biking as our topography allows, ranging from toddler and adult pump tracks, on to large and intermediate jump lines, as well as rock and obstacle skills areas. This vision is one we've been trying to implement for two



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters is developing a strong cycling culture.

years, and have exhausted nearly every option before coming to a synergy between COTA and SPRD. In true Sisters, Oregon, fashion, the community has rallied, and an amazing effort has been put forth into what is sure to become a premier Oregon bike park."

Currently, bikers are not allowed in the Sisters Skate Park because bikes tend to create chips and cracks in

the pavement. According to SPRD, a bike park would give bikers a chance to utilize a park to hone their skills.

An outdoor restroom is also in the plans. This would serve both the bike park and the existing Sisters Skate Park and Hizer Pines disc golf course. Currently there are not restrooms open to the public during the weekend when many are using the existing recreation opportunities.

# City seeks member of urban forestry board

There is still an opportunity to volunteer to serve on the City of Sisters Urban Forestry Board.

The City is looking for an individual to represent the land development community and another individual to represent the green industry (a professional who supplies, designs, maintains, or manages development landscapes).

Applicants need not reside within the city limits.

The City of Sisters encourages interested parties to apply for the openings by completing an application by 5 p.m. on April 3.

Contact Community Development Director Patrick Davenport at [pdavenport@ci.sisters.or.us](mailto:pdavenport@ci.sisters.or.us) or 541-323-5219 for additional information.

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