

07 Keats Island, BC - Phase II

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The 2006 Keats Island 'skills park' turned out awesome and it was a huge success for the summer programming last year realizing four times the amount of riders! With both access to a designated bike park and loaner bikes, rider attendance went through the roof and both campers and instructors were seen regularly riding and having a ton of fun!



Acknowledging the advantage of having a progressive park and understanding the magnetism it had the decision was made for Hoots to come back and develop intermediate to advance features as expansion for the park and then start trail development that fit camp criteria. But first we needed to do some maintenance!





All new features in the park were built based on previous progressions and as far as parks go we pretty much built to the level a skills park should get to. Check these out.







With bases covered for rider development we could now focus on really cool stuff in the forest to expand the informal trail network into a formalized progressive sustainable trail that all campers and islanders could enjoy.



As usual we are under some serious timelines with limited support from volunteer and equipment but Keats is doing the best they can! We pushed hard today and worked late but it sure was worth it. After spending the morning delivering pre fabricated bridges and supports we got to work on the technical trail. Owen worked with Kevin and put some terrific bridge work in while I worked with Conner and Andrew stripping organic soil and creating drainage for the trail in order to make it more sustainable.



With dark closing in on us we finished just after 9pm had some dusk dirt jumping and called it a night.

May 18, 2007

The weather held out all day for us and only started raining in the evening. Armed with our dreadicated crew (although somewhat sore) and a couple of young dudes, Ethan and David, we all got to work and started moving through the trail building and digging. Several attempts were made to try and ride the newest skinny edition.



After a couple of hours of seamless building it became apparent that some extensive rock work was needed in low areas and the slope that we were to build a sweet jump set ended up with an astronomical amount of rock, greatly reducing our timing. Thankfully near the end of the day we got some Help from Megan (former super shaper Dirt monkey from year one build) and Sam which allowed us to complete the drop zone.



But even their help wasn't enough to allow us to finish the trail just yet, dang! The rain started coming down and dinner was late this evening but by chance the rain had stopped just after dinner and the light held out just long enough that I managed to get all of our work packed in with the quad to weather proof it in case it rains harder. We will see what tomorrow brings...

May 19, 2007

Another great breakfast and off and running back to the trails. New morning enthusiasm helped finish up the details and it looked like the drainage we established had done it's job, what a great way to finish up a intense build! The rain has been coming down but through the day we have had some clear breaks, just enough that you can't be sure how much clothing to wear and you are as wet from sweat from working in rain gear as you are from rain... Once the skills trail was finished we moved on to the lower trail which is a service road that Keats uses infrequently.



We have incorporated ride lines off the sides of the road creating a fun roller coaster ride that will be expanded over the next couple of years. Step ups and 'A frame' skinny line are on the menu and we managed to build up the access road for better drainage and stability.

May 20, 2007

Rain again. It has been dumping but clear breaks that reveal sun sure make a substantial difference. We have been doing some long hours and today is all about finishing the lower line and getting some access trail work done. With a serious push we managed to met our goals and the last ferry just in time...

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