

# TOPAZ SKATE AND BIKE PARKS

## CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT



JULY 2021



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

## 1.1 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

**Vision:** To create a well rounded skate/bike parks that meets the needs and desires of the Victoria community and its visitors.

**Objectives:**

- Fulfills the requirements of the Topaz Park Improvement Plan
- Create an inviting gateway to Topaz Park
- Ensure safety/inclusivity through the site and make logical pedestrian connections and Improve visibility
- Retain significant and important trees
- Establish a Design Language for the south field area
- Improve drainage/storm water bio retention and utility connections through site
- Create a family friendly active park for casual recreation
- Ensure skate and bike park terrain most desired by the community is included in the design
- Create a facility that allows for progression and provides opportunities for beginner to advanced riders
- Create a new amenity and attraction for visitors to the city of Victoria.



# PROJECT BACKGROUND

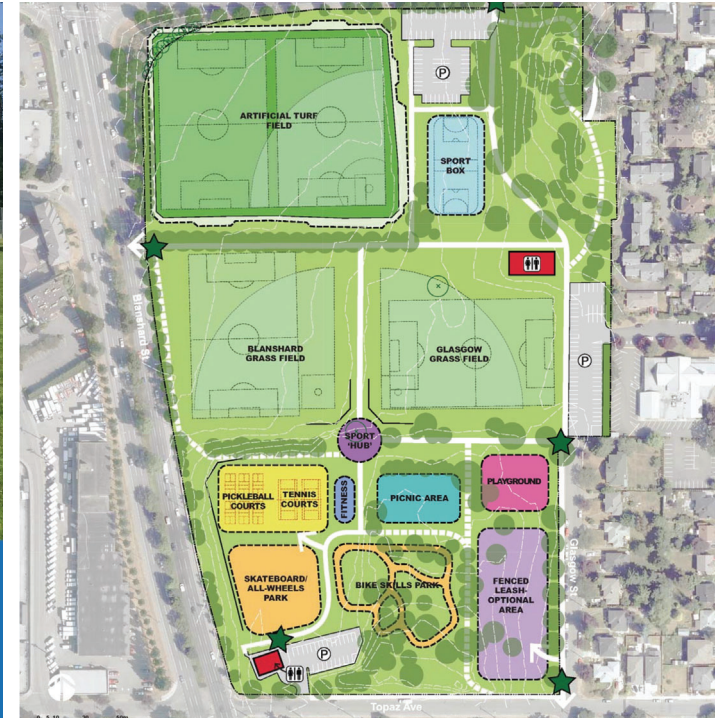
## 1.2 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The **Topaz Park Improvement Plan** was instrumental in providing the backdrop to the development of the skate and bike park facilities within Topaz Park. Development of the Plan included input from many considerations including: Financial impacts, Conditions assessments, Site constraints, City-wide needs, Public feedback, Stakeholder feedback, Guiding City plans and policies.

The Plan provided the following implementation tools for the development of Park renewal

- Conceptual Improvement Plan
- Design Guidelines
- Implementation Strategy

These were followed from the beginning of the conceptual design planning for the Skate and Bike parks in the south field site.







## 2.0 FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN



# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.1 SITE PLAN





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

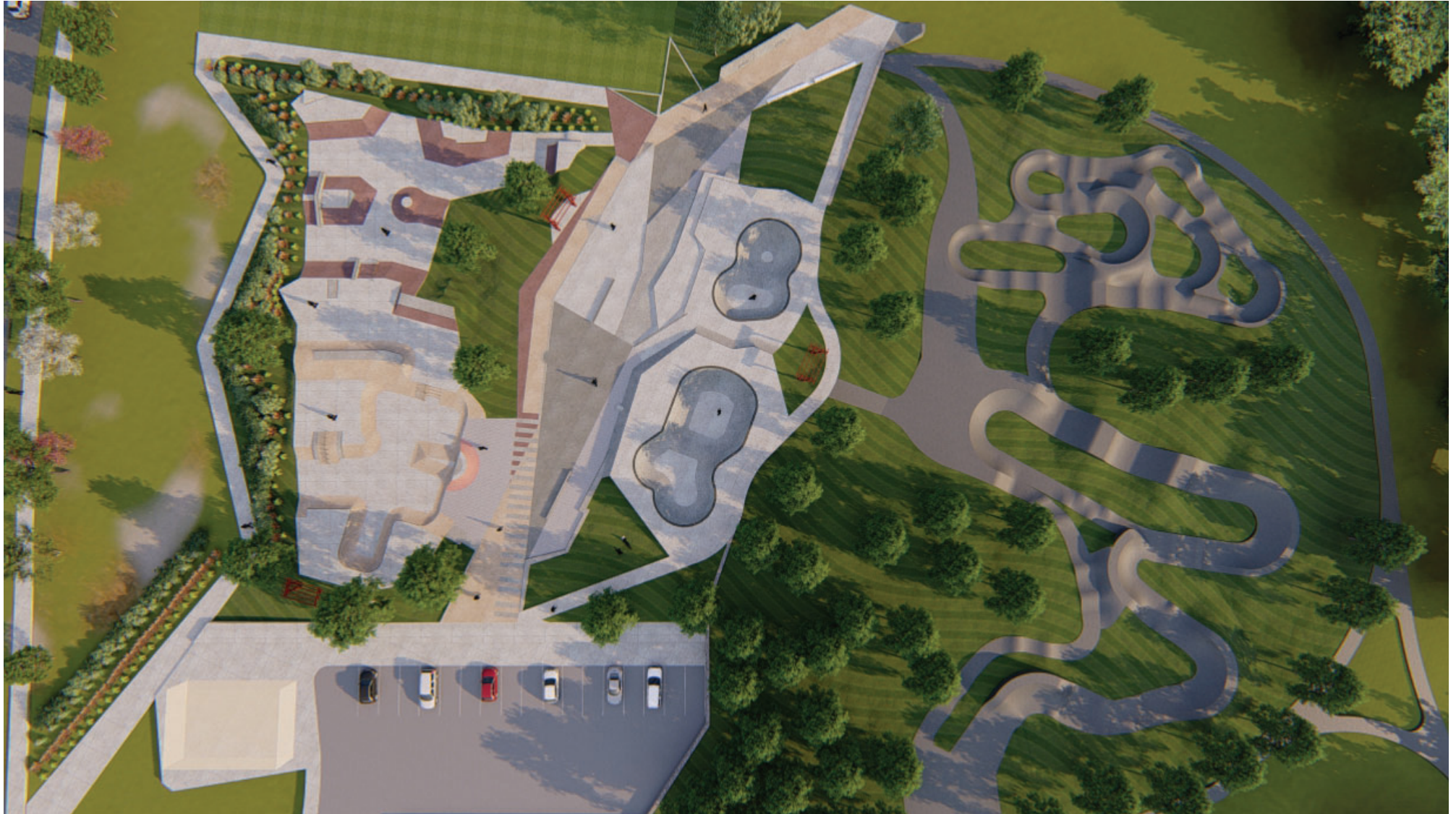
## 2.2 CIRCULATION PLAN





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

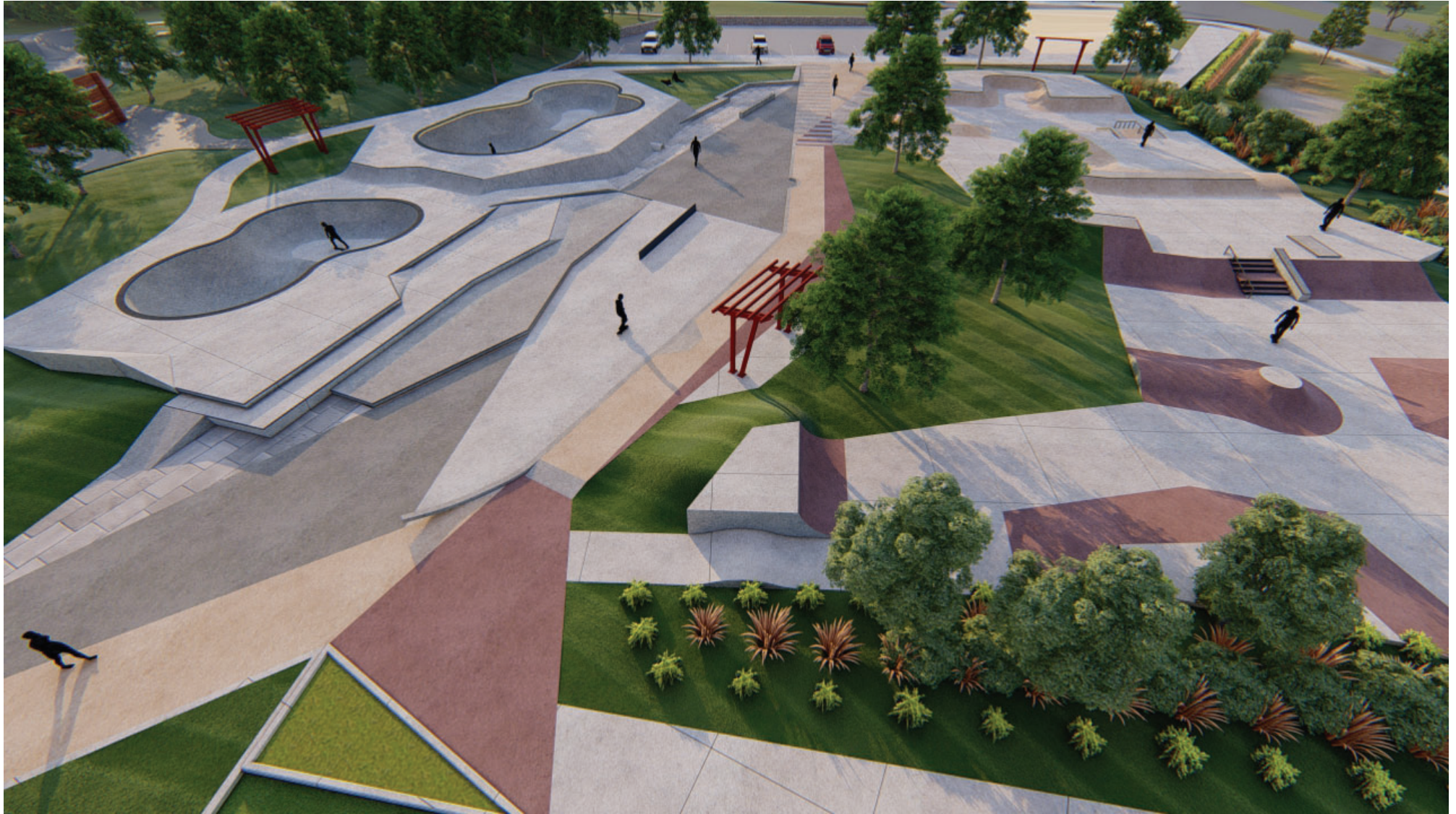
## 2.3 RENDER IMAGES





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.3 RENDER IMAGES





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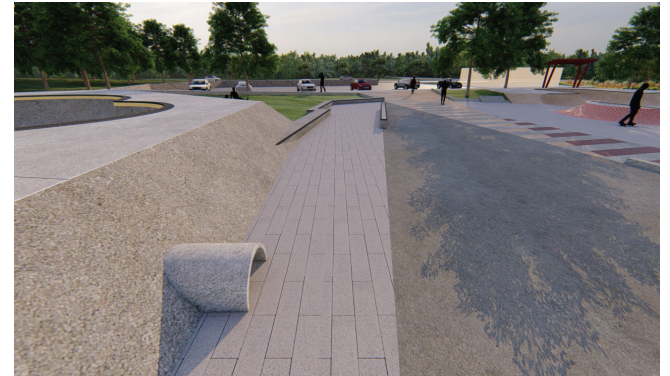
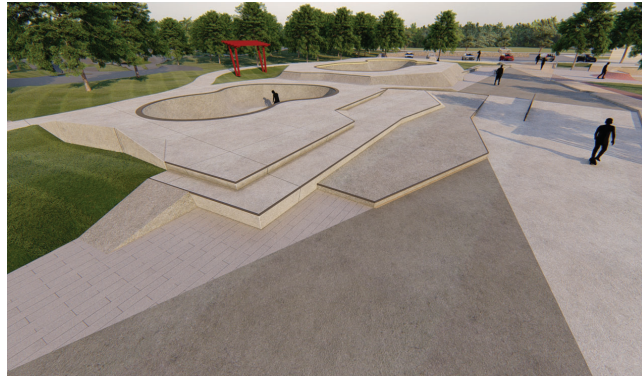
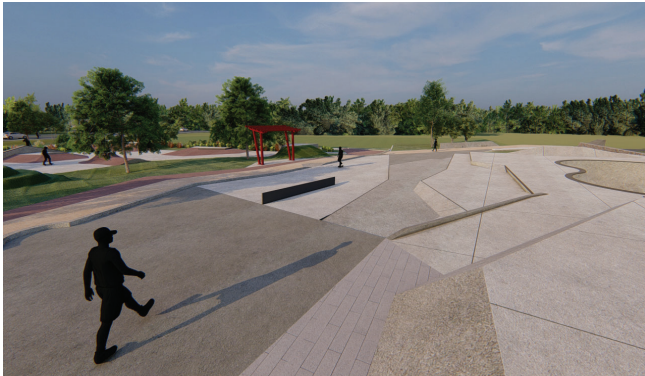
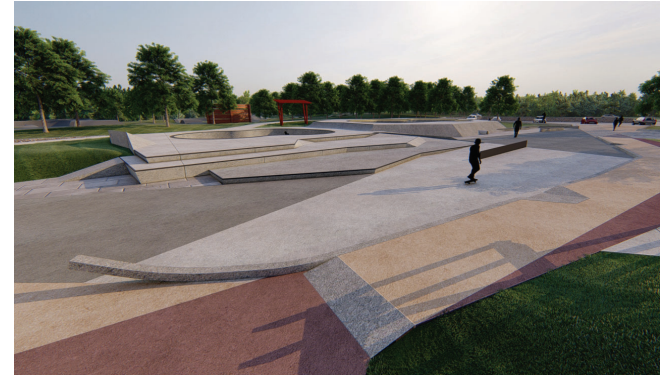
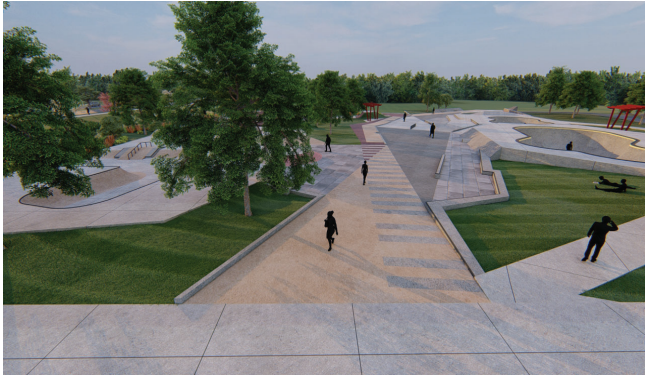
## 2.3 RENDER IMAGES





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

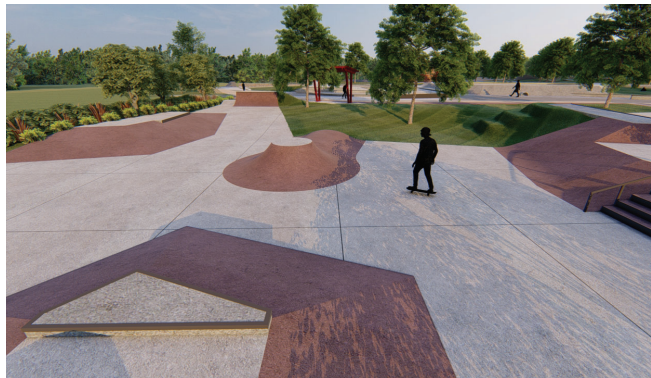
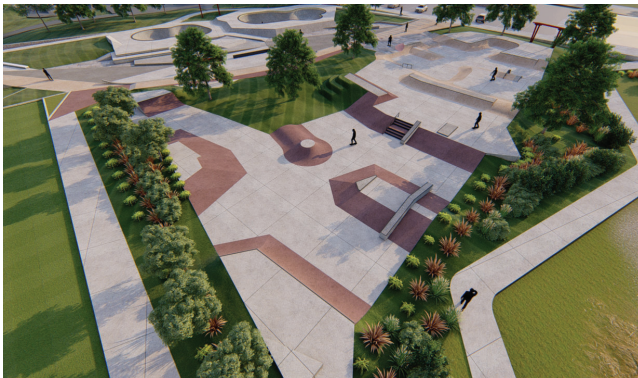
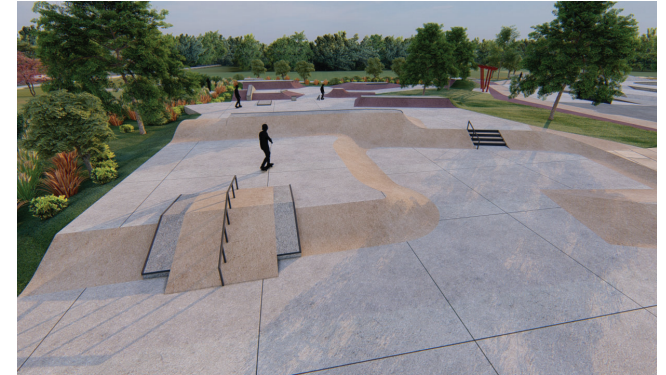
## 2.3 RENDER IMAGES





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.3 RENDER IMAGES





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# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.4 RENDER IMAGES - BIKE PARK





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.4 RENDER IMAGES - BIKE PARK





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# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.4 RENDER IMAGES - BIKE PARK





# FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

## 2.4 RENDER IMAGES - BIKE PARK





# TOPAZ SKATE & BIKE PARKS VICTORIA, BC

## SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

AN OVERVIEW OF DATA AND  
COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING  
THE JUNE 2021 PUBLIC ONLINE  
SURVEY



**NEWLINE**  
SKATEPARKS



JULY, 2021





Proposed design for the Topaz Park bike and skate park elements. (Courtesy City of Victoria)

## Victoria requesting feedback on Topaz Park redesign

Public input now being taken for proposed skate, bike park idea

EVERT LINDQUIST / Jun. 15, 2021 8:30 a.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)



Public input on proposed designs for a new skate park and bike park at Topaz Park can now be submitted.

It is now until June 25 for feedback on a proposed

## INITIAL CONCEPT DESIGN SURVEY

From June 1st to June 25th, 2021, New Line Skateparks & the City of Victoria hosted an online survey to receive feedback on the preliminary concept for the Topaz Park Skate & Bike Park, summarized in the following pages.



# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## SURVEY INTRODUCTION

“The construction of a new skateboard park and bike skills park is part of the first phase of renovations to Topaz Park that are guided by the Topaz Park Improvement Plan, which was adopted by Council in 2018 following a year of public engagement with the community.

The new skate park will create a space that is inviting and suitable for all skill levels and riders, with a beginner's area where people can safely learn and advanced areas for more experienced riders.

The new bike park will provide a fun and challenging riding experience for all skill levels with a series of paved pump tracks and other features.

Design work began in March 2021. We have been working closely with a committee of local skateboarders, bikers, and skate shop/bike shop owners to create and refine the proposed designs being presented in this survey.

Your feedback will be used to finalize the design, which will be released to the public later this summer. Construction is expected to begin this winter and be complete in summer 2022.”

*Introduction to June 2021 Survey*

### Topaz Park: Skate and Bike Parks



The City of Victoria is working with a team of consultants to design and build a new skateboard/all-wheels park and bike skills park in Topaz Park.

This project is part of the first phase of renovations to Topaz Park that are guided by the [Topaz Park Improvement Plan](#), which was adopted by Council in 2018 following a year of public engagement with the community.

The new skate park will create a space that is inviting and suitable for all skill levels and riders, with a beginner's area where people can safely learn and advanced areas for more experienced riders. The new bike park will provide a fun and challenging riding experience for all skill levels with a series of paved pump tracks and other features.

Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2021 and be complete in summer 2022.

#### What we're engaging on

This project builds on extensive community engagement completed through the Topaz Park Improvement Plan process and continued input from the skateboarding and biking community. This feedback plays an important role in creating the designs for the skate and bike parks.

Throughout the design phase of this project, we are working closely with an advisory committee of local skate and bike community leaders to help us make important decisions about skill level, features and terrain.

#### Public survey

In June 2021, a public survey offered the community an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed skate and bike park designs. The survey is now closed. Thank you to everyone who took the time to view the concept designs and complete the survey to provide feedback.

#### How will feedback be used?

Feedback received will be used to create the final design, which will be shared with the community on this page in late summer 2021. If you haven't already, please subscribe (right sidebar) to stay informed about this project.

#### How we got here

In 2017-18, the City worked with the community to create the Topaz Park Improvement Plan. This long-term plan will guide improvements to Topaz Park over 10 years, including renovating existing park infrastructure, adding new types of amenities, and updating the park to support broad community use.

The Topaz Park Improvement Plan was approved by Council in 2018. In 2021-22, the City is investing nearly \$8 million to construct the skateboard park and bike park and replace the artificial turf sports field as part of the long-term renewal plan for the park.



#### Who's Listening

##### Engagement Team

City of Victoria

Email [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca)



**REGISTER**  
to get involved



#### Project Timeline

- ✓ **Winter – Spring 2021**  
Complete preliminary design
- ✓ **April – May 2021**  
Develop site design and feature options
- ✓ **Mid-June 2021**  
Public survey on features and options
- **Summer 2021**  
Develop final design
- **Late Summer 2021**  
Final design shared publicly
- **Summer - Fall 2021**  
Complete design work and prepare for construction
- **Fall 2021 - Summer 2022**  
Construction (complete in summer 2022)



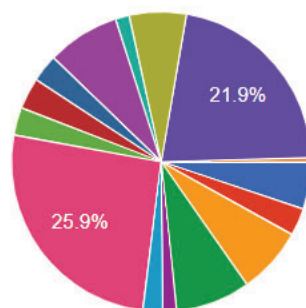
# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

A total of **471** online participants completed the skatepark survey. Within the total participants, 77% of which live in Victoria.

The greatest age group selected was in the 25-39 range, with the 40-59 age group the next largest, followed closely by the 12-24 age group.

Regionally, respondents reflected a diverse cross-section of Victoria residents from across the city and region. The greatest number of the participants within Victoria resided in Hillside-Quadra at 26%, followed by Fernwood and Oaklands at 8% each. 22% of survey participants reside within another municipality on Vancouver Island, indicating they would travel to Victoria to ride the new Topaz Skate & Bike Park.



Hillside-Quadra - 122  
Fernwood - 38  
Oaklands - 37  
Fairfield - 34  
Victoria West - 29  
Burnside Gorge - 24  
Jubilee - 16  
Downtown - 14  
North Park - 14  
James Bay - 14  
Harris Green - 10  
Gonzales - 7  
Rockland - 7  
Vancouver Island, Outside Victoria - 103  
Outside Vancouver Island - 2

● Burnside Gorge  
● Downtown  
● Fairfield  
● Fernwood  
● Gonzales  
● Harris Green  
● Hillside-Quadra  
● James Bay

▲ 1/2 ▼







**CONCEPT DESIGN FEEDBACK**



# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## CONCEPT DESIGN FEEDBACK

For feedback on the preliminary concept design, survey participants fell into three main categories whose primary interest was in either the skatepark, bike park, or non-rideable pedestrian and spectator space. Participants were allowed but not required to answer questions in each different section of the survey.

**44%** of participants said the Skatepark was their primary interest

**33%** said the Bike Park was their primary interest

**22%** said their primary interest was in the non-rideable spaces or on the project as a whole.

**79%** of respondents agree or strongly agree that the proposed plan succeeds in meeting the guiding principles established in the Topaz Park Improvement Plan.

### Summary of Comments:

#### Skatepark Group:

Overall, participants with the skatepark as their primary focus were pleased with the direction of the concept design. Almost all had suggestions and preferences for specific terrain changes.

**“VERY EXCITING. I bike just as much as I skateboard so both concept plans are incredible and hugely needed in the community.”**

**“The designs look great, but my only worry is that its going to be a bit too much “flow section” as fun as that stuff is the main attraction at almost any skatepark is the street section and if its too small their might be a few sections of the park relatively empty and some sections overcrowded.”**

#### Bike Park Group:

Participants interested in the Bike Park were also generally pleased with the concept design, although there were extensive requests to better develop and increase the amount and diversity of terrain available.

**“The bike portion is poorly designed and will not have nearly enough capacity. The skate park will have much higher capacity.”**

**“Looks awesome! Make sure there are some options to get creative with jump options on the advanced pump track (ie doubles or triples) and a dedicated jump line would be awesome.”**

#### General Group:

This group typically consisted of participants that wanted to see significant changes to the direction of the project. Desires to preserve the soccer field were common, as well as diverse opinions from different user groups to include spaces not currently prioritized or included in this concept design.

**“What about the soccer fields? It is the biggest local community field, what about the kids?”**

**“I would give my left arm for covered, flat outdoor concrete.”**

**“Disc golfing is far more inclusive and fun for families and adults alike. This is a very expensive, short sighted decision.”**



# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## SKATEPARK FEATURE SELECTION

The Skatepark portion of the survey has been divided into four areas within the park - the **Main Promenade**, **Flow Zone**, **Bowl Zone**, and **Learning Zone**.

Participants were given opportunities to provide feedback on specific features within each zone which will be incorporated into the next round of conceptual design.

Comments on the **Main Promenade** consisted of preferences for certain urban street style features, but also included thoughts and questions about improvements to pedestrian flow and spectator space.

In the **Flow Zone**, users suggested changes to terrain to increase flow, speed, variety and to potentially be less technical and more organic.

**Bowl Zone** riders expressed a strong desire for roll-in opportunities, organic terrain and extensions/vert as top priorities.

**Learning Zone** riders liked the 3ft mini ramp, mellow rail and bank to curb features, but several perceived a lack of separation and distinction between beginner and flow zones in the park.



*Main Promenade*



*Flow Zone*



*Bowl Zone*



*Learning Zone*



# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## BIKE PARK FEATURE SELECTION

The Bike Park component of the project is divided into two primary zones, a **Beginner Looping Pumptrack** and **Advanced Snake-run Track**.

The most requested features in the **Beginner Pumptrack** are berms, small rollers, small jumps with roller gap, large rollers, switchback berms, and then tabletops.

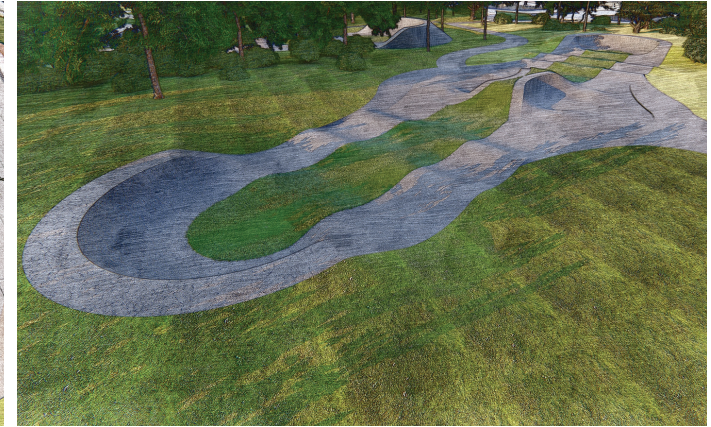
The most requested features in the **Advanced Snake-run Track** are large rollers, berms, switchback berms, wall rides, jumps with gap or double roller, larger tabletop, drops, and then up gaps.

Comments were generally positive regarding the bike park, but included many requests for greater creativity and diversity of terrain aside from the asphalt pump track.

While extensive dirt jumps and wooden ramps are not feasible due to spatial, maintenance and budget constraints, a greater variety of creative track layout, terrain type and improved connections can be developed to improve flow, along with the addition of larger staging and spectator areas for gathering, resting and accommodate many users as they wait their turn at busy times.



*Beginner Looping Pump Track*



*Advanced Snake-run Track*





# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## LANDSCAPE AND INFORMAL GATHERING SPACES

The project area incorporates green spaces amongst the skatepark for informal gathering and provide natural contrast against the predominantly concrete hard surface. The bikepark winds through the existing site trees,

Several respondents highlighted the need for comfortable gathering areas, with clear seating opportunities away from the action and more sunshading provided by trees or shelters. Wind and rain cover was also highly desired.

Amenities most desired were for water fountains and bottle filling stations with comments also mentioning the desire for provision of bike racks and repair stations.

Where landscaped areas were identified, comments were directed towards retaining the existing site trees, and plant selection to ensure the vegetation are native species and hardy to survive the skate and bike park traffic. Overall there were positive comments for the rain garden and bioswale environmental management zones.



STORM WATER MANAGEMENT/ BIORETENTION





# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## GENERAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS

While response to the project overall has been very positive, there are several community groups that feel strongly about the development of this space.

**Roller Skaters** were vocal about the need for open flat space for roller dancing, approximately one to two tennis court's worth. Adjacent to this group are users who express a strong desire for a covered flat space for skating and riding in the wet season.

**Slack Lining** is a popular activity currently informally organized in this space, where participants string a line of webbing between trees to practice balance and gymnastic-style tricks. They would prefer that the bike park be developed around their current use in the treed areas to avoid displacement.

**Disc Golfers** expressed an interest to include a 9-hole disc golf course as opposed to the currently designed spaces in the skate and bike park.

**Remote Control Offroad Cars** was a niche recreational activity that came out in the survey. RC car users mentioned there were very limited areas for them to enjoy their activity and that their use of RC cars in current bike parks was acknowledged to be dangerous

While the majority are in favor of this project, some **Parents & Local Citizens** expressed concerns about the loss of the soccer field and the introduction of action sports, preferring the space to be left alone.





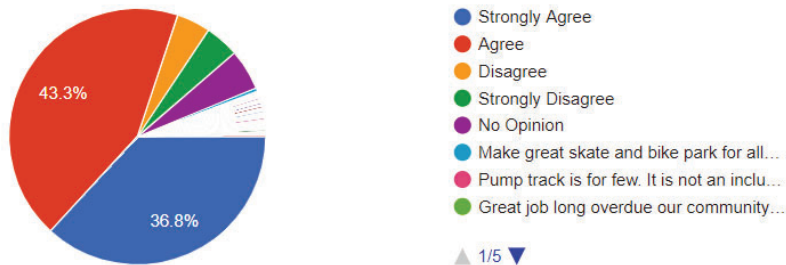
# SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## KEY GOALS & PUBLIC RESPONSE

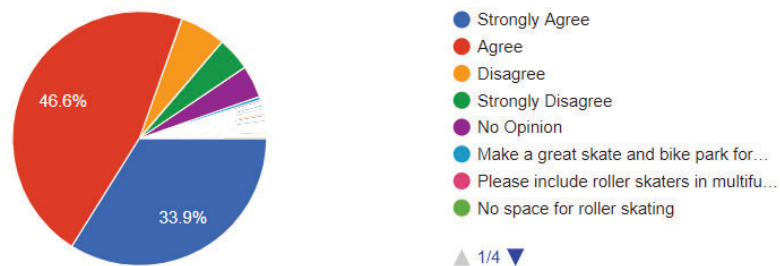
5 key goals were identified as important to the redevelopment of Topaz Park, focusing on accessibility & inclusion, multi-functionality, working at different scales, celebrating the urban forest, and sustainability & innovation.

**79%** of respondents agree or strongly agree that the proposed plan succeeds in meeting the guiding principles established in the Topaz Park Improvement Plan.

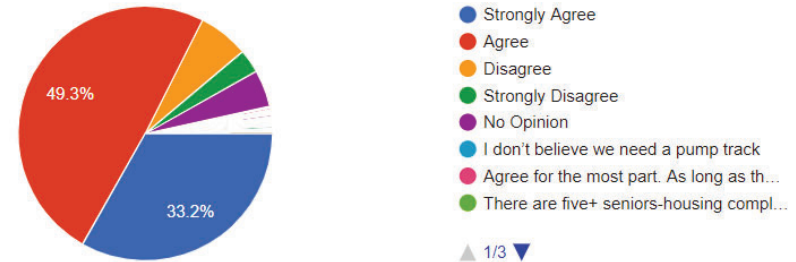
1. Accessibility and Inclusion: The design includes well-placed amenities and activities that foster access to a variety of opportunities for active living, suited to all ages and abilities.



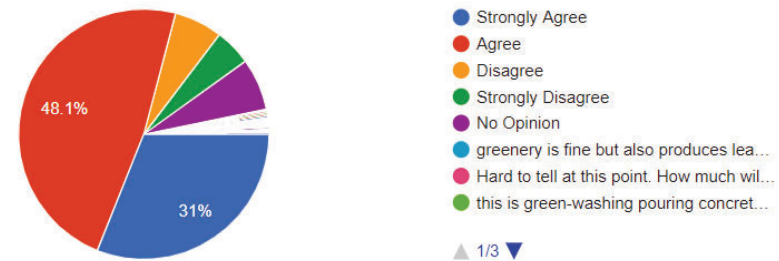
2. Maximize multi-functionality: The design enriches park areas by creating multi-functional spaces that can be adapted to serve multiple types of activities.



3. Two Scales: The park is designed to function at two scales; as a regional destination for sports and special events, and as a neighborhood park for the local community.



4. Celebrate the Urban Forest: The design enhances and celebrates the role of the urban forest and natural areas in Topaz Park through tree management and natural area protection.



5. Sustainability and Innovation: The design demonstrates best practices in sustainability through innovative solutions to site design, material selection, and technology.







## TOPAZ SKATE & BIKE PARKS

Level Playing Field is excited to be working closely with New Line Skateparks on Topaz Skate and Bike Parks. We have had the opportunity to review the concept plans and are very happy with the accessibility concerns thus far. Considerations have been made in these early stages to ensure the entire park is accessible for people of all abilities. The Park will be a universal precedent for parks in the years to come.

Accessibility starts upon arrival with approach and parking. The site will be lit throughout for the safety of all users. Careful consideration has been given to the grade to ensure all pathways remain within accessible ranges. Alternate pathway options are given for users that require less congestion and activity. Benches and clear space are given throughout for spectators. Thought is even being given to a materiality that facilitates vibration in order to help guide users who are deaf or hard of hearing through the space.

Level Playing Field is eager to engage with the next phase of the project and put on an additional lens to push the Park even further. It will be imperative to consider both current and upcoming codes and guidelines as well as go above with best practice solutions in some instances. It is also important that users of this space can not only spectate but also compete and use the pump track. The addition of structures to provide shade and comfort will be considered. Level Playing Field will also review wayfinding signage, and many other things as they are developed through the upcoming design process. Topaz Skate and Bike Parks will become an important fabric of the community in which it exists and be an example for similar developments across Canada.