

Fernie Little Ripper Trail Passport

The Fernie Little Ripper Trail Passport is a series of skill/age appropriate mountain bike challenges. The goal is to ride the trail, find the checkpoint sign (see maps for sign locations) and record the animal found on the sign into your booklet. Complete four challenges during the mountain bike season and receive a Fernie Little Ripper badge at one of Fernie's local bike shops. If you are in for a big challenge try and complete all of the rides. The trails are listed in order of difficulty. Remember to start small and work your way up. Always follow the rules of the trail, wear proper safety equipment and make sure your bike is in good working order.

All of these trails and most of the other excellent Fernie trails are found on the free Trail Forks app. More trail descriptions and directions to trailheads can be found here. Download it before you go.

Trail Rascals (suggested age Under 7) - Complete four of the following rides. Find the checkpoint sign on the trail and record what animal is on the sign.

Ride #1 - Bike Park Learning Loop

The learning loop is a skills progression loop for everyone. Start at the bike park kiosk and follow the learning loop signs in a clockwise direction. Feel free to session the features like the roller coaster, skinnies, boardwalks and drops. This loop is lots of fun for everyone. Remember the bike park has lots of advanced features so start small and work your way up, and always ride within your limits.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #2 - Maiden Lake Loop

This is a beautiful flat loop around the lake. Start at the Maiden lake beach (behind Canadian tire) follow the the trail in ether direction around the lake.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #3 - Annex park

This is a flat route along the river with the opportunity to feed the ducks along the way. Start at the duck pond and head north towards the main dyke trail (towards Hosmer Mt) where you will turn left and follow the Elk River. Turn left again when the dyke trail reaches the duck pond and follow along the east shore of the pond back to your starting place.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #4 - James White Park

This is a flat, scenic river side trail. Enter the trail at the southeast corner of the park where the paved road follows the Elk River. Make a left turn before the trail leaves the park and follow this over the access road from the south entrance into the Frisby golf area. Stay on the trail and give right away to the frisby golfers. Once through the course circle back on the road following the Elk river to your starting point.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Mud Muncher Loop

You can complete all four rides at once, by doing the mud muncher loop. Start at the bike park and after doing the learning loop (ride #1) go past the skate park to the Kootenay Elk Trail (TCT). Follow this to 13th street where you will take a left and go to IDES elementary school. Go through the school yard, around the track and behind the hospital to Maiden Lake (ride #2). Go around Maiden Lake to the town dyke trail and head towards the north Fernie bridge. This trail will take

you to the Annex park loop (ride #3), and then on to the James White park loop (ride #4). Ride back along the dyke crossing Park Ave, go under the train bridge and cross Pine Ave to the Brewery creek trail into Montane. Follow this past the Montane barn, across Coal Creek Rd and on to the bike park.

Ride #5 - Cemetery By-Pass

This is an out and back ride with a mellow climb and a fun downhill. From the trail head at St Margaret's Rd. climb up the trail to the checkpoint at the top. Then descend along the same trail. If you are feeling strong head up Kiddy Up and down What's Up Doc.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #6 -TCT Trail (Coal Creek Heritage to Montane)

The TCT trail is wide and rolling with some climbing and some descending. Take the Coal Creek Heritage trail from the bike park and follow the TCT trail markers to Coal Creek Rd, cross Coal Creek Road to River Rd. Go over the bridge on River Rd. and look for the TCT trailhead on the right. Take this to the Montane trail (stay right at all intersections) where you will turn right and descend back to Coal Creek Rd. Cross the road to the Heritage trail and back to the bike park.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #7- Lazy lizard

Lazy lizard is a beautiful flowy out and back beginner trail. Start at the trail head at the Island Lake gate, the trail parallels the Island Lake road. Ride to the first double track trail crossing (the project nine access road) to find the checkpoint. If your feeling good you can keep going along one of Fernie's premier trails. If your legs are done turn around and ride the roller coster back.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Mud Munchers (suggested age 7-9) Complete four of the following rides listed below. In your booklet record the the animal found on the checkpoint signs.

Ride #1 Gorby Bridge to Old Goat

From the Gorby Bridge in Fernie Provincial Park climb towards the ski hill on the Gorby Trail till you get to Old Goat. Find the checkpoint and rip back down.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #2-Kiddy Up to What's Up Doc

Climb Cemetery By-pass (see Trail rascals Ride #5 for details) and continue along the double track to Kiddy Up. This is a gentle winding climb ending at a nice picnic spot. Catch your breath before the super fun What's Up Doc descent. Continue back down cemetery bypass.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #3 - Mud Muncher Loop

After doing the learning loop (see Trail Rascals Ride #1 for details) go past the skate park to the Kootenay Elk trail. Follow this to 13th street where you will take a left and go to IDES elementary school. Go through the school yard, around the track, and behind the hospital to Maiden lake. Go around Maiden Lake to the town dyke trail and head towards the North Fernie bridge. This trail will take you to the Annex park loop, and then on to the James White park loop. Then back along the river, crossing Park Ave and Pine Ave to the Brewery Creek trail into Montane. Go past the Montane barn, cross Coal Creek Rd to the bike park. There are 4 Checkpoints on this loop.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Ride #4 - Lazy lizard from the Provincial Park to Island Lake gate

From the provincial park take Stove trail, turning left at the old stove. You will soon see the Lazy Lizard trailhead on the right. This is a wide machine-built out and back trail with great views. You will find the check point just before the island lake gate.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #5- Lazy Lizard from the Island Lake gate to the Power line.

From the trailhead at the Island Lake gate climb this beautiful rolling single track to the check point at the power line. After you record your answer enjoy the awesome downhill back the way you came.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Ride #6- TCT to Up-Rooted

Take the Coal Creek Heritage trail from the bike park and follow the TCT trail markers to Coal Creek Rd. Cross Coal Creek Rd, go over the bridge on River Rd and look for the TCT trail head on the right. Follow the TCT trail (also called Ruby's way) to Up-rooted and enjoy the exciting descent back to the Montane trail and on to the bike park.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Wheelie Awesome's (suggested age 10+) - Complete four of the following rides to earn your badge.

Ride #1 - Mud Muncher Loop with Old Stumpy

Complete Mud Muncher loop (see ride #3 in the Mud Muncher age group for details) with the addition of Old Stumpy. Instead of turning onto 13th street, cross the road to the Old Stumpy trail which follows the river back to Maiden Lake, then around the dike trail. There are 5 Checkpoints on this loop.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Ride #2- Eco-terrorist board walks

Climb Cemetery By-pass, Kiddy Up ,and Queen V until you get to Eco-terrorist and the Lower Eco junction (see Trail rascals Ride #6 for details) stay right until you get to the Eco-terrorist bench then turn around and come back the way you came. There will be 3 checkpoints.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Ride #3 Lazy lizard from Provincial Park to power line

See Ride #4 and #5 in the Mud Muncher age group for details. There will be three checkpoints on this route.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Ride #4 TCT to Montane Hut

Take the Coal Creek Heritage trail from the bike park and follow the TCT trail markers to Coal Creek R. Cross Coal Creek Rd, and go over the bridge onto River Rd and look for the TCT trailhead on the right. Follow the TCT trail markers to Roots where you will descend to the Montane hut. Enjoy the view from the hut, then you can either go back the way you came (the easy way) or continue down Montane Blue back to town. There will be two checkpoints on this route.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Ride #5 - New Roots to Up-Rooted

This is a long gradual climb followed by an exciting winding decent. From the Roots/Up-rooted trail head on River Rd climb New Roots to the Hyper-vent sign. Turn left and climb to the next junction then turn left again and descend Up-rooted back to River Rd.

Checkpoint Animal _____

Ride #6 Kiddy-up to Sidewinder

Climb Cemetery By-pass (see Trail rascals Ride #6 for details) and continue along the double track to Kiddy Up. This is a gentle winding climb to a nice picnic spot. Continue up Queen V to the Eco-terrorist and Lower Eco junction, turn left along Lower Eco and follow the easy way signs which will take you to Sidewinder. Take Sidewinder back down to town. This is a more challenging very fun descent with lots of roots so if you are not comfortable with a technical downhill feel free to turn around at the second checkpoint and return the way you climbed. There will be two checkpoints.

Checkpoint Animals _____

Other trails that may be of interest for families.

(these are a little more challenging than those listed above)

Mt Proctor area

Fairy Creek Falls from visitor centre

Far Side

Ridgemont

Purple Space Unicorns (Broken Hip)

Eric's trail

Anything in Montane and TCT (Trans Canada Trail)

Provincial Park

Sherwoody

Stove

The Fernie Alpine Resort also has several green, lift access, downhill trails

Little Critter Race courses

The FMBC's Little Critter Races are criterium races for kids under 10. They take place on the second Monday of every month starting in June and ending in September. Participants do as many laps as they can in a set time period. For each lap completed the participant enters their name in a draw to win a prize. Run bikes and trailer bikes are welcome but please no training wheels as they will not work on the courses. The races are free but a FMBC membership is required. Check the FMBC Facebook page for more information.

