

# 07 Inter River MEGA park

07 North Vancouver, BC - Inter River Park



In the **1970s** North Vancouver had one of the coolest BMX race tracks in North America featuring a over/underpass until development stepped up and a theatre and parking lot took precedent. In the late **1990's** a dedicated group of bmx enthusiasts worked tirelessly to try and convince the District of North Vancouver that a Nationals level BMX track would be an amazing opportunity and amenity for the community, it was a long time overdue. After many DNV staff and public consultations the years drifted by and so did the enthusiasm of the group. Proposed site after site was denied after neighbours opposed and rallied against family racing. Supporters and sponsors of the cause came and went and soon the drive for the track dwindled until **2004** when council finally agreed that a BMX track was a great idea and they had a multi use park site that could accommodate the track but it was too late the group had used all their resources and energy, everyone was tapped!

In **2002** I had co founded a non profit club called The DIRT Club for Youth as a way to create authorized Dirt jump parks. We had a successful pilot project in the ground at Myrtle Park in North Vancouver and we were supporting the BMX cause, in fact authorized Dirt jump parks were a perfect way to prove the need for a BMX race track.

On the evening that council gave the 'go ahead' to the BMX club, they frustratingly had to decline their position... Seeing the opportunity, The DIRT Club stepped up and took the challenge of creating a Skills Park \*Megaplex\* at the Inter River site.

## 2005

John Henry Bikes donated jumps and wood features I designed and built for their biggest event of the season The Front Yard Fury Jam. The jam was a highly publicized event and had riders internationally compete with our local BC talent. The ramps cost over \$5000 to build!



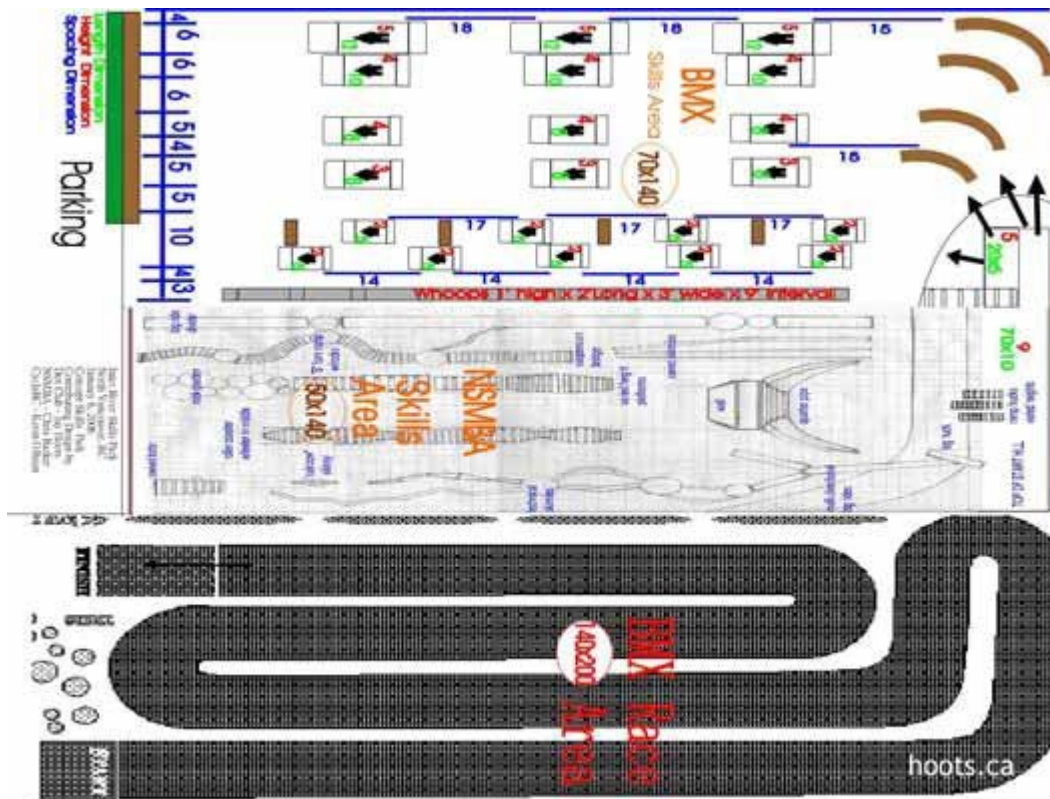
With donated time from 'Mike' the truck driver and many volunteers we managed to move all of the huge ramps and organized and locked them so we could use them in the bike park. It wasn't long before local youth Broke the ramps, created paintball shelters and of course lit it on fire! We lost everything unapologetically, good message sent, if you are going to have ramps, install them, get people riding on them so other options don't make themselves more appealing.



2006

Once the reigns were firmly in my hands I immediately negotiated partnership agreements with [Cycling BC](#) to develop a BMX club in North Vancouver, set up track design and got insurance started. I went straight to the local MTB club [North Shore Mountain Bike Association](#) (which I am a long standing member) and negotiated an agreement that saw them take over the responsibility of the balance of the park both skills/features area and jump area and then tied everyone in with [The District of North Vancouver](#). With insurance, membership, maintenance, build, design and multiple partnerships in place we started work on the site!

Inter River consists of three modules



Dirt Jump area  
Technical Trail Features area  
Nationals BMX Race Track

The first season of build saw a huge push on infrastructure and with the volunteer help of B.A. Blacktop we managed to strip out six tennis courts including all the fencing and multiple layers of asphalt to prep the site.



Once the site was cleared drainage became priority and with several key contributions all the new drain heads and pipe were installed in fresh beds of gravel. Roughly five hundred dump truck loads of dirt were dropped at the site from a local contractor who contributed a small fee per load toward the build of the park which allowed a city excavator to shape the base grade to meet city planner drainage approval. One of the corners of the park was lifted over eight feet in height to accommodate the overall infrastructure plan.



Once infrastructure was completed, King Kubota stepped up to the plate and donated approximately 200 loads of native North Shore material and left a machine and operator for me to build the park with!



My favourite operator MTB Mike spent most of the time in the driver seat and we got to work building the Dirt jump area and drop in ramp but due to bad weather through the winter we had to pull the plug.

**2007**

Late Spring was time to get back to work on site and King Kubota was ready to go once again! Mike worked at creating the pathways to get around the park and then finished the BMX track infrastructure up so that we could turn over the shaping to the club. A round of funding came in from the [Vancouver Foundation](#) and we spent time dialing in the bmx track drainage and brought water lines to the site from one of the lower fields.



Through the summer the BMX club worked to polish up the track coming out frequently with enthusiastic help. During this time several scheduled volunteer NSMBA days took place developing the features area and prepping the area for future builds.



As summer wound down trail days wound up and it would not be until October that the NSMBA came back to finish up the area for 2007. During two scheduled builds a ton of work went down including reshaping of the dirt jumps, thanks to the volunteer help from the students at Cap college ([Mountain Bike Operations course](#)).





With another grant I worked with District to develop complete signage for the site and with winter about to stop our work schedule again we installed the park signs and got some management fence installed to cap off a great year for the park.



Inter River park (megaplex) is a HUGE commitment from everyone involved. The partnership between the [District of North Vancouver](#) and the two clubs is fair and functional and the ease in which we have been able to secure 'in kind' services speaks volumes for the North Vancouver Community and local business. From the initial development of the dirt jump section all the way to current site conditions the park has been used more and more frequently without any advertising or marketing. It is not unusual to find local kids, clubs and

families all together riding in the park and with managed multiple experience sections many riders can session the park all at the same time.



Inter River park is slated for BMX track completion, dirt jump maintenance and beginner feature sections finished for early summer 2008 with hopefully a park grand opening in the fall.

It is important to mention the support and help that our great friend [Richard Juryn](#) contributed. Rich is no longer with us but this park would not be today what is without him. Rich helped me keep a level head and used many of his resources to help assure materials and support from contributors would go directly to the park. Rich played an integral role in keeping momentum and productive dialogue between the clubs, myself and the [District of North Vancouver](#). Rich's endless energy and room lightening smile is missed very much.. On the other side of it, I know his soul is cruising endless singletrack in his happy place...

Rich's idea of bike park



For more information please see [NSMBA](https://www.nsmba.ca/) website

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