

Biking in the Nicola Valley

June.16

Merritt Mountain Bike Association

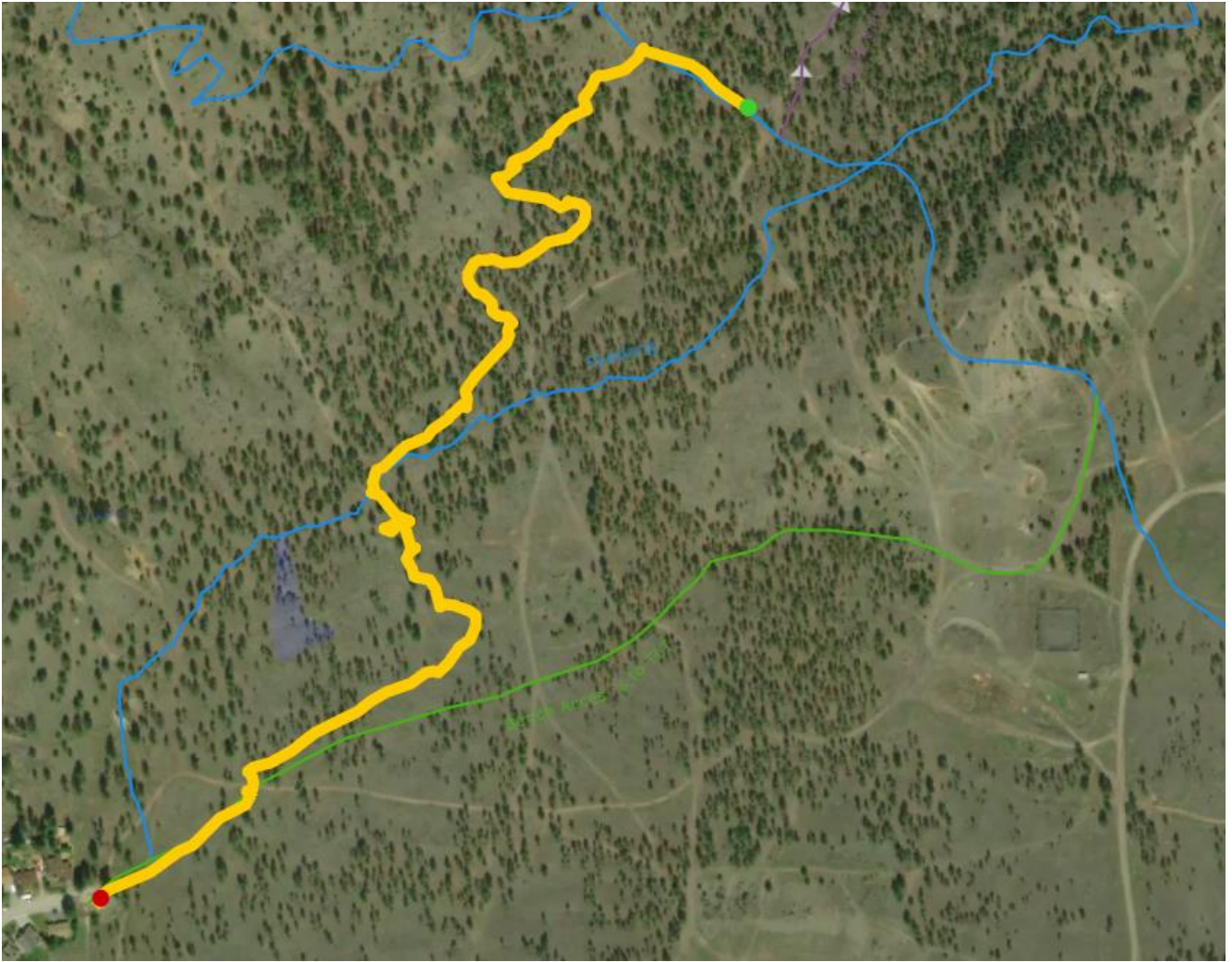
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Hello Council Members

I would like to start off by introducing myself. My name is Jordan Pinto and I am the president of the Merritt Mountain Bike Association. I have called the Nicola Valley home for 14 years and have spent the last 4 years on the board of directors helping to shape the future of Mountain Biking in Merritt.

Merritt is home to many outdoor activities with multi use trails marked and unmarked. Mountain biking in Merritt is home to 220KM of sustained trails from casual stroll through the grass lands to deep forest with many rocks and roots. We have trails of all skill levels surrounding Merritt with many options for intermediate riders and advanced riders. What we lack directly in Merritt is beginner trails accessible to younger kids who can't make it out to the green trails at Lundbom Campsites, Coutlee Plateau and the old information center. I am asking for a letter of support from the city in an application for a new 1.2KM green trail in the bench area. This trail will not need have any features in it the only building material will be dirt so it will easily be movable in the future if needed. The entire beginner loop will start at the end of Pineridge Drive Cul De Sac climbing up already existing trails to join part of the Tom Lacey Memorial Trail where the descent will start and end back in the parking lot where you start. The entire route start to finish would be about 3 to 3.5KM of easy single track with a minimal grade in the descent. I feel that for beginners and younger kids that want to learn more about riding trails and develop riding skills this would be a great way to make it a little more accessible to all that want to use it.



Stats for Merritt

Local trails

I just wanted to share with you some stats about mountain biking in Merritt

From the years 2018-2019 Merritt has seen a 200% increase in riders coming to visit and ride the trails.

2019 saw 200 unique riders come to Merritt specifically to ride our trails.

Merritt's own Iron Mountain boasts a 3280 Foot descent from the starting point at the top. In comparison Sun Peaks lift access bike park has 2000 Feet of descent.

Out of the 220KM of trails in Merritt only 25KM of that is beginner friendly with none of them in city limits.

All of these stats are available to the public through www.Trailforks.com and the stats only count for people logging their rides through the app it does not include the countless others that do not count there overall KM's.