



NICA

Elizabethtown Selected as Project Site for \$80,000 SRAM Trail Partnership Investment at Trooper Lake

Part of a National SRAM, NICA, IMBA, and PeopleForBikes Initiative — Positioning Elizabethtown as a Premier Regional Cycling Destination

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY – Kentucky's youth cyclists have something to celebrate. Elizabethtown has been selected as a project site for a new Trail Partnership initiative. The two-year effort brings together SRAM, the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), and PeopleForBikes. SRAM, a global bicycle components innovator, is backing the work with an \$80,000 investment.

Elizabethtown is developing the Trooper Lake site in collaboration with Greenspace, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to utilizing and preserving trees, streams, and peaceful outdoor spaces for future generations to enjoy. The site is poised to become Kentucky's premier destination for mountain biking, combining SRAM's investment with the city's committed \$1.8 million investment.

This is the first of two major projects under the new partnership. A second project will follow in 2027. At Trooper Lake, the plan moves step by step: pick a location, secure the land, build local support, and finish a trail design ready for construction. The 75- to 80-acre site will include mountain bike trails certified for state and national races, a pump track for skill-building, and other recreation features. The trails will give Kentucky NICA teams a home course and open to the wider cycling community.

NICA will lead project implementation and train local coaches and student-athletes in trail advocacy. IMBA's Trail Solutions team will develop the trail concept designs and guide the path to construction. PeopleForBikes will connect the project to existing community bike initiatives and support advocacy training. "Kids need great places to ride, and it's a challenge for any single organization to build trails alone. By bringing NICA, IMBA, and PeopleForBikes together on projects like Trooper Lake, we can leverage each partner's strengths and make every dollar go farther," said Rob Cappucci, SRAM Director of Advocacy and Industry Partnerships. "Our hope is that these first projects become a model that communities repeat again and again."

"Trail proximity and access directly impact our ability to get more kids and families on bikes," said NICA President Amanda Carey. "When trails are closer to home and closer to schools, we see greater participation and faster growth of teams. This directly translates to more kids outside, off screens, and participating in a fun and healthy activity that they can do for the rest of their lives."

"Elizabethtown has a strong commitment to trails and outdoor recreation," Elizabethtown Mayor Jeff Gregory said. "This mountain bike facility is a natural extension of our 35 miles of trail system and our Urban Trail Town designation. It's another way we're creating quality-of-life opportunities for our youth while supporting community growth. We're proud to partner with Greenspace, Inc. on this project, and our goal is to have the nicest mountain bike park in the state of Kentucky." The city's \$1.8 million investment over the next year shows its commitment to making Trooper Lake a top spot

Copyrighted material or other National Interscholastic Cycling Association content may NOT be distributed, downloaded, uploaded, modified, reused, reproduced, reposted, retransmitted, disseminated, sold, published, broadcast, circulated or otherwise used in any manner whatsoever without express written permission from the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. Any modification of the content, or any portion thereof, or use of the content for any other purpose constitutes an infringement of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association's copyrights and other proprietary rights.

for young riders and outdoor lovers statewide. This project shows exactly what the partnership set out to do: bring a community together around its youth. As KY NICA Executive Director Denile Hill put it: "Support like this is what turns an idea into a real, finished trail that brings mental, social, physical, and economic benefits to the community."

"The City of Elizabethtown is excited about Trooper Lake's development. This project is a major investment in our Parks and Recreation system and our community's health and quality of life. We're creating a space where families gather, beginners learn, and advanced riders compete. With trails certified for state and national competitions, a pump track, and amenities for all visitors, we're offering a safe, progressive facility for riders of all ages and abilities," said Seth Breitner, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Elizabethtown.

"Heartland Cycling Development has been building relationships and laying groundwork in Elizabethtown for years, so seeing Trooper Lake come together like this means everything to our riders," said David Haines, KY NICA Coach Development Manager. "This gives our Heartland Cycling Development athletes a true home course, and it gives Kentucky a model for what's possible when a local team, a city, and a national partnership all pull in the same direction."

The 2026 Kentucky project will serve as a test run. Lessons learned here will shape the 2027 project. But the bigger goal reaches beyond these two trail systems. The partnership is built so NICA leagues and communities across the country can repeat it, bringing more kids and adults the chance to ride.

About the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA)

NICA was founded in Berkeley, California, in 2009. Since then, it has grown across the United States and beyond. NICA supports a network of more than 26,000 young riders and 16,000 adult coaches every year. Its mission is to build strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through mountain biking. With local teams, dedicated coaches, and top-level events, NICA helps young people grow both on and off the bike. Riders gain better mental health, more confidence, strong friendships, and a lifelong love of cycling, all while making a positive impact on the world. NICA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that runs thanks to generous foundations, donors, and partners.

About the Kentucky Interscholastic Cycling League (KY NICA)

KY NICA builds strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through mountain biking across the Commonwealth. With local teams, certified coaches, and professional events, KY NICA helps young people grow both on and off the bike. Riders gain better mental health, more confidence, strong friendships, and a lifelong love of cycling, all while making a positive impact on their communities. KY NICA is part of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association.

Learn more

NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association): nationalmtb.org

SRAM- Global Bicycle Components Innovator: sram.com

IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association): imba.com

PFB (PeopleForBikes): peopleforbikes.org

Kentucky NICA: kentuckymtb.org

Elizabethtown City Government: elizabethtownky.org

Greenspace, Inc.: greenspaceky.com

JULY 2026
