In this year’s survey CRAMBA’s members said they want more man-made technical features along the trails. CRAMBA has the money to pay for the features, and we need volunteers like you to make it happen. To get more features along the trails, we are pleased to announce the **Technical Features Program**.

Is there a place along one of our trails where you think a nice feature could go? Got an idea for a great new feature that you’d just love to build? This is your chance to make it a reality.

We are looking for members like you to come up with a feature and make it happen. First, you come up with the idea, put it in a proposal, and get it to CRAMBA for review. Next, CRAMBA gets approval from the land manager. Finally, you get to build it and ride!

Currently we are looking for submissions for technical features at:

- Bald Mountain Recreation Area
- Columbus County Park
- Lapeer Oakdale Trails
- Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
- River Bends Park

Interested? Keep reading for details and guidelines then let us know what you want to build! Got questions or ready to submit your proposal? Email [info@cramba.org](mailto:info@cramba.org).

(In light of the current COVID-19 outbreak and the Michigan “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Orders, construction will be delayed. We also anticipate a delay in approval as parks are minimally staffed. However, these weeks while quarantined at home and riding solo are a great time to plan, design, and submit your proposal.)

**What you’ll do:**

- Review the Feature Guidelines below for feature and location requirements.
- Come up with a technical feature that you want to build at a local trail.
- Put together a proposal describing:
  - Type and design of feature. (eg: skinny, drop, wall ride, wooden berm, roller, bridge, elevated branching paths, etc.)
  - Dimensions of feature. (Height, lengths, widths, etc.)
  - Specific build location along the trail.
  - Required materials and estimated cost.
  - Tools needed on-site for installation.
  - Estimated time to complete, both pre-work and onsite.
  - Type of help you might need from other volunteers.
  - Please include photos, drawings, or anything else useful to show and clearly explain your idea.
- Send your proposal to CRAMBA at [info@cramba.org](mailto:info@cramba.org) for approval.
- After approval:
  - Purchase the materials, keeping all receipts.
    - CRAMBA is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) with EIN 45-1603704.
    - In some cases CRAMBA may purchase the materials up front.
  - Build the feature.
  - Get reimbursed by CRAMBA.
  - Ride!
• Note: For insurance reasons, you must be an active (paid) CRAMBA member during the construction/build phase. To join CRAMBA, visit https://cramba.org/join.

What CRAMBA will do:
• Seek approval for the feature from the land manager.
• Help recruit other volunteers for the build day, if you need them.
• Follow up to ensure the resulting build is as planned.
• Pay for the project.

Feature Guidelines:
• Build to Last
  ○ Treated wood, metal supports/lips/etc if available.
  ○ Use screws and bolts -- not nails -- to avoid fasteners pull-out.
  ○ Safe surface for the feature. (Rough-cut wood, cross-hatched, coated with wire mesh, non-slip grit paint, etc as appropriate.)
  ○ In-ground supports placed sufficiently deep to not move during freeze cycles.
  ○ Strong enough to withstand years of weather and abuse.
    ■ Build with stronger wood, like 2x6s for decking and 4x4s, 4x6s, or 6x6s for support.
    ■ Note: People will sit, stand, stomp, jump, take photos, and show off on these features.
• Progressive
  ○ Appropriate for trail.
  ○ Consider offering a series of features of increasing difficulty (eg: 6", 12", 18" drop).
  ○ No gaps.
  ○ No articulating features (eg: teeters or swinging bridges).
  ○ Drops should have steep, but usable, bailout rolldowns on the backside.
• Features must be Non-Mandatory
  ○ All features must have usable bypasses for hikers, runners, and those who opt out of riding them.
  ○ Features must be visible to approaching riders and not catch them by surprise.
  ○ Trail routes may be adjusted to best incorporate features.

References / Ideas:
• Progressive Bike Ramps Trail Features: https://www.progressivebikeramps.com/trail-features/
• Super Sport Room at Ray’s Indoor Bike Park: https://raysmtb.com/
• Series of increasing height drops or reducing width skinnies.
• Wall ride at higher speed corner.
• Alafia Trail in Florida. (See Examples.)
• Ride-over Bench at River Bends. (See Example.)
Examples:

Skinny Rollercoaster (Alafia Trail)

Rollable Ramp/Drop (Alafia Trail)
Wooden Rollers (Alafia Trail)

Ride-Over Bench (River Bends)