

06 Metchosin, Vancouver Isl. BC

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In March 2006 14 year old Will O'Connell contacted me regarding the possibility of getting help to build a jump park. It seems he and his older brother had championed the jump park idea for 3 previous years to council and after debate throughout the community a site was agreed on once a consultant was hired to help implement.

Over the next 2 months we sorted through original design details trying to find the best use or fit for the area as the given land space was significantly contained. Will had created a clay model in a 'L' pattern with the start hill being located at the 90 angle offering 2 main runways, one servicing the jump lines and the other a slopestyle course.



Understanding features, dimensions and orientation before delivering dirt was a considerable task given we were building on a field visible from main road and in front of the municipal hall. We came to agree on a concept and got focused.

There were many challenges but none so difficult as getting paperwork to have materials transported into Metchosin as it resides on a green belt (ALR land) and requires a permit. With the permit in hand mere hours before (thanks Dan!) delivery of dirt started and ran for 2 days while volunteer operators removed organic soil, grass and bulked in the mounds to prep the site.



I arrived on the Friday before the build and had a chance to view the prepped site, offering a great opportunity to create the logistical plan for the following day, thankfully it was just long enough that we still had time to ride our bikes, fun times in the O'Connel backyard with some very shady stunts.

Saturday morning came bright and early and we made our way to the site. Slowly volunteers started showing up and shaping began. Tons of rock really slowed the whole process down but provided the opportunity to create retaining walls around trees and shore up berms. An amazing amount of work was done by volunteers and I was floored me at how the community came together.



After working late into the night on the Saturday, ok maybe not total work, we did manage some time to ride the jumps and get a real feel for what we needed to do for some final shaping, we started out slow, and much as the day before, the entire community came out swinging.





This was the first park I have been part of project that had more than a handful of in experienced builders, many of them seniors. What a crazy universe shift. Working next to those which I am used to experiencing as NIMBY's out working along side the kids, learning from the kids, shaping drainage and lips with masterful grace.



Once the jumps were well on their way to final shaping, work commenced on the runway and quarter pipe that serviced the wall ride. Dan had put some serious love into construction of the wall and now it was up to the kids to fashion a approach that would allow multiple angles of entry. All in all the day went super smooth and with the efforts and unreal skill of the mini hoe operator, the multi level start bank soon took shape complimenting the rest of the park.



The Metchosin community came out from 6 years old to 86 years old to build one heck of an amazing park. Council members regularly stopped by and were amazed at the progress and regularly spoke with the locals. Huge efforts were made to make this site esthetically appealing and cribbing techniques were used to harness the dirt from the field. All the sifted rock was used to wall up and protect the trees while non invasive vines were planted to hold the rocks and dirt in place.



The park sits adjacent to the fire hall and in front of city hall offering one of the best EAP money can buy. I look forward to the opportunities in life that provide positive, powerful and engaging epiphany and my time with the O'Connell family confirmed it was worth the wait. Remarkable people in a remarkable town

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