



Proposed trails for Winter Fat Biking in Montpelier Parks

Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association - Updated October 2019

October 7, 2019

Expanded Winter Biking in Montpelier

Building on the groomed, multi-use trail success during the winter of 2018/2019, this proposal sets forth a plan to add winter biking to the Montpelier park system for the 2019/2020 winter and beyond. Bikers, skiers, snowshoers, and other winter users will continue to be able to share the same trails in what MAMBA believes was a very successful partnership during the pilot 18/19 season.

The Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) asks for fat bike access December 1st through March 15th, the typical winter months in Vermont where freezing temperatures and durable riding surfaces can be expected, or as conditions dictate. The proposed loops within North Branch Park and Hubbard Park and the adjacent neighborhood-connecting trails will be dependent on trail conditions to be determined by park personnel and MAMBA board members with TrailHUB access. Trail closures, cautions, and general notices will continue to be posted on TrailHUB.org, a website that bikers (and many other trail users) check year-round for local trail conditions. All trails along the proposed route and main kiosks at park entrances will be signed indicating multi-use designation and will indicate that bikers will yield to other winter trail users: skiers, snowshoers, and walkers.

MAMBA took pride in working closely with park personnel during the 18/19 winter season to create a welcoming trail experience for many different snow travelers on the North Branch trails. Many of our members had telling interactions with folks excited about the increased opportunities to experience a backcountry-feeling outing in the safety and familiarity of a frontcountry setting. In working with the Parks Department and MAMBA volunteers, this proposal seeks to increase accessibility to Hubbard and North Branch Parks. (See details on accompanying proposed winter riding map.)

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. It is MAMBA's belief that providing diverse, healthy, inclusive recreational opportunities in our town will enrich this community and benefit all.