

## Terrain Parks

When moguls and half-pipes started to become too tame for snowboarders and skiers, commercial ski hills responded by developing more challenging courses. Known as "Terrain Parks", these areas within a ski resort feature "jibs", which can be any fixed object that can be slid on, jumped from or bounced off of. These provide an exhilarating run as participants spin, jump, slide and "bonk" their way down the course.

While some ski resorts offer these terrain parks, they come at an additional cost, and some terrain park enthusiasts may not want to pay a fee. They may instead approach their local municipality requesting such a park be built on a large and steep municipal sledding hill.

Before you agree to build a terrain park, here are some issues to consider.

### Course Design

- Who will design the course?
- Who will construct the course and jibs?
- Will "air" time be limited?
- Will there be sufficient exit/entrance space between elements?
- Will there be a mechanical lift system? T-bar?
- Will the park have controlled access points for entry (single entrance point)?
- Will the park be closed during 'off hours' and 'off season' times?
- Will the park include sections for beginners? Spectators?
- Will the park be closed during warm spells in winter months, or will snow be made to keep an adequate base?
- Will the park operate at night (lights)?
- How will you separate tobogganing from the terrain area?
- Remember to enter into contracts with all designers and contractors

### Course Maintenance/Inspection

- Inspections will need to occur throughout the day while the park is in operation as a change in weather will impact snow quality
- All home-made elements should be removed from the course site immediately
- All documentation should be retained and reviewed
  - This will include inspection checklists, work-orders, proof of work completion, contracts, etc

### Supervision

- Will there be trained spotters at every element? At the lifts?
- Will personnel be trained in first aid and have the capability to contact emergency services (police, fire, ambulance)?
- Will the park be used by skiers and snowboarders only, or will toboggans and sleds be allowed to access any features?
- How will users know the parks rules?
- Will helmets be required? How will users be reminded to "wear the gear"?
- How will the rules be enforced?
- Will there be a minimum age/height for using the park?
- Will users be required to sign waivers?
  - Parents or guardians will need to sign on behalf of minors
- Will there be a registration or admission fee? Seasonal pass?
- Will lessons be given?
- Could the park be rented out for birthday parties or corporate events? Will there be a charge for this?
- The municipality's alcohol plan (MAP) should be updated to reference the park as an alcohol prohibited area

Although terrain parks have many unique features, they do have one element that all municipalities are familiar with. By using municipal land for such a park, the municipality will become an 'occupier' and will be subject to the laws of negligence and Occupiers Liability as per provincial law.