**Good Dirt**

The best soil for the surface of dirt jumps is screened loam with a fairly high clay content. Loam is ideal because it packs fairly well and is easy to shape. You should be able to form a ball by squeezing a handful of moist dirt. Clods that are difficult to break indicate too much clay content. Depending on the amount of rainfall in your area, the foundation for the jumps may need to be built from a more porous dirt that allows water to drain through, such as gravel or sandy loam. High quality dirt can be tested at the local soil and landscape. If using dirt from the site or lower quality dirt, you can save lots of work by using a surface or mechanical roller to remove rocks. Consider getting dirt donated and tracked in by local contractors and then rent screen and bucket loader to ensure rocks are a rare occurrence that will require continuous heavy cleanup for the finish work.

Grade the Site for Drainage

Use the location along a bear's den to note where water flows and pools. Drainage is an ongoing if possible, the site should have a gentle slope perpendicular to the jump lines to ensure water will drain away. Depressions that trap water should be filled, especially low spots between jumps. A well-drained jump park will be ready to ride sooner after rain or snow, and require less maintenance. Turn or ride on muddy jumps, and post signs asking visitors to ride until the mud is dry.

Build and Compact the Jumps

Using professional equipment to build dirt and build jumps is a huge investment. Whether building by machine or hand, however, the steps are the same.

Form rough jumps to allow a couple feet of vertical rise, then ridge to create structure of the final shape. Use a roller or remove all surface rocks and break clumps.

Lightly water jump surface - just enough to settle dirt but not so much that water runs off or creates mud.

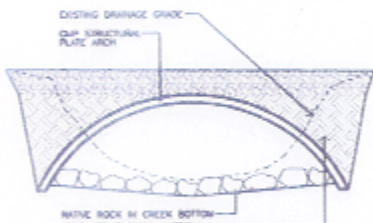
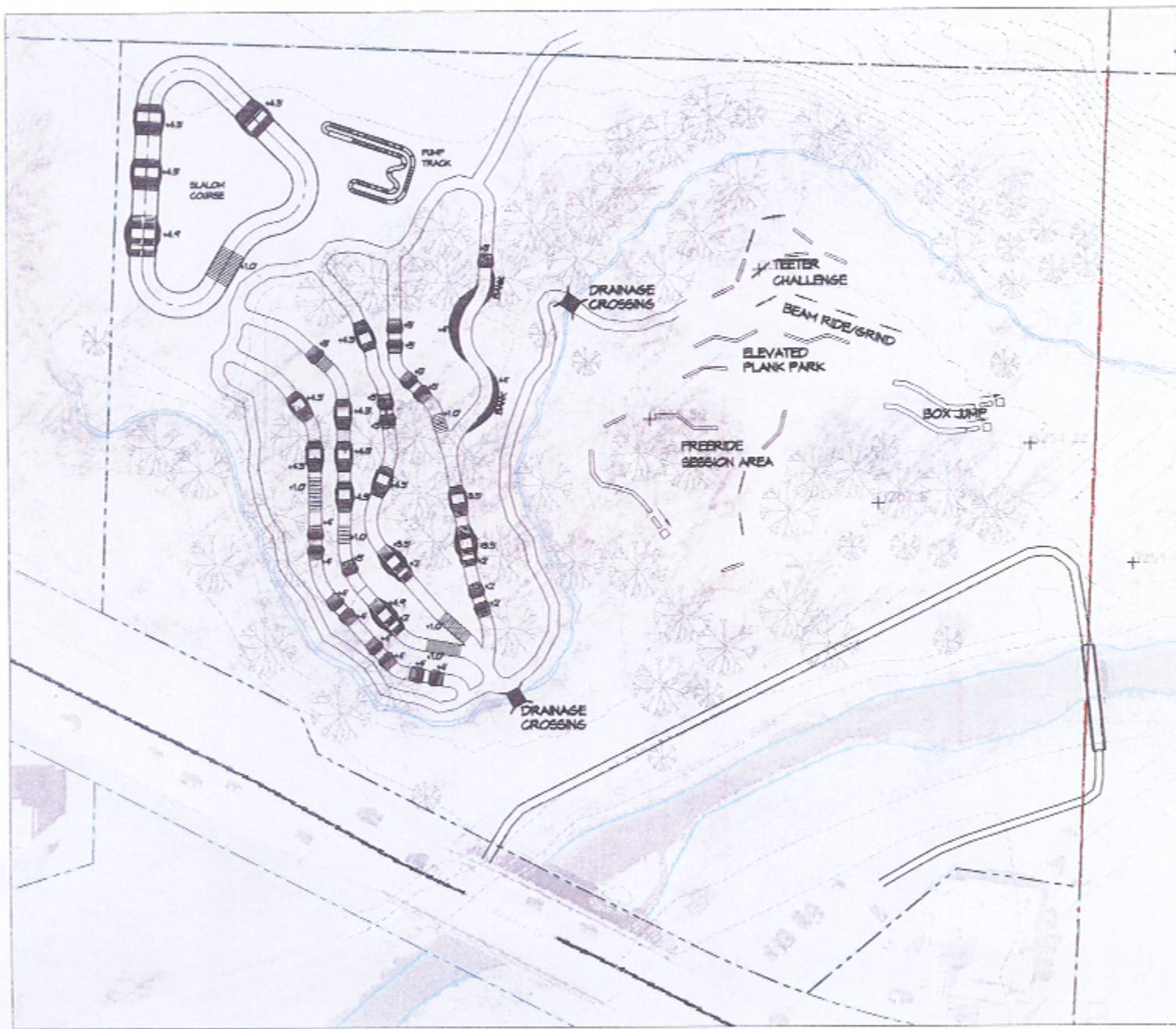
Use a roller to hand smooth or only throughout the top few inches of dirt. A track loader or motor dirt will create a well-compact jump surface.

Ride to settle a couple inches of formed shape, and begin compacting the dirt.

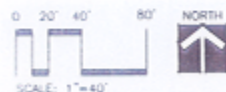
If the jump is no longer rocky, use hand tools and brushes to pack the riding surface. Light soil loadings must be smooth and consistent, or risk some users to pack such surface through.

Encourage Stewardship

Backlog riders from the beginning will demand essential ongoing maintenance. Encourage: "If you ride, you must dig. Because dirt jumps take so much love to build and set, or break, riders must maintain and pack the key jumping area." The key to a good riding spot is a tight jump of fresh dirt that is matted to ride.

**DRAINAGE CROSSING: CMP PIPE**

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Rapid City Jump Park**Existing Conditions**

March 13, 2006

Wyss
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