

Featured Trail: Half Nelson



Squamish mountain bike trail map compliments of TrailMaps.com

Half Nelson Trail Description and Access

Directions: Drive (or ride) through University Heights (Quest University - Garibaldi Highlands) and take a left on the Garibaldi Park Service Road. Continue for approximately 3.3 Km and watch for the Ring Creek FSR junction on your left and a limited parking area on your right. This is also where Half Nelson ends. Park here as there is no vehicle access to the trailhead. Gradually climb up Ring Creek FSR for 2.5 Km passing a few spur road junctions and trailheads, through a perpetually muddy and rutted section of road nearing the SORCA shelter. The road then turns sharply to the right and the climb becomes much steeper. The road climbs steeply for another kilometre until you'll see a couple of significant wooden structures marking the trailhead for Half Nelson.

Description: This 2.5 Km trail is often compared to A-Line in the Whistler Bike Park and is also referred to as a downhill pump track. Don't be intimidated by those comparisons though, this trail has been built with every rider in mind. The beginner/intermediate rider will enjoy a lengthy descent crossing several wide bridge features, cruising around fun berms and rolling up and down the transitions of the many jumps (none of which are mandatory). Who knows, they may even try to get a little air onto the last few tabletops near the end of the trail. Half Nelson tries to bring out the dirt jumper in all of us.

The advanced/expert rider will pump and air their way down with giddy delight. There are doubles, triples, tabletops, step-ups and opportunities to air out of berms. Naturally, all riders should familiarize themselves with the trail before attempting to tap into the rock star flow. There are a couple of corners near the top that if unaware, a rider can find themselves in the rhubarb.