

BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Whistler Skatepark

words\_Craig Williams

Nestled between the majestic Whistler and Blackcomb mountains and surrounded by fir trees sits a park with as much flow as the glacier fed river that runs past it. The park started out as a bowled snake run designed by Monty Little in 1990. In 1998 with the help of Tosh Osaka and Rick McCrank, Jim Barnum from Spectrum created a newer and more diverse section to compliment the older snake run. The snake run starts as a ditch that ends in a five foot quarter pipe which is also the first of three corners that are meant to fire you at full speed around the 8 foot deep bowl. If you hit the speed line right and boomerang around the bowl it will send back up to the top faster then it took to get to the bottom.

Separated from the snake run by a small crop of fir trees sits the newest section. Two massive quarter pipes, one 8 feet and the other 9 feet sit opposing each other. These will definitely give more than enough speed to pop over the massive pyramid in the middle of the park. The flat bar that runs across and down it, and a taco-like tranny on one side, add a little flavor to the pyramid. One side of the park has a smaller three-sided pyramid and a big bowled corner that is attached to the 9 foot wall. The other side comes equipped with some long ledges and a six-foot spined quarter pipe with a mellow hip in it. Behind this mass of concrete there is another big section of wooden ramps constructed by Marc Castongay and Seb. This section comes equipped with all the up gaps, rails, booters and flat banks you could ask for.



Connecting the two concrete sections are pathways complete with pump bumps. You can drop into the 9 foot, power across the park, launch out into the lower path and rip into the bowl which sling shots you up the snake run where with the help of the pump bumps you will end up back where you started. Too much speed and too much fun!

The Whistler park is and has been home to some of the most talented skaters to emerge onto our scene, such as Rick McCrank, Alex Rothbauer, Craig Williams, Joey Williams, Tosh Osaka, Dylan Doubt, Chris Wheeler and Mike Orr to name a few. Here are a few tips for when you go there. Be prepared to go fast and high. Bring "drinks" as it gets hot up there (you can keep them very cold in the river). Don't be intimidated by how good the locals are, they are friendly and stoked to skate. Most important of all, people charge this place full throttle so keep your head up or you might end up like me with a few broken ribs.

**"Beautiful surroundings,  
good scene, good transitions,  
good speed lines, and good times."**



Craig Williams - tweaked Japan air photo Brian Chasse