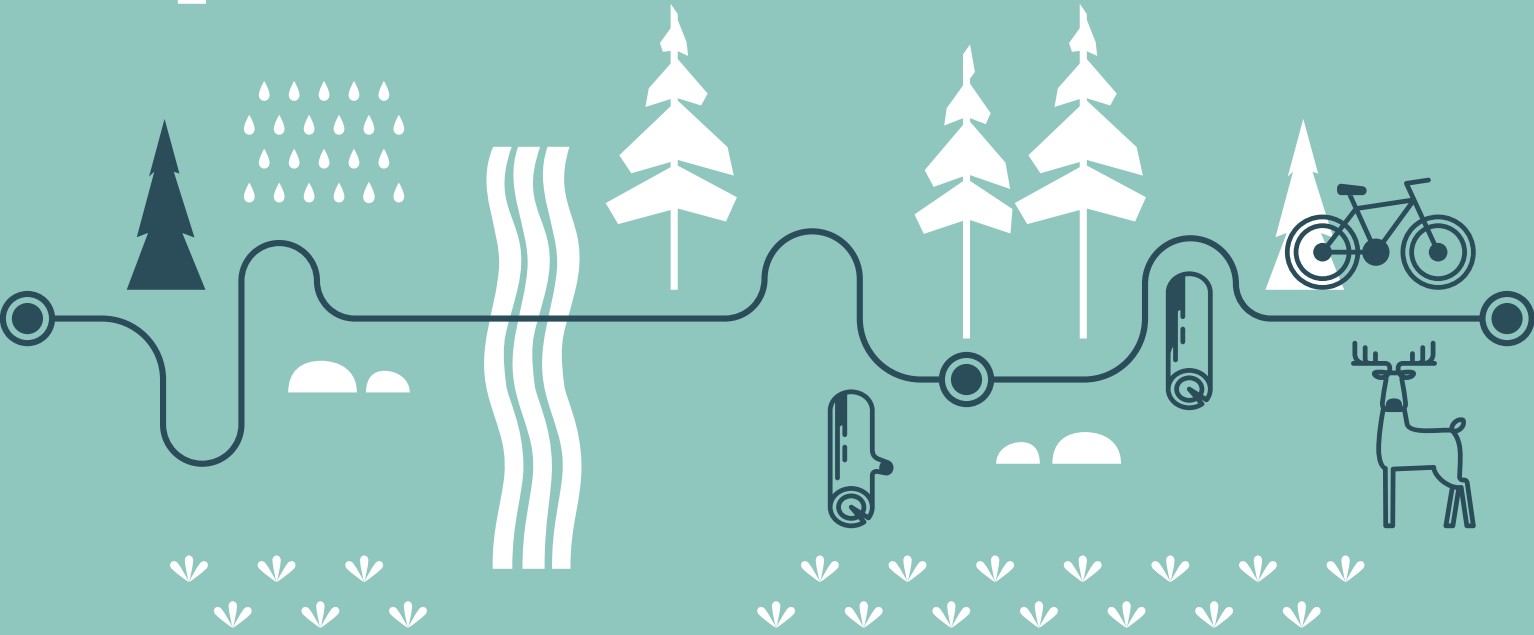


# Mountain Air Bike Skills Course Redevelopment

## SURVEY 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

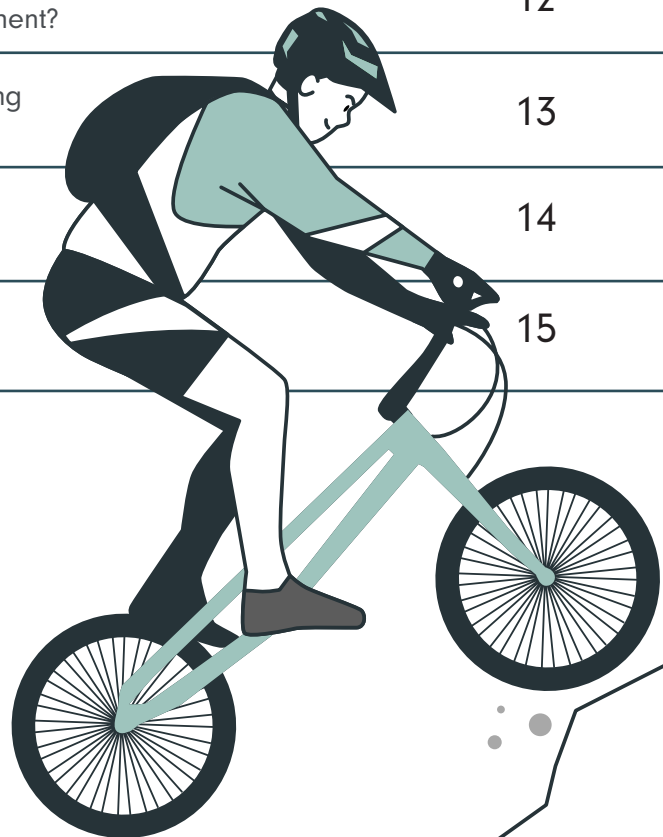
Prepared for City of Burnaby  
Prepared by VDZ + A  
January 05, 2023



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# Introduction

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- Engagement Activities

This section documents the engagement activities and promotional tactics utilized to gather broad feedback on the redevelopment proposed for Mountain Air Bike Skills Course.

This engagement was designed to discover what types of riders are currently using the bike skills course, and where they live. What do riders like or dislike about the current facility? What can be done to improve the facility and rider experience?

- Open House

On August 13th, the City of Burnaby, Axis Mountain Technical and Van Der Zalm + Associates Landscape Architects hosted an open house at the Burnaby Mountain Air Bike Skills Course and garnered feedback from mountain bikers and BMXers of all styles. The public was invited through traditional advertising, social media and email correspondence. A total of 60 members of the public attended the open house and provided feedback and we also invited the public to submit their feedback through an online survey.

- Online Survey

Between August 5-26, 2022, mountain biking and BMX organizations, mountain bikers, BMXers, as well as residents, business owners and other members of Burnaby's diverse community were provided an opportunity to take an online survey. A total of 737 people completed the survey providing qualitative and quantitative feedback.

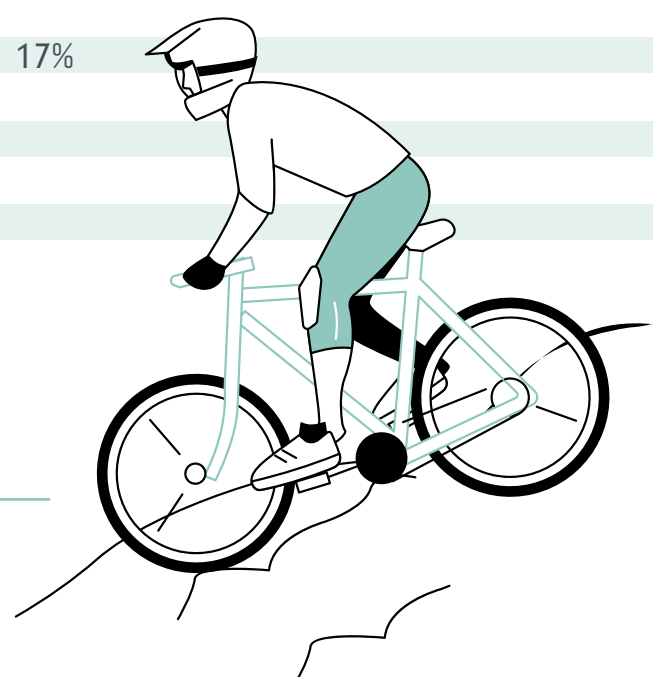
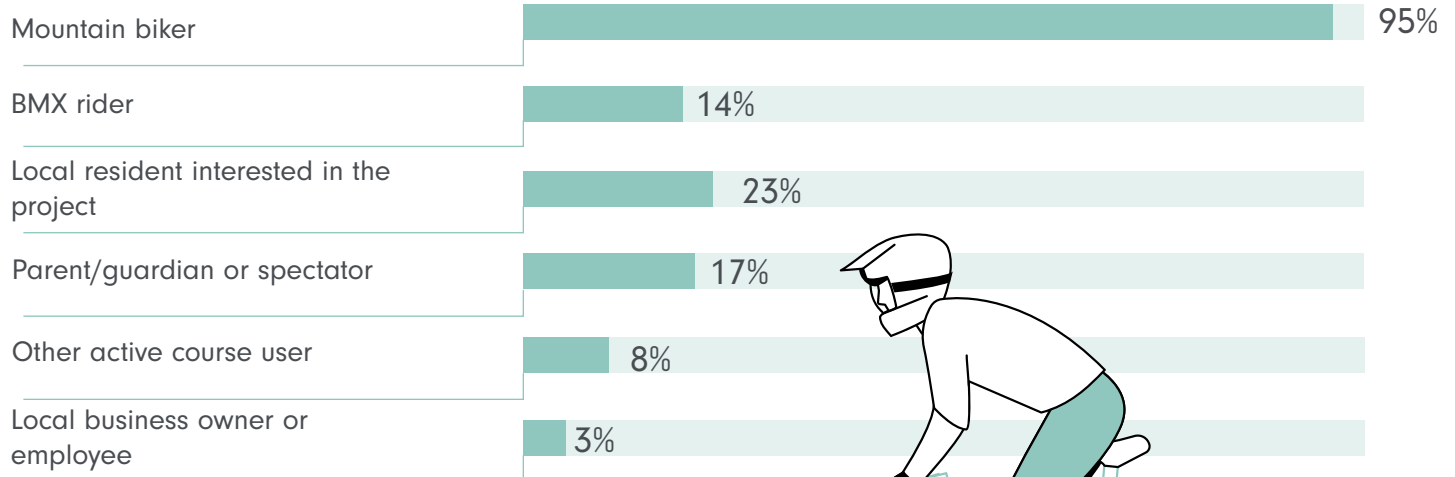
The survey included a set of questions for the mountain biking community to gather perspectives on new bike amenities, improving existing ones, and other creative suggestions that may arise. The following results illustrate this feedback including the variety of strengths and weaknesses with the existing course, as well as what users would like to see in the upcoming redesign.



Stevie Smith Bike Park in Nanaimo, BC.

# WHAT WE HEARD

What is your primary interest in this project? (Check all that apply).



## Key Takeaways

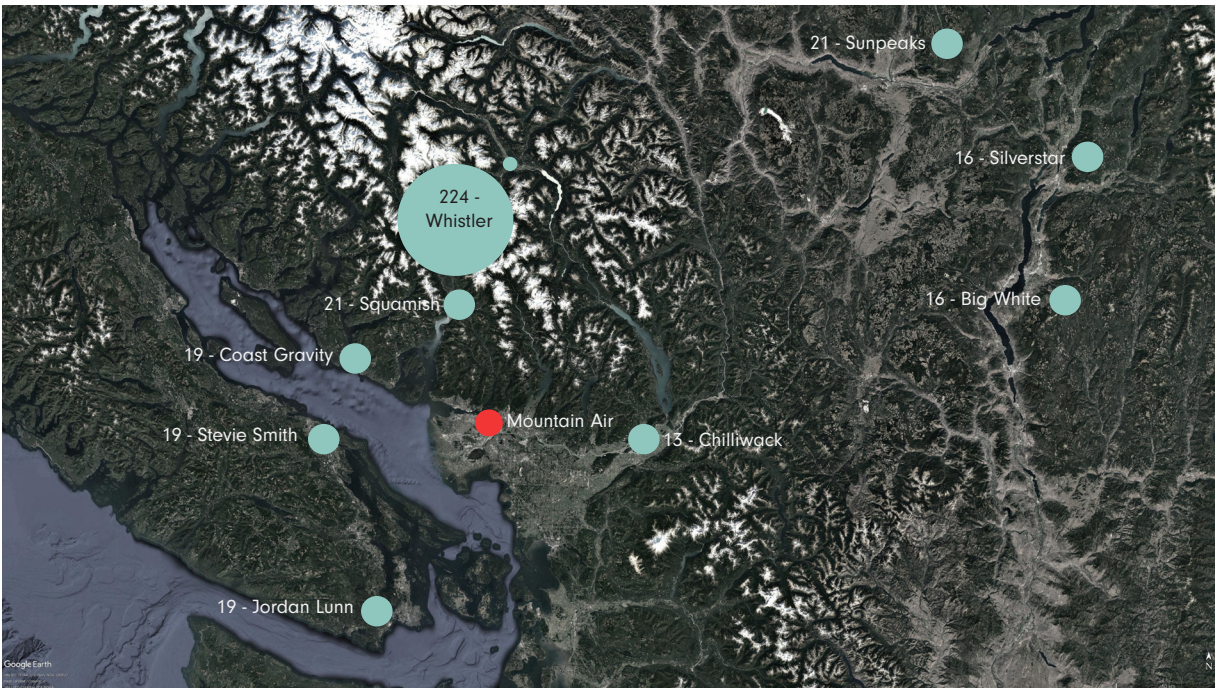
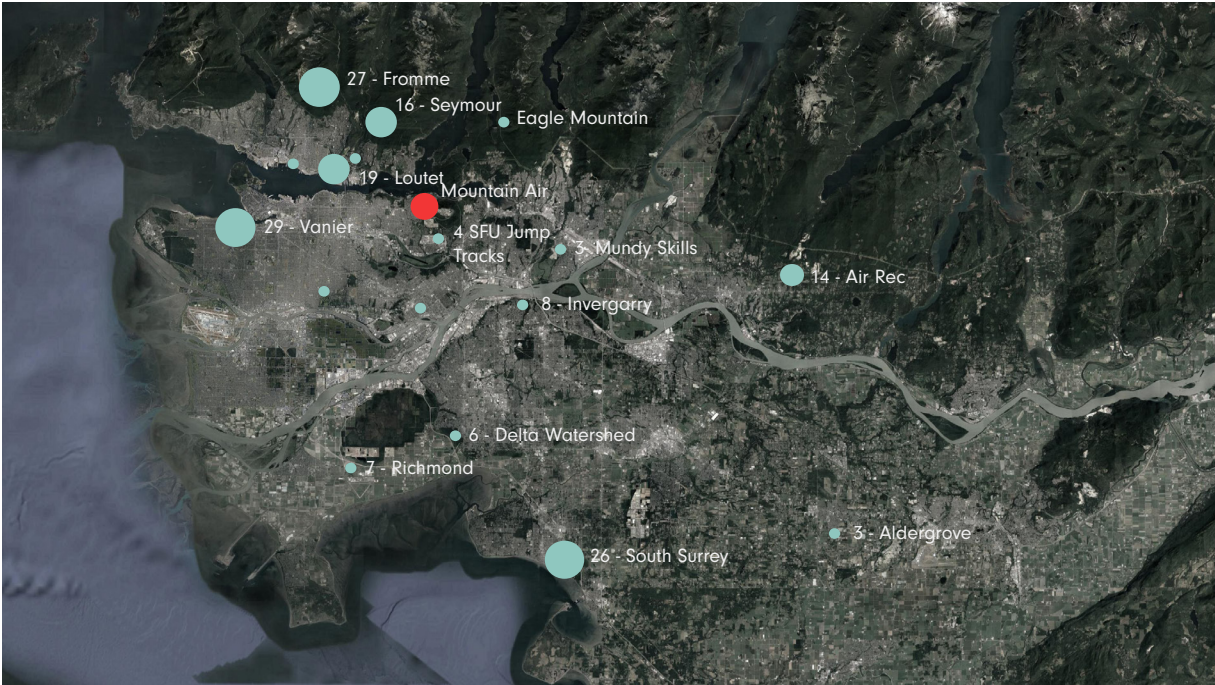
The majority of survey respondents listed themselves as mountain bikers (95%) while only 23% of respondents said they were a local resident interested in the project and 3% were local business owners.

There was high enthusiasm and interest in the park redevelopment from those already engaged in mountain biking and related wheeled sports. There is a possible need to further engage those not currently involved in mountain biking to ensure the park redevelopment considers others' perspectives.



# WHAT WE HEARD

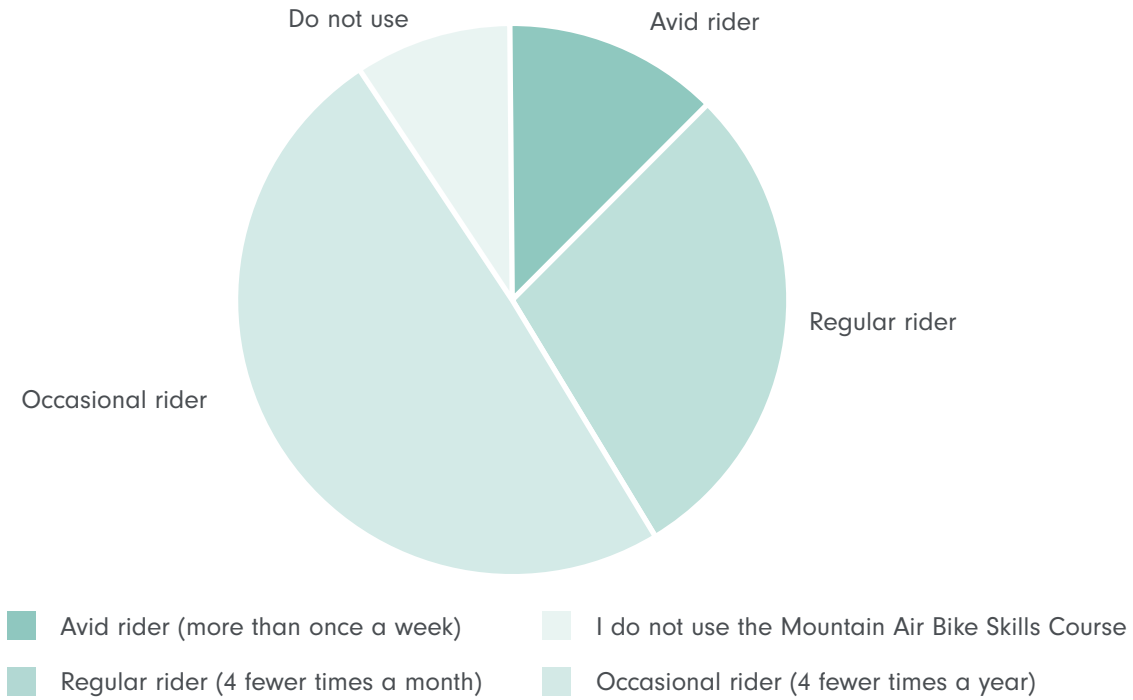
What other local bike parks do you visit and enjoy?  
(number indicates # of votes)



# WHAT WE HEARD

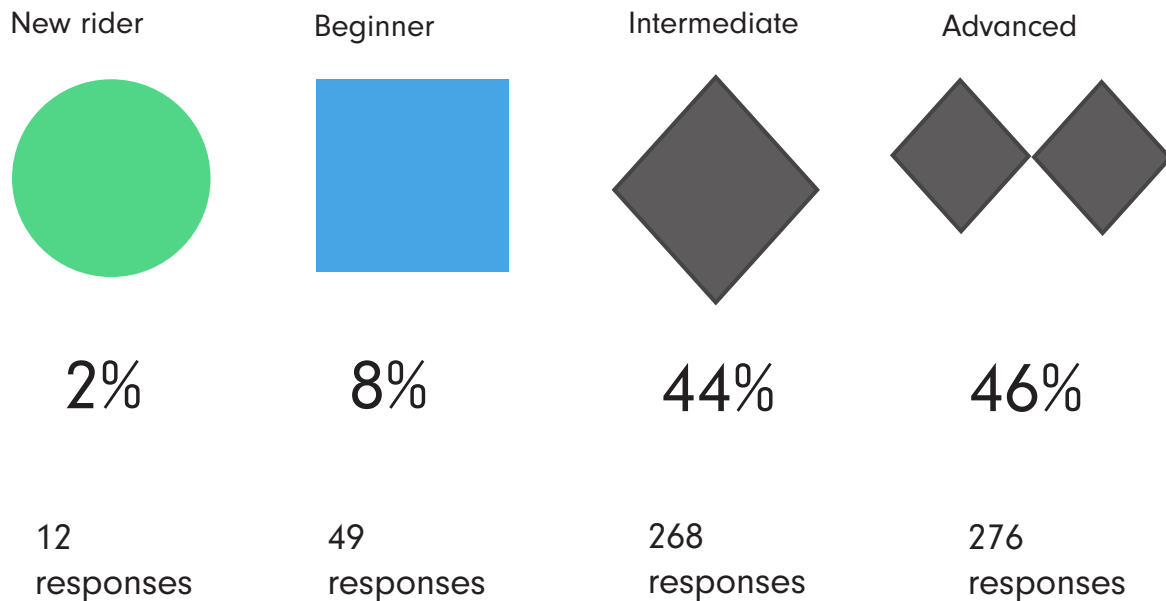
How often do you use the Mountain Air Bike Skills Course?

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What is your bike experience level?

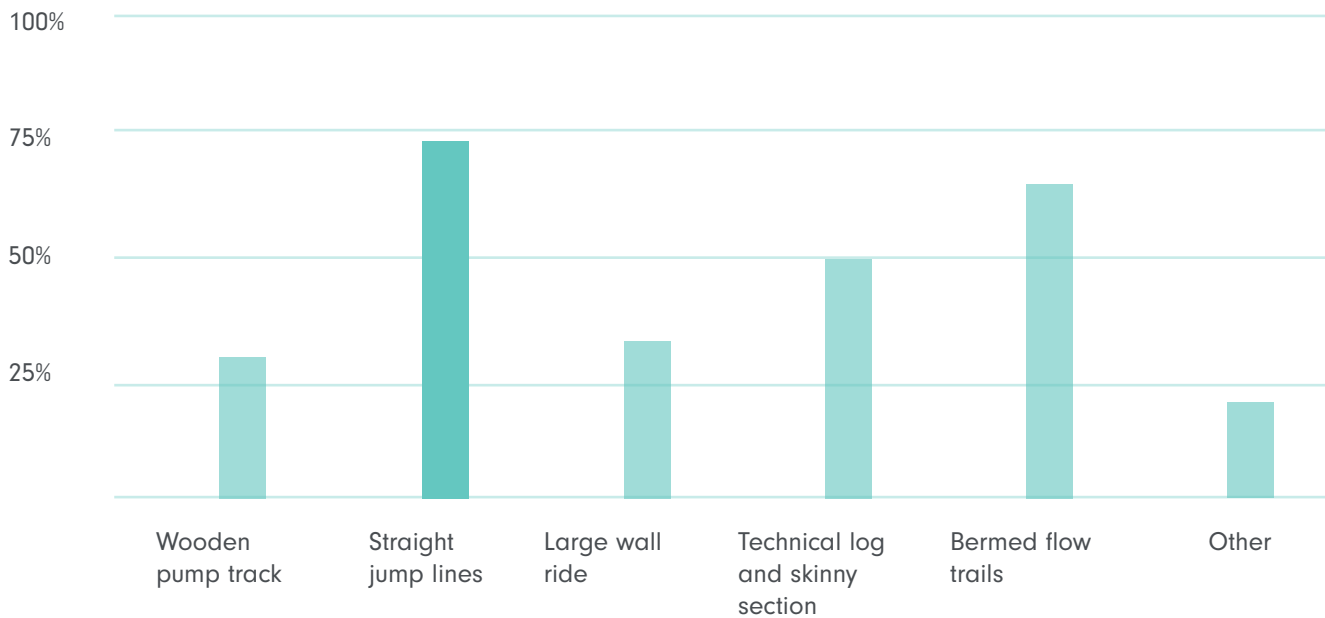
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# WHAT WE HEARD

What elements of the existing Mountain Air Bike Skills Course would you like to see represented in the redevelopment?



Example of a variety of drops.

“The variety of drops have been extremely useful. Continuing to have similar or more drops would be amazing.”

“The landings for the drops at the top and middle of the park are all loose gravel which is not ideal.”

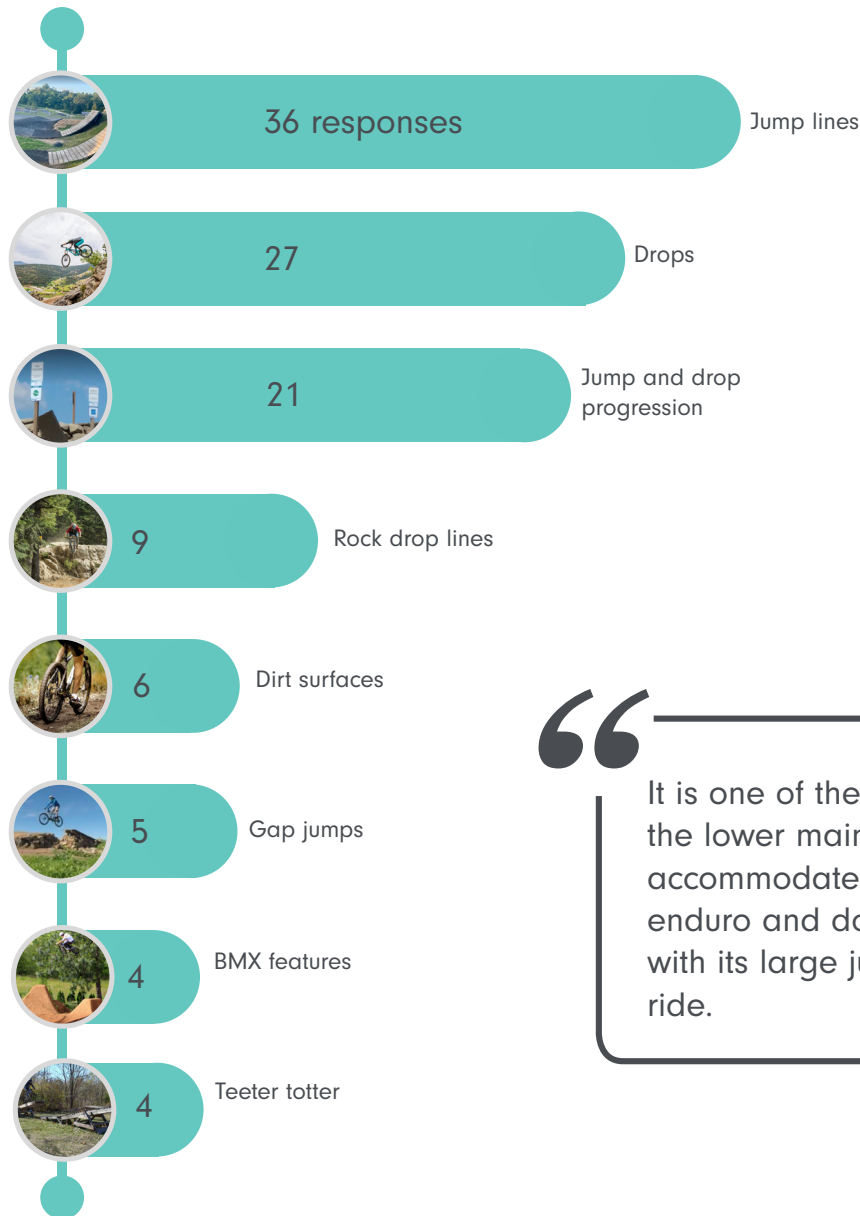


Example of gravel landings.



# WHAT WE HEARD

What other elements of the existing Mountain Air Bike Skills Course would you like to see represented in the redevelopment?



“It is one of the only bike parks in the lower mainland that properly accommodates full suspension enduro and downhill mountain bikes with its large jump line and big wall ride.”

## Key Takeaways

- Jump and drop progression was an emerging important feature from feedback. It provides a good transition between beginner to advanced riders, which was often mentioned as a key part of the appeal of the course.
- The wall ride, while cited at around 30% from the quantitative feedback, was only mentioned twice within the written feedback as an important feature to maintain.

# WHAT WE HEARD

What would you like to see LESS of in the Mountain Air Bike Skills Course redevelopment?

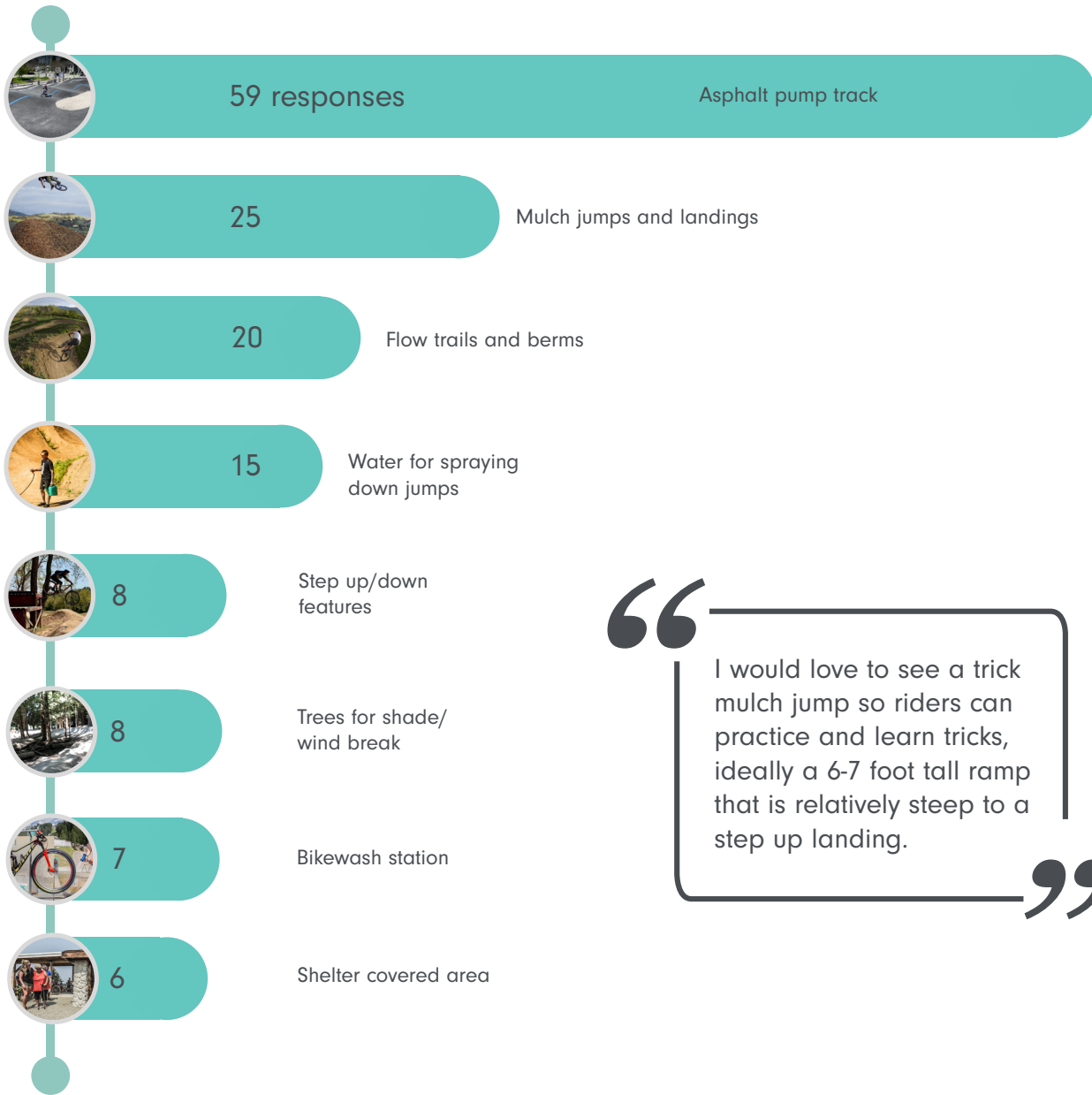


## Key Takeaways

- People dislike the Wooden Type features which can easily be slipped on, especially the pump track and skinny log rides that can be easily slipped on when wet.
- Gravel as a surface should be avoided at all costs. It was mentioned very often, even when the survey questions did not ask about it (such as in existing features to be retained).
- Many people mentioned the importance of having less wood in general, rather than specifying any specific features.

# WHAT WE HEARD

What else would you like to see incorporated in the Mountain Air Bike Skills Course redevelopment?



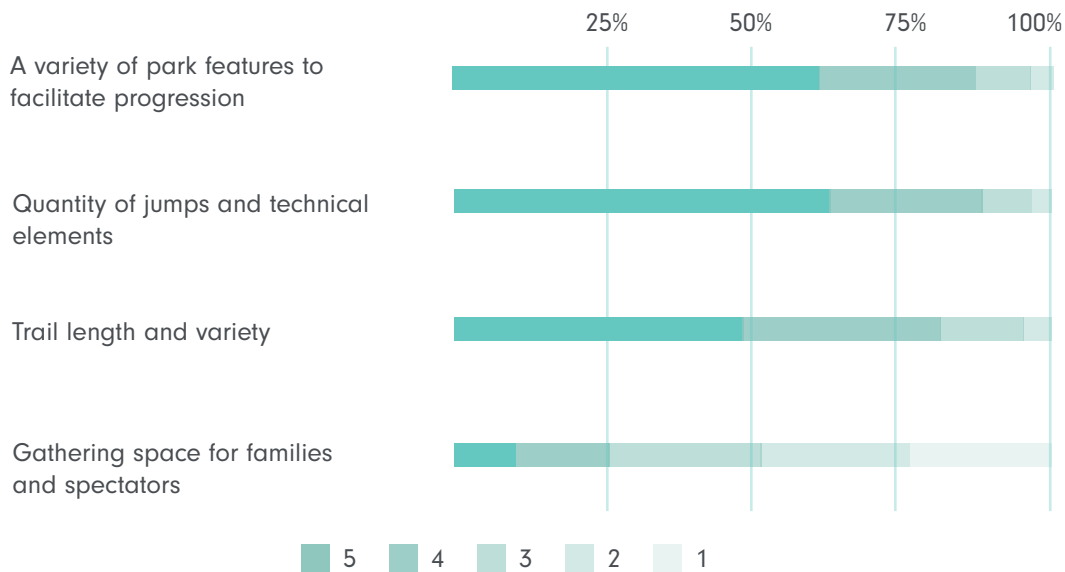
“I would love to see a trick mulch jump so riders can practice and learn tricks, ideally a 6-7 foot tall ramp that is relatively steep to a step up landing.”

## Key Takeaways

- A strong desire for an asphalt pump track.
- A large amount of mentions regarding mulch landings, particularly as an opportunity to fall down with a softer landing in beginner areas.
- Some fascinating comments on incorporating places for spectators, amenities such as bike repair kiosks.
- Berms were mentioned, but were specifically contentious, as they need to be well-maintained and well-integrated into flow trails to be successful.

# WHAT WE HEARD

Please rate your preference for the following bike park characteristics (5- highly preferred, 1- least preferred)



## Key Takeaways

Responses show participants enjoy a wide variety of lengths and features while maintaining that there also be a high quantity of technical elements. Large portions of the course dedicated to gathering spaces was not seen as 'highly preferred'.



Example of flow trails.

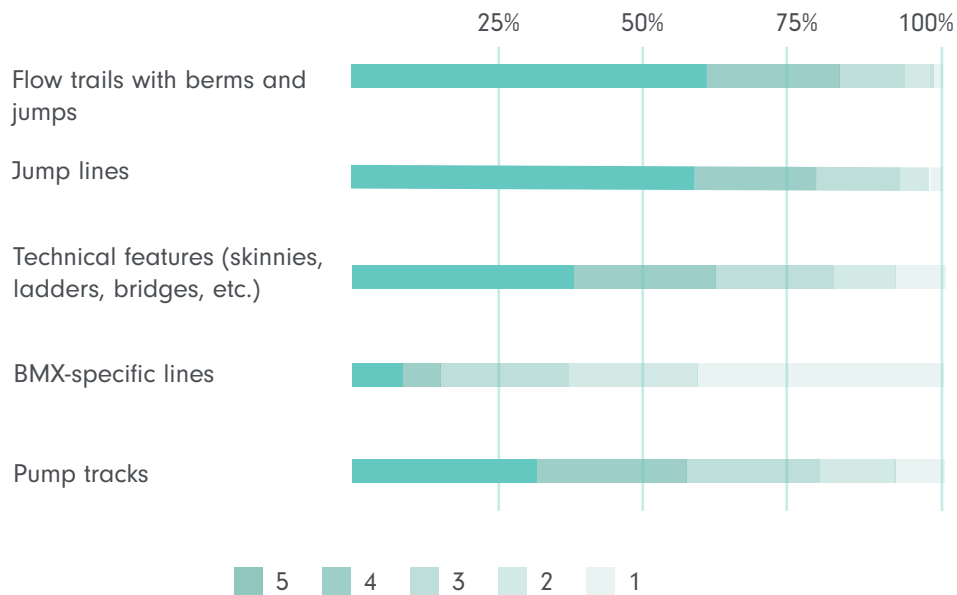


Example of technical features.



# WHAT WE HEARD

Please rate your preference for the following rideable bike features (5- highly preferred, 1- least preferred)



## Key Takeaways

These results show that preferences for features are widely varied both in design and size. Since the spatial requirements of these features are also varied, this means that there are opportunities to incorporate features in a diversity of spaces large and small.



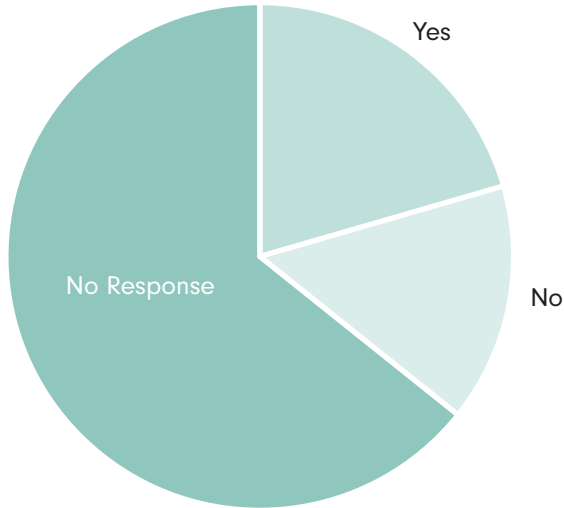
Example of jump lines.



Example of pump track.

# WHAT WE HEARD

Do you have any safety concerns in the course?



## Key Takeaways

These results suggest that while many respondents are happy with the current level of safety found in the course (112 responded no safety concern), there is room for improvement with course safety with 151 responses stating that they have safety concerns with the course.

Below are some of the most common themes that came up in responses to the survey.



Example of jumps eroding.

“ Jumps tend to erode away and become loose due to over dry state. Watering the jump or building lips with wood or asphalt would provide more consistence and better safety. ”

“ Not enough room to get safe speed on the wooden drops. Stone drops are dangerous and too flat. Skinnies are either too easy or too difficult (or decrepit) need better progression. My broke arm falling off elevated pump track. ”



Example of wooden pump track.

# WHAT WE HEARD

If yes, what are your safety concerns?



“I’ve been mid air and almost landed on children playing between the large jumps. Signage indicating it is an active bike trail and not for children to play on jumps with tractors and toy cars would be helpful.”

## Key Takeaways

The most mentioned safety concern was the gravel pathways, especially on the landings. Many people reported hurting themselves based on the unstable soil and the sharp gravel rocks impacting their skin upon the fall.

The second safety concern, was the importance of maintaining jumps to ensure safety as well as clearly providing signage of where a Mountain Bike Line passes through, and where it is safe for onlookers and family to watch.

A lack of opportunities to gain speed for jumps was also noted, with some mentioning jumps having very flat landings (Flat Drops).