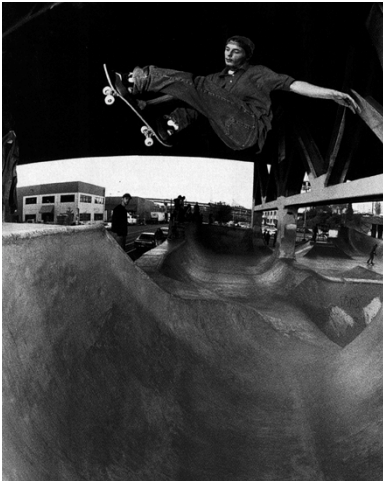




Andy Bohna: Frontside Air / Neil Heddings 270 Frontside with Ease  
Josh Falk: Frontside Air / Neil Heddings: Switch Ollie (c. Jon Humphreis, 1997.)



*Fujita, Paul. "Taking the Power Back" Transworld Skateboarding, Nov. 1997. p.140-157 (excerpts).*

"In 1990 the area on the east side of Portland, Oregon that lays along the Willamette River was an eyesore of urban decay. For years, the skeleton of an unfinished building protruded into the sky, its gutted interior a haven for heroin users. Below the building and directly underneath the Burnside Bridge stood an empty lot, and skateboarders would occasionally show up to ride the tall, slanted wall that supported the foundation of the bridge... The ground was often littered with syringes and feces of junkies... During the next six years, this bastion of decay would be transformed into a safe, relatively clean environment – the legacy known as the Burnside Skatepark.

According to local legend, on Halloween night, 1990, some skaters decided to build a crude concrete ramp up the large, slanted wall. Though they didn't realize it at the time, that night the small group gave birth to one of the most unique skateparks ever built... the place was still dirty and the asphalt rough, so only the diehards were interested.

Mark "Redneck" Scott and his crew bought quite a lot of concrete during early construction. When Ross Island Sand and Gravel had cement left over from a job, they would call Mark and tell him to meet them at Burnside.

While this was happening, the property on which Burnside sat was in legal limbo. The owner of the incomplete building was a delinquent and bankrupt landlord, and no one else had the will or the money to solve the confusingly expensive situation by finishing the building or tearing it down. So, amidst the stalling and urban decay, skaters seized the property and built what they wished, turning their backs on any restrictions.

Title 16: Vehicles and Traffic

16.90.335 Skateboard: A board of any material, natural or synthetic, with wheels affixed to the underside, designed to be ridden by a person.

16.70.410.E. Roller Skates and Skateboards. (Replaced by Ordinance No. 175211, effective January 26, 2001.)

Persons using roller skates, including in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, or other similar devices powered exclusively by human power upon any street, sidewalk or premises open to the public shall be subject to the provisions applicable to and shall have the same rights and duties as the driver of a bicycle as provided by the Oregon Vehicle Code.



35009



Panorama of Skatepark from S.E. Third Avenue

The Mayor of Portland, Bud Clark, had a son who skateboarded; he and other city officials quickly took note of and even admired the determination and do-it-yourself spirit driving the young skateboarders. City liability was and is the killer of most public skateparks, but with the support of local officials given in the form of local government looking the other way, a modern skatepark was created without the fear of legal interference.

Resolution No. 35009 [Parks Bureau] legalized the park on 19 June 1992.

The park of today is literally built on top of the original structure. The vacant building has been long since demolished, new businesses have moved in, and Burnside is now recognized by the community as having had a good effect on the stabilization of the neighborhood. Portland had been experimenting with community policing and Burnside became an example of how this concept, when applied properly, can be successful. Locals policed the park to keep in good standing with the community – when outsiders came to drink, sell drugs, or do graffiti, they were told to leave.

The park's presence has forced locals to make peace with their traditional enemies and they're happy to see us taking care of ourselves and our community. Burnside has become a place where anyone can come, hang out, and get along.

A lot of different people come to skate or watch at Burnside. Parents bring their kids, and workers stop by on their lunchbreaks. Skaters visit from the four corners of the Earth to discover that Portland is small, but it's safe, clean, exciting and cosmopolitan, as well as being surrounded by natural beauty."



Prior to construction of park, Baloney Joe's in background

Known Around the World as a True Skaters' Skatepark Led to Being Featured in this Videogame, which is a New York Times Bestseller: Tony Hawk's Pro Skater, "Burnside (Level 7)" Activision / Neversoft, 1999. <[http://www.activisiono2.com/tony\\_hawk](http://www.activisiono2.com/tony_hawk)>

