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First name: John

Last name: Vacca

Organization: The City of Mena

Title:

Comments: My wife and I own a Bed and Breakfast in Mena, Janssen Park Place B&B. Tourism represents about 45 percent of our business. Business travelers, funerals, weddings, reunions, and travelers passing through the state represent the other 55 percent. That said, tourism is vital not only to our business and the hundreds of lodging businesses in our county but to the local economy as a whole.

The interest in mountain biking in our area is not new. Local cyclists have been riding our hiking trails, Forest Service roads, and county gravel roads for years. The University of Arkansas Rich Mountain contracted to build trails on campus property with hopes to connect these trails to downtown Mena.

Recently the Mena Advertising and Promotion Commission financed a study on building trails in the Ward Lake area. This study garnered interest in The Arkansas Tourism Foundation which has resulted in the current plans and coalition of interested parties.

The local population has had ample time to study the plans and give input at community meetings.

Mountain Biking Tourism will be a welcome addition to our tourism economy.