



# Status of Mountain Bike Trail Development on NCC Land

This is the first update for 2016 on the status of mountain bike trail development on Nelson City Council land.

First a bit of history: in April 2014 a [severe storm](#) brought down trees all over Codgers Mountain Bike Park, effectively destroying the trail network there. The Council decided to harvest the remaining trees and many of our members expected that after the trees were removed a new Codgers would rise from the debris of the old.

Unfortunately things haven't been so straight-forward. Over the past two years a number of planned trails have been accepted, then rejected by the Council, including notably a Grade 2 (beginners) trail in lower Codgers and a Grade 3 two-way trail connecting Codgers to the top of Fringe Hill.

We recognise that this has been frustrating both for Club members and the volunteers who put time and effort into following what they thought was the proper trail development process. We understand that in some cases the development has been blocked because members of the public have directly contacted Council staff and/or Councillors.

To find a way to move forward the Club has engaged with the Council to work with other stakeholders/ community groups on the "NCC Off-Road Trails Strategy". After an initial meeting with the Council and some of the stakeholders (like trail runners and Brook Street residents) it was decided that each group would outline their desired outcomes so there is a clear picture of where each group is coming from, and what they want.

In response the NMTBC committee developed the following desired outcomes:

1. Agreed Process for the Development of New Trails
2. Agreed Process for Supporting Infrastructure for Trails
3. Agreed Process for Combining Trail Development with Environmental Restoration and Management
4. Minimise Conflict with Other User Groups
5. Beginner/ Family Friendly Mountain Biking Facilities

You can read more details on our desired outcomes below. We think they are very modest and reasonable.

We've been told that the Strategy process will be completed by the 1st of July 2016. We will endeavour to keep our members up to date as this process progresses.

If you have any queries or comments on the Strategy or the desired outcomes please email [tama.easton@gmail.com](mailto:tama.easton@gmail.com)



# Desired Outcomes - NCC Off-Road Trails Strategy

This documents the Nelson Mountain Bike Club's desired outcomes from the Nelson City Council's Off-Road Trails Strategy process - 2016.

- [1#. Agreed Process for the Development of New Trails](#)
- [2#. Agreed Process for Supporting Infrastructure for Trails](#)
- [3#. Agreed Process for Combining Trail Development with Environmental Restoration and Management](#)
- [4#. Minimise Conflict with Other User Groups](#)
- [5#. Beginner/ Family Friendly Mountain Biking Facilities](#)  
[Trail Grade Build Specifications](#)

## 1#. Agreed Process for the Development of New Trails

**Context:** Most of our intermediate to expert (Grade 3 to 5) trails are community used facilities planned and built by NMTBC volunteers. They are used for a diverse range of activities including mountain biking, walking, running and tramping. Over the past two years volunteers have repeatedly had trail development blocked after following what they thought was the correct process - often for no clear reason - which has led to a lack of faith with NCC and the development of unsanctioned trails.

**Desired Outcome:** NMTBC want a clearly documented process for developing and maintaining trails on NCC land. This would document the steps that need to be taken and the requirements that need to be met before a new trail can be developed. The process and requirements need to be reasonable, achievable and not able to be overridden by political whims.

## 2#. Agreed Process for Supporting Infrastructure for Trails

**Context:** Trails cannot be developed in isolation, they may need supporting infrastructure such as car parking, toilets and signage. This infrastructure can have positive effects (more facilities for user groups) and negative effects (more traffic, noise) on the nearby community and need to be balanced accordingly.

**Desired Outcome:** NMTBC want a clearly documented process for co-ordinating trail development with supporting infrastructure on NCC land. This would include working with stakeholders to maximise the positive effects and minimise the negative effects of infrastructure such as car parking and trailheads.



### 3#. Agreed Process for Combining Trail Development with Environmental Restoration and Management

**Context:** There is a strong desire in the Club to combine trail development with environmental restoration and management. A specific example of this is the replanting of the Codgers area in native forest.

**Desired Outcome:** NMTBC want a clearly documented process for replanting and pest control around trail development on NCC land.

### 4#. Minimise Conflict and Collaborate with Other User Groups

**Context:** Parts of the Nelson trail network are currently nearing capacity due to the growing outdoor recreation community (walkers, runners, bikers) and this is causing some concern to some user groups.

**Desired Outcome:** Develop a Strategy that encourages and enables collaboration and co-operation with user groups/ stakeholders.

### 5#. Beginner/ Family Friendly Mountain Biking Facilities

**Context:** Nelson is currently lacking genuine Grade 2 trails that can be ridden and enjoyed by beginner riders/ families/ children. The most accessible Grade 2 trail is the upper Maitai Walkway above Nile Street, which is also one of the most heavily used pathways in Nelson. The nearest Grade 2 trail network is in Rabbit Island, 30 minutes drive from Nelson.

The Club see the Beginner/ Family Friendly Mountain Biking facility as separate from volunteer built facilities. Developed properly this facility would be used by over 10% of the Nelsonians and has more in common with recreational facilities such as tennis courts, hockey courts, cricket pitches, sports grounds etc.

Because of the broad community use of this facility and the need for professional digger built Grade 2 trails the NTMBC sees this as a joint NCC/NTMBC project with significant funding and support from the NCC.

**Desired Outcome:** Mountain biking facilities that can be enjoyed by beginners, families and children.

At a minimum these facilities would include:

- **Sufficient Car parking**
- **Signage**
- **Toilets**
- **Bike Wash**
- **4km Grade 2 Loop** with an option to ride as a 2km loop.
- **4km Grade 3 Loop**, which connects to the Grade 2 loop.



## Trail Grade Build Specifications

Here are the Trail Grade Build Specifications as defined by New Zealand Cycle Trails. It should be noted that these specifications have been developed by Jonathan Kennett, one of the original creators of the trail grading system in 1991:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cYg6cvCrVboZS0mxumJbiO9RMKWwhsPHYxtFLa52Iac/edit?usp=sharing>