

A person in a blue shirt and dark pants is captured mid-air, performing a jump on a mountain bike. They are positioned above a dirt ramp in the foreground. The background features a dense forest of green trees and a range of hazy, blue mountains under a clear sky. Pine branches with cones are visible in the upper left corner, framing the scene.

VOLUNTEER TRAIL BUILDING PROGRAM

April 2025

Background

Mystic Mountain Bike Park was initially entirely volunteer built and maintained, with support from Alpine Cycling Club and Alpine Community Plantation. Grant funding was secured for the development of Hero trail in 2015, which saw visitation to the area for mountain bikes increase substantially. This also saw a need for additional trail maintenance to upkeep the network. Over the years there have been many different grants to support trail development in Mystic to bolster an existing volunteer built network.

Elevation Mystic Operations (EMO) now has a team on ground to allow both maintenance and new trail development in the park to improve safety and quality of trails. However volunteer building remains a large part of the park's history, and is evident within the style of trails across the park. We would love to see more classic hand cut tech supported by volunteer trail building within the park, to ensure this legacy continues, whilst also continuing to replenish trail loss due to logging. We would also love to see natural connections currently in DEECA land be supported and championed to allow for wider access around Mystic.

How to get involved?

Would you love to continue the legacy of volunteer building at Mystic with a few uplift perks in the mix?

There are two ways you can actively support trails at Mystic:

1. Supporting DEECA trail development around Mystic

Alpine Shire Council are working to champion new trail development of key connections around Mystic park in parcels held by DEECA. Support for development of these trails, particularly a potential climbing connection from Emily Spur to Mystic Launch would allow pedal access to the top of the mountain.

2. Volunteer Trail Building Program

EMO will commence a volunteer trail building program in 2025/2026 season with incentives in place for volunteers. This will be subject to relevant approval processes with HVP and ASC, which will be completed by EMO.

The volunteer trail building program will not just include dig days but also give eager volunteers the opportunity to to champion their own trail.

For volunteers the program will include opportunities such as:

- Submission of new trails outside the existing masterplan that are hand cut and technical
- Nominating a particular trail on the masterplan and support delivery of this trail with a volunteer team
- Scheduled Volunteer Dig Days with free uplifts offered or dig & ride days with exclusive access to the trail network after putting some time in on the trails
- Support of EMO Trail Crew in upskilling volunteer trail builders

Volunteer Trail Building Process

1. Initial Meeting with EMO Park Manager to discuss trail alignment and style within context of masterplan - 30min
2. Site walk and complete GPX File issued
3. EMO to conduct trail approval certification
4. Trail Approval issued to HVP & ASC for review
5. Induction by Trail Crew Team Lead on TDRS, CEMP and track marking
6. Trail Construction Commencement
7. Completion & Trail Audit - conducted by EMO

EMO may be required to complete rectification of works after the trail audit, to meet TDRS standards and to ensure the trail can be certified and safely opened.

If you have interest in partaking in the volunteer trail building program or have ideas for the network in DEECA land adjacent to Mystic park, please contact Emma, emma@elevationmystic.com.