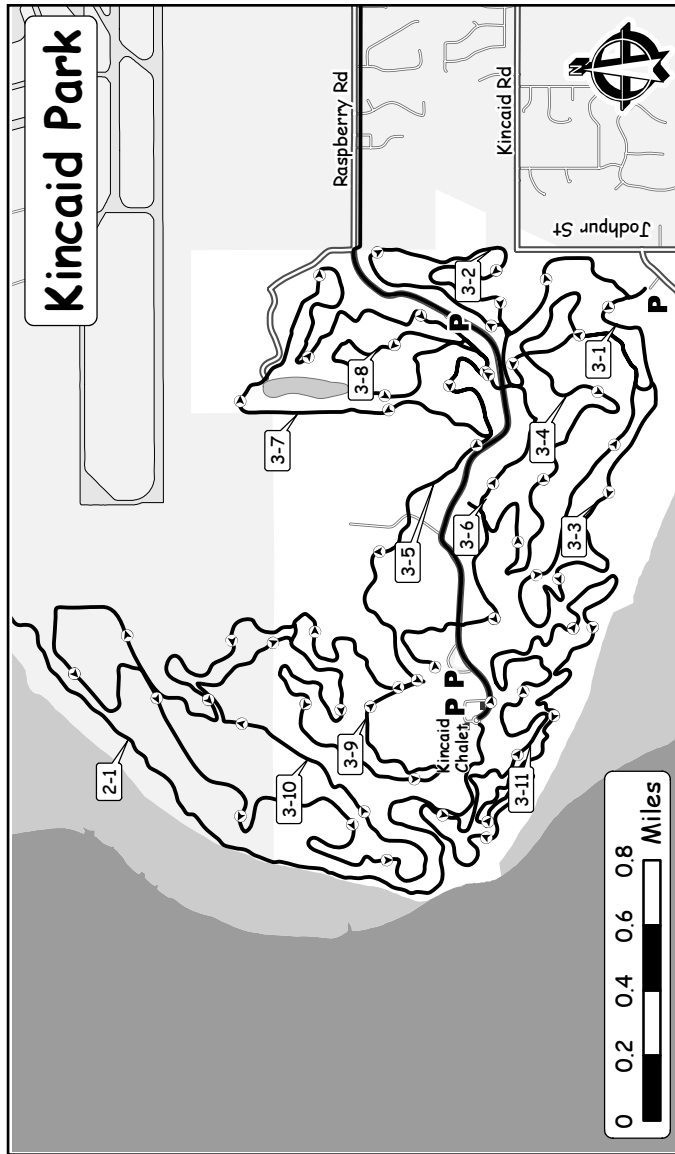


Mountain Bike Anchorage



Chapter 3

Kincaid Park has a network of more than 30 miles of dirt trails for summer riding. This park of nearly 1,500 acres was developed as a cross-country ski area, so most trails are rather wide and very hilly. This makes the climbs more challenging than trails that are designed along contours. Many routes have a single heavily used dirt path running down the center or on either side of the trails. This is the popular line most mountain bikers use.

Kincaid has a few singletrack trails, some of which are used almost exclusively by mountain bikers looking for more challenging trails, for variety or for shortcuts. It also has trails that fall between these widths. This variety makes Kincaid Park a good place for riders of all skill levels.

Trail conditions vary throughout the riding season, which officially begins on June 1. With a few exceptions, the trails dry out early and the soils drain well after a rain. Later in the summer, in the days after a rain, be aware that the hard-packed dirt line of the trail can be slick due to moss growing on the surface. The moss is difficult to see, but it is very common on the Mize Loop. During dry years, some trails have sand-filled ruts. Loss of traction makes these trails more difficult to ride.

Trails are maintained primarily by the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage. The NSAA keeps the trails groomed for skiing and makes improvements, including the addition of lighting. All of Kincaid Park, with the exception of the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and the park road, is off-limits to winter cycling once the ski trail grooming begins. In the autumn, before the snow falls, the lit trails offer some fun evening rides, and the birch trees in the park make autumn riding on crisp sunny days even more spectacular.

Mountain Bike Anchorage

Kincaid has a large moose population, and bears are sometimes seen in the park during the summer. Lynx, porcupine, hares, owls and bald eagles are just some of the other animals you may encounter when riding. Take time to learn about bear and moose behavior before venturing onto the trails.

Trailheads

Kincaid has five designated trailheads, accessible by car or bicycle. You can also bike to the park on the Coastal Trail.

Getting Here by Car

There are five main parking lots. Park hours are from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., but the gates are open only from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Raspberry Road: From southbound Minnesota Drive, take the Raspberry Road exit and go right, heading west. Drive 3.5 miles on Raspberry and enter the park. The Raspberry parking lot is on the right at mile 3.9. This is the only parking area outside the park gates.

Little Campbell Lake: Upon entering the park at mile 3.5 of Raspberry Road, turn right onto a gravel road. The parking lot is at mile 4.1.

Stadium: Continue past the Raspberry parking lot, where you'll pass a gate (note what time the gate is locked nightly). After a second gate, the Stadium parking lot is on the right at mile 5.1.

Chalet: To park at the Kincaid Chalet, continue to the end of Raspberry Road and turn right into the parking area. The chalet has the only public restrooms in the park.

Chapter 3

Jodhpur: From South Anchorage, take Dimond Boulevard west. Just one mile past the intersection of Jewel Lake Road and Dimond Boulevard, you'll arrive at Sand Lake Road. After Sand Lake, the road curves right and becomes Jodhpur Street. At 2.2 miles, turn left into the park entrance. The parking lot to the right is the trailhead for biking, hiking and skiing. If you continue straight on the park road, you'll arrive at the parking lot for the motocross area. Note the gate closing time before you begin riding.

Note:

Had you continued another 0.4 mile north on Jodhpur Street, you would have arrived at a small parking area on the left, where the Tree Tunnel enters the park.

Getting Here by Bicycle

Ride the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail (Route 2-1) to the park and enter the dirt trails on the Sisson Loop (Route 3-10) or after reaching the chalet. The Coastal Trail begins downtown, just north of Elderberry Park on 2nd Avenue.

To enter the park from the east, ride the bike path along the south side of Raspberry Road. It is legal for you to ride on Raspberry Road if you follow the same rules as a motorized vehicle. If you're coming from South Anchorage, take Dimond Boulevard and stay on the bike path until you reach Sand Lake Road, where you can ride on the road to Jodhpur Street to get to the Jodhpur trailhead.

Using the Trail Descriptions

Trail markings throughout Kincaid Park refer to the direction of travel for skiing the routes. This guide mostly follows the posted directions, but occasionally it will travel in the opposite direction. Use caution whenever biking against the flow of traffic and avoid doing so on trails with blind corners, such as Roller Coaster.

Using This Guide at Kincaid

Because Kincaid trails were designed for skiing, they have lots of steep ups and downs. Many intersections are at the bottoms of hills, so it's easy for a fast mountain biker to miss them. If you stop to check your map, you may have to start your next climb with no momentum. When using this guide, read the descriptions, check the map and make a mental note of the route before you start. Save the map-checking for the top of the next hill.

Because Kincaid Park's trails are composed of loops, you can link together several of the routes presented here to make a grand tour of the park. See how many miles you can cover without repeating any trails and you'll gain an appreciation for why the park is so popular.

Remember that Kincaid is open for biking in the summer months only, normally by June 1. Once the trails are being groomed for skiing, they are off-limits. The Coastal Trail, however, is a multi-use route in winter. You can expect the trails to have snow by mid- to late October, but this varies from one year to the next.

Jodhpur and Horseshoe Loops

3-1 Jodhpur Loop

Difficulty: Easy.

Surface: Wide and grassy.

Distance: 2.2-mile loop.

This easy loop includes some shortcuts and alternative trails for exploring in the southeast section of the park. Begin at the north corner of the Jodhpur parking lot, near a kiosk opposite the lot entrance. Enter the trails at the wooden trailhead bollards.

Mi. 0.0 At the bollards ride straight and enter the woods.

Mi. 0.1 Stay left for the longest route. (Going straight and down a hill will lop off a major loop, but it offers a shortcut if you want to quickly reach Raspberry Road.)

Mi. 0.4 Keep right to stay on the main trail. (Left goes to steeper trails, such as Ice Box.)

Mi. 0.5 Stay right. (The Wall enters from the left.)

Mi. 0.8 Go straight to take the longest route, up Moose Hill, which ends with a fast descent. (Many riders go left at the 0.8 mile point, cutting off a good part of the loop.) Go past the first right you encounter at mile 1.2 and descend to another intersection.

Mi. 1.2 Go right to keep moving forward on the loop. (Straight will take you to Four Corners and Big Dipper, Route 3-4; left will return you to the parking lot.)

Mi. 1.3 Go left and climb, then turn right. Ride toward the bridge over Raspberry Road, but turn right instead of going over the bridge.

Mountain Bike Anchorage

Mi. 1.4 Go over a slight rise, then ride a fast descent. At the bottom of the hill you have several options: continue on Jodhpur, ride Horseshoe (Route 3-2), or take a shortcut out of the park.

Mi. 1.5 Go right to continue on the loop. (If you want to add Horseshoe Loop to the ride, keep straight.) Climb a gradual hill and follow the route to Burky's Bend.

Mi. 2.0 Stay on the main route at Burky's. (A cutoff to the right leads onto a narrower route and some short singletrack connectors to Moose Hill.) Make a final descent.

Mi. 2.1 Go right as you enter an open area and approach an information sign. Turn left at the sign to return to the parking lot.

Mi. 2.2 Arrive at the parking lot.

Option

To ride the Jodhpur Loop without Moose Hill, at 0.8 mile stay on the most heavily used route as it curves left. At just over 0.1 mile down the trail, Moose Hill rejoins from the right. Stay straight to continue the ride.

3-2 Horseshoe Loop

Difficulty: Moderate with steep climbs and narrower trail.

Surface: Mostly grass with some roots and dirt.

Distance: 1.6-mile loop.

Prepare for some steep climbs and fast descents on the Horseshoe Loop. This trail is narrower than many in the park, but not as narrow as singletrack. During the middle of summer some sections get overgrown with cow parsnip

Chapter 3

