



Board:	Recreation Advisory Board
Agenda Date:	10-07-2025
Department:	Parks and Recreation
Presenter:	Wendy Taavola

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

DCN Trails Proposal – Gladstone Sports Park Bike Park Proposal

Background:

DCN Trails contacted the department regarding a proposal for a bike park project at the Sports Park.

Fiscal Effect:

None,

Supporting Documentation:

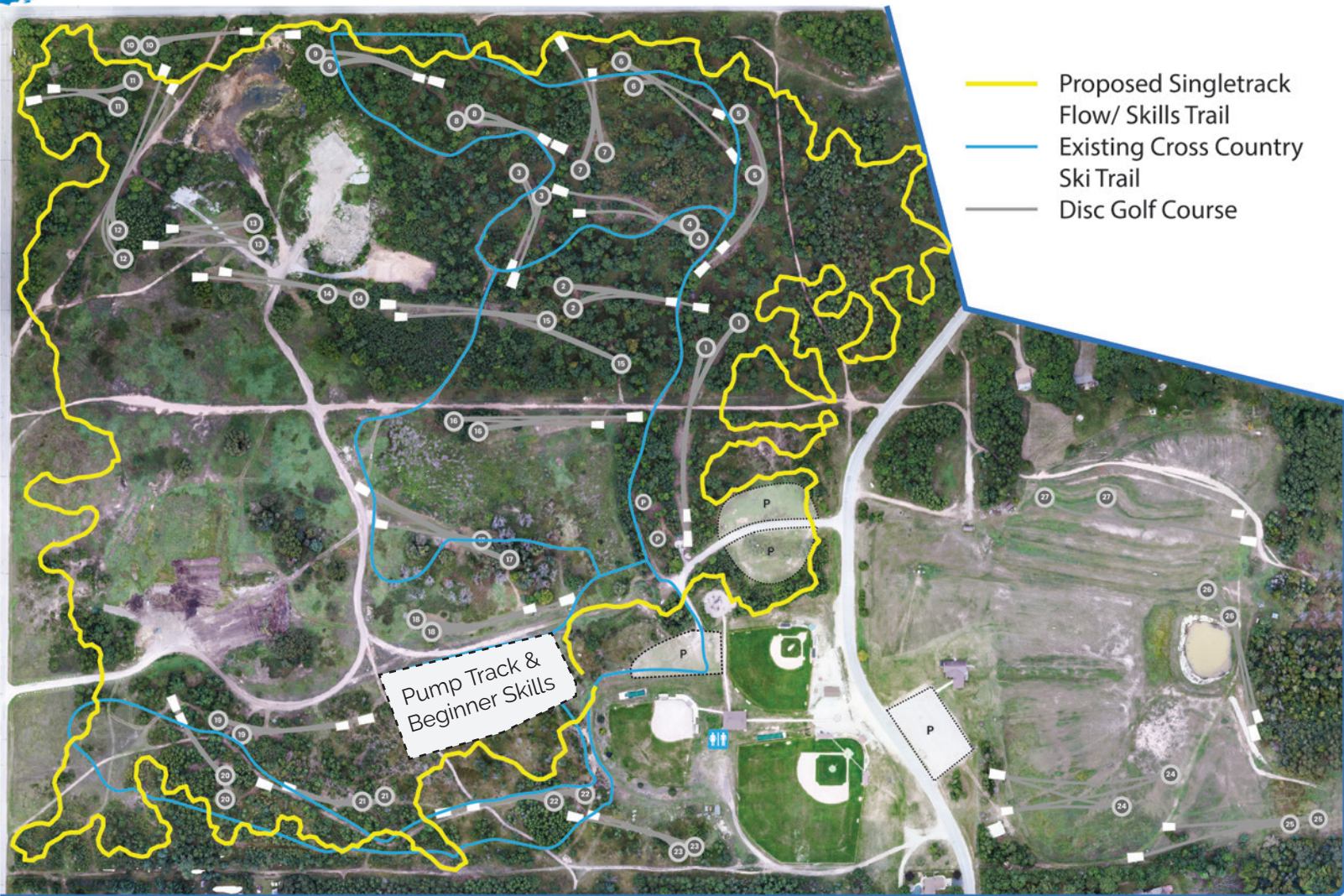
Proposal for the Gladstone Community Bike Park

Recommendation:

The department is recommending support for DCN Trails to further develop this project plan.

Proposal for the Gladstone Community Bike Park

A Healthy, Accessible, and Sustainable Recreation Project





Project Vision

We propose the creation of a community bike park on city-owned recreation land in Gladstone. This park will feature a 3-mile flowing mountain bike singletrack loop around the property's perimeter, integrated with skills features and a beginner-to-intermediate pump track. The design prioritizes accessibility, progression, and fun, making it suitable for kids, families, and riders of all abilities.

Why Gladstone Needs a Bike Park

- Provides youth and families a safe, outdoor activity that promotes fitness.
- Positions Gladstone as a recreation destination in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- Attracts visitors who will stay in local hotels, dine in restaurants, and shop locally.
- Complements existing recreation opportunities with spring-fall biking options.

Key Features

- 3-mile singletrack loop with natural flow, berms, and optional technical lines.
- Skills features (balance beams, rock gardens, small drops) for progression and fun.
- Pump track and skills area for beginner and intermediate riders.
- Built with sustainable, low-maintenance construction.

No Cost to the City

The project will be fully funded through a combination of grants, sponsorships, and community contributions. Similar projects across the Midwest have been supported by organizations such as the Bike Parks for Kids Foundation, IMBA, and the Michigan DNR recreation grant program. Volunteers and local partners will assist with construction and ongoing maintenance.

Community & Economic Benefits

- A safe, designated space for biking reduces conflicts on city streets.
- Enhances resident quality of life while attracting regional visitors.
- Opens the door to events, youth programs, and clinics.
- Builds community pride and engagement through volunteerism and partnerships.

Next Steps

We are requesting City approval to proceed with grant applications and partnerships. With your support, we can secure funding and bring this project to life, creating a lasting asset for Gladstone at no cost to the City.

