

## Media Contact

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**BLAKESLEE**  
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### **Park City's Mountain Bike History Has Early Roots** *The Original Miners Laid the Foundation for the Trail Network*

In 1868, miners climbed up and over Big Cottonwood Canyon into what is now Park City, Utah. They found silver, and marked the Flagstaff Mine with a bandana on a stick. The next year after the snow melted, they staked their claim and opened the mine. This was the birth of Park City. The mining boom ensued and Park City became known not only for its silver, but also for its zinc, lead, and gold.

As mining flourished, so did Park City. Officially incorporated in 1884, Park City already had a public school and a weekly newspaper. By 1920, skiing was widespread in the Park City, and the town's first ski jump was built at Ecker Hill in 1930. Park City's focus began to shift from mining to skiing in the 1960s. Years later, the city hosted many key events of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

While skiing is now the epicenter of Park City's lifestyle and the economy, those early prospecting trails that crawled the mountainsides still remain. Today, they serve a new purpose. Those trails laid the foundation for the 400+ mile trail network that makes Park City the destination for hiking and mountain biking that it is.

In 1992, Mountain Trails Foundation was founded by Charlie Sturgis and Jon Wilking with the original purpose of being a Rails to Trail conversion of the Union Pacific line from Park City to the county seat in Coalville. That line originally carried silver ore to Coalville, and returned to Park City with coal to heat and power the mines. Once it was successfully turned into a trail, usage soared, the Mountain Trails Foundation realized they had a new mission – trails everywhere and for everyone.

Thanks to the Mountain Trails Foundation and their Executive Director Charlie Sturgis, Park City's multi-use trails are the new gold in town and are being mined every day by modern cycling prospectors. Today you can find all sorts of riders on Park City's trails, from the novice to the hard-charging expert.

It isn't only the diversity of trails in Park City that helped the town reach IMBA Gold Level Status. It's the fact that Park City has so much to offer as a destination, with over 100 bars and restaurants, thousands of hotel rooms, shopping, art galleries, free outdoor concerts, a multitude of outdoor recreation options, a free public bus system, and a trail network to connect it all. Park City, Utah is the premier mountain bike destination in the world.

#### ABOUT MOUNTAIN TRAILS FOUNDATION

Founded in 1992, Mountain Trails Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Park City, UT, whose focus is on the development and maintenance of local trails for non-motorized, recreational use. The Executive Director, Charlie Sturgis, is an original cofounder of the foundation, and has lived in Park City for over four decades. Since its creation, the mission of Mountain Trails Foundation has been, "to advocate the building and improvement of trails while working with local governments, private landowners, developers and the general public in an effort to educate these groups on the benefits of a non-motorized, outdoor recreational amenity."

Mountain Trails Foundation, with the help of extensive volunteer effort, now maintains 400+ miles of summer and winter use trails in Summit County, Utah with Park City as the epicenter of the trail network. Working closely with both the Snyderville Basin Recreation District and Park City Municipal Corporations, Mountain Trails Foundation has developed the trail system of the world's first IMBA designated Gold Level Ride Center. The long-term goal of Mountain Trails Foundation is to provide the greater Park City community and its visitors with diverse recreational opportunities utilizing a seamless, year round trail system.

#### ABOUT IMBA

*The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational association. Its mission is to create, enhance and preserve great mountain biking experiences. Since 1988, IMBA has been bringing out the best in mountain biking by encouraging low-impact riding, volunteer trail work participation, cooperation among different trail user groups, grassroots advocacy and innovative trail management solutions. IMBA represents its members, supports its chapters and its work benefits the mountain biking community. Learn more at [IMBA.com](http://IMBA.com).*

The Ride Center™ designation represents IMBA's Model Trail recognition for large-scale mountain bike facilities that offer something for every rider. The recognition is rated on a system of bronze, silver, and gold levels.

For additional information, please visit [mountainbikingparkcity.com](http://mountainbikingparkcity.com) and [pcala.org](http://pcala.org).