

08 Fort St. James, BC

Fort St James



Local Fort St James champion Jason Barr found every way possible to get information ask questions and plan for a bike skills park in his town. Jay found his way to [Burns Lake in 2007](#) while I was building in order to meet, have a face to face over the preparation and building process and then followed up through organized email and multiple telephone calls until finally a year later the dream came true.

Fort St James Skills park before...



Fort St James Skills park after...



Fort St James had responded to a call by the local youth to build a skate board park by starting a Sk8 park fund that had found significant but not complete funding over the course of a couple of years. Jason worked with the kids through the development of the fund and eventually started a bike club to respond to the youth that wanted to do more than just sk8. The cool part was that Jason integrated both users into one group and eventually they all agreed that a bike park might be a super cool start to their activity plan and maybe act as a catalyst to get the city on board to develop a higher level sk8 park than previously planned.



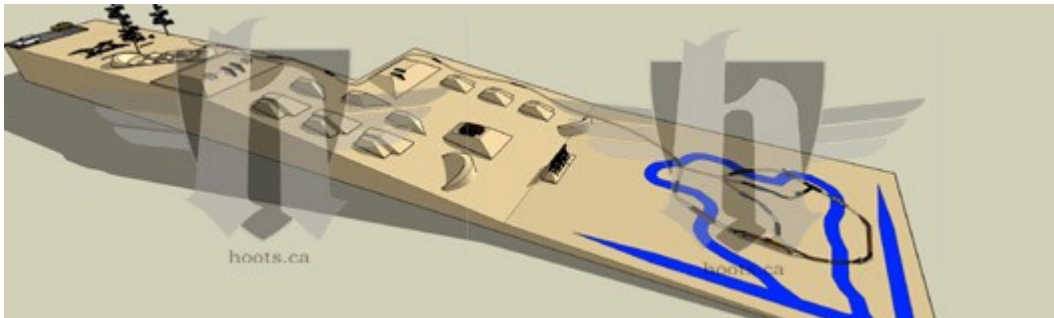
Over the winter the bike club worked with the youth to come up with several bike park concepts and Jay worked with the city to come up with the land. After months of perseverance the city gave two thumbs up for funding and I went to Fort St James to do a site visit and meet the youth for their park feedback.



While in town I also hiked the local trails and got a sense of the area.



The design phase was tedious and Hoots worked tough to try and come up with a 'over the top' design that met the budget criteria of the town. At the end of everything the park designed was over initial budget requirements but the club and town came together to find the extra funding to make their dream a reality!



As weather held out Hoots staff ended up on site and started the ball rolling after local contractor KDL cleared the densely forested area and established sub grade. With the project moved forward at a brilliant pace many challenges were faced including rain and materials shortages, but through the hard work of KDL operators, Jason, the club and Hoots staff the park was built in a two week period offering even more ride lines than were designed.



Fort St James offers several ride opportunities not offered in any other Hoots affiliated bike park including a double width wall ride



and a river complex that was built that has several trail lines of different difficulty levels crossing over it.



It is also the first park to have a step up/down box! So cool!



Fort St James is yet another amazing example of how the northern communities can come together to tackle community projects. Local programming saw funding to bring in recently laid off mill workers (8 of them) to help with the project.





Youth showed up every day to help build, local contractors either worked for free or at a very discounted rate and club members and locals at large came out to not just help but to commit to the project until finished.



Fort St James is an amazing Skills Park that has hella fun pump track, technical features area, wicked flowy jump lines, slope style features and trail all built into just under 2 acres. This park is yet another fantastic contribution to the Northern route and is worth driving to the 'end of the road' for in a heart beat.

The cool part was that Jason integrated both users into one group and eventually they all agreed that a bike park might be a super cool start to their activity plan and maybe act as a catalyst to get the city on board to develop a higher level sk8 park than previously planned.