

Presentation to Edmonton City Council

September 14, 2020

BY:



Edmonton Mountain Bike Alliance

Opportunities for Mountain Biking enhance Edmonton's Image and are used to promote our City



Trailforks.com Statistics

emba edmonton - Google Search | trailforks edmonton - Google Search | Statistics for Edmonton | Trailforks

trailforks.com/region/edmonton/stats/

Trailforks Mountain Bike Get PRO Search for Trails, Regions, etc search

Nearby Trails Routes Reports Parks Ride Log Events Apps More

Canada > Alberta > Edmonton

Statistics for Edmonton / city region

Overview Areas Trails Routes Status Reports Photos Videos Events Ride Logs Route Planner More

Region Details

Avg Trail Rating: ★★★★★

Trails: 925

Total Distance: 532.8 km

Total Descent: 11.0 km

Highest Trailhead: 769 m

Total Vertical: 162 m

Reports: 18,882

Photos: 2,416

Videos: 657

Ridden Counter: 249,101

Check-Ins: 1,339,697

Ridelogs: 96,756

POIs: 72

Skillparks: 8

Winter Only Trails: 63

Activities: Mountain Bike, E-Bike, Hike, Trail Running, Horse, ATV/ORV/OHV, Snowshoe, Downhill Ski, Nordic Ski

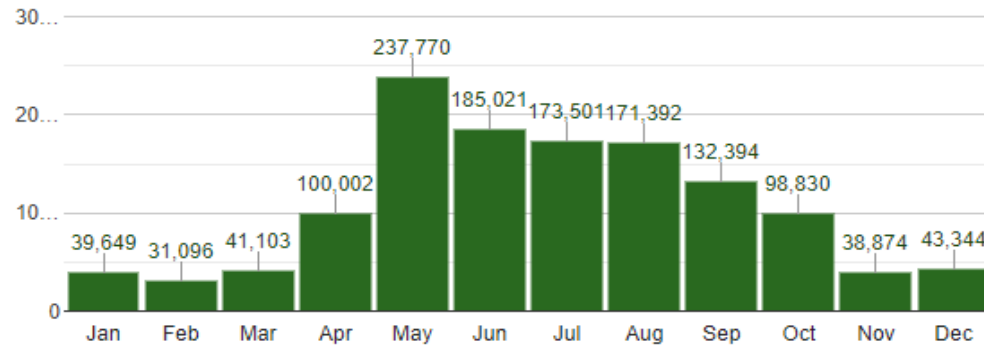
Region Status: Caution as of 1 hours

Activity Type Stats

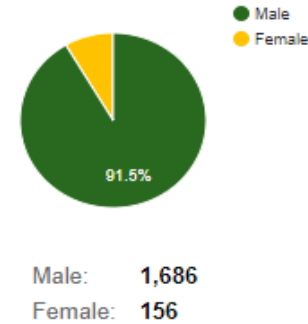
activitytype	total_trails	total_distance	total_descent	total_descent_distance	total_vertical	rating	global_rank	prov_rank	ridden	total_routes	total_ridelogs
Mountain Bike	920	497 km	10,340 m	200 km	162 m	★★★★★	5	1	130977	64	85851
E-Bike	140	36 km	419 m	13 km	108 m	☆☆☆☆☆	59	4	745	4	285
Trail Running	904	501 km	10,334 m	201 km	162 m	★★★★★	3	1	4454	3	3593

Trailforks Statistics, cont.

Trail Check-Ins Per Month



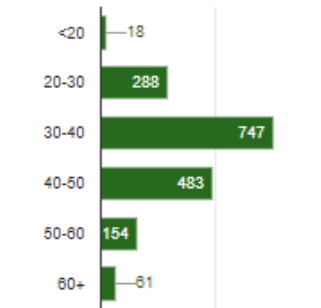
Gender



Visitors

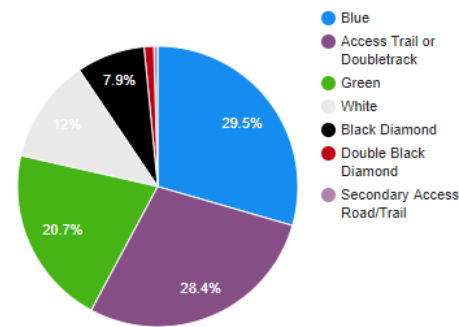


Age

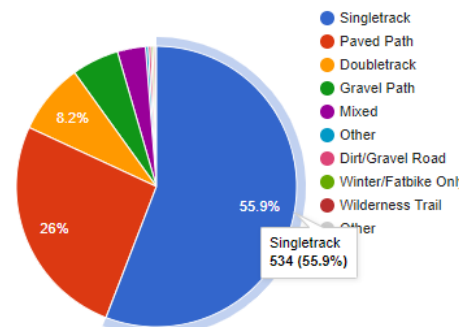


[view more ridelog trail statistics »](#)

Trails by Difficulty



Trails by Type



Distance by Difficulty

Access Trail or Doubletrack	282 km
Blue	104 km
Green	100 km
White	87 km
Black Diamond	22 km
Double Black Diamond	2,406 m
Secondary Access Road/Trail	2,291 m

Studies on the Ecological Effects of Mountain Biking

TRAIL SCIENCE

All trail users affect the trail surface and surrounding environment, especially when trails are poorly constructed. Those impacts range from vegetation loss to erosion, water quality problems, and disruption of wildlife.

However, there is no evidence that mountain bikers cause greater environmental impact than other trail users. The current research suggests that mountain biking impacts are similar to hiking, and less damaging than equestrian and motorized users.

An emerging body of knowledge holds that when it comes to trails, the major issue is not the type of user, but the way the trail is designed and built. If a trail is properly located and constructed, it can handle a variety of users without damaging the environment.

Find the following articles available for download, below.

- **Natural Resource Impacts of Mountain Biking: A summary of scientific studies that compare mountain biking to other forms of trail travel, by Gary Sprung**
- **A Comparative Study of Impacts to Mountain Bike Trails in Five Common Ecological Regions of the Southwestern U.S., by Dave White et al.**
- **Shimano Guidebook to Planning and Managing Environmentally Friendly Mountain Bike Trails**
- **Perception and Reality of Conflict: Walkers and Mountain Bikes on the Queen Charlotte Track in New Zealand, by Cessford G.R.**
- **Environmental Impacts of Mountain Biking: Science Review and Best Practices, by Jeff Marion and Jeremy Wimpey**
- **Mountain Biking: A review of the Ecological Effects, by Miistakis Institute**

From *Sprung*:

Conclusion

Mountain biking, like other recreation activities, does impact the environment. On this point, there is little argument. But with regard to the non-human environment, people often debate whether or not mountain bikes cause more damage to trails, vegetation, and wildlife than other forms of recreation such as hiking and horseback riding.

A body of empirical, scientific studies now indicates that mountain biking is no more damaging than other forms of recreation, including hiking. Thus, managers who prohibit bicycle use (while allowing hiking or equestrian use) based on impacts to trails, soils, wildlife, or vegetation are acting without sound, scientific backing.

In contrast, if a manager prohibits one user group on the basis of providing a particular type of experience for another group, the evidence provided by social studies may or may not justify that decision. The wisdom of prohibiting particular user groups in order to satisfy the desires of other groups is a matter for politics rather than science.