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Mission Statement

We create a shared passion for year-round outdoor adventure in the Minneapolis area, focusing on underserved youth and families.

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LOPPET NORDIC

RACING: See links below for LNR Coaches and bios:

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Juniors
Adults

Campaign Co-Chairs

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Dick Howard

ADVENTURES

Loppet Ski Club Head Coaches

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Mike Bash

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Junior Loppet Coaches

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Steve Kotvis
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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FALL 2017 JOHN MUNGER

The word Loppet can mean race - but it can also mean a journey over uneven ground. In our world I suspect the real meaning is race over uneven ground. Only our race is more like an ultramarathon. And the farther we go, the more challenging it gets - with the ground becoming more and more uneven . . . up and down, rocks and boulders, mud and clay - with rain and snow to boot . . . Fortunately, we seem to be gaining strength as we go - with new friends and a bigger community helping us to overcome the obstacles in our way.

Maybe someday we'll get to routine. The Trailhead will be done. And every day will be like the day before. We'll have a nice fiscal reserve. Every day we'll focus on our programmatic efforts - making sure that our whole community can enjoy the outdoors together.

But that's not where we are now. Instead, we are trying to figure out umpteen exciting new things . . . Construction projects. Capital campaigns. Financing. A new eatery

partner. A new home base in North Minneapolis. Maybe a new partner that is focused on gardening and local food. The Masters World Cup. A potential partnership with the Super Bowl Host Committee. New employees.

That is the world that we live in today. Making our way across uneven ground. Every step is new. The trail is not marked. Fortunately, we have a great staff and an amazing community to help guide us. Someone always seems to materialize with a light when it is dark. With a hand to help pull us up the hill when it looks too steep. With counsel when we are not sure which way to go. Or with a pat on the back when we feel too tired or dispirited to go on.

That has been the case this summer and fall. A few examples come to mind . . .

• **Soil Corrections.** We were pretty low when we found out that we would need to spend an extra \$350,000 and a few months on soil corrections - before we even began construction. Where would this extra money come from? Jim Terrell of the City of Minneapolis Community Planning

& Economic Development (CPED) department and Kate Speed of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) stepped up with expert advice and support - helping us find and negotiate financing ideas.

• **Capital Campaign.** This summer started out looking rough. The campaign felt like it had lost momentum. We had just transitioned to a new Development Director. Just when we started to feel like all was lost, our community stepped up. More than 440 of you contributed to raise more than \$250,000 so we could begin construction. And then, as costs were going up and it looked like we might not even be able to reach our original goals, our fearless campaign leader, David Dayton, and the Hubbard Foundation, along with an anonymous couple, stepped up with significant donations to help us along.

• **Mud.** It was a rainy summer. Combine the rain with all the dirt work we were doing and the result was not pretty. After one particularly big rainfall we found ourselves with 14' of standing water and no way to pump it out until we seeded the slopes that had been disturbed through the construction project. Trails Superintendent Isaac Kasper and LNR Coach Piotr Bednarski stepped up. Isaac prepped the slopes and Piotr recruited volunteers for a seeding party in the rain. Ten days later a muddy mess was transformed into a verdant hillside and the new Trail 18 Stadium Area.

• **Inspiration.** It is easy to become mired in the details - not seeing the forest for the trees. It is on those days when it is most important to be reminded of why we are doing all of this. The kids we serve are great for this. Like all of the kids who completed the Trail Loppet despite the heat - some 12-year-old kids even running the 13K. But, as I discovered, even better than the kids are their parents. I had an opportunity to talk to a few parents recently: Hai Nguyen (father of Anwatin Team kids Michele and Henri) and Fabiola Hernandez (mother of Franklin Team alumnae Nayeli and current member Sofia). Hai talked about how important he thought the Loppet was for his kids. Fabiola talked about seeing Nayeli and Sofia coming home with medals and feeling so proud of her kids, and so appreciative of the Loppet. And they both talked about how wonderful our coaches are for their kids.

• **Evidence.** Funders frequently ask for more hard evidence that our programs have a significant impact. As we grow, we need to better refine our story here. That is where Jon Miller steps up. Jon recently completed his PhD thesis at the University of Minnesota. Jon's work was specifically focused on our Minne-Loppet programs. His rigorous academic studies demonstrate the connection between our programs and motivation for activities and for specific activity levels. Jon's work will continue in the years ahead, allowing us to augment the great stories of kids like Michele and Henri and Nayeli and Sofia with the rigor that funders need to keep coming back every year. And with the hard data that allows us to change course so that we stay on the right track as we negotiate the path ahead.

This is the definition of a great community. A great community helps each other negotiate the world. Someone always seems to step up when needed.

As the cold winds of winter start to blow in our fears are mostly around our finances. Building construction may or may not be completed on time for the Masters World Cup or the Loppet, but either way we will get through. This winter may or may not be cold and snowy, but either way we will get through. We have negotiated bad weather and delayed projects before. We can do it again.

But where I am less sure of our path is on the financial side. We are entering uncharted territory. Over the past few years, as we have taken on more responsibility, our staff size has been steadily increasing. This winter our staff will once again grow significantly - with new staff coming on to run The Trailhead and Trails & Recreation - not just for the winter, but year-round for years to come.

Now we have a business plan with projections that show everything working out. But there is a lot of uncertainty. When will the building open? Will the restaurant attract crowds? Will people be interested in the virtual health club aspect of The Trailhead? Will people be interested in weddings and big events and can we figure out a way to make bigger events work alongside the everyday operations?

I am confident that our community will once again rise to the occasion, helping us find our way through. And maybe then we can be more about providing adventure for the world than about living adventure as an organization. But, of course, that has never really been our style. My guess is that before we cross the finish line of this ultramarathon that we are on we will see the next path through the woods and the temptation to follow it to even greater places will be too much to pass up.

We look forward to seeing you on the journey. No - that is wrong. We NEED you on the journey to help guide the way, to help push up the next hill, or through the next storm. For that is the Loppet Foundation - a growing cadre of travelers journeying together on an uneven but meaningful path . . . and we know that just being on the journey together is itself something great!



LOPPET ADVENTURES



LOPPET ADVENTURE CAMP RECAP ANDY HARRIS



Although exciting changes have abounded in Loppet-Land in 2017, some of our most exciting adventures -- like summer Adventure Camps -- have come from consistency and staying true to time-tested methods.

There still is a spark of delight in campers' eyes when they pass through the tunnel leading from Brownie to Cedar lakes. There still are hoots and hollers when a team comes running into the finish at the end of the week - encapsulating Adventure Race. There is still the biggest smile ever when a camper learns how to ride a bike. There may be a bandage or two along the way, but kids learn to get back up and keep on trying.

So, Adventure Camp in 2017 has been the same story of learning and failing and success that it has been for the past seven years. But, like every good story, it gets better every time you hear it.

A special thanks to all our partnering schools, community organizations, parents, our energetic staff, and, especially, our campers for making Adventure Camp 2017 a huge success and a story worth telling.

Adventure Camp - By the Numbers

Weeks of Camp	8
Campers served	466
Scholarships given	166
Team members	28 (13 from North Minneapolis)
First-time bikers taught	4
Counselors-in-Training trained	15
Puddles jumped	59
Canoes tipped (and rescued!)	64
Skits performed	48
End-of-camp treats eaten	466
Directors pranked	1 - twice, they got him good each time.

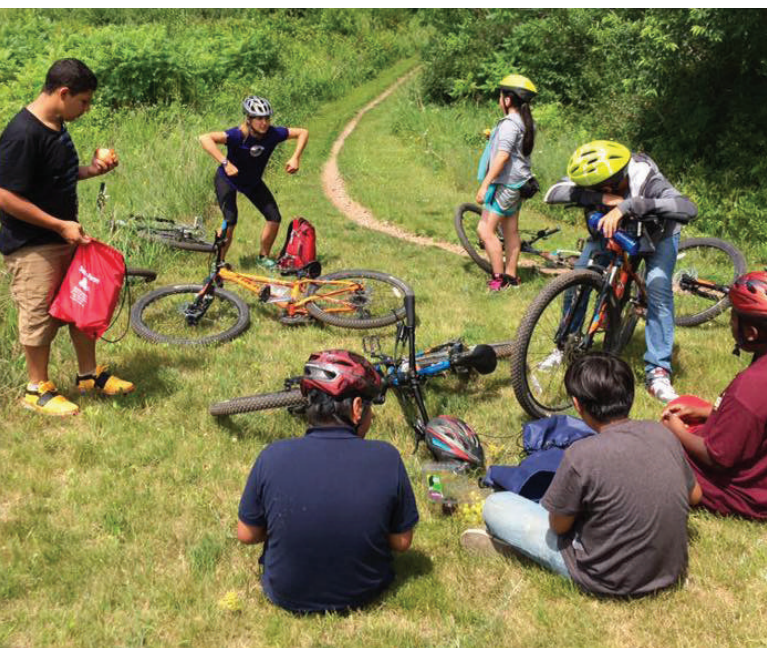




JUNIOR LOPPET UPDATE ALLIE RYKKEN

The Anwatin, Franklin and Northeast Junior Loppet teams have been hard at work this summer and fall. The dedicated year-round kids made big strides over the summer, and new energy has come from new faces this fall, as we start a new school year, and welcome new team members. Regular practices, Loppet Adventure Camps, summer camping trips, the UCare Tri-Loppet, and at the end, some Earn-A-Bike winners!

Here are some highlights from our summer:



Franklin team camping & biking trip to St. Croix State Park. Coach Annie, above, demonstrates the ready position to tackle any rough terrain on the trails.



Northeast bikes from the Warehouse to Carver State Park for their bike and camping trip.



Anwatin kids attend CXC Igor Legacy Camp in Mora, MN, and learn the basics of a cross country ski training camp.



William Munnich (right) and Victor Morales (left) went on to earn 9th and 17th place finishes in the "Men's" race.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PADDLE PARTNERS AND BOAT HAULERS

NANCY NELSON

The UCare Tri Loppet consists of many moving parts, all held together by marvelous volunteers!

An entire swarm of volunteers raced the paddle portion of the canoe, run, mountain bike triathlon with members of our Junior Loppet teams based in North Minneapolis middle schools.

For some of these youth, the Tri-Loppet was their first real taste of canoe racing. Michele Nguyen, a 6th grader from Anwatin Middle School, said of her partner Craig Cardinal, a Loppet lifer with lots of accrued mileage in our events, "Craig was the best! He was so fast and he didn't tip the boat." This kind of guidance in outdoor adventure sports is invaluable for our mission of making activity and adventure a part of the shared lifestyle of the whole of Minneapolis.

More than just finishing, some of these brave volunteers led their middle school-age partners to high-placing finishes and personal records. Victor Morales and Will Munnich, both also of Anwatin Middle School, and their respective partners Rick Lorenzen and Emily Ruth Johnson, dueled it out to finish with some of the top racers in the whole event.

Paddle Partners helped lead longtime Loppeteers from Franklin and Northeast Middle Schools to successful races and fast times. Sophia Hernandez-Limas from Franklin middle school earned a PR for the third year in a row behind the effort of her coach and Paddle Partner Sandra Rhude. Northeast standout Ahmed Alshahawi was fresh enough to drop a 30-minute 5K effort post-paddle thanks to the effort of his partner Mike Schlecht, returning for his 4th time as a Paddle Partner.

You don't need to complete the entire UCare Tri-Loppet to be a Paddle Partner, although many Paddle Partners have chosen to finish the event with their Junior Loppet team member, encouraging them all along the way. Many Paddle Partners hear about this opportunity at the Hoigaards canoe derbys, UCare recruits some of its employees, or brave folks sign up via the Loppet website. To be a Paddle Partner,

it helps to be a good paddler and have a great sense of adventure and humor!

There is real difference-making here. Feedback from the middle school crew went along the lines of: "The Tri-Loppet is the best event. By a lot." "This was hard and fun, but mostly fun!" "Can we do this again next week?"

So what happens with all the canoes and kayaks once the racers beach them at Brownie? Brownie Lake is the Tri Loppet's first transition area (paddle to run). All paddlers come through Brownie Lake, get out of their boats, bring them up on land, grab their running gear and go. This transition area is the domain of the Surly Gives a Damn Crew! Every year, Mary Sellke signs up 20+ volunteers to help with this endeavor. The SGAD crew is at the ready to grab racer's boats and haul them up and out of the way onto the Brownie Lake hill for pick up once the racer has finished their race.

"With nearly 600 participants in the Tri-Loppet, that's a lot of hauling!" says Sellke, who is a past Sponsorship Coordinator for the Loppet Foundation. "I can't believe that we had Boy Scouts doing this in the past, this requires a lot of adult muscle, in fact, it is one of the most strenuous events that we volunteer for all year." Not only does the SGAD crew help haul the boats out of the way of the racers, they also load the rented canoes back on the trailer and return them to Wheel Fun. Volunteers who are not helping with that, will often assist returning racers helping them locate their boat and loading them onto their cars. Besides all of this, the SGAD crew staffs the first Water Stop/Aid Station - that is located right at the top of the hill. Paddlers get mighty thirsty fighting the waves through the Chain of Lakes and need to remain hydrated as they take off on the next leg of the race. The SGAD crew manages all of this with grace, humor and usually enough speed to get to the Finish Area before Surly stops pouring!

Many thanks and CHEERS to the Paddle Partners and the SGAD Crew for helping make the Tri-Loppet a huge success!



THANK YOU UCARE!

UCare became the Title Sponsor for the Tri Loppet in 2012 but participation in the Tri Loppet goes back even earlier. The Corporate Relay results from 2011 show UCare teams taking 2nd and 3rd place.

UCare deserves a spot on the podium for their support of the Tri-Loppet and the Loppet Foundation.

Each spring UCare holds a wellness fair for their employees and invites the Loppet Foundation to participate. This is where we get the UCare employees "psyched up" to either participate or volunteer at the Tri Loppet.

A number of UCare employees have been brave enough to volunteer as Paddle Partners (see the volunteer spotlight article).

Paddle Partners are so important to the success of our Junior Loppet programs. Junior Loppet team members love to participate in the Tri-Loppet and most Paddle Partners not only help the youth paddle across the chain of lakes but continue on to the run and bike sections offering encouragement along the way.

The very important Water Stop/Aid Station at the end of the Tri Loppet run portion has been staffed by UCare employees the past two years. Racers are so happy to see these smiling volunteers offering them water and energy drink as they finish the run and get ready to head out on the bike course.

Besides the sponsorship of the Tri Loppet in the summer UCare grants have helped provide for Minne-Loppet programming in the winter and year-round Junior Loppet teams.

The Loppet Foundation is grateful for the support and partnership with UCare at the Tri Loppet and year round. Thanks UCare!



Above: Surly Gives a Damn volunteers pulling canoes up the Brownie Lake Hill for safe-keeping after the paddle leg of the UCare Tri-Loppet.

Below: Michele Nguyen and Craig Cardinal, going fast into the finish!



LOPPET **EVENTS**

LOPPET TO HOST MASTERS WORLD CUP CROSS COUNTRY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS IN JANUARY 2018

MIKE ERICKSON

The Loppet Foundation is thrilled to host the 2018 Masters World Cup (MWC) cross country ski championships on January 19-26, 2018 in Theodore Wirth Park. The MWC, which began in 1980, is open to all skiers age 30 and older from around the world. It's hosted by a different country each year, with the U.S. playing host just five times prior to 2018. We're excited to be just the second Midwest location to host this event after Cable, WI in 1983!

The MWC is expected to draw up to 1,200 skiers of all abilities from two dozen nations. It will also attract hundreds of spectators and international media. It will consist of six different events ranging from five to 45 kilometers, plus relays. Participants can compete in up to three races, and may be able to race on their nation's age category relay team.

The event kicks off with an opening ceremony on January 19, followed by mid-distance classic and skate races, short distance classic and skate races, relays, and marathon classic and skate races. The closing ceremony and party takes place on January 26.

With one of the longest urban ski trail networks in North America, and easy access to nearby dining, shopping, and entertainment, Theodore Wirth Park will be a unique urban host site for the event.

J.D. Downing, World Masters Association (WMA) President and American XC Skiers National Director, is particularly excited about Minneapolis and the Loppet Foundation's ability to host a premier Masters World Cup event. "This is a unique opportunity for WMA," said Downing. "I think the athletes and their families will love this experience!"

Will you be 30 or older by December 31, 2017? Join us for the Masters World Cup! For more event information or to register, visit <http://www.loppet.org/mwc2018/>. We'll also need plenty of volunteers, with many shifts during the week to choose from. Volunteers can sign up at <http://www.loppet.org/mwc2018/volunteer/>. To learn more about the World Masters Association, visit <http://world-masters-xc-skiing.com/de/>.



2018 CITY OF LAKES LOPPET FESTIVAL

MIKE ERICKSON

The Loppet Foundation is gearing up for the 2018 City of Lakes Loppet Festival, which will take place between January 27-28 and February 3-4, 2018!

From its inception as a single cross country ski race in 2002, the Festival has grown to more than 25 winter events and now attracts more than 20,000 participants and spectators.

With a goal of building community through winter activities, the City of Lakes Loppet Festival has become an annual Twin Cities celebration. From cross country skiing, fat tire biking and speed skating to skijoring, snow sculpture contests and a Kubb tournament, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

And while every year is unique, the 2018 festival will definitely be one for the books. The week prior, we're hosting the 2018 Masters World Cup cross country ski championships in Wirth Park (January 19-26). And, the Twin Cities will be buzzing with activity when Super Bowl LII comes to town on February 4. To capture the excitement of all these events, the Loppet festival will take place across two weekends. All your favorite Saturday events will take place on January 27. The following weekend will see the Luminary Loppet on Saturday, February 3, and Sunday events on February 4. If you've ever thought about doing both marathons, this is the year!

In short, we've got some exciting opportunities to show the world how we embrace winter here in Minnesota.

In this spirit, the 2018 festival will include some exciting new twists. From an event schedule spanning two consecutive weekends, to new activities to be unveiled at the Luminary Loppet, to possible downtown ski sprints, we're ready to showcase our love of winter and make this year's event an unforgettable one.

For the latest 2018 Festival news and to register for events, visit <http://www.loppet.org/cityoflakesloppet/>. See you there!

LOPPET NORDIC RACING



LNR UPDATE

HEAD COACH PIOTR BEDNARSKI

Loppet Nordic Racing programs continue to expand during 2017 training season. Our three areas of programming are TRAILS KIDS (age 7-13), Juniors (age 13-19), and Adults. We have been growing our programming in anticipation of the completion of the Trailhead building and the expanded and improved cross country ski and mountain bike trails.

TRAIL KIDS

TRAIL KIDS, under the leadership of Coach Kim Rudd, has both grown in number of athletes and coaches. Kim has been able to continue developing the TRAIL KIDS philosophy in the curriculum to give kids a chance to really experience outdoor adventure, mixed with endurance sport, in many forms. So this means that mountain biking has been stressed in spring and summer, orienteering and trail running are the fall focus, and cross country skiing in the winter. Wirth continues to be the center for summer programming, with Hyland programming starting in fall and winter. Kim ran a completely maxed out camp for TRAIL KIDS in August with the help of 12 LNR Juniors athletes- this is a great way to give our high school aged athletes a chance to share their enthusiasm for outdoor adventure, and a way to provide some great role models for the TRAIL KIDS.

Juniors

The LNR Juniors start training in early April, and this spring, summer and fall have been super busy for the most committed of our teenage athletes. Spring features a big focus on strength and running mechanics. Over the summer our Competition Team had five weeklong training camps, and one three-day camp. A goal this year was to add a little more Loppet adventure into our training camps - with less focus on ski specific training. Our June camps were a big hit with camps in the Black Hills and in Cable, WI. Our last camp of the summer was in Grand Marais, and ran in conjunction with the Thunder

Bay National Development Center. This was the second year we have invited the Canadians, and was a great experience for our athletes.

Likewise, the first fall camp, a five-day camp over MEA weekend, was a great kick-off to winter training. Training sessions included a skate sprint competition complete with a qualifier and heats and a hard bounding workout on Mt Telemark. The camp wrapped up with the famous "eco-challenge" workout taking 4.5-5hrs to complete and classic rollerskiing, trail running, and skate rollerskiing segments over 35 miles of road and trail.

Our big event of the fall is On Snow in West Yellowstone. We generally have 75 junior athletes, and another 20 TRAIL KIDS. About half of the athletes travel to West Yellowstone with their families, and just train with LNR.

Adult Programming and the LEMONS

This year we kicked off the training year with LNR strength training with Alys Deroma. Alys is a former LNR athlete, and now a national level competitor in CrossFit. She has been running strength programs for us spring, summer and fall, and will help us design our new strength room at the Trailhead.

Another new feature for this year is that we are pairing adult training sessions with TRAIL KIDS sessions, so that parents can take a mountain bike, rollerski, or snow ski training session while the kids are with TRAIL KIDS.

Finally, the LNR masters team, the LEMONS, has been meeting for training weekly since May 3rd in preparation for the Masters World Cup which will be held at Wirth Park. We are hoping to see a strong showing from the LNR community, and we hope to see the depth of skiing from large Midwest contingent racing at Masters World Cup.



TRAIL KIDS MOUNTAIN BIKE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

KIM RUDD

TRAIL KIDS spring program kicked off to a great start this past May with the girls and women's mountain bike clinic held at Wirth Park. Penn Cycle bike shop provided free water bottles and a safety bike check for all the participants. The two hour bike clinic covered basic mountain bike skills such as braking, descending, climbing, shifting, cornering and single track.

The main goal of the clinic was to get more women and girls into the sport of mountain biking. The Loppet Foundation provided test drive mountain bikes for those who did not have one, which becomes a huge barrier to entering into the sport. A huge thank you to all the volunteer women coaches who came out to help instruct the clinic of over 40 women and youth.

TRAIL KIDS also offered a spring/summer mountain bike program for both girls and boys ages 7-14 years old that met twice a week during the months of May, June and July. This year we had a new location at Elm Creek which kicked off their first mountain bike team. The summer program included an Adventure Mountain Bike Race series held at various single track trails around Wirth Park.



The last race of the series was the Age Gap Relay race where parents/adult mentor riders paired up with youth for a fun relay event. Following the event the racers enjoyed a post race grill out and awards ceremony. A huge thank you to both of our sponsors Penn Cycle and QBP for the safety bike checks and prize donations at all our race events.

Loppet TRAIL KIDS are blazing new paths into the sport of orienteering

The past few years TRAIL KIDS has incorporated orienteering into their summer camps and fall programming. The sport of orienteering is very competitive and popular in Europe and Canada but is still growing in numbers on the U.S. front.



Above: Franklin Trail Kids work on orienteering at the August Trail Kids camp.

TRAIL KIDS is hoping to change these statistics by providing specific age appropriate orienteering coaching by working with the U.S. Orienteering Development coach Erin Schirm.

This past spring the Loppet Foundation received a \$5,000 grant to help our adventures program purchase new orienteering equipment for our weekly TRAIL KIDS practices, camps and special events. We now have electronic timing cards that each youth wears around their wrist and then are able to hear a beep as they race to each electronic control hidden in the woods and get a printout of their timed event.

TRAIL KIDS August camp was able to use the new orienteering equipment and the coaches are excited to use this new technology for our upcoming fall programs at Wirth, Hyland and Elm Creek.

We are also grateful to the Minnesota Orienteering Club which has provided many maps and volunteer coaches to help us get the program kicked off on the right foot.

Left: Ahmed Alshahawi from NE TRAIL KIDS team cruises through summer TRAIL KIDS Mountain Bike Series.

LOPPET STEWARDSHIP



GREAT TRAILS ISAAC KASPER

In the fall of 2016 we began the exciting adventure of building 5+ miles of single track mountain bike trails in Theodore Wirth Park. The trails will be beginner or intermediate level technically but intermediate to advanced physically (in other words, there is going to be some great climbing!). They will be built to host all levels of racing while also being a place where a new mountain biking parent can bring their aspiring youth for a mountain bike ride and have a safe, fun time together.

The entire system will contain two segments that are separated slightly geographically as well as technically. The trail that is closest to the new Trailhead building (start of the trail will be no more than 50 feet from the building) is the event trail and is wide and easy technically but moderately difficult physically. It will weave in and around the 40 acres in the area of the new Trailhead building and Wirth Chalet. There are a total of nearly three miles of event trails which should be complete this fall. It will also feature a 300 yard long optional section of gravity-aided "Wow!" trail which will end a few feet from the front patio of the Trailhead building. The big berms and jumps will be sure to "wow" the patrons gathered on the patio enjoying food or a fresh drink! The second section of trails is slightly narrower than the event trails and more demanding technically and physically. It will blanket the west and east banks of Bassett creek to the north and east of the Wirth Chalet. This section will be approximately 2.5 miles long.

The completed project will also feature a large learning area where riders of all skill levels will be able to put their skills to the test. It will feature a beginner, intermediate and advanced loop with skill building on both dirt and timber elements. This area will be in the tubing hill run out and in view of the Trailhead building.

Besides the obvious physical gains users will receive from riding these trails, there are equally important intrinsic benefits. One of the wonderful things about mountain bike trails is that you can weave them in and through and between the trees without negatively impacting the health of the trees and forest. When riding the Bassett Creek section, you will see giant cottonwoods and stately oak trees in their natural glory while hearing the sounds of water in the nearby creek. When riding the event trails north of the chalet, riders will climb around a hard left switchback which will send them past remnants of an old ski jump structure that still exists but has been hidden for almost 40 years! Riding these trails will benefit your psyche as much as your legs!

We are currently in the construction phase of the trails and will be completed with the three mile event trail and able to groom it this winter for fatbiking. See you on the trails!



TRAILHEAD UPDATE: DEFINITELY MAYBE

JOHN MUNGER

Will The Trailhead be done on time for the Masters World Cup and the Loppet Festival this year?

Definitely. Maybe.

We have learned a lot about construction projects this summer. We have learned about soil corrections. And weather delays. And hope . . .

Work started in May. The first job was preparing the soil underneath the building site. Soil boring had been done, and it showed that the soil would probably be pretty good. Unfortunately, when the crew actually begin to dig they discovered very poor soils, soils that were not capable of supporting a 14,000 square foot building. The result? The crew had to dig down deep in order to find solid footing - sometimes as deep as 30'. The upshot? Delay and extra costs. With the wet summer the site turned into a swimming pool. Three months and \$350,000 later, the project emerged - theoretically ready for a few months with no surprises.

\$350,000. We had a healthy contingency of \$150,000. That was gone before the first nail was struck! We hope we can stay on budget from here, but we are literally down \$350,000. So when Marin Byrne (our wonderful Development Director) asks for your help with the capital campaign you will know why.

But back to construction. As of this writing parking lots are largely done (the north parking lot still needs one lift of asphalt - that will come next spring). Utilities are done. New golf holes are done - the grass is growing in and the Park Board expects to open the holes in the spring. Ski trail improvements are complete - with a reconfigured course and a new Trail 18 stadium that will be great for high school races, smaller events, maybe an outdoor wedding, music in the park, and movies in the

park. The new staircase for the tubing hill is almost done. Snowmaking infrastructure improvements are on their way. New mountain bike event trails are taking shape and will be really inspiring. And by the time you read this I'm guessing that there will be a fully enclosed building.

The big question - the \$100,000 question - was whether the building would be complete by January 19, 2018. That is the day the Masters World Cup competition begins. Our contractors, Kalcon Construction, did everything in their power to get the building complete by then. They DEFINITELY tried hard. MAYBE we will get a temporary certificate of occupancy by then . . .

That's about as definitive a statement as we can make at this point.

But here is what we do know . . . We know The Trailhead will be great. We know it will be done by the end of the winter. Given that we know we won't be able to be fully open this winter, we have decided to take our time and get it right. The plan now is to open the building in May of 2018. This will give us time to get the eatery, the bike and ski shop, and the virtual health club all completed before we open--so we can open with a bang!

We're all looking forward to our first view of the trails from the great room, our first beer or coffee on the patio, our first time running into friends and meeting new friends and having lunch or dinner after a long run or bike or hike or golf round or ski. We can't wait to have a locker room to enjoy, or a strength room with an outdoor covered area to wind down in or do some yoga in (okay - so I admit I'm not personally looking forward to downward dog). And we know how important this space will be for bridging the adventure gap and bringing families into the outdoors. One more winter to go - but we know that these magical moments will be here before we know it!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



JAN 19-26, 2018

CC SKI RACES FOR AGES 30+



JAN 26-27, FEB 3-4, 2018

WINTER SKI FESTIVAL



MAY 20, 2018

10K & 10 MILE TRAIL RUNS



JULY 22, 2018

7K PADDLE, 5K TRAIL RUN, 13K MOUNTAIN BIKE



SEPT 22, 2018

5K, 13.1K, 13.1 MILE TRAIL RUNS