

06 Sooke, BC - SeaParc

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My friend Lorien served as the president for SIMBS (south Island Mtb Society) and is one of the most passionate cycling advocates living today. After years in the Victoria area he decided to buy a bike shop in Sooke, BC and moved there to start a family. For the first year we spoke often and Lorien's concern for the local youth really started to get me inspired. Lorien was convinced that the Sooke area needed a bike park but had lobbied unsuccessfully and needed help. Without any assurances of payment but knowing Lorien's conviction, I made a couple of trips out to look at potential sites and to get a better feel for the community. Work commenced on a couple of designs with the guidance of some local youth and we even had the opportunity to sit with some of the town elders to get better perspective but with no resolve.

Enter SeaParc. Management had heard Lorien's proposals and knew that an amenity like a jump park could fit well within the recreation facility. SeaParc recreation facility had the space to offer a project like this and with some very creative hoop jumping a budget started to take shape and the overall directors of the land (CRD) came into the picture. The CRD has a very long history of conservative and well researched approach to projects, so once dialogue began regarding the park every angle was discussed at great length. At the end of the day everyone saw eye to eye and a construction date was set.



Two main local contractors stepped up to donate their equipment and services, and a multitude of local youth came out in force and the weather stayed great for what was going to be a 4-5 day build that was accomplished in complete detail on the third day!

Father and Son togetherness





SeaParc had designated staff to help with the development of the park from paperwork through actual onsite challenges and between the efforts of everyone including an extra day of contribution from the contractors the DIRT jump park.



The jump park consists of six lines that were part of an approved design that was collaborated from myself and the local riders through Lorian's bike shop. Although we ran into several challenges, the jumps sets are comprehensive and progressive in scope and have multiple line options. These jumps are actually on a up hill slope (for drainage purposes) which does make them a bit more technical to ride however the local youth have taken ownership and have groomed the jumps to perfection. Also included was two access trails to the park from local trail.



It is interesting to note that most riders in this area were used to pedalling after or into jumps and since the build of this park they are now quite versed in the art of pumping and have now got riders tricking throughout the jump sets.



During the build there was a great commendatory between all the youth and some standout individuals really came out and took great leadership roles. I was very impressed with the dedication of the local youth.



The Rec centre has now done first aid simulations with their staff on site, however no major injuries have been reported to date.



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