

PARK CHECK

WIND/FULL PIPE OVERVIEW



STREET SECTION



WIND/FULL PIPE SECTION

POOL COPING



DUG LEG BOWL SECTION

# METRO-TOWN

## BURNABY BC

All park overviews by David Christian.

The newest free outdoor skatepark in the Vancouver area is located in Burnaby. I'm not sure of the actual official name of this park. It is located near the Bonsor Rec Center, so it's called Bonsor Park by some people, but the signs in the skatepark say "Metro Skatepark". Most people just call it the Metrotown Skatepark because of its close proximity to the Metrotown Mall and the Metrotown Skytrain stop. Anyway the important thing is not the name, it's the design of the park.

As more public concrete skateparks are being built across Canada, both the design and building processes are being continually experimented with. This experience is resulting in parks which are more and more now meeting the needs of all types of skaters and skateboarding styles. Instead of building one park that tries to combine all the types of skate park obstacles into one area, most of the newest parks are dedicated to one design idea or style. The design of the Metrotown skatepark follows these ideas. The overall area of the park is separated into three distinctly different sections. There is the "street" area with ledges, rails and manual pads set up in an open plaza style arrangement. There is a "bowl" area that includes a full pipe and pool coping on transitions from approximately 4 to 9 feet deep. The third section is the "flow" area which is filled with rolling humps and bumps that allow you to roll around almost endlessly. Because the park has three separate sections it's only logical to have three different skaters to help describe their favorite parts to you.....

When I heard there was going to be a skatepark in Burnaby with a fullpipe, I was a bit skeptical. A reliable source varafied it. A fullpipe that you can skate whenever its dry, I was excited. The bowl is awesome. The transitions are nice and quick with good corners and hips to grind and air over. There is also a tombstone type of extension. It starts off shallow and gets deeper towards the 18 foot full pipe. It's smaller than Calgary's and easier to skate. The Bonsor bowl has something other bowls in the area don't have, POOL COPING! The guys at Spectrum lacquered the coping making it really fast and smooth to grind and slide. I hope the rain stays away so I can skate this park all winter. - Kris Foley



Johnny B, hurricane grind, by David Christian.



Kris Foley, frontside air, by Brian Caissie.

# METRO-TOWN

BURNABY BC



The hype surrounding this new park seems to always be about the full-pipe and bowl. That is understandable since the full-pipe is the main landmark that is visible from the street or the passing Skytrain. But you should know that the Metrotown park also has a huge street area. This section of the park takes up more space than the other two areas combined and has a good mix of obstacles and flat ground area. The street section is made up of your regular banks, ledges, rails, stairs and manual pads but there are also a few out of the ordinary spots here, like the big rock gap and a long barrier style wall. They are all arranged with more of a plaza style arrangement than a traditional skatepark. Meaning that there is lots of space between obstacles so you can cruise around with a little more freedom than in the regular straight line back and forth rotation that most street parks have. You won't find any death defying X-Games style super booter or 10 foot high quarter pipes in this section of the park. Instead it is filled with low to medium sized ledges, rails and many pads that will provide you with a perfect place to work on your technical Daewon-esque combo tricks. See you there. -Chucky

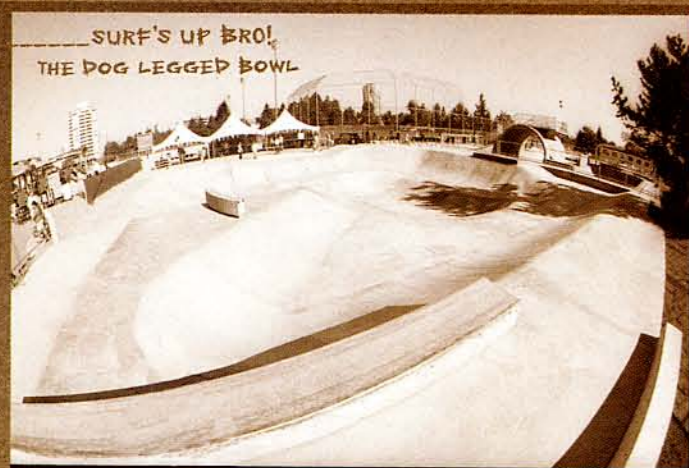
Paul Karter, backside nosegrind shuv, by Brian Caissie.

### An Open Letter To The Bonsor Street Skaters:

Dear Street Shredders,

This is just a quick note from all the old guys, little kids, and tranny scrubs that hang out in dog leg bowl section of the skatepark. You know the place...you pass through it as you arrive at the skatepark from the Skytrain or when you leave on your way to skate (or should I say get kicked out of) the nearby library or mall. We really don't see each other much. That big full-pipe segregates us pretty well. But, I thought it'd be nice to say hi and invite you over for the odd super fast speed line or hip ollie. There are tons-O-lines if you feel like getting your carve on. And if thrill-seeking death stunts are your bag, don't worry. The sheer number of skaters throwing down random lines, with zero communication ensures that every ride may be your last. So, if you have the time, stop by. I'm sure you'll learn to turn while having a few laughs at our old school stylee expense. But that's, okay. We're all skaters. And someday when you're done hucking down stair sets, over hopping on ledges, and sick of getting worked by security guards, the dog leg will be there to welcome you. Keep rolling. -Cuz

PS...If you do visit, bring some beer..... us old guys are thirsty..... carving is hard work.



Mike McKinlay, pivot to fakie, by Brandon Sohar.