

IT'S REALLY AWESOME TO SEE'

## This is how they roll at skatepark

### Boarders mix it up in the bowl at Grayson

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- [Video | Charlotte Skateboarding and Music festival](#)

British Deese, 15, has been trying to perfect his skills for the past 1 1/2 years skateboarding. This is his second year participating in the competition, now as an advanced skateboarder.

At Grayson SkatePark, kids and adults are shredding, schralping and ripping on ramps.

Give the credit to a video game?

"It's really awesome to see," Dave Collier of Saturday Skateboards said last week. "I don't know if it's Tony Hawk Pro Skater or what."

And the Charlotte skateboarding scene had a high point with the kickoff of the second Charlotte Skateboarding and Music Festival on Saturday at Grayson SkatePark. Will Fatoyinbo and her husband, Bo, started the festival two years ago.

"We had over 60 children come out and compete" at the first festival, she said. "The overall theme of the event was to promote wellness and to give a face to skateboarding."

Charlotte has two skate parks, Grayson and Methodist Home Skatepark, that provide relief from the city ordinance that forbids skateboarding in the street, except on crosswalks. Methodist Home opened in 1996 and Grayson in 2005.

Almost 200 skateboarders and BMX bikers come through Grayson weekly in the summer, facilities manager Carla Hoover said.

At Grayson's skate camp, instructors teach students basic skills, tricks and park etiquette. Zach Brown, a student at York Technical College in Rock Hill, has gone from skateboarding for fun to teaching it to kids.

People think that boarders are lazy and not "real" athletes, said Brown, who can point to his recently broken ankle and shattered shoulder as evidence to the contrary.

Brown said he prefers park skating to grinding on the streets; street skateboarding is bad on his knees.

Jack Calvert, 11, likes the street better. "It's a harder obstacle course," he said. "It puts your imagination to the test."

Jack wants to be a professional skateboarder. For now, though he'll settle for skateboarding with one -- Dyan Norbury.

Celtic Skateboards sponsors Norbury, 18, giving her free skateboards and apparel. She competed in a mini-ramp exhibition at the Vans Warped Tour on July 23.

Collier, 34, who also created the skatecharlotte.com Web site in 2001, said he sees a bright future for skateboarding here.

"We know the potential that Charlotte has."