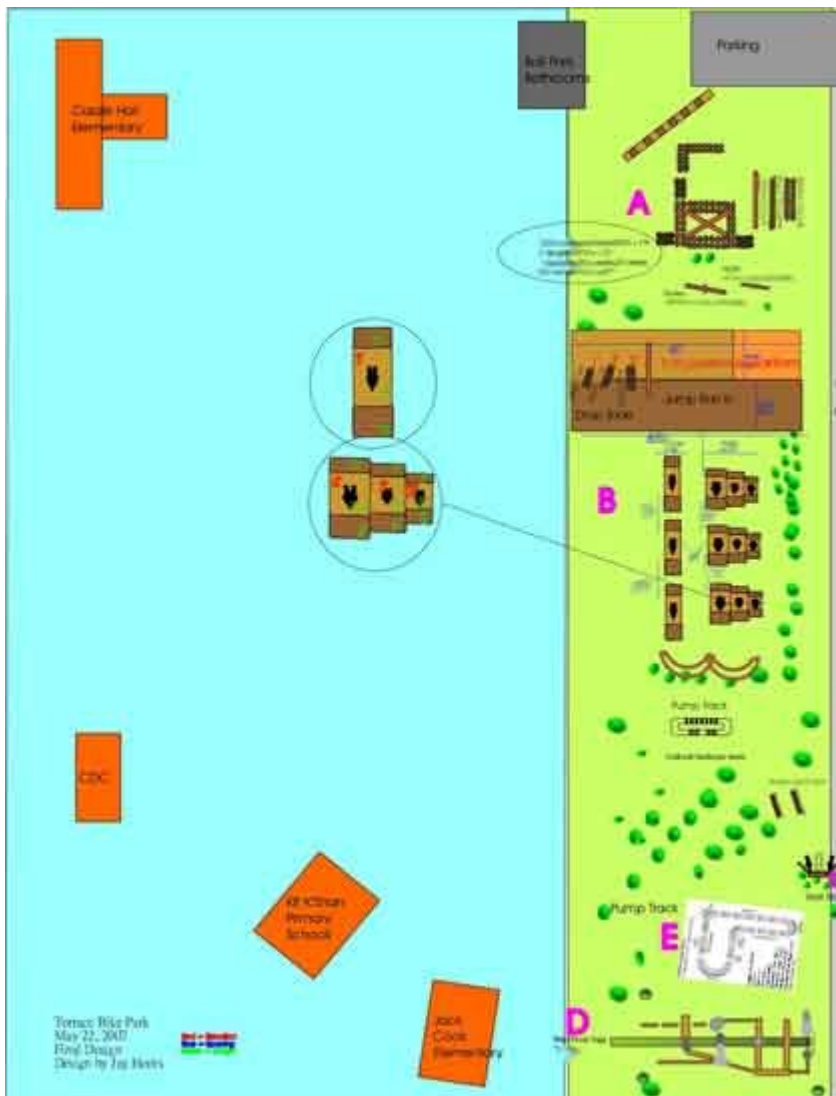


07 Terrace *mega* Skills Park

Terrace Skills Park



While building in Burns Lake, I met a enthusiastic couple who had sooo many kids and were super stoked on getting a bike park in their Terrace community. On site conversation soon became regular dialogue and before we knew it Torca (Terrace Off Road Cycling Association) and Hoots were arm deep developing an amazing bike park.



My contact Kate was very organized and particular on park needs. Kate's knack for getting people involved in her community was only matched by her enthusiasm and tenacity which was shared by her co bike park conspirator Sarah! A true handful these two....

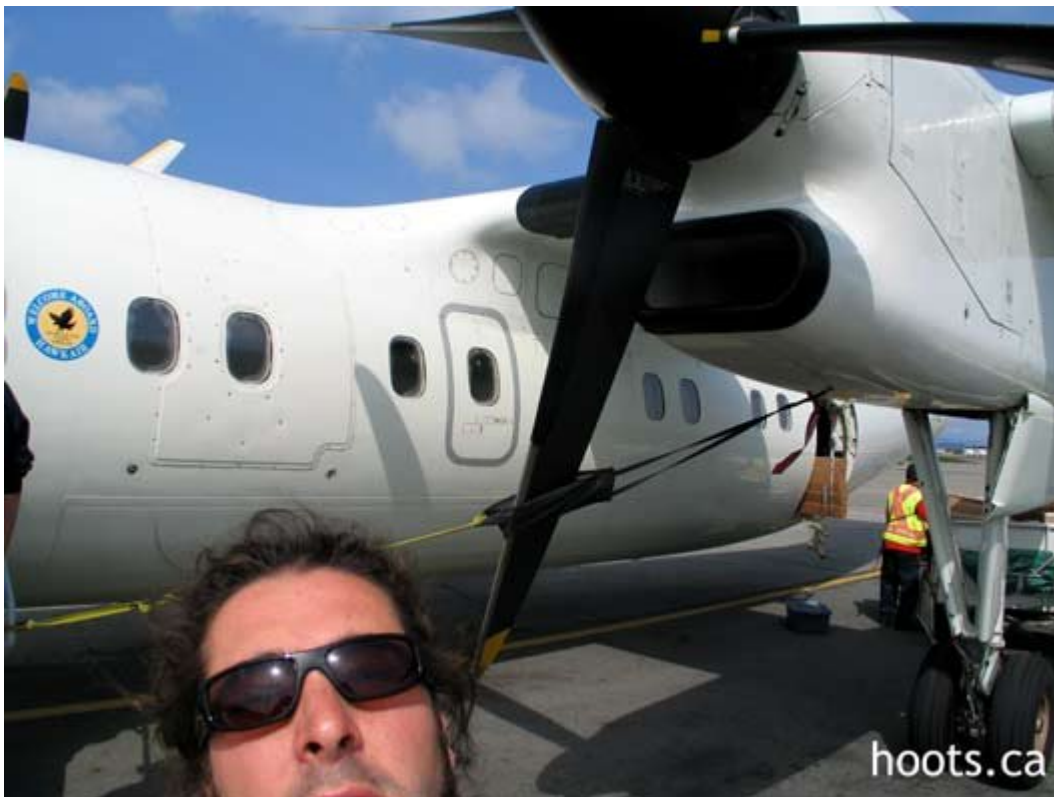


The entire fall, winter, spring season was all about materials lists, design work and figuring out volunteer coordination ultimately ending with HawkAir flying me to Terrace for a visit in order to see the proposed site as well as tour the local trails.





Before leaving back for Vancouver I got to meet all the local builders and had a chance to shoot the poo with everyone about thoughts and ideas.



With the build date set for June 6, 2007 I was watching weather patterns carefully as Northern BC was preparing for some of the worst flooding in years. A good portion of homes were already under water however the steadfastness of the club resulted in a decided push to get the bike park built and on schedule.

Not only had the water level risen sharply but there had been a major landslide that took out the connecting highway in 2 places and bad! It was apparent on touch down that the only way home was to fly back out, we were isolated...

We all made our way to the site and after a quick debrief everyone got to work on the beginner section prepping holes and setting up for tomorrows work day.



June7, 2007

The prep time we spent on the site has paid off today and with the help of the club and a handful of eager local youth and riders we almost polished the beginner area today. Truly a fun square and skinny section with a ton of room for expansion for the club.



Today it became evident that things are not good, as the state of emergency will not be lifted for an undertermined time, dozens of houses are now under water, vehicles have been recovered from the landslide with fatalities and all highway access in or out is completely severed. I am feeling some weird emotions, in that, I wish there was more to do for their community but the continuance of the bike park is probably one of the most important things to do overall... Man...



So lack of resources and materials have been a major challenge and it now appears that the sand content may be too high in the native soil at the dig site and now we have to look at capping materials, if we can get material delivered at all. Pretty much every park I have been involved with has had challenges but this one takes the cake, the river is so high and continues to take shore line with it every hour. It has been announced that fuel will no longer be sold and food is in shortage... Sweet.

June 8, 2007

- Today started with a good breakfast, again the water has risen...
- Lack of builders, everyone is sand bagging...
- Lots of enthusiasm from those who did show up
- Learning progression



-Got Drop zone and pump track on its way



-Some dirt got dropped off, not sure how it's going to pack
-What a very, very, very long day...cant write any more...

June 9, 2007

Morning of a fresh Saturday and several youth and local riders are ready to get things rolling. I have uploaded everyone as to what is in my brain for design and implementation.



Many volunteers separated rocks and formalized the walking paths that connects the 3 acres to help neighbours feel like they still have their park

Several sections of the build are going on simultaneously while I try to figure another plan for the jumps due to lack of equipment and material as it looks like we are going to be struggling again today for equipment, supplies and support. The end dumps started arriving with some dirt we located at a different site (better dirt) but after a couple loads there was a hydraulic issue and our dirt stopped.



Other creative solutions for dirt will get us somewhere tomorrow however I am unsure as to how far we will get on the jump zone based on available time left. The youth keep building booters into the soft stuff so that they can try new tricks but I guess only time will tell how well the materials bond together. We have run out of rebar and nails today and continue to deal with more and more challenges, however we have the mini hoe, bobcat and a sweet loader all donated.



Super Trooper, Club Prez extraordinaire celebrated her 21st birthday and we were all soo stoked to share it with her!!!

Our operators have been working at the park off the clock more than on the clock and they are very talented, I have new respect for the mini hoe. Today we finished the beginner trail area, rebuilt the mini pump track, completed the beginner area and almost completed the drop zone .



June 10, 2007

Sunday has been the best day so far!!! Over 20 kids at a time riding throughout the park and lots of projects getting finished. The drop zone is complete, first stacked jump set and lower pump track is in and rideable and the trail access divert is now open and ready for the locals to take their dog on walks. We are also prepped and ready for tomorrow, In fact check this out!



Yup, that is a quad skidding a log on a city street... only in Terrace 🤔 The evening brought out the jumpers and we had a session along the first set.



June 11, 2007

Monday has been a great day. Bruce from Una excavating has been donating his equipment (truck/skid steer/mini hoe) and has now decided to donate paid employees and equipment to the task!!! Man it could not come at a better time as we needed to tackle the North Shore skills area in full effect.



The technical area is one of the coolest sections we have built and it ranks high with all the parks stuff I have ever built with both technical features creativity and simple boldness of build. Matt, Brian, Brutus, Kate (the supply runner), Kenton and many others were all on hand to help and by late afternoon the impossible was possible and completed!



Even through the water/flood levels have started to recede, Terrace is still on full alert and many schools were out which brought youth out to help build with the adults.... Today we got the technical Shore style area finished, second set of dirt jumps built and shaped and started on the berms and base layout for the wall ride.



At the end of one of the hardest days yet we all sessioned the jumps for a while, somehow I got inspired and managed to even throw a flip over the big jump in work boots with a full suspension... Funny stuff, wish there was a pic

Tuesday June 13, 2007

Today we worked to complete the wall ride before I left so that the club would just need to backfill and shape dirt to service the approach. Local riders came out (even on a school day) to help out and after a cool four hours the wall ride was completed. Final inspection on the park and a discussion regarding signage and maintenance finished out my stay.



Terrace bike/skills park is by all rights one of the largest most comprehensive urban skills park built to date that I am aware of. 3 full acres from top to bottom in a highly populated urban setting adjacent to schools placed within a existing park and across the street from the hospital are all major bonuses. Even with the flood, land slide, lack of materials, lack of equipment, state of emergency and severely reduced volunteerism (due to sand bagging efforts) the park is set for some great riding and ongoing building for the club to try their hand at developing the park to the next level.

Imagine staring at the top of the park heading down a defined trail inside the forest to find...



Once you have had your basic kicks you then go down the hill to jump!



As you continue down the path you can work some basic skills on the logstables trail



It is then time to cut through the trees and hit the beginner pump track, oh yeah...



Down the path...



To the progressive drop zone



Which leads straight down to the wall ride!



Once done at the wall you get back on the path to the advanced pump track



After getting a good groove on you can hit the North Shore skills area featuring skinny log rides, teeter totter and gnar rock sections.





All funding and 'in kind' contributions including volunteer co ordination was handled by Torca bike club with the support of the City of Terrace. Big PROPS to the extra super human efforts of Kate, Brutus, Erin, Kenton, Keith, Chris and Wade, Una construction, da kids! and all the help and support from Bruce at McBike...



I am feeling some weird emotions, in that, I wish there was more to do for their community but the continuance of the bike park is probably one of the most important things to do overall... Man...