

MAKING MAGIC WITH DIRT: TRUCKEE BIKE PARK

TAHOE DONNER
GIVING FUND

BY KATIE VENI, TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND COMMITTEE MEMBER

Capping off the profiles of our 2017 grant recipients, this month we feature the Truckee Bike Park, a place where dirt and sagebrush have been magically transformed into a world-class biking destination, free for all and designed for all.

After riding a pumptrack in Sun Valley in 2012, Cortney Knudson and Brooks McMullin were inspired to bring the concept home to Truckee. For the past six years they have volunteered countless hours of their own time to build the park. Thanks to them, local and visiting cyclists of all ages -- beginner to advanced -- now have a beautiful and massive park to enjoy. The park wouldn't be possible without the trail builders and designers, a symbiotic partnership with Truckee-Donner Rec and Parks and successful (and continuing) fundraising efforts.

Located at 12200 Joerger Drive, just beyond Riverview Sports Park, the park is open to the public, sunrise to sunset (weather permitting), seven days a week during summer months.



Its main elements are:

PUMP TRACKS

A circuit of rollers and berms to develop bike handling skills.

DIRT JUMPS

To practice getting airborne.

DROP ZONE

For practicing drops of various sizes.

CROSS COUNTRY LOOP

A half-mile track around the park perimeter.

Kids ages 6 to 18 can build pumping, jumping, turning and dropping skills Tuesdays and Thursdays through August 24 in "The Next Level" bike skills program, with certified coaches teaching fundamentals in a fun and supportive environment. With help from the Clif Bar Foundation, kids with financial need may qualify for coaching scholarships. Private lessons are also available.

The Bike Park is operated by Knudson and McMullin's non-profit, Biking for a Better World. They credit a long list of public organizations, businesses and individuals with helping the Bike Park become one of the best in the nation. They also host the annual "Little Big" event featuring clinics, races, jump jams and an annual spirited fundraiser with silent auction.

"We are really grateful for your support," says McMullin of the Giving Fund grant. "We've been inspired by the support for the park from businesses, individual and foundations. It's been hard work, but worth every hour of our time, as Truckee now has something truly unique and wonderful that everyone here can enjoy."

For more information, visit www.truckeebikepark.org.

Serving on the Giving Fund Committee connects members with many elements of our beautiful High Sierra community and gives us a broad perspective on all the goodness and good works of our mountain neighbors. If you're interested in our mission to pool funds from Tahoe Donner homeowners to make grants to local non-profits and provide scholarships to deserving high school graduates, we would love to hear from you. Please email Giving Fund Chair Dick Gander at tdgf@tahoedonner.com.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the Tahoe Donner board of directors and administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. All contributions are voluntary, tax deductible gifts from Tahoe Donner members and friends. For more information, or to make a contribution: tahoedonner.com/giving-fund or tdgf@tahoedonner.com.

