

Laguna Lake Pilot Bike Park

Greg Avakian – Director

Niels Grether – Ranger Service



Community
Informational Meeting

March 13, 2024

OVERVIEW

- Phase 1 – planned construction to begin spring
 - Strider track
 - Mountain Bike Loop
 - Designed by Ranger staff
- Potential future features
 - Jump Line
 - Dual Slalom
 - All ages pump track
 - Designed by Ranger staff based on input from community meeting and survey
 - Construction timeline: 3 -12+ months out
 - All potential features may not be built



Background

- Ranger Service restored open space within the Irish Hills Natural Reserve, behind Costco, in Fall 2021 which had been illegally built into a bike jump course.
- The Parks and Recreation Blueprint identified a community bike park as a top five short term need. Staff and Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) advised to build a temporary replacement in an appropriate area, until construction of permanent park is implemented.
- Community and PRC input reviewed a couple different properties and determined Laguna Lake Park to be the best location due to bikeway connectivity, access, and terrain.
- As this project is not funded, the in-house build was slated for March 2023, but was delayed with the impact of the January-March 2023 storm resulting in shifted work priorities in support of repairing damaged trails, including construction of a reroute of King Trail in Irish Hills.



Goals



- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities for children, families, and residents and visitors of SLO
- Follow City standards to protect natural resources during and following construction
- Begin construction in a phased manner with entry-level features that are accessible to all riders
- Complete construction in phases to assess amenities, develop a core volunteer group, and incorporate community feedback
- Progressively improve amenities to help entry level riders build and advance their skills, and provide challenge for more experienced riders
- Begin Phase 1 construction in spring 2024 when the soil begins to dry out

Project Parameters

- Pilot Bike Park Construction is limited to Laguna Lake Park and may not be constructed on Laguna Lake Open Space land
- Project is not funded through the City's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) at this time, and Staff has been directed to construct temporary bike park using current Parks & Recreation Department funds, in-house staff and volunteer labor.
- Amenity Design: Stay within current codes, allow flexibility in design, monitor liability, minimize impact to natural area, allow for deconstruction if needed
- First phase(s) cannot include built features such as ladder drops or skinnies as these features would require engineering (permits, inspections, and increases costs)
- Seating areas are not included as this requires significant infrastructure investment as seating areas require the inclusion of paved ADA access paths
- No healthy, existing trees will be removed, including within the memorial grove. Some trees have been identified as diseased and are being assessed for removal and replacement

Construction Expectations



- Ranger Service is experienced with trail building and general dirt work, will take time to perfect bike feature construction methodology
 - Design to be led by the same staff/volunteer crew that led rework of Eucs over past couple years
- Staff will operate heavy equipment to rough shape features
- Small, dedicated volunteer crews to perform finish work
- Ranger staff will work with local contractors to source dirt for construction
 - Work to ensure we use quality dirt
- General area is fairly flat with smaller rolling terrain and trees
 - Area stays wet following rain, park may be frequently closed during winter months

Construction Expectations



- Phased Construction
 - Phase 1:
 - Pending weather impacts, as early as April
 - Staff priorities based on current and new priorities in spring
 - Potential Future Features
 - First additional feature construction could begin 2-3 months after completion of Phase 1 construction, depending on staff and equipment availability
 - Future construction will be determined by feedback from this meeting, survey, and future outreach and assessments

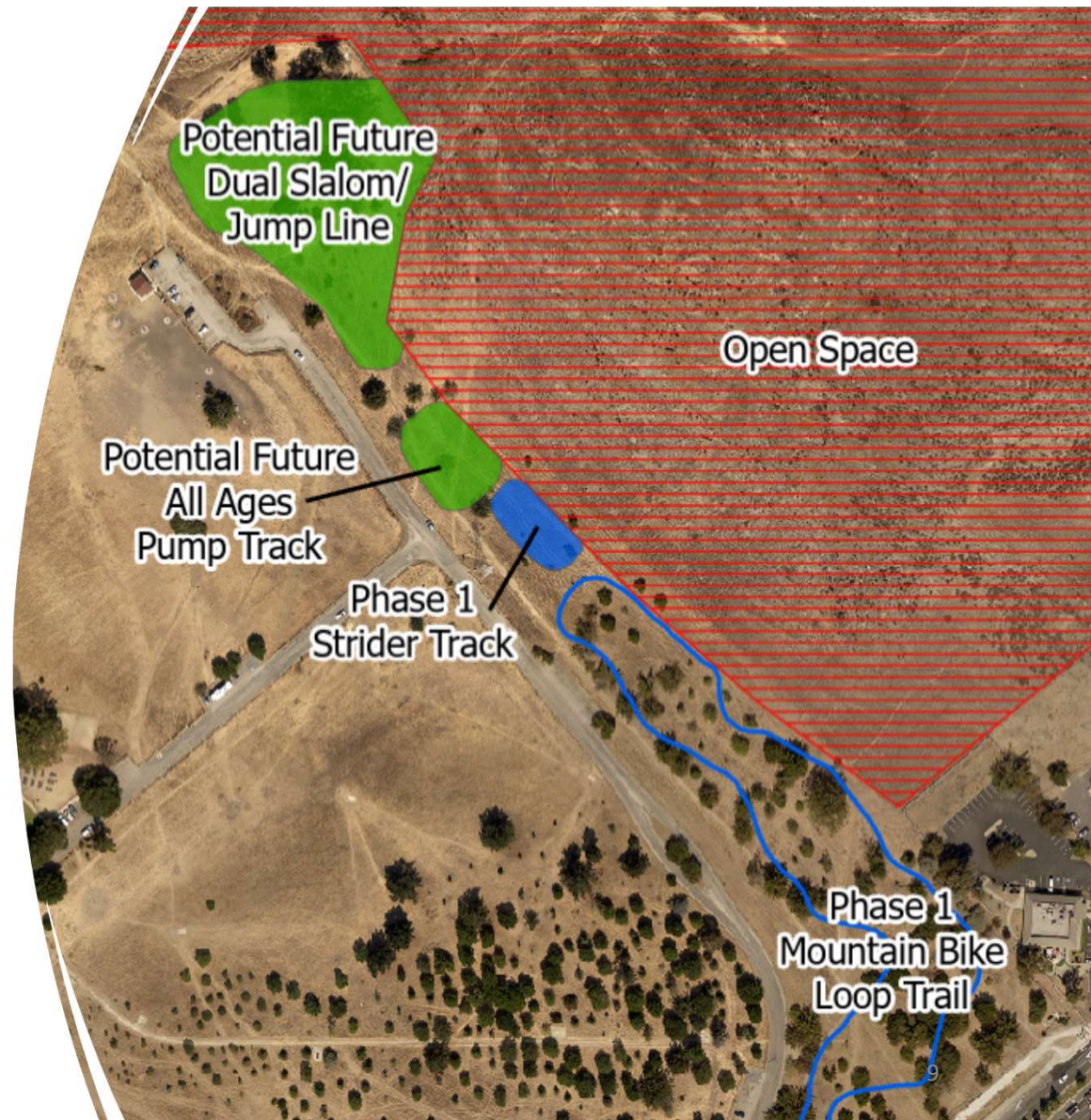
Ebikes

- Will not be permitted at the bike park
- Consistent with Open Space regulations
- Many other bike parks do not allow eBikes
- Heavier bikes can cause more damage to jumps and features



OVERVIEW

- Phase 1 – planned construction to begin spring
 - Strider Track
 - Mountain Bike Loop
 - Designed by Ranger staff
- Potential future features
 - Jump Line
 - Dual Slalom
 - All ages pump track
 - Designed by Ranger staff based on input from community meeting and survey
 - Construction timeline: 3 -12+ months out
 - All potential features may not be built
- Topography dictates design



Phase 1 - Strider Track

- Designed for ages 3-8
- Develop comfort on dirt trail and small features
- Short-course with mellow rollers and berms
- Designed with slight downhill grade to help riders navigate features
- Provides fun intro to biking for kids and novice riders
- Machine and hand built with volunteer finish work



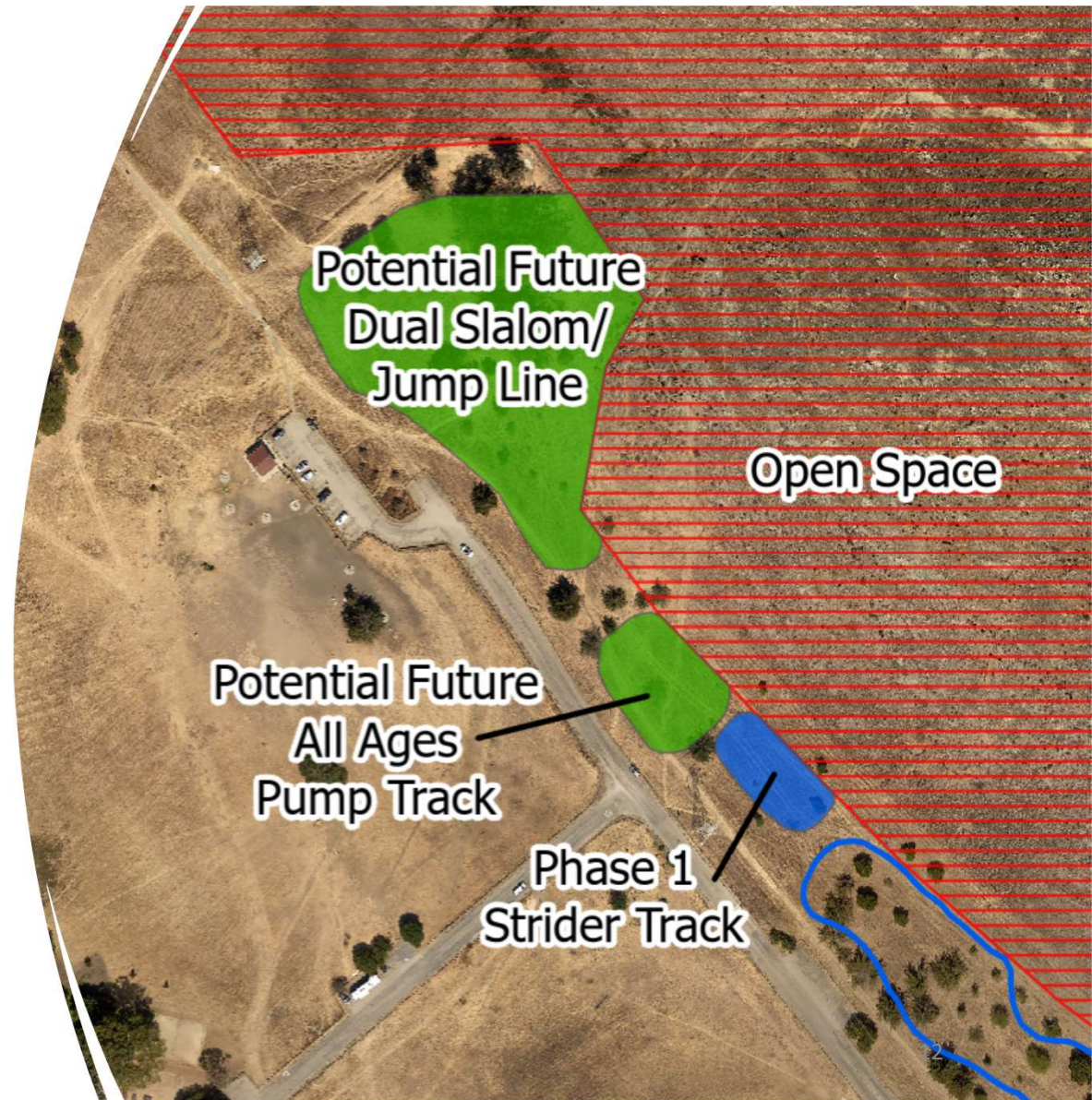
Phase 1 - Mountain Bike Loop



- Cross-country focused as course is mostly flat
 - Rangers will construct a few log over features to add some technical challenge
 - Go arounds for beginner riders
- Course will be approachable for beginners and engaging for riders of all levels
- Approximately ½ mile loop

Potential Future Features

- Focus on features for intermediate to advanced riders of all ages
- Park features will be refined and improved throughout the life of the park
- Additional Community feedback opportunity:
 - Online survey available at end of tonight
 - Ability to provide feedback on types of amenities
 - Ability to weigh the value of your favorite amenities (similar to a dot exercise)
 - Demographics and volunteer interest
 - Open for 30-day period



Option: Jump Line

- A jump line is a trail with dirt features that allow riders to carry speed through corners and get airborne
- Course would be located across from the Dog Park parking lot where there is sufficient elevation and slope
- Planned amenities: berms and table-tops, and could include multiple line options to challenge riders of differing skill levels



Option: Pump Track

- Loop track with rollers, berms, and jumps
- Could include multiple lines and transfer options
- Located on flat ground, riders gain speed by pumping through dirt features
- Riders can progress their skills, going faster and taking different line options as skills increase



Option: Dual Slalom

- Two identical tracks laid out side by side
- Blend of a jump line and pump track
- Include berms, rollers, and jumps
- Allows for head-to-head competing with your friends



Volunteer Engagement

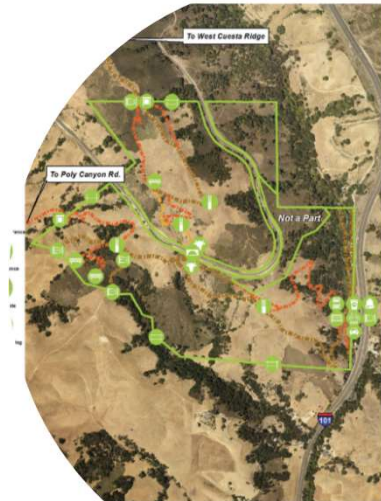
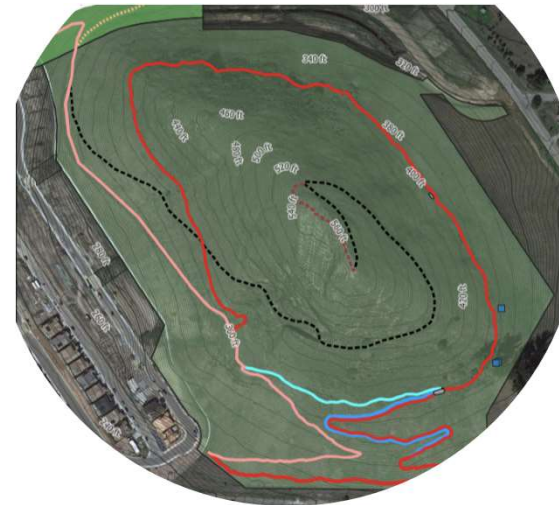
- For construction of jumps and berms, most of the dirt moving will be done by Ranger Staff using heavy equipment.
- Finish sculpting will be performed by 2-10 person volunteer crews working with Ranger staff
 - 3-4 hour work days
 - Weekend and/or weekdays
- Ranger staff is looking for dedicated, recurring volunteers who are willing to learn and refine construction techniques as the park progresses
- Once the construction is complete, maintenance would be supported by volunteers. Ideally using the same core group developed during construction.



Other Upcoming Projects

- Righetti Open Space Beginner Bike Trail*
 - ¾ mile loop trail – designed for young/beginner mountain bikers
 - Side by side track with small jumps and berms to allow parent and child to ride together

*Construction was slated for November 2023, delayed due to landslide/road work
- Righetti Community Park
 - Bike park includes: hard surface pump track and beginner skills area
- HiBar extension at Miossi
 - Design similar to Quercus Connector and Panorama Trails



Questions?

- Take the survey



https://communityfeedback.opengov.com/portals/sanluisobispoca/Issue_13675

