

# **Ann Arbor Bicycle Recreation Advocacy Group**

**Volunteer Update and Development Proposal**

# Nice to meet you!

We are group of local riders from a variety of disciplines dedicated to cultivating and expanding opportunity and access for cyclists and bicycle recreation in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County.

Throughout the pandemic, bicycle recreation advocates and organizations from across Ann Arbor have come together to share knowledge, resources, and effort in working toward the positive developments we will discuss in this presentation. Those advocates include: Thomas Hosford, Carl Loomis, Brian Butrico, Garret Potter, Mitch Bray, Maria Chickering, Chad Jeffery, James Yu, & a community of invested volunteers.

**Mitch Bray** has been involved with feature construction on the DTE Energy Trail for the past few years and has been spearheading an effort to develop a *sweet* asphalt pump track and skills park in the Ann Arbor area. Mitch is a certified carpenter and a father.



**Garret Potter** has been volunteering in Ann Arbor parks since 2019, helping restore, maintain, and develop off-road bicycle trails and bike park features. In 2020 Garret began collaboration with the city, Give 365, Adopt-A-Park, Natural Area Preservation, and bicycle advocacy groups across the county. Garret is a school teacher, graduate student, and a father.



# 2021 DIRT JUMP BUILDING CLINIC





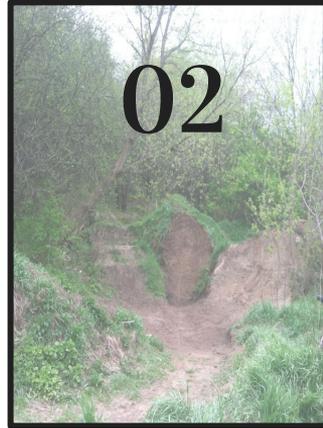
# 2021 VOLUNTEER BUILDING DAYS AT BANDEMER BIKE PARK



# What Brings Us Here?



TUEBINGEN  
& The Ann Arbor  
Local Trails Network



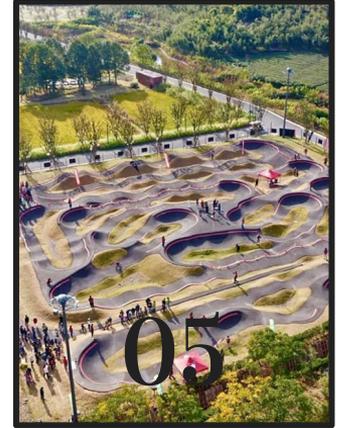
HISTORY  
3+ Decades of  
Bicycle Recreation  
Volunteerism and  
Advocacy



BANDEMER  
Volunteer  
Investment,  
Proposals, &  
Programming



CITY SURVEY  
264 Citizen  
Responses



PUMP TRACK  
Equitable,  
Reliable, Access  
& Development  
Opportunities

**“Ann Arbor has a real opportunity to become the center of SE MI mountain biking and natural surface trails.**

There are over 200 miles of trails within 40 minutes of Ann Arbor.

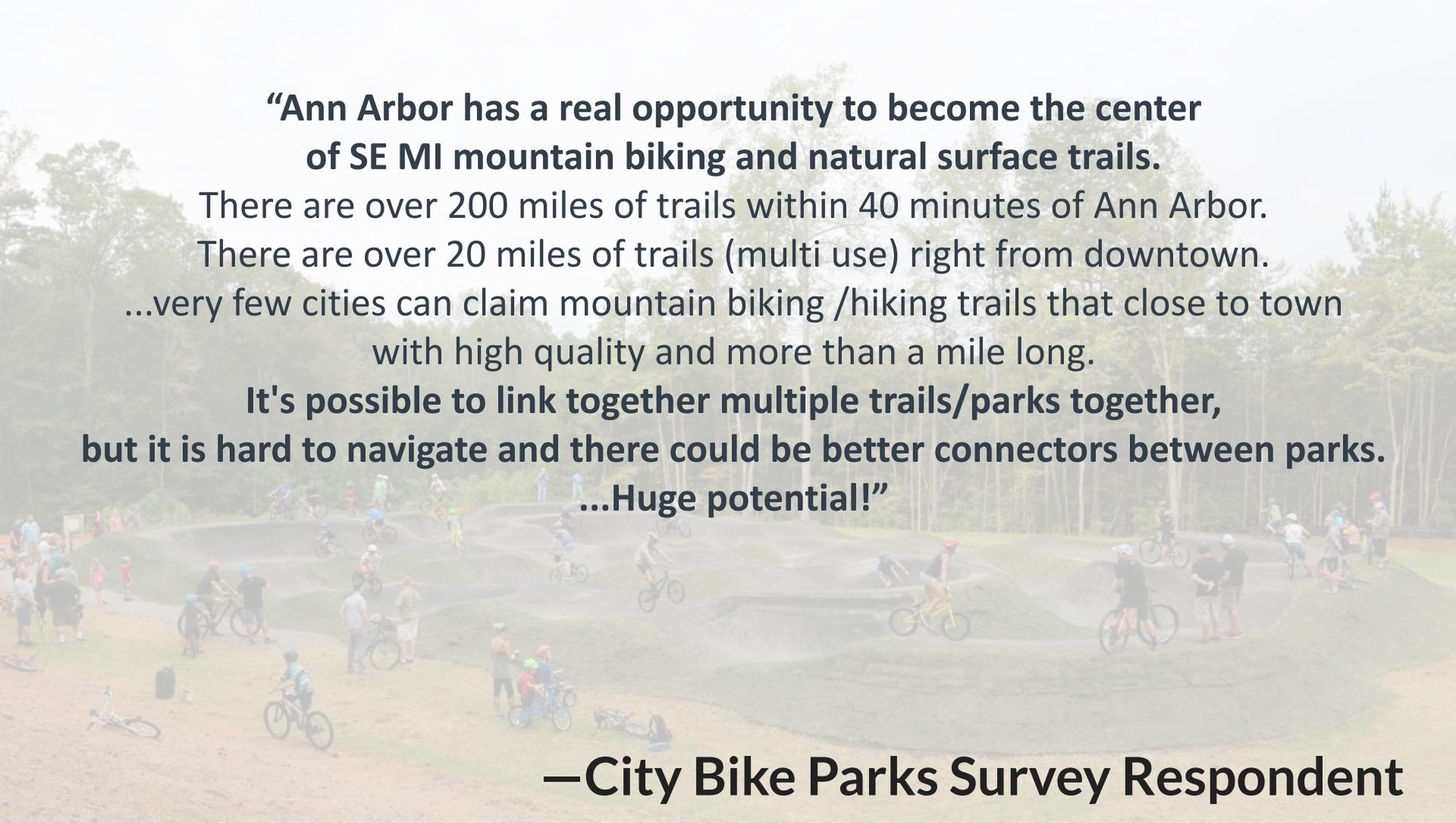
There are over 20 miles of trails (multi use) right from downtown.

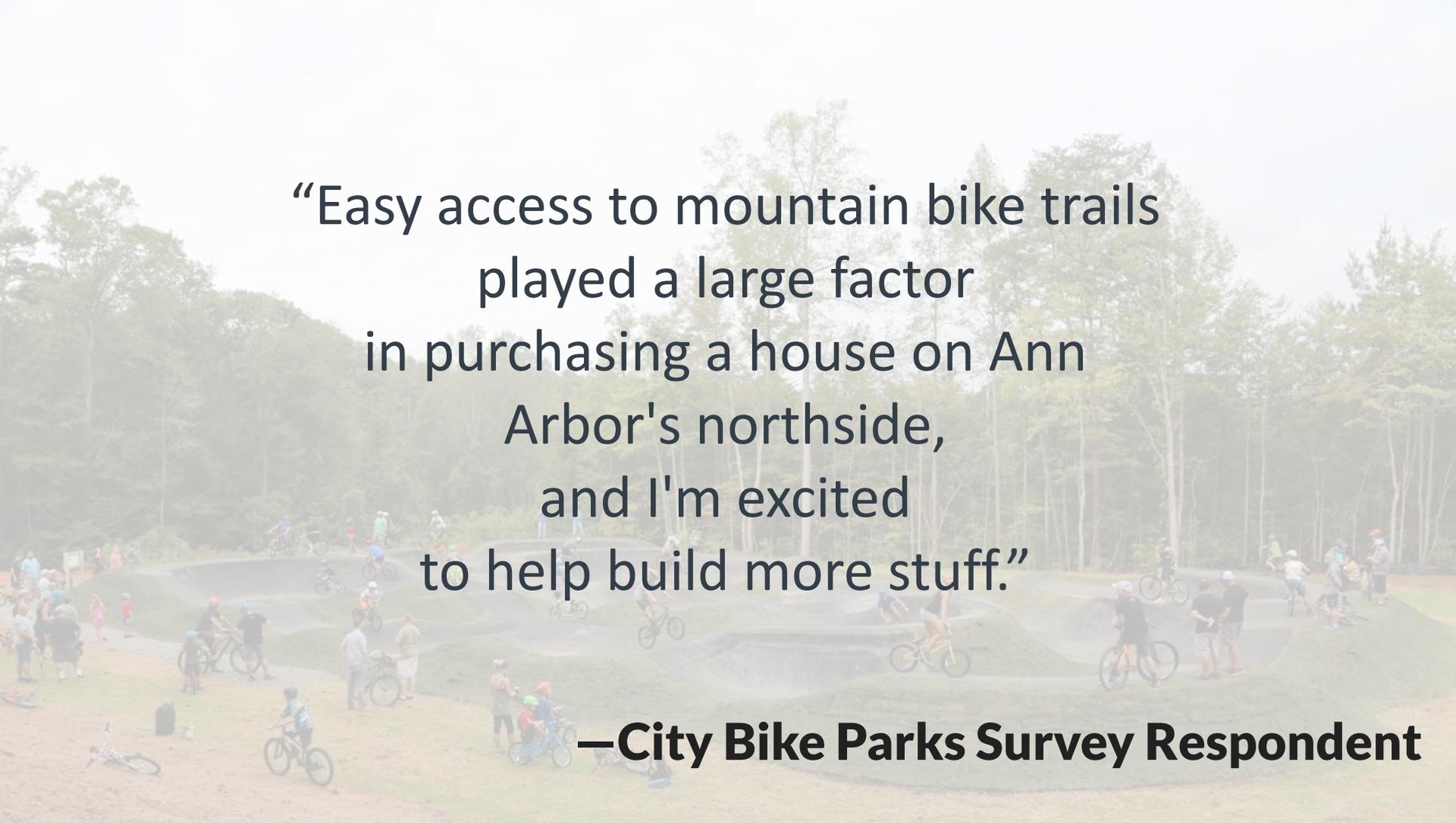
...very few cities can claim mountain biking /hiking trails that close to town with high quality and more than a mile long.

**It's possible to link together multiple trails/parks together, but it is hard to navigate and there could be better connectors between parks.**

**...Huge potential!”**

**—City Bike Parks Survey Respondent**





“Easy access to mountain bike trails  
played a large factor  
in purchasing a house on Ann  
Arbor's northside,  
and I'm excited  
to help build more stuff.”

**—City Bike Parks Survey Respondent**

# We are here today because:

Kids need places to play,  
and thousands of Ann Arbor's  
children like to play on bikes!



Kids and adults in Ann Arbor know what to do with a basketball and hoop,  
and they know how to navigate school sport offerings, but they have  
expressed their desire for education, training, and coaching to help develop  
bicycling skills.

Quality developmental programming requires reliable facilities  
where learners can practice & develop their skills safely &  
consistently.

# **We are here today because:**

In the past decade, cycling has grown immensely and in the last two years, cycling growth in Ann Arbor has escalated beyond its already rapid incline:

Bicycle sales and service requests have been up significantly.

All 11 Ann Arbor bike shops were either **sold out**, near sold out, &/or back ordered on bikes, parts, & supplies.

Common Cycle and Community Action Network **donated** hundreds of bicycles (with locks and helmets) to those

# **We are here today because:**

“Since he began working with the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** in 2005, **Ron Olson, the agency's Chief of Parks and Recreation**, has watched mountain biking and its close cousin, gravel road biking, gain a lot of fans around the state. And he thinks COVID-19 only increased people's eagerness to hit the trails. **Sales for front-suspension mountain bikes rose more than 150% in April 2020 compared to the previous year**, according to NDP Group, a market research firm. **But enthusiasm for the sport goes back a lot further... ‘Mountain biking has really evolved and exploded in terms of the interest in Michigan,’ Olson says. ‘...lots of people are getting out and finding the outdoors with their bicycles’** (Second Wave Media, May 25, 2021).



**We are here today because:**

**264 citizens responded**

to the City of Ann Arbor's 2021 Bandemer Bike Park Survey.

Responses to the survey generated 22 pages of data.

Here we summarize the resonant messages:

# Where Citizens Ride Locally:

**202 respondents ride at Bandemer Park**

**129 ride at Olsen Park**

**97 ride at Bluffs Park**

**84 ride at Cedar Bend Nature Area**

**66 ride at Tuebingen Park Cycling Area**

**Ann Arbor cyclists ride this wide array of parks and nature areas in town:**

Leslie woods, Bluffs, Sunset Brooks, Kuebler Langford, HP Greenway, Leslie, Traver Creek, Bandemer, Tuebingen Park, Olsen Park, Cedar Bend Nature Area, Barton nature area, Dhu varren woods, Matthaei trail, Stapp Nature Area, Black Pond Woods, Trails behind Cloverdale park, Hilltop, Onder Park, Eberwhite woods, Fritz, Highland, Gallup park, and Parker Mill.

# How Often Citizen Use Bandemer Bike Park:

90 respondents use the Bike Park 1/month

83 use it weekly

26 use it 1/year

6 use it daily.

When asked about frequency of use, respondents said:

“I would use it more if it was improved.”

“I will ride more when its in better condition.”

“Would use more often if they are

“Would love more progression options!”

“Ability & skill level exceeds the current availability. Larger, more consistent features Would provide more incentive to visit.”

“Would use more if bigger/more options.”

“I would ride it more frequently if it had features appropriate for a 29er MTB. Rock gardens, drops etc.”

“Its always fun to go through the dirt park”

# **Where Citizens Ride Regionally/Nationally:**

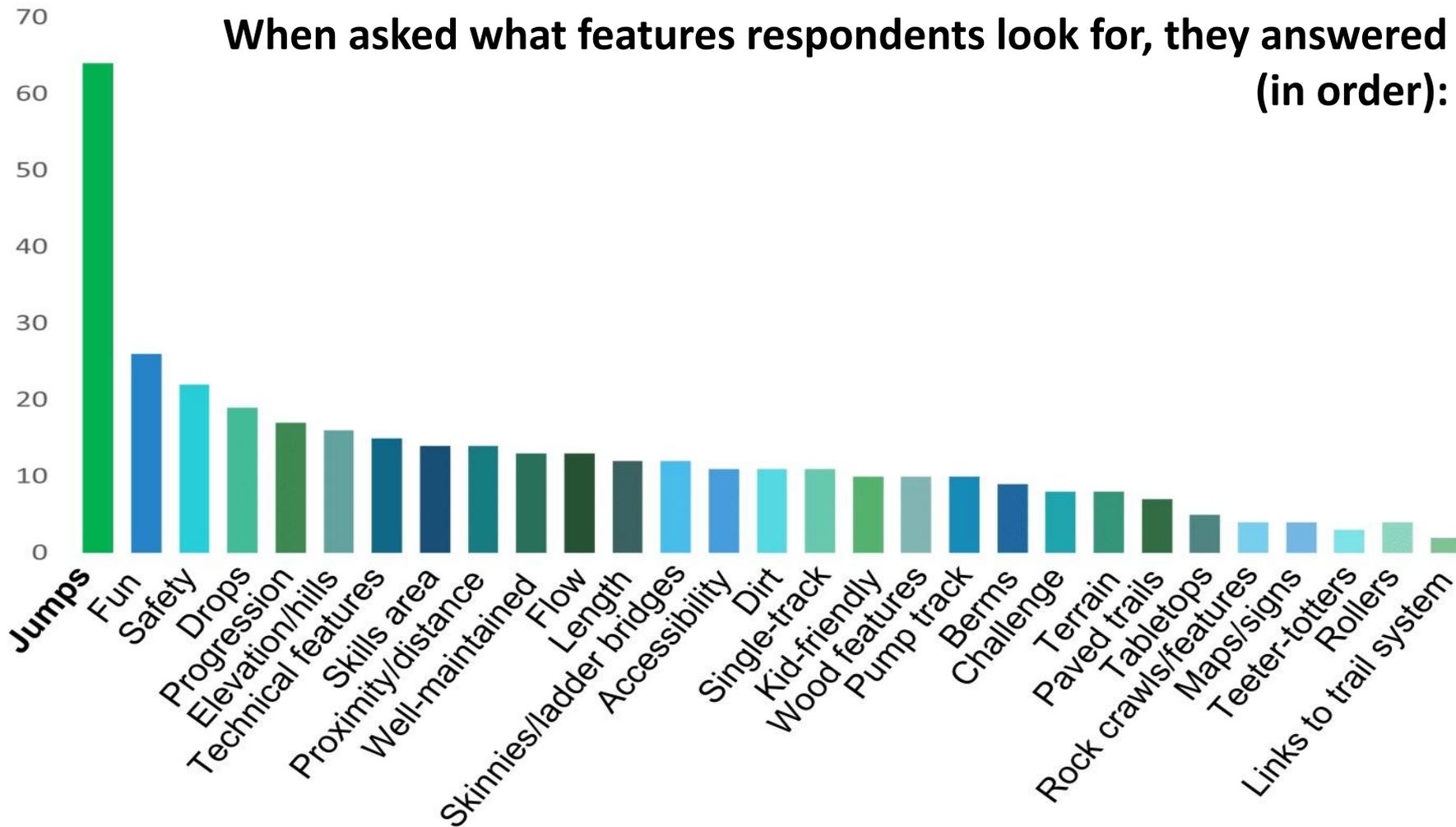
**220 Respondents travel out of town to ride at bike parks, pump tracks, BMX tracks, and MTB trails (many in the UP, across the region and the nation).**

**Ann Arbor cyclists currently travel to ride at these areas and more:**

Sendero, DTE Energy Trail, Potawatomi Trail, Island Lake, Bright Rec Trails, Pontiac Lake Rec, Richmond Park, Rolling Hills, Morton Taylor, Sharon Mills, Lillie Park, Pittsfield Preserve, Marshall Park, Hammond Hills, Yankee Springs, Cannonsburg ski area, Stony Creek, Hines park, Mayberry, Ypsilanti Township Skate Park, North Carolina, [Copper Harbor]/the Michigan Upper Peninsula, Hawthorne ridge pump track, the pump track in Rudolph Ohio, Waterford BMX, Richfield BMX, and “all over the country”

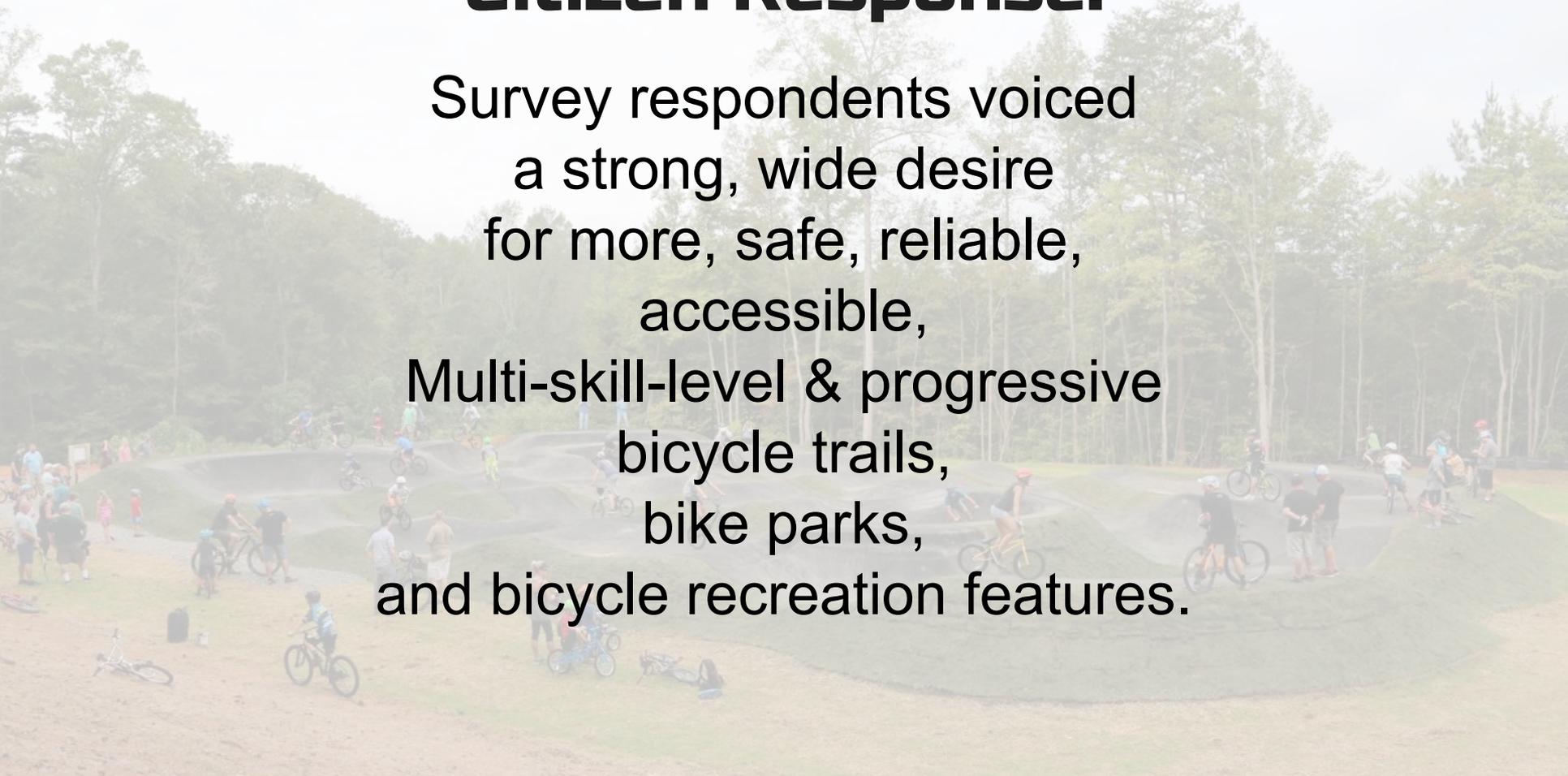
...as far as Austin, [Knoxville] Tennessee, and New Hampshire.

# When asked what features respondents look for, they answered (in order):



# **Citizen Response:**

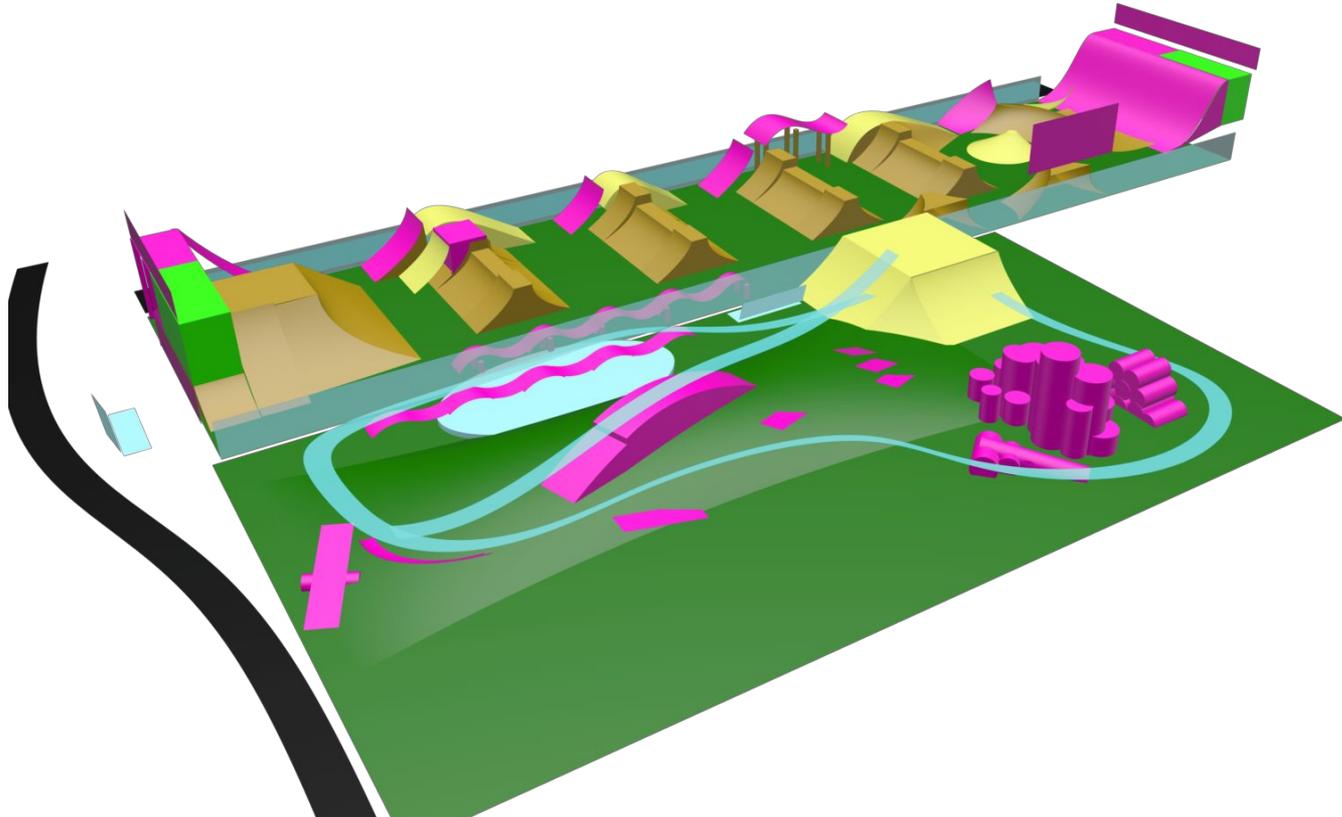
Survey respondents voiced  
a strong, wide desire  
for more, safe, reliable,  
accessible,  
Multi-skill-level & progressive  
bicycle trails,  
bike parks,  
and bicycle recreation features.



**Imagine if Bandemer and Tuebingen Bike Parks looked like:**



**Imagine if Bandemer and Tuebingen Bike Parks looked like:**

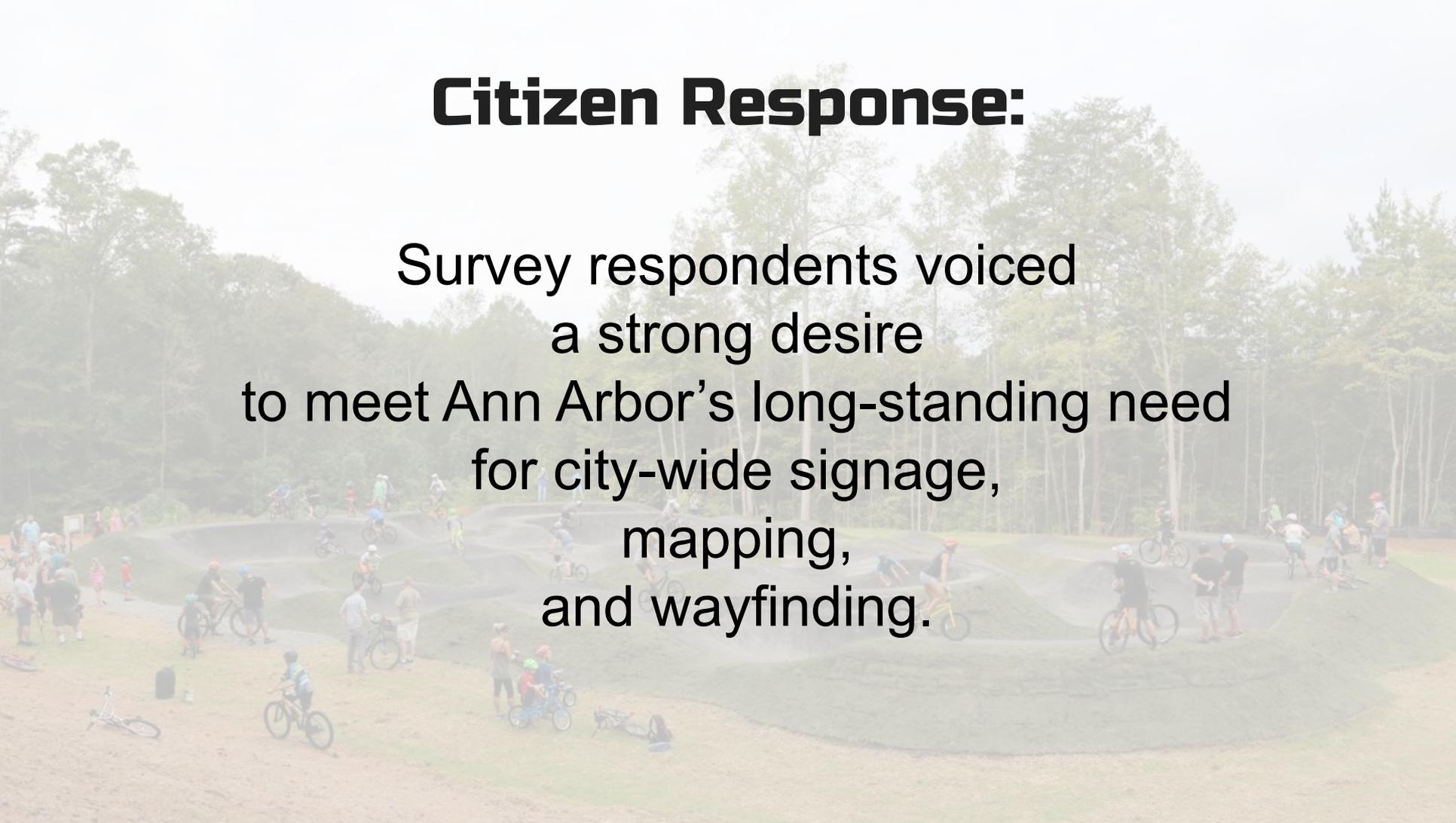


**Imagine if Bandemer and Tuebingen Bike Parks looked like:**



# Citizen Response:

Survey respondents voiced  
a strong desire  
to meet Ann Arbor's long-standing need  
for city-wide signage,  
mapping,  
and wayfinding.



# **Citizen Response:**

**“Map the 'Ann Arbor MTB trail' and place signage so new riders can comfortably navigate the route. More people should be aware of this loop.”**

**“In Ann Arbor specifically there is no signage/guidance for the local loop currently.**

**It'd be made much safer & easier if signs were put in & the trails were reworked a little to better...”**

**—City Bike Parks Survey Respondents**

**Imagine if Ann Arbor's Bike Parks signs looked like this:**



And this:



**BOULDER • CO**  
**VALMONT • BIKEPARK**



TRAIL MAP

### PARK ETIQUETTE

*Please respect the rules of the park, to ensure a great experience for all.*

**RIDERS**

- Ride within your abilities. Progression is available throughout the park, start small and build up.
- Stay on trails, riding off trails can cause damage and injuries.
- Remove trail cones.
- Do not modify trails or features.
- Follow all Directional Signs, and Mountain areas of other users at all times.
- Do not eed out on trails.
- Yield to pedestrians and uphill bike traffic in the park.
- Strive to make each pass safe and courteous.

**PEDESTRIANS**

- For your safety please stay off of the trails.
- Do not stop in areas with poor visibility.
- Find a safe area to watch riders.
- Please, please please use your lifts do not stand in front of lifts on the trail.
- Stop for the on launch at all times - please reach for your front pack.
- Deposit all waste in appropriate waste or recycling receptacles.
- Do not walk on terrain features - respect the trail's vegetation and wildlife.

**The Bike Park is an Unsupervised Facility. RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK!**

- Features can be dangerous in any condition
- All features may be hazardous in any condition
- All activities are at your own risk
- Mountain areas of other users at all times
- Mountain areas of other users at all times
- Mountain areas of other users at all times

**Park Regulations**

**Prohibited:**

- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Weapons
- Firearms
- Glass
- Open flames
- Smoking
- Pets
- Motor vehicles
- Motorcycles
- ATVs
- Snowmobiles
- Off-road vehicles
- Motorcycles
- ATVs
- Snowmobiles
- Off-road vehicles

**Allowed:**

- Bicycles
- Mountain Bikes
- E-Bikes
- Electric Bikes
- Electric Scooters
- Electric Skateboards
- Electric Unicycles
- Electric Bicycles
- Electric Scooters
- Electric Skateboards
- Electric Unicycles

**THIS IS YOUR PARK! GET INVOLVED!**  
DONATE & STAY UPDATED AT [www.valmontbikepark.org](http://www.valmontbikepark.org)

**PARK HOURS**  
From Dawn till Dusk.

**EMERGENCY**  
CALL 911

**PARK MAINTENANCE**  
City of Boulder Parks and Recreation 303-441-6100

**LEGEND**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Mountain</li> <li>• Blue Mountain</li> <li>• Orange Mountain</li> <li>• Yellow Mountain</li> <li>• Red Mountain</li> <li>• Purple Mountain</li> <li>• Grey Mountain</li> <li>• Black Mountain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Water Trail</li> <li>• Green Water Trail</li> <li>• Orange Water Trail</li> <li>• Yellow Water Trail</li> <li>• Red Water Trail</li> <li>• Purple Water Trail</li> <li>• Grey Water Trail</li> <li>• Black Water Trail</li> </ul>
---	---

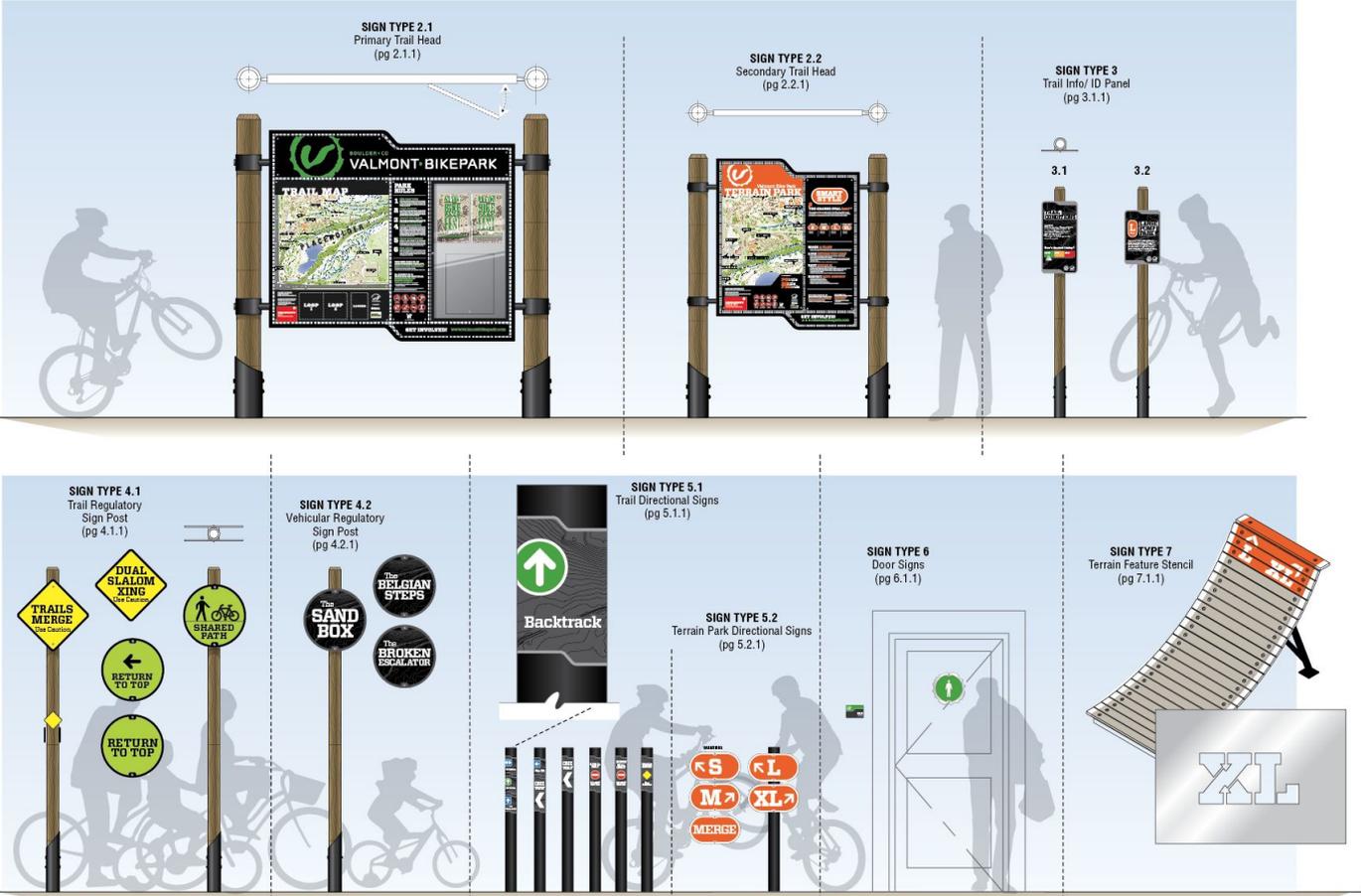


**And this:**





# Imagine if Ann Arbor's Bike Parks signage looked like this:



# **We are here today because:**

Ann Arbor's Bicycle Recreation Advocacy Group seeks to collaborate with Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation **to enact efficient, effective, and practical protocols to make repairs, achieve regular maintenance, and design and implement needed improvements in Ann Arbor's bike parks, trail networks, and undeveloped park lands.**

The background of the slide is a faded, semi-transparent image of a park. It shows a dirt path or trail winding through a wooded area. Several people are visible, some standing and others riding bicycles. The scene is bright and appears to be a recreational area, possibly a bike park or a trail network. The overall tone is light and natural, providing context for the text about bicycle recreation.

# We are here today because:

We are confident that with community support, Ann Arbor can provide safe, reliable places for kids to cycle in undeveloped park land & existing bicycle areas.

The more fun, reliable places Ann Arbor provides for kids to play on bicycles, the more incentive they have to ride.

The more they ride, the more comfortable they become and the more they identify as cyclists.

Comfortable, confident, and connected young cyclists today will become the bicycle commuters and recreational cyclists of Ann Arbor's future.

The more we cultivate cycling in Ann Arbor today, the more likely we are to achieve our 2030 sustainability goals--making a way for a safe, healthy, sustainable world for our children.

# We are here today because:

Ann Arbor's Bicycle Recreation Advocacy Group  
(among local youth cycling coaches and cycling educators)  
is qualified and eager  
to offer bicycling skills programming  
to cyclists of all ages  
all the more as facilities become reliable.

The first "jump clinic" we offered had  
**35** participants  
ages 6 to 60.

# 2021 JUMP SKILLS CLINIC



# 2021 JUMP SKILLS CLINIC





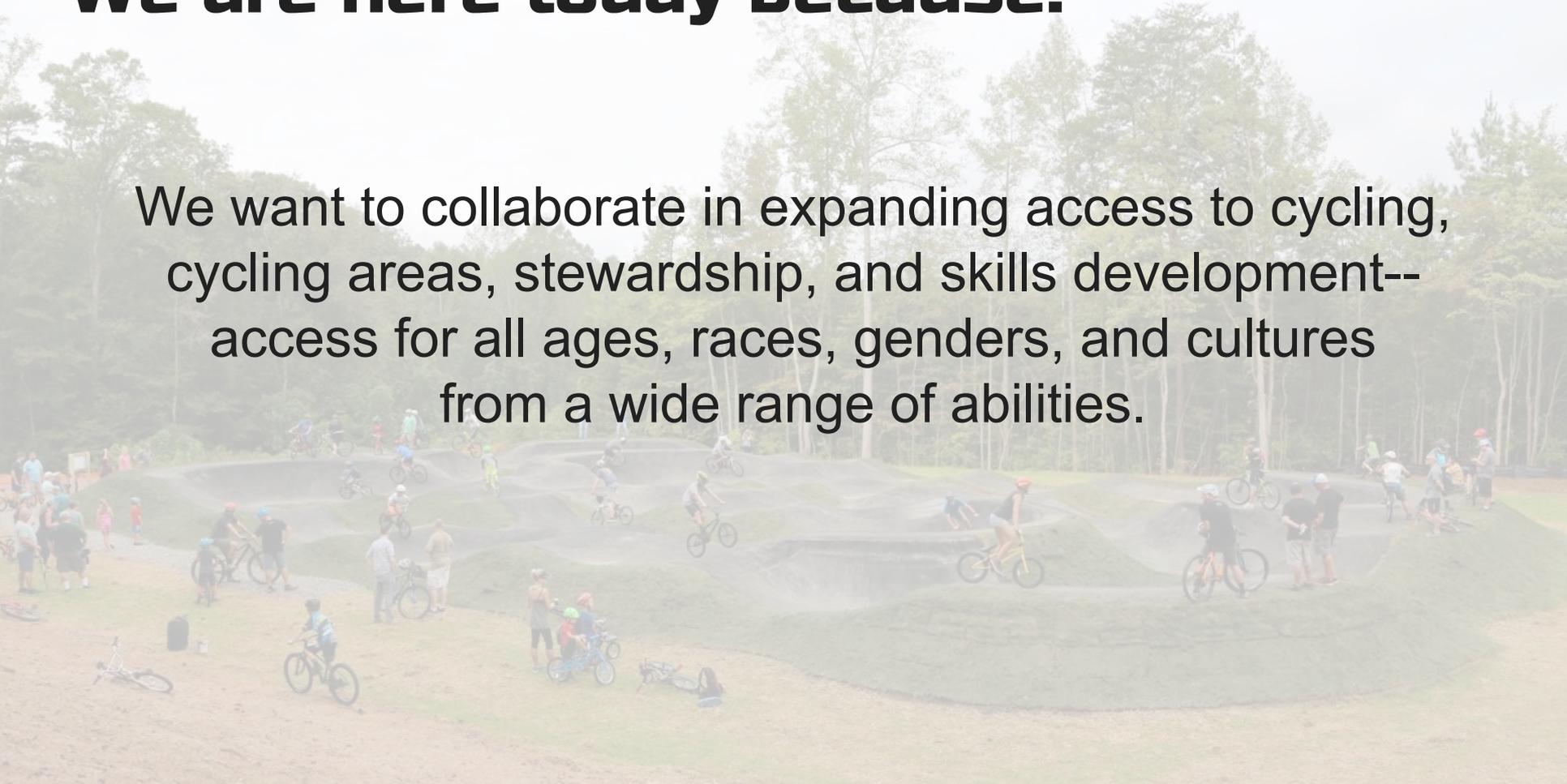
# 2021 JUMP SKILLS CLINIC

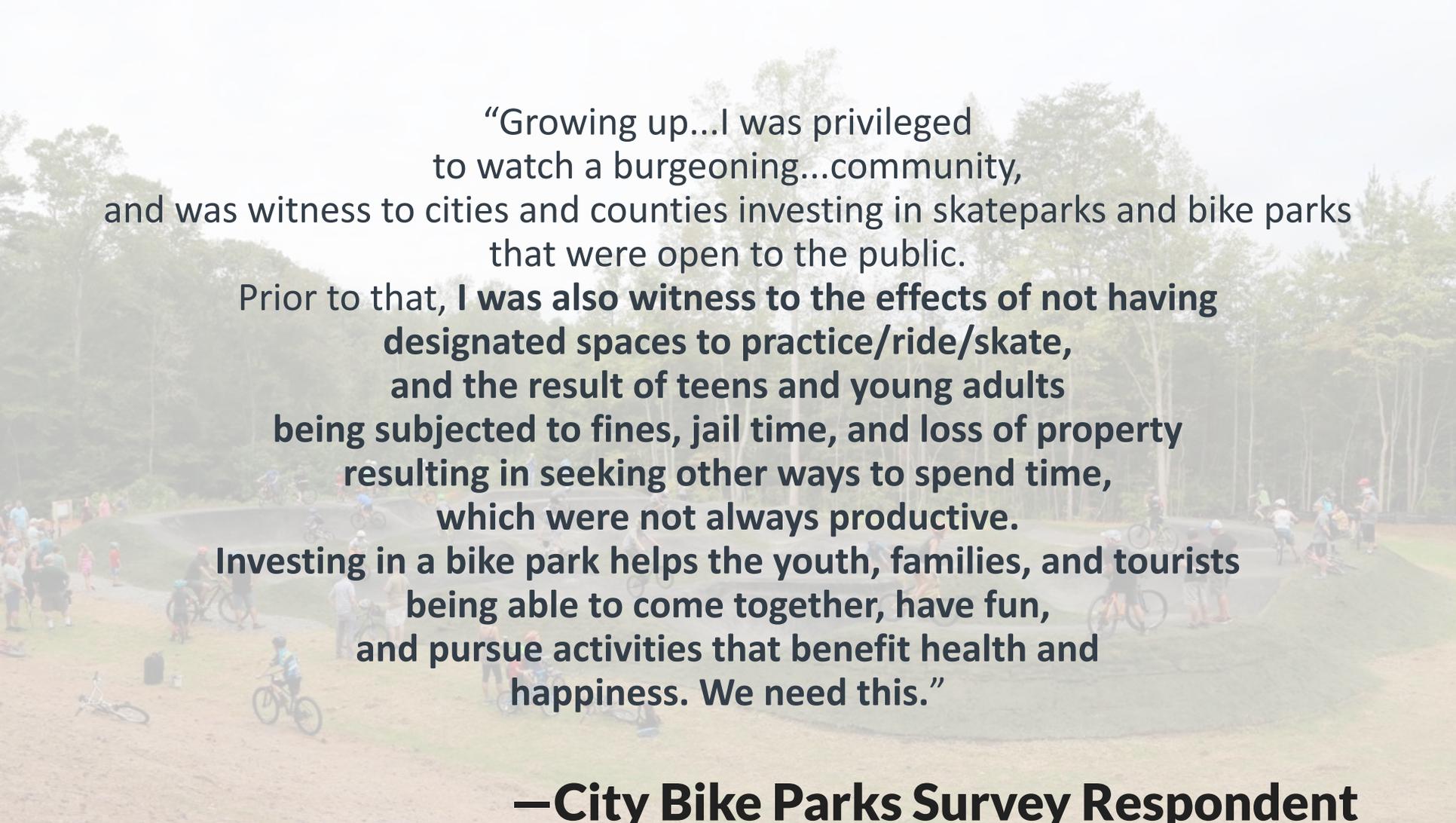
YOUNG ANN ARBOR CYCLISTS  
AND BIKE PARK VOLUNTEERS  
(AGES 5, 6, 6, & 8)



# **We are here today because:**

We want to collaborate in expanding access to cycling, cycling areas, stewardship, and skills development-- access for all ages, races, genders, and cultures from a wide range of abilities.





“Growing up...I was privileged to watch a burgeoning...community, and was witness to cities and counties investing in skateparks and bike parks that were open to the public.

Prior to that, **I was also witness to the effects of not having designated spaces to practice/ride/skate, and the result of teens and young adults being subjected to fines, jail time, and loss of property resulting in seeking other ways to spend time, which were not always productive.**

**Investing in a bike park helps the youth, families, and tourists being able to come together, have fun, and pursue activities that benefit health and happiness. We need this.”**

**—City Bike Parks Survey Respondent**



# PUMP TRACK

- Continuous Loop
- No Pedaling Needed



# ROLLERS

For generating speed



# BERMS

For changing direction

---

# ASPHALT

- Pump tracks used to be dirt but asphalt has gained popularity.
  - Asphalt nearly eliminates maintenance and allows the track to be ridden with skateboards, scooters and inline skates as well as bikes.
  - Can be ridden year around.
-



# OHIO IS WINNING

By my count Ohio has 11 municipal asphalt pump tracks that are either completed or well into the planning process. Michigan, in contrast, has one (there's another one in Grand Rapids but it's so small it's not really worth mentioning).

# THE PERFECT LOCATION

- Near public transportation
- Near neighborhoods so kids and families can ride to the track
- Connecting to existing bicycle trails (B2B trail for example)
- Sufficient parking for special events
- 20-30,000 square feet of available land
- Near low-income and/or section 8 housing

---

# PROGRAMMING

The pump track in Rudolph, Ohio has been offering clinics and programming for children and adults. Most of their programs are free and are run by a local non-profit (The Right Direction) through the Woods County Parks Commission. We would like to emulate this and offer monthly clinics at the pump track . These programs would be free or a nominal fee and be taught by local coaches.

In addition to clinics, Ohio has a pump track race series held every year. We would like to be part of that series and or hold other events at the track.

---

---

# OUR PETITION

We collected 715 signatures  
from local cycling enthusiasts  
who support the development of a pump track  
in Ann Arbor;

250 are Ann Arbor residents.

---

---

**“This [Bandemer Bike Park] is a special place  
...  
investing a little into the space,  
and  
offering other features at other A2 parks would be a wonderful gift to the  
city.”**

**-City Bike Parks Survey Respondent**

---

---

**“More bike trails and pathways,  
and...small bike parks in several neighborhoods**

...

**Ann Arbor has some nice areas,  
but they are poorly connected  
and there’s room for so much more.**

...

**Every neighborhood park and school  
should have a small paved loop and a pump track  
to teach basic skills for on- and off-road riding.  
Pump tracks are great for all ages and abilities.”**

**-City Bike Parks Survey Respondent**

---

**Imagine if vacant Ann Arbor Park land looked like this:**



**THANK YOU** ADAM FERCHO, ERIKA PRATT, COLIN SMITH, TINA STEPHENS, MIKE HAHN, ABBEY, RYAN, JOSH, A2 PARKS & REC, GIVE 365, ADOPT-A-PARK, AND THE PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION!

SINCERELY,

THE ANN ARBOR BICYCLE RECREATION ADVOCACY GROUP

# THANK YOU

Ann Arbor Bike Parks -  
Huron Waterloo Pathways -  
Common Cycle -  
Downtown Development Association -  
Bike Alliance of Washtenaw –  
Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition  
City Transportation Committee -  
Ann Arbor Velo Club –  
Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society – AABTS -  
Brian Butrico  
Carl Loomis  
Ann Arbor Bike Summit

SINCERELY,

THE ANN ARBOR BICYCLE RECREATION ADVOCACY GROUP

IMAGINE...



**Questions  
&  
Comments**





# PUMPTRACKS AND BIKE PARKS

WHY THEY'RE  
AWESOME FOR KIDS!

