

Moonraker Trail expansion

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Published: **May 25, 2010 10:00 AM**

Updated: **May 25, 2010 10:24 AM**

Biking in Golden is about to get even better with a 26 km expansion to the current trail system.

The Golden Cycling Club received \$35,460 through a Community Initiatives grant for a project involving upgrades that will see three major new loops, a trail from town connecting to the current trail system near the river and another trail connecting the Moonrakers system at the ski hill road.

Last year, through a partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts (MOTCA) and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD), the Moonrakers received significant improvements. Pioneer Forestry Consulting Ltd. was commissioned to do upgrades at Cedar Lake, rework the trail heads, install washrooms, expand parking and add new kiosks.

This year, Golden Cycling Club received approval from MOTCA to commence with a new project, assisted through a granting program through the Columbia Basin Trust. The Cycling Club is presently hiring trail crew to begin the project and they plan to start work on May 31.

Director for the Moonraker Trails, Rick Seward, says the Golden Cycling Club has been receiving loads of support from members in the community for its new project. Pioneer Forestry helped with the mapping of the new trails, Alpine Helicopters has been instrumental in moving materials around to the various sites, and hundreds of volunteer hours has helped bring the project to this point.

“We’ve been receiving a lot of positive feed back from locals and out-of-towners on the work we’re doing here,” says Seward. “With the new trails, bikers will be able to mix and match their route to create a 45 minute or four hour ride.”

The plan for the new trails is to build them to International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) standards. Designing biking trails is different than walking and hiking trails. The IMBA has instituted a best practices for construction so the trails don’t require a whole lot of maintenance down the road, explains Seward.

“If the trails are done well they’ll last just about forever, hopefully, says Seward.” They’ll be a lot of fun to ride, walk or run.”

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