

# Cycling families gather to build PoCo bike park

By Melissa Serraglio  
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Local volunteers got their hands dirty to help complete Port Coquitlam's first-ever bike skills park at the second community work day that was held Aug. 4.

Twenty-three volunteers showed up to pitch in and help build the final stages of the park, which is located in the 3400-3500 block of Shaughnessy Street.

Jay Hoots, park contractor, said he was more than pleased with the turnout, which included people between the ages of six to 56.

"For a long weekend, it was pretty darn good," he said. "And everyone that came out was so enthusiastic and unbelievably encouraging. It just shows what can happen when motivated people come together to get things done."

Hoots said there were a lot of "father and son combinations" that came out to help, along with a majority of teen bike riders.

"There were quite a few beginner riders as well," he said. "They just wanted to get in there at ground level and help with everything."

Around 40 volunteers participated in the first community work weekend that was held July 21 and 22, but wet conditions had prevented all the work on the park from being completed.

At the second community work day, volunteers helped with the detailing and jump shaping of all the dirt, which involved a lot of rock picking and raking and packing of the dirt.

Because of the hot weather at the time of the community work day, Hoots said they called the Port Coquitlam fire department to provide some water relief on the dry dirt.

"They came out with a pumper truck and just went at it," he said. "It helped a ton, because it let all the dust settle back into the dirt."

The park won't officially open until around mid-September, but Hoots said no more community work days will need to be scheduled after the progress that was recently made.

"I didn't know what to expect [at the second community work day], but it went fabulous," he said. "We're good to go."

Jay Hoots, mountain bike advocate and member of Norco Performance Bikes' Factory Team, stands in front of Port Coquitlam's first-ever bike skills park, located in the 3400-3500 block of Shaughnessy Street. Volunteers helped build and complete the final stages of the park at a community work day that was held Aug. 4. For story, see page 18.



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