



BIRMINGHAM URBAN MOUNTAIN PEDALERS
P.O. BOX 590061
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35259-0061
HOTLINE: (800) 960-9457
EMAIL: bump@bump.org
www.bump.org

PRESS RELEASE

On January 22, 2008, members of the Birmingham Urban Mountain Pedalers (BUMP) mountain biking club met with representatives of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Shelby County, and other park users to present ideas for increasing visitation at Oak Mountain State Park (OMSP) by improving the mountain bike trail system.

BUMP proposed that in cooperation with DCNR and Shelby County, the existing 17 mile trail system be expanded to at least 25 miles in an effort to achieve recognition as an “Epic” trail by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). The majority of the expanded trail system would consist of narrow, winding trail of the type known as “single track,” which is highly sought after by mountain bikers while being minimally intrusive to the landscape.

In a 20 minute slide presentation (which can be seen on the web at www.bump.org), BUMP noted that bicycling is a significant part of the outdoor recreation industry which contributes billions of dollars to the national economy and millions locally, and that trail expansion to “Epic” length at OMSP will increase the tourism draw of what is already a nationally known trail system which hosts annual events such as the *X-terra* off road triathlon and BUMP’s own *Bump ’n’ Grind* mountain bike race.

The first phase of the proposed trail expansion would involve building a wide multi-use trail and an accompanying single track trail across Double Oak Lake from the present swimming beach and day use areas. The multi-use trail would be an easy, fairly level 1.5 mile loop suited to pedestrians and casual cyclists and would include a bridge over the dam spillway, improving access to the far lake shore, while a designated parking area near the dam would make the trail accessible to handicapped users as well. These features will provide park visitors with beautiful new vistas across the lake to the Oak Mountain ridgeline.

Subsequent projects would include re-routing trail sections now following roads onto new single track trail, adding a trail link to the campground, and developing a new section of single track trail for advanced riders at the north end of the park. The BUMP plan would rely on volunteer labor from the mountain biking community and financial assistance from Shelby County and other sponsors to create these improved facilities at no cost to DCNR.

In a question-and-answer session with officials and other interested parties following the presentation, BUMP stressed that the added trails will have minimal impact on the environment, wildlife, and other park users. BUMP has historically placed great value on the natural setting of the park and has striven to design and maintain the mountain bike trail system accordingly. The meeting closed with an expression of thanks by BUMP for the opportunity to present their proposal to DCNR.