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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ground Breaking on New Mountain Bike Facility Underneath I-5
The Country's First & Only Sheltered Urban Mountain Bike Trail System

SEATTLE - Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club (BBTC) and Seattle Parks and Recreation are teaming up to bring Seattle the country's first urban mountain bike skills park. The park is located under the deck of the I-5 freeway between Seattle's Eastlake and Capitol Hill neighborhoods.

As part of the *I-5 Colonnade* project, the mountain bike skills park includes two acres of trails that are full of skill building features for mountain bikers to ride - such as switchbacks, log rides, rock gardens, skinnies, wall-rides and small jumps. Unlike traditional northwest mountain biking, I-5 Colonnade will allow riders to guide their mountain bikes over many skill-building elements while riding through the freeway support columns, colonnades, in a unique, rain-free environment. The trails simulate natural terrain and obstacles while reflecting the urban character of the park.

New Mountain Bike Park Ground Breaking at I-5 Colonnade

Location: I-5 Colonnade, Lakeview Blvd E and E Blaine Street, Seattle

Date: Friday, October 14, 2005

Time: 3:00 p.m.

I-5 Colonnade is a 7.5 acre facility, located under the deck of the I-5 freeway, which will include open space, a mountain bike skills park, an off-leash dog area, public art, and an ADA accessible walkway that reconnects the Capitol Hill and Eastlake neighborhoods. Construction of the non-mountain bike portions of the park concludes in 2005. Construction of the mountain bike skills area begins October 14, 2005, to be completed by October 2006.

Mountain bikers, led by BBTC, are designing, funding, constructing and maintaining the mountain bike skills park. All aspects of this project rely heavily on volunteers and donations. To date, \$115,000 has been raised from sources including private donors, Vulcan, REI, King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant, City of Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund, Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Pro Parks Levy, and Bikes Belong. The I-5 Colonnade mountain bike park will be the first of its kind in the country and the only mountain bike park in the City of Seattle. For information about how to donate to the project or how to become a volunteer, visit www.bbtc.org or call 206-524-2900.

About Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club:

Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club (BBTC) is a volunteer-powered, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing mountain biking trails. BBTC focuses on education, advocacy and recreation - in addition to promoting a philosophy and practice of building common ground and fostering a club culture that "gives back".

About King County Parks:

The King County Parks and Recreation Division is a regional provider of parks, trails, pools and recreation programs. We focus on providing a growing community with fun, educational and healthy experiences, and protecting our natural resource assets for future generations. Specific services include regional parks, community parks, regional trails, ball fields, swimming pools, recreation programs, open space protection, salmon and wildlife habitat preservation, interpretive and educational opportunities, community centers, specialized recreation, after-school activities, the King County Fair, and the Heritage Festival.