

MERCER ISLAND BIKE SKILLS AREA TRAIL TIPS

These tips were developed by the Mercer Island Mountain Biking Advocates to remind our kids (and adults) how to safely enjoy the new BSA and while riding to and from the BSA. We encourage all riders to consider these best practices.

SHARE THE TRAIL



SO EVERYONE FEELS SAFE

SHARE THE TRAILS

Getting to the BSA will often include riding on shared trails. When riding on shared trails to/from the BSA, please be courteous and mindful of other users by moderating your speed, yielding, and making each pass a safe one. Know what lies ahead as many intersections have blind corners. When you see other users let them know you're coming -- a friendly greeting is a good method.



RIDE WITHIN YOUR ABILITIES

Taking risks when riding could put yourself or others in harm's way. Know what lies ahead on the trail and ride within your limits. Apply this every time you visit – as the saying goes – Pre-ride, Re-ride, Free-ride. The BSA has several wooden features that might change with weather so make sure they are safe to ride.



NO DIY TRAIL WORK

Do-it-yourself trail building and maintenance is not allowed – period. That covers the BSA and any public space on Mercer Island. Join sponsored trail work events to get your hands dirty and improve the trails. If you see an issue with the trails report the issue. Don't try to repair the issue on your own.



RIDE ON OPEN TRAILS ONLY

Trails may be closed by the parks department for wet conditions or repair. Always respect trail closures. If you see users on closed trails remind them that riding trails can ruin the trails for everyone. Always follow posted signs.



LEAVE NO TRACE

Be sensitive to the trail conditions. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.



DON'T WALK ON THE BSA TRAILS

The BSA trail surface can degrade rapidly if users walk on the trail surface. Avoid walking on the berms and jump features to keep the trail in good shape.



RESPECT & SUPPORT OTHERS

Support riders on the trails of all levels. Help set the tone of the bike community as positive, supportive, and kind. Help riders progress skills and remember we all need time to progress at our own pace.



BE A ROLE MODEL

The bike community worked hard to get the BSA built. Your actions are key to keeping the area open and well supported. Be a role model in the community. Consider that the BSA is next to the playground with younger kids that might be looking up to you.