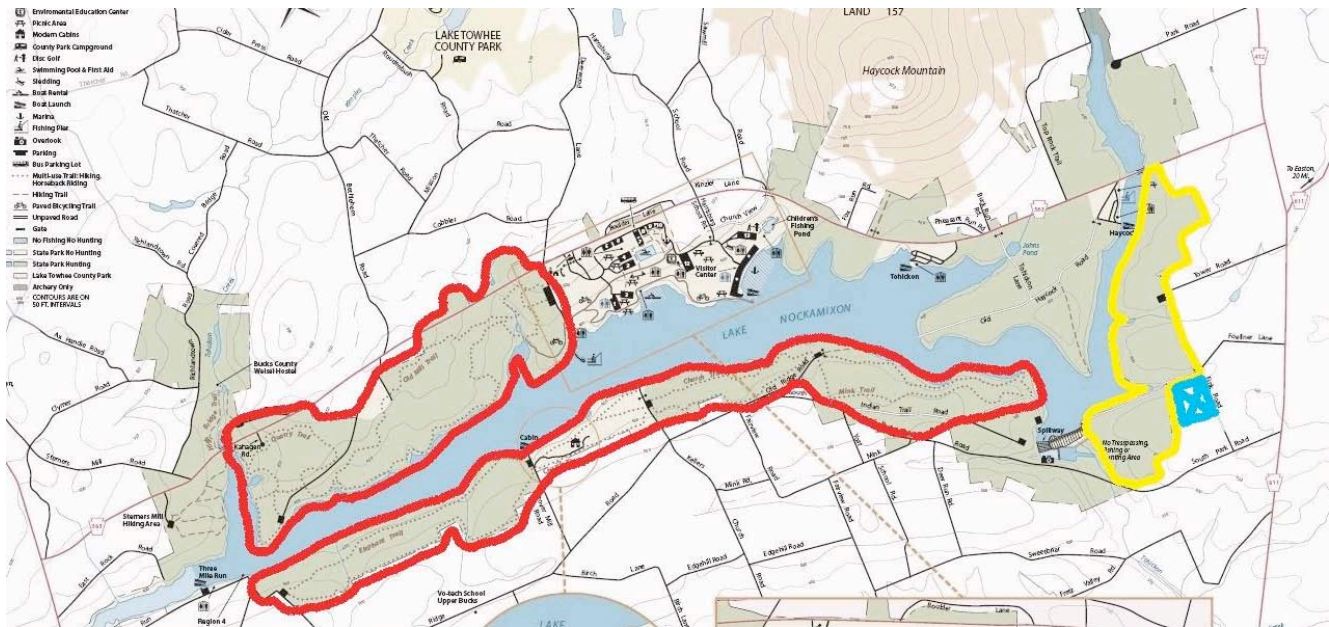


Nockamixon State Park Trail Project Update

August 1, 2011

Valley Mountain Bikers (VMB) and Philadelphia Mountain Biking Association (PMBA) are developing new trails in Nockamixon State Park. This entire project is proceeding under full authority and approval of the Nockamixon Park Manager and a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Program Specialist. These new multi-use trails, located in the yellow outlined area shown below, are approved for mountain biking and hiking. All existing multi-use trails approved for horseback riding and hiking are located in the red outlined areas shown below. The existing hiking only trails are outside of the red and yellow outlined areas.



The trail construction process being followed by VMB, PMBA, Park Management, and PA DCNR is as follows:

- VMB/PMBA propose a new trail by assessing the best sustainable path, and place flags in the ground to identify the route.
- Park Management and PA DCNR Program Specialist then inspect the proposed trail layout by hiking along the flagged route.
- PA DCNR and the PA Fish and Boat Commission then complete a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory environmental review to identify possible impacts to threatened or endangered plants or animals.
- If any impact is identified, VMB/PMBA make the necessary route changes, which are then re-inspected by Park Management.
- Once the trail layout meets all necessary requirements, approval is granted by the Park Manager and PA DCNR Program Specialist.

Only after these steps are taken does actual trail construction begin.

As established by Nockamixon State Park Management, the new trails under construction (yellow outlined area on the map above) are approved for hiking and mountain biking. They are separate from the existing approved horseback riding trails (red outlined areas on the map above). VMB and PMBA fully support the Nockamixon State Park Management's trail use designations for both the new and existing trails for the following reasons:

- No trails in Nockamixon State Park were approved for mountain biking prior to this project, which seeks to develop new trails and does not affect existing trails or the designated uses of existing trails (the Day Use



Area paved path can be ridden on any bike, but is not considered a mountain biking trail). Developing new trails for a newly approved recreational use is an excellent way to prevent overcrowding on the existing trails and user conflicts.

- Until now, no trails, for any use, were formally approved in the area where the new trails are being developed. This is reflected on the official park map (copied image above, and a high resolution image on the official park website), and confirmed by Nockamixon State Park Management.
- The new trails are being constructed pursuant to International Mountain Biking Association trail design and construction guidelines, which emphasize “...sustainable trailbuilding techniques that produce paths that withstand erosion, provide designated users with their desired experiences, and minimize user conflict.”¹ These new sustainable trails will support their multi-use designation while reducing user conflict on existing trails.

As a compliment to the new trails, VMB and PMBA are working with Park Management to build and install kiosks, and expand the parking area at Tower and Fink Roads.

To date, over 2,000 hours of volunteer efforts organized by VMB and PMBA have been invested in the Nockamixon project, with an additional 2,000+ hours expected to complete the trail system. The completed trails have received tremendous praise from the local community of bikers and trail runners, in addition to government officials, for their design and quality of construction.

In addition to the Nockamixon trail project, Valley Mountain Bikers has volunteered in excess of 8,000 hours designing, constructing, and maintaining two other multi-use trail systems in the Lehigh Valley region: Salisbury Walking Purchase Park and Trexler Nature Preserve. The 20+ miles of trail constructed by Valley Mountain Bikers have all been completed under authority and approval from the appropriate land management and government officials (including Wildlands Conservancy, Lehigh County Park and Recreation, Salisbury Township, Lehigh County Executive, and PA DCNR). VMB has received accolades from all these land management and government agencies for our organization’s past and present volunteer efforts, and the positive impact we have made.

The Philadelphia Mountain Bike Association has dedicated over 5,000 volunteer hours in the 4+ years since its inception on numerous mountain biking trails in the Greater Philadelphia area. PMBA is a chapter of IMBA, a 35,000+ member organization that promotes responsible mountain biking and sustainable trail design. In addition to trail work, PMBA volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours to conduct other volunteer programs. PMBA holds monthly riding clinics to train new bikers on proper bike handling skills, trail riding etiquette and respect for other trail users. PMBA introduces children to mountain biking with events like the International Take A Kid Mountain Bike day and by working with organizations such as Neighborhood Bike Works. PMBA has also held several Horse-Bike Training Clinics to familiarize equestrians and bikers with each other, and to teach them how to properly interact on the trail.

VMB and PMBA hope this update clarifies some recent misinformation and confusion concerning the trail project at Nockamixon State Park. We hope to improve the recreational experience for everyone at the Park.

Sincerely,

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| Scott Stortz VMB President | Paul Harris PMBA President | Kenny Magee Nockamixon Project Leader |
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¹ “Trail Solutions: IMBA’s Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack” 2004, page 13.