

# 05 Highlands Van Isl. BC - Twin Flower Park

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The Highland district located on Vancouver island, BC contacted me regarding consultation on illegal jump building. My contact (retired but unbelievably active) Bob McMinn (Highlands first elected Mayor) was convinced there had to be a solution to the problem without having to take jumps away from a very industrious youth. Bob's belief in these kids was phenomenal and what was cool was a man of Bob's incredible credentials rarely sees past the exposed roots, bomb pits and gap jumps to see the benefits of jump park formalization.



I went to Vancouver island to check out the site to find that the youth had built a couple of sets of jumps in a low land area under a newly constructed base ball field adjacent to a sensitive swamp area. They had to use the outfield to get speed to use the down a slope into the first jump and had worn a big rut between 2nd base and third base outfield. Dirt had been harvested from the root masses of the trees and there was some scattered technical features that had been nailed into live trees. This jump site was reminiscent of at least 30 other jump areas I have seen and today my site visit also included a meeting with the local youth and parents.



Before the meeting I spent the time in the forest with the jumps and at the last minute a solution hit me and what started out as a consultation went into full public meeting and everyone agreed on the new vision, design could be started! At that point the Highland municipality hired me and I promptly started preliminary design of the park while Bob gave me background information on the hydrology of the area including the sensitive swamp area.

Once the proposed design options were done I held a meeting over MSN with the youth regarding the design and we came up with several enhancements to the plan. Bob arranged materials from a local contractor and within months the site was prepped ready and the kids super stoked to build the new park.





Part of the arrangement made was that the new design clocked the park 90 degrees so that the jumps would run parallel with the field and the end of the new jumps would cross the old lines which the youth were to decommission. The old jump lines and previously exposed root masses along with shanty stunts were the youth's responsibility to return as natural which (to their credit) they did way ahead of expectation.

Two of the parents came out for the 4 build days and donated their equipment for the entire build. Five main progressive lines were built with a 1950's farm tractor, and Wagner and Son's full size backhoe and mini ex bobcat.



During the build Mayor and Council members came on site to monitor the situation and gave the thumbs up to create a couple of technical skinny lines for some spice and variety.





Due to the clocking and direction of flow, cross flow drainage worked perfectly. The jump lines themselves have a different flavour as some challenges with rock became evident, warranting step up's and weird spacing, however we built way more jump lines that were safer the previously existed. Jump feel and spacing worked to benefit trees in the forest as well as being out of the way of jumpers.





Although the jump park is in the trees there is actually a comprehensive risk management plan in effect and the park is open and free to all users.





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