

# Skatepark

BEST PRACTICES



FUTURE HOME OF  
YOUR LOCAL  
SKATEPARK





## THE SKATEPARK PROJECT

*We help underserved communities create safe and inclusive public skateparks for youth.*

For free public skatepark advocacy materials, support, technical assistance and grant funding, head to [www.skatepark.org](http://www.skatepark.org)

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**INFORMED BY** SKATEPARK ADVOCATES

*To all the people who've led the charge to create more skate space. Skatepark advocates, supportive city officials, skate shops, skatepark designers and skatepark builders. It's because of you we ride freely.*





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**"Now that skateboarding is being recognized on a global athletic stage and its social and physical benefits have been established through research, cities should fully embrace the value of skateparks and skate spaces. For years, local skaters have had to advocate and raise funds for these parks. They've paved the way, and it's time for the municipalities to put real support behind skateparks like other valuable recreation facilities. No longer should skateparks take 10 years of local grassroots fundraising. Skatepark Advocacy will still have its place - the local skaters must be involved to make sure their needs are met and quality skatepark design is achieved. That process of civic engagement empowers citizens with new skills and [literal] concrete proof of community progress: a capital improvement project that provides an accessible platform for individual and community growth. These parks are testaments to a community's commitment to the health and well being of its citizens. It's up to cities and skaters to work together to ensure that everyone has a safe and functional place to ride."**

**- Tony Hawk -**





The intention of this document is to connect with individuals and communities who are working on creating public skate space. Our aim is to provide unbiased information about established best practices for public skatepark development.

## The entire document can be summed up by the following points:

### If you're going to build a skatepark...

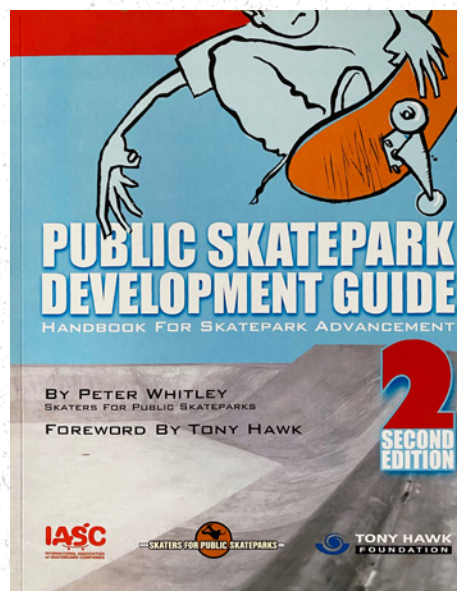
1. Hire experienced skatepark construction specialists who build and use skateparks. \*
2. Make sure a diverse representation of local skaters (all action sports) are involved with the process of skatepark advocacy and design to ensure a more attractive and functional design while increasing long-term stewardship of the space.
3. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead.

### **\*WARNING!**

*Hiring anyone BUT a skatepark specialty firm (including general contractors with extensive concrete experience) is the quickest way to waste all the money for the skatepark. It will not function as intended, even if built according to the design. Many of the skilled trades in skatepark work are closer to artistic sculptural concreting and require years to learn how to do right.*

### **"A bad skatepark is worse than no skatepark"**

Because it's harder to advocate for something you already have, especially when it doesn't work and seems unpopular.



This document was inspired by the **Public Skatepark Development Guide**. After reading this **Best Practices** document, if you'd like to learn to more, head to [skatepark.org](http://skatepark.org) to read articles from the **PSDG**.



## COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION & ANTI-RACISM

Skaters know what it's like to be excluded or accosted for no good reason. Some skaters experience exclusion, prejudice and injustice after they put their board down and throughout their daily lives. Everyone has an opportunity to be an active participant in ensuring that all skatepark users feel welcome at their favorite place.

As skaters/skatepark family it's our duty to make active efforts to include all members of the community. This means active and consistent consideration of undiscovered biases and unrecognized behaviors when engaging in skate sessions, skatepark project meetings, skatepark signage, conversations at the skatepark, local, corporate and executive hiring practices (recruiting and requirements) and more. All skaters are typical and atypical. Everyone deserves a seat at the table, and it's up to us to help make that happen. Have the courage to step up and talk about what needs to be talked about. It's not easy, but neither is skateboarding or building a skatepark.

Skateboarding's historical tapestry has been built by people of all types. Skateboarding is special - let's work to keep it that way and make sure skateparks remain a special place.

**The Goodpush Alliance** (a Skateistan initiative to support social skateboarding organizations) created the Pushing Against Racism Initiative. Learn more and sign the commitment.

[www.goodpush.org](http://www.goodpush.org)

### PUSHING AGAINST RACISM

*" We aim to recognize power relationships exist and to be mindful of how racism can take many forms, both in overt and micro ways. We see it as our duty to put in the work – to co-create spaces and areas of influence that are: welcoming, empowering, representative, and committed to racial equity for all individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC)."*

"As signatories, we aim to actively provide pathways and establish spaces where all voices are heard, valued and have support and access to resources to contribute fully to the skateboarding community. We also aim to support each other in the work of challenging systemic racism that may appear at our skateparks, in our media, in our organizational structures, in skate programs that we run, and in the skateboard industry."





## WHY SKATEPARKS?

BECAUSE THESE TWO OPTIONS  
ARE UNACCEPTABLE

### PUBLIC ROADS



### PRIVATE PROPERTY



**If your town doesn't have a skatepark, it is a skatepark.**

*"More than anyone, young people need to feel like they are recognized and appreciated by their communities. In too many places skateboarders and action sport participants get the wrong message from local authorities who limit or outlaw skateboarding and ignore its inherent benefits. Skateparks are the solution. Every skatepark supports hundreds of kids that might otherwise have nowhere to go."  
- Peter Whitley, the Public Skatepark Development Guide.*

\* Street skating will always exist, as a unique and special thing, but everyone should have access to a safe and legal place to skate.

### RISKS OF NOT HAVING A SKATEPARK (A SAFE AND LEGAL PLACE TO SKATE)

- Danger riding on the road - the vast majority of serious skateboarding injuries involve motor vehicles
- Kids and young athletes verbally (sometimes physically) accosted on a daily basis for participating in their passion.
- Law enforcement interaction and criminal records for trespassing/ skating in non-sanctioned spaces.
- Individuals losing interest in a passion that can keep them healthy and connected to friendships
- Community discord

*"It's very confusing to kids, especially in challenged areas where they don't have much outlet, and they finally find something that speaks to them and they are mostly discouraged from doing it." - Tony Hawk*

*"The terrain always dictated where skateboarding went." - Lance Mountain*

How far do you have to drive **AWAY FROM YOUR TOWN** to get to the nearest skatepark? What if you don't have a ride?



## WHAT ARE SKATEPARKS?

A skatepark is a specially designed & purpose-built space designated and equipped for “action sports” such as Skateboarding, BMX riding, Wheelchair Motocross, Roller (Quad) Skating, Inline Skating and Scootering.

When best practices are followed:

### SKATEPARKS ARE:

**PUBLIC** .....  
**CONCRETE** .....  
**PERMANENT** .....  
**UNIQUE TO LOCATION** .....  
**QUIET** .....  
**CENTRALIZED** .....  
**ACCESSIBLE** .....  
**INCLUSIVE** .....  
**ATTRACTIVE** .....  
**SELF-GOVERNING** .....  
**SAFE SPACE** .....  
**AN ASSET** .....

### SKATEPARKS ARE NOT:

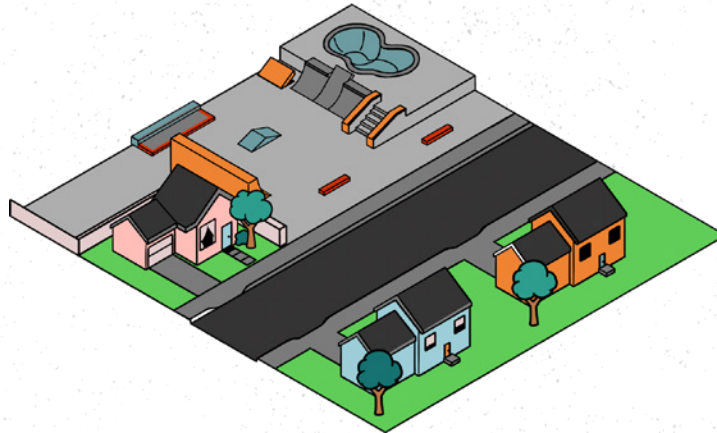
**RESTRICTED** .....  
**PREFABRICATED** .....  
**TEMPORARY** .....  
**REPLICATED** .....  
**LOUD** .....  
**ISOLATED** .....  
**REMOTE** .....  
**EXCLUSIONARY** .....  
**UNATTRACTIVE** .....  
**LAWLESS** .....  
**DANGEROUS** .....  
**A LIABILITY** .....





## BENEFITS OF SKATEPARKS

*“Skateparks encourage youth to develop healthy, active lifestyles. Research shows that skateboarding and the communities that form at skateparks help young people build connections that benefit their socioemotional wellbeing. Skateparks are also havens of diversity, where youth of all backgrounds gather and connect through their common love of the sport.” - Tony Hawk*



## FACTS AND FIGURES

Skateparks can be a part of the solution for a happier and healthier community.  
**Take this information and apply it to your project’s community awareness campaign.**

A skatepark is a safe place for individuals and groups to challenge themselves, to encourage and be encouraged, to set and achieve their own goals while learning to manage risk along the way. It’s a place where people build healthy habits like self-directed exercise and creative expression. It’s a place where people learn how to persevere and the value of persistence. A place to experience accomplishment and build confidence. A skatepark is an attractive, accessible and safe recreational facility for all. A safe and welcoming gathering space for skaters, families and the entire community.

The benefits of skateparks are becoming more clear as research shows the physical and socioemotional benefits of the activity and the space.

## DEMAND

Skateboarding is the **third most commonly reported interest for high school students** (24% of girls, and 17% of boys). ([Aspen Institute National Student Survey Analysis 2021](#))

**There are 8.8 million skateboarders in the US. Up 34% from 2019.** This does not account for the many other skatepark users: BMX riders, roller/quad skaters, inline skaters, Wheelchair Motocross riders (WCMX), scooter riders and more. ([Sports & Fitness Industry Association 2021 Single Sport Report on Skateboarding](#))

The Skatepark Project has seen a **700% increase in skatepark project support requests** from advocates and municipalities since the inclusion of Skateboarding and freestyle BMX in the Olympic Games. ([skatepark.org](#)) **Skateparks are the fourth most used recreation space in terms of total weekly use hours.** They were found to be more popular than sports fields, play areas, fitness zones and dog parks when comparing the total weekly use hours. ([The First National Study on Neighborhood Parks - Implications of Physical Activity](#))

Covid-19 has unleashed and amplified a number of simultaneous personal, social, medical, political, and economic crises. ([Young People Hit Hardest By Loneliness And Depression During Covid-19](#))



## MENTAL HEALTH

### ISSUE:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and Children's Hospital Association have **declared a national emergency in children's mental health**, citing the serious toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on top of existing challenges.

The Centers for Disease Control found between March and October 2020, **emergency department visits for mental health emergencies rose by 24% for children ages 5-11 years and 31% for children ages 12-17 years. In addition, emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts increased nearly 51% among girls ages 12-17 years in early 2021 compared to the same period in 2019.** ([Centers for Disease Control](#))

Suicide affects all ages. It is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-34, the fourth leading cause among people ages 35-54. ([Centers for Disease Control](#))

There were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during a 12-month period ending in April 2021, **an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 overdose-related deaths during the same period the year before.** ([CDC's National Center for Health Statistics](#))

The top three outcomes that parents want from youth sports are "Fun," "Positive Peer Relationships" and "Social and Emotional Skills." ([Aspen Institute/Utah State University National Youth Sports Parent Survey](#))

### IMPACT:

**Skateboarding improves mental health.** A recent study from The Skatepark Project and USC revealed that 76% of people skate to have fun, and 62% skate to get away from stress. ([University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study](#))

**Skateboarding encourages resilience.** The nature of skateboarding requires skaters to learn on their own and develop their own strategies to succeed. Skaters frequently perform a trick hundreds of times over long periods before developing proficiency or experiencing reward for the efforts. Skaters in the study reported that they apply these lessons of resilience to their lives outside of skateboarding. ([University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study](#))

**Exercise reduces symptoms** of anxiety and depression, improves mood, and promotes general feelings of well-being. ([Centers for Disease Control](#))

**Physical activity improves mental health.** Researchers found that, on average, a person has 3.4 poor mental health days per month. But among those who exercise, the number of poor mental health days dropped by more than 40 percent. ([Association between physical exercise and mental health in 1·2 million individuals in the USA between 2011 and 2015: a cross-sectional study](#))

**Time outdoors spent in parks and open spaces, engages children in informal, experiential learning** through play and shared experiences with peers, thereby, laying the foundation for effective formal education. ([NRPA - Children in Nature](#))

## PHYSICAL

### ISSUE:

**The average child today spends less than three years playing a sport, quitting by age 11.** ([Aspen Institute's National Youth Sports Survey](#))

Over the past three decades, **childhood obesity rates have tripled in the U.S.**, and today, the country has some of the highest obesity rates in the world: one out of six children is obese, and one out of three children is overweight or obese. ([Harvard School of Public Health](#))

**Nearly 40% of American adults aged 20 and over are obese. 71.6% of adults aged 20 and over are overweight**, including obesity. ([National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2017-2018; Harvard School of Public Health, 2020](#)).

On average, American children spend only **4-7 minutes** a day engaging in free unstructured play.

### IMPACT:

**Youth and adults get their CDC recommended daily cardiovascular exercise while skateboarding at skateparks.** - CSUSM Studies in the International Journal of Exercise Science. ([Cal-State University San Marcos Skateboarding Cardio Study: Adult; Cal-State University San Marcos Skateboarding Cardio Study: Youth](#))

**Numerous studies**, cited by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, **have shown a direct link between increases in physical activity and a reduction in the occurrence of chronic diseases** such as high blood pressure, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and stroke.

**Exercise reduces the risk of dying from coronary heart disease and of developing high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes.** ([Centers for Disease Control](#))

**Social support from family and friends has been consistently and positively related to regular physical activity.** ([Centers for Disease Control](#))





## SOCIAL

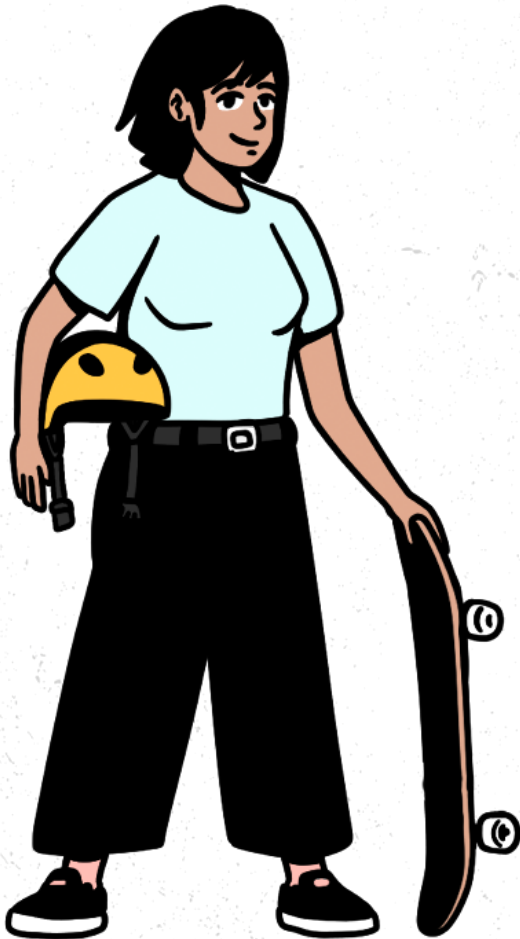
### ISSUE:

Americans were the most likely to say their society was split along partisan, racial and ethnic lines. ([Diversity and Division in Advanced Economies, 2021, Pew Research Center](#))

A meta-analysis of 148 studies indicated that those with **stronger social ties have a 50% increased likelihood of survival**. This finding remained consistent across age, sex, initial health status, cause of death, and follow-up period. ([Social relationships and mortality risk: a meta-analytic review](#))

Research shows that fewer African-American children play sports than White children, who in turn have greater access to the benefits of sports. ([Race and Sport - Women's Sports Foundation](#))

Historical institutional disadvantages, societal stereotyping and economic inequalities present challenges to sports participation. These challenges often result in the underrepresentation of people of color in sports that are more costly to participate in or which require access to facilities that are not located within easy reach of lower socio-economic populations. ([Race and Sport - Women's Sports Foundation](#))



### IMPACT:

**Skateboarding and skateparks facilitate a sense of community among skaters** – Skateboarders reported the value of connecting with people who share similar passions in skateparks, skate shops, and at skating events. Those encounters often facilitate intercultural communication and offer skaters the opportunity to interact with, and gain an increased understanding of, skaters of diverse racial, age and gender backgrounds. ([University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study](#))

**Gender and race matter** – The study also showed that skaters of color felt a greater degree of safety from judgment within the skateboarding community than in nonskate contexts. Female skaters indicated they believe they are judged by their gender both in and out of skateboarding contexts. ([University of Southern California - Beyond The Board Study](#))

**“Skateboarding is a pro-social activity that provides an opportunity for relationship building both non-verbally and verbally.** A skateboard affords the kids an opportunity to teach and learn from each other, as well as to learn skateboard etiquette which then helps with socialization.”  
(Dr. Emily Wang, Ph.D., R. Psych. [Hull Services](#), Calgary)

**“Our research shows that through skateboarding, skaters develop the ability to communicate and build relationships with people from diverse backgrounds.** Skaters are excellent critical thinkers and problem-solvers who view success from a more communal perspective.” (Dr. Neftalie Williams, University of Southern California)

## ACCESSIBILITY

### ISSUE:

**The biggest predictor of sport participation is the parents' income.** Kids from lower income homes participate in sports less often. Only 27.5 percent of children from homes with incomes under \$25,000 a year play sports compared to the 45.5 percent of kids from homes with incomes greater than \$100,000 a year. ([Aspen Institute](#))

### IMPACT:

**Skateboarding is the third least expensive sport** (out of 21 of the most popular sports, annual average spending on one child, behind only track and field and flag football). ([Aspen Institute/Utah State University 2019 National Youth Sports Survey \(1,032 youth sport parents\)](#))

**A 2011 study found a positive link between the overall population's physical activity and the supply of sports facilities within a major city.** ([European Review of Aging and Physical Activity](#))



## SKATEBOARDING

"Through our work, we solidly confirmed that skateboarding and skateparks provide young folks an opportunity and space to express themselves, socialize & create community - all of which supports their mental health and their overall wellbeing."

- Councilwoman Dr. Maria Morales,  
*USC Study: Beyond the Board*

"Skateparks are so important for the community. It's something positive the kids can do growing up. That's the biggest thing - **skateboarding teaches you persistence, it teaches you confidence.** It gives you confidence and so many life lessons as a kid."

- Jagger Eaton, *Professional Skateboarder and Olympic Medalist, Team USA*

"Skateboarding allows you the freedom to explore the limits of your courage and creativity. It is simultaneously an individual pursuit and community activity. Each skater is focused on their own goals while contributing to and engaging with a global community."

- Amelia Brodka, *Olympian, Activist and Professional Skateboarder*

"Physically and mentally, it feels very freeing. There's so much room for individual expression and creativity."

- Dr. Paul Field

"One of the great activities is skateboarding. To learn to do a skateboard trick - how many times you've got to get something wrong before you get it right... you learn to do that trick, now you've got a life lesson. Whenever I see those skateboard kids, I think, 'those skateboard kids will be alright.'"

- Jerry Seinfeld, *Comedian and Social Observer*



"Skateboarding today attracts all kinds of demographics, from children to middle-aged individuals and across a gender spectrum that incorporates men, women, non-binary and gender diverse populations. Once associated with the USA and the West, newer skate scenes are emerging from as far apart as Palestine to Cuba. Skateboarding also has a broad social reach, from its subcultural origins to now being an Olympic sport. Yet unlike traditional organized sports, it remains a creative practice, and is adaptive rather than anchored to static rules. As such, skateboarding can provide innovative and fresh insights into creating safe, inclusive and sustainable public/common spaces that are vibrant, multigenerational, socially diverse and physically and culturally engaging."

- Dr. Indigo Willing, *Sociologist*

"It's very good for kids. It's a good way to get them outside and exercising. Skateboarding has taught me to never give up and have fun. Any skatepark I go to I make new friends."

- Sky Brown, *Olympian and Professional Skateboarder*

"As a teenager in America, at the time **skating was what you did, that was how you bonded with your friends and did something creative. Communities were created..**"

- Virgil Abloh, *Fashion Designer, Entrepreneur, Skateboarder*

"Skateboarding's been my safe place. It's really the only place I could be me, officially. So being able to have a skatepark nearby - 20, 30 minutes - is such a game changer because everyone is able to be connected, have a place to be safe, not worry about their outside lives and just be able to have a nice time. The community that you build and the family I've built... **I wasn't one of the blessed ones to have a good family given to me so I got to create one with skating and that's been a game changer for me.**"

- Alana Smith, *Professional Skateboarder and Olympian*



# TYPES OF SKATEPARKS

**SKATE DOT/SPOT**  
(1-5,000 SQ. FT.)



LA GRANGE, IL

**SMALL SKATEPARK**  
(1-5,000 SQ. FT.)



MEREDITH, NH  
(TSP PARK #587)

**SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD SKATEPARKS**  
(5-10,000 SQ. FT.)



BAR HARBOR, ME  
(TSP PARK #532)

**NEIGHBORHOOD SKATEPARK**  
(10,000-20,000 SQ. FT.)



MACON, GA  
(TSP PARK# 529)

**LARGE NEIGHBORHOOD SKATEPARK**  
(20-30,000 SQ. FT.)



ANN ARBOR, MI  
(TSP PARK #467)





# DESTINATION SKATEPARKS

**REGIONAL DESTINATION**  
(30,000+ SQ. FT.)



LINDA VISTA, CA  
(TSP PARK #543)

**NATIONAL DESTINATION**  
(50,000+ SQ. FT.)



DES MOINES, IA  
(TSP PARK #593)

**STREET PLAZA**



LOS ANGELES, CA

**SKATE PATH**



POTEET CANYON, TX  
(TSP PARK #393)

**SKATEABLE ART SCULPTURE**



DES MOINES, IA  
(TSP PARK #593)

**DIY**



TREASURE ISLAND, CA  
(TSP PARK # 574)





**LEGALIZED STREET SPOTS**



LOS ANGELES, CA

**ACTIVE CITY SPACES**



COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

**SIMPLE SKATEPARKS**



HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

**REUSED SPORT COURTS**



HAVERTOWN, PA

**SKATEPARK WITH A PUMP TRACK**



NEWARK, OH  
(TSP PARK #567)

For information on retail or “competition certified” skateparks see [Appendix F](#).





## INTERIM / SIMPLE SKATEPARK ACCESS

Most municipal skateparks take a fair amount of time to plan and build. Communities can lose a generation or two of skaters during that time. There are several ways in which you can create nearly instantaneous access to skatable facilities, while working on the main, larger skatepark projects. Skaters and the city can work together to designate skate-safe lots (utilizing site selection best practices). Find obstacles in city storage and/or build simple pieces. Use the park as a proof of concept while the main park is worked on. These spaces aren't a replacement for a skatepark but are valuable in their own right as accessible action sports recreation facilities.

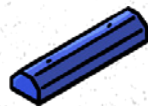
### DESIGNATE, UNLOCK & ADD TO THESE:



### WHILE WORKING ON THESE:



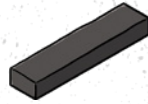
### CITY STORAGE



PARKING BLOCK



CONE



MARBLE/  
GRANITE LEDGE



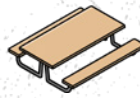
PLASTIC  
BARRICADE



RECYCLED  
PLASTIC BENCH



PLASTICADE



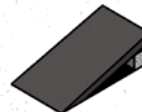
PICNIC TABLE



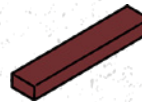
RIDE-ON-RAIL



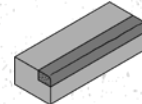
JERSEY BARRIER/  
K-RAIL/QUARTER



GRANITE BUMP  
(Cut-In)



CURB



GRANITE LEDGE



FLAT BAR  
(SET IN)



SIGN BUMP



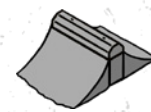
GRASS GAP



JERSEY BARRIER  
WALL RIDE



BUTTER BAR  
(4x6 + DECKBOARD)



PARKING BLOCK  
SPINE



POLE JAM



WALL RIDE  
TRANSITION



MANUAL PAD/  
CURB



PUMP BUMP



CINDERBLOCK  
LEDGE



WOOD  
QUARTER-PIPE

### CONSIDERATIONS

Conversations between local skaters and city officials can answer these questions:

- Who will be the point of contact between the user base and the city?
- Is the ground smooth enough to be used?
- Are there any ordinance or zoning changes required?
- What DIY obstacles will be allowed? (Under 18" is usually ok without permitting, but this varies)
- How often are obstacles added, safety checked and thrown out? Consider a community bulletin board for announcements/pending builds and a tag system for repairs and removals (city tags, obstacle not to be skated, two weeks to repair or it will be tossed)
- Keep an eye on screws (countersink only) and bent approach plates. You CAN pour non-permanent concrete by placing a thick tarp underneath builds so it can more easily be removed when the time comes.
- How is insurance and liability handled? (This should be similar to standard public skateparks. State statutes limiting liability, signage, city insures through citywide umbrella policy. More information about this can be found later in the document.)
- Are there appropriate safety measures to keep cars away from people? Bollards or K-Rails (Barriers can double as a skatable obstacle!)
- Note - wooden ramp transition sides/templates can be reused as concrete forms in the right conditions.

If funds are a concern, allow the community to step in and save the funds for the professional municipal skatepark builds.

**These skate-lots, plazas, DIY's and simple parks are NOT substitutes for a proper neighborhood or regional skatepark.**

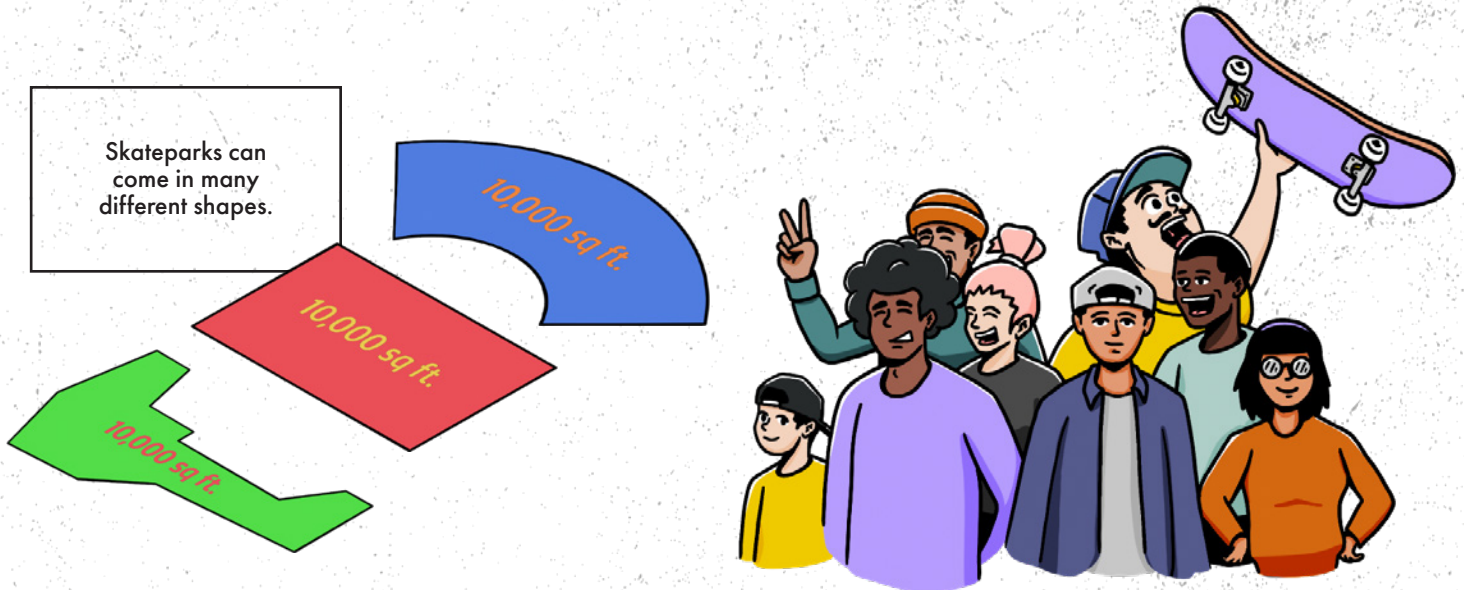
These short-order skate spaces create relatively instantaneous recreational access. They are one of the first steps in immediate and actionable commitment from the local public agency. For more information, [see Accelerated/Interim Skateparks.](#)





## PUBLIC SKATEPARK PLANNING - HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED?

Determine your area's "Level of Service," which describes the performance of a system. In this case, the access to legal, safe and accessible places to skate in your area. This information can help the city better understand what your community needs.



### 10,000 SQ. FT. OF PROPER CONCRETE SKATEPARK FOR EVERY 25,000 RESIDENTS.

10,000 square feet may sound like a large area. However, it's about the same size as a baseball field's infield area. Two doubles tennis courts are roughly 14,000 sq. ft.

#### CALCULATE YOUR CITY'S SKATEPARK SERVICE NEED USING SHORTHAND MATH!

\_\_\_\_\_ (your population) divided by 2.5 = \_\_\_\_\_ (square footage of total city need)

\_\_\_\_\_ (square footage of total city need) - \_\_\_\_\_ (total existing concrete skatepark sq. ft.) = \_\_\_\_\_  
(the city's remaining action sports recreation facility service need)

That remaining need is a percentage of the total need. Use this number to describe your city's "Level of Service."

Example: 100,000 people in town.  $100,000 / 2.5 = 40,000$  sq. ft. total need.  
20,000 sq. ft. concrete skatepark in town already.  $40,000$  sq. ft. total need -  $20,000$  sq. ft. existing =  $20,000$  sq. ft. remaining need.  $20,000$  out of  $40,000$  is 50%. The city has a skatepark service level of 50% (meaning the city is halfway to providing enough skatepark space)

\*Due to economies of scale, larger cities — those with 200,000+ populations — can often meet their needs with one neighborhood skatepark for every 50,000 people.

To learn more about how much skatepark is needed, use the [Skatepark Adoption Model](https://www.skatepark.org) at [skatepark.org](https://www.skatepark.org)



## HOW MANY PEOPLE IN MY TOWN SKATE?

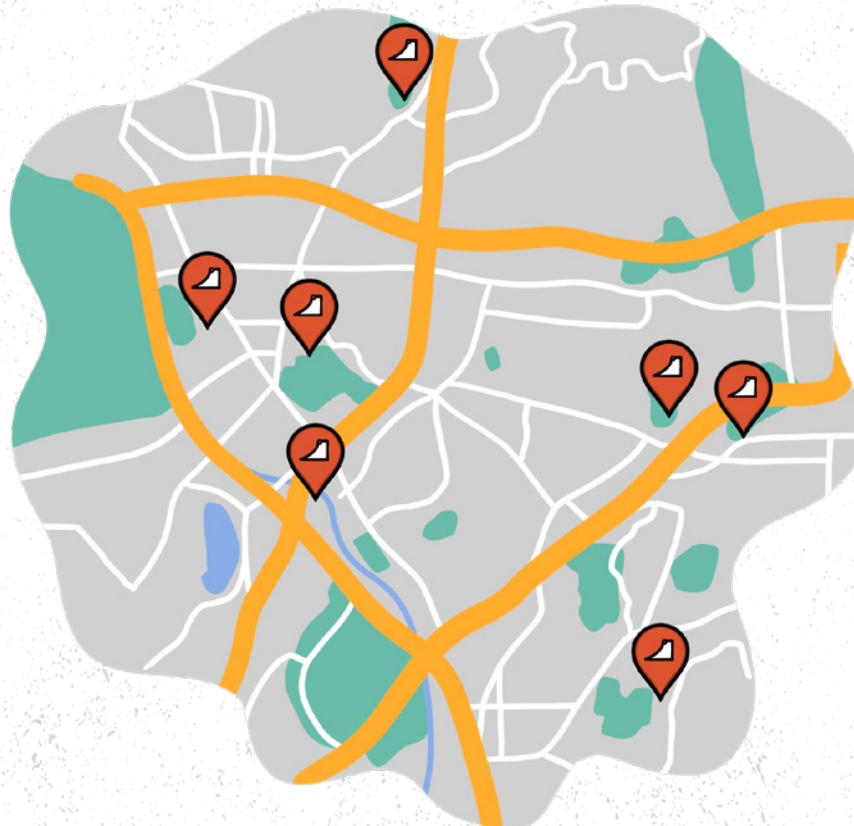
Use the numbers below, factored by your local total population, to get an estimate of how many people ride in your town, and how often they ride. You don't need any specific number to prove there's a need for a skatepark, but someone may ask and it's helpful to have an educated answer. We've included a national number below to help with estimations, but you can also try to do a citywide survey if the city thinks it's necessary.

- Skateboarders: 2.07% of total population skate, 2.07% casual skaters that skate 1-25 times a year.
- 0.8 percent of the total population are "core" skaters and skate over 26 times a year.

*These numbers do not account for all skatepark users. Consider Inline, BMX, Quad, WCMX, & Scooter riders.*

## SKATEPARK SYSTEM

Once you understand the your community's Service Need, you can work with your public agency toward creating a city or county wide system of skateparks that creates easily accessible skateparks for different parts of the community. Remember that different skateparks can serve different purposes depending on their location, size and design. Two super similar parks don't need to be right next to each other. Likewise, sometimes a few smaller parks are better than one huge regional park. Learn more about where skateparks should and shouldn't go in the upcoming chapter on Site Selection.





## HOW MUCH DO SKATEPARKS COST?

### \$50-70 PER SQUARE FOOT\*

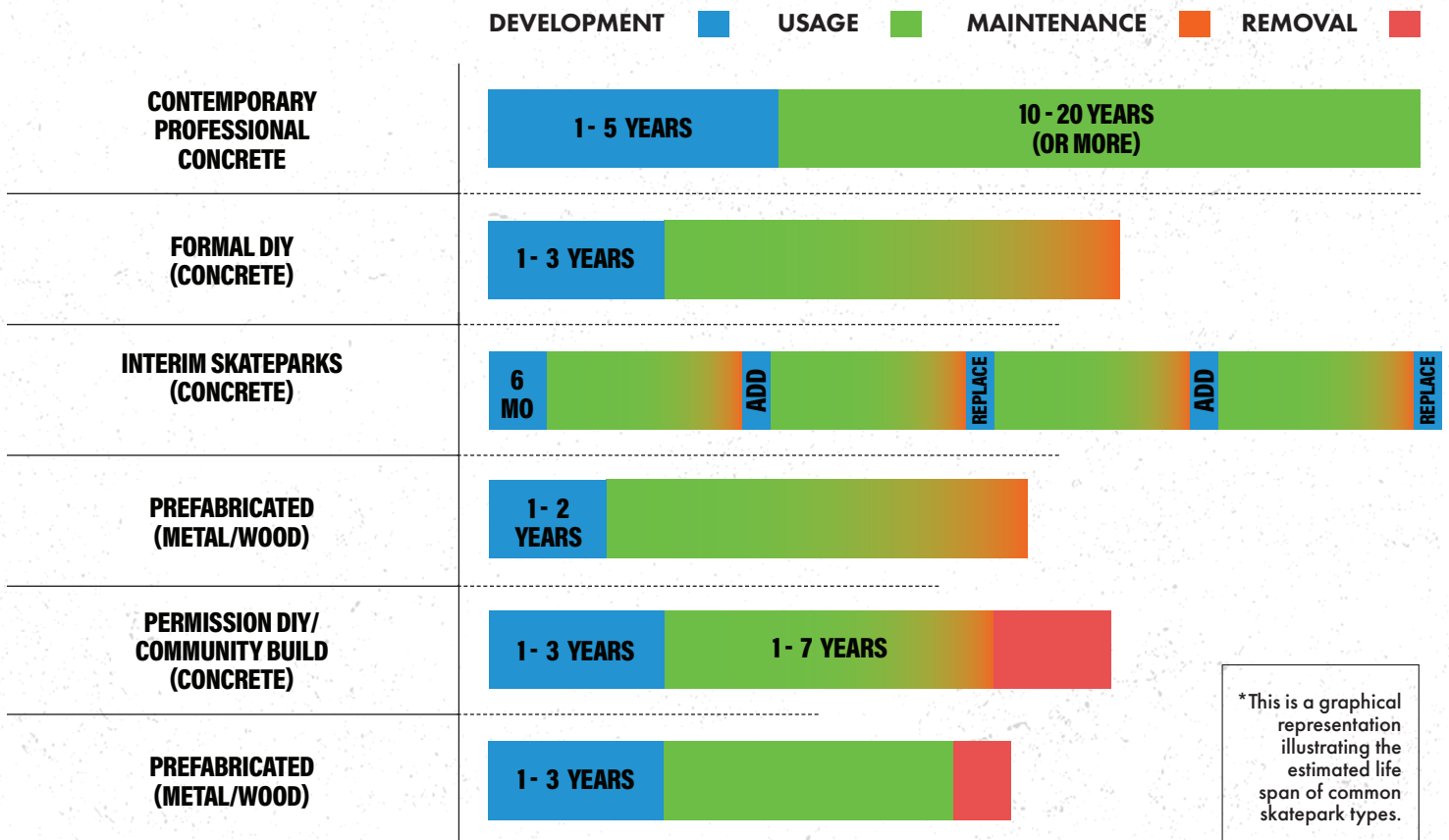
(For professional poured-in-place concrete skatepark design and construction by experienced concrete skatepark specialty firms)

\*Professional skatepark build costs vary depending on location, season, material cost fluctuations, prevailing wage, in-kind material donations and other factors. Additional costs can come into play with soil remediation and site amenities. Parks can be as inexpensive as \$25 and up to \$85 a square foot with certain variables. 40% of TSP Granted skatepark projects reported their skatepark being more expensive than expected, while less than 20% reported that their skatepark ended up being larger than originally planned.

## TIMING

### LONG TERM PLAN VS. IMMEDIATE NEED

On average, skatepark projects take around 3-5 years to complete. Some skatepark projects are shorter, some skatepark projects take much longer. Thankfully, due to greater understanding of the value of these spaces and how they're created, along with Skateboarding and Freestyle BMX's inclusion in the Olympics, the stage is set for expedited public skatepark projects worldwide. The Skatepark Project has seen a tripling of requests for public skatepark project support from municipalities since the Olympics. This is great news, but don't assume your city will make it happen, you may have to be the one to get the ball rolling in your city.



## SKATEPARKS



"Skateparks provide the rare opportunity for intergenerational and intersectional experiential learning for everyone. The skatepark introduces diversity to a heavily siloed world. It allows young people to see themselves as part of a global community capable of creating individual and collective change in their lives through skateboarding."

- Dr. Neftalie Williams

"Skateboarding is an Olympic sport now, and we're not allowed to do it anywhere. It's a totally illegal thing to do, to practice this artform. We need legal spaces to go. We need spaces where we're encouraged to be there, and these spaces need to be better than what's outside these spaces. Good skateparks are necessary."

- Andy Anderson, *Professional Skateboarder and Olympian*

"I was very lucky that I grew up near a skatepark. It was my salvation. It was my home away from home. It's where I found my belonging, my sense of purpose, my community."

- Tony Hawk

"A community skatepark is a home where anybody can find a family through the skateboarding community."

- John Bradford & Emilio Otero

"Skateboarders supervise and police themselves and others in these spaces, maintain order in neighborhoods, and instill entrepreneurial qualities in individuals."

- Ocean Howell

Skateparks have had a huge impact on my life. They've been a sanctuary in a sense - giving me a place to clear my mind, to push myself and progress."

- Aaron "Wheelz" Fotheringham, *Pro WCMX Rider*

"It allows for you to go to a place and be free and happy. But it also creates a family within the community of skaters and I feel like for those who feel alone, that's very important."

- Manny Santiago, *Professional Skateboarder and Olympian*

"[The skatepark] was a group thing. All the friends would come. That changed my life. I definitely had a place to go. At school I was to myself a lot of the time. It helped me to come out of my shell a lot more. It changed my life in multiple ways."

- Samarria Brevard, *Professional Skateboarder*

"Skateparks are really, really valuable. If I didn't have skateparks I don't know what I'd be doing. I know a lot of kids that grew up in not good situations and they had that outlet to go bike, rollerblade, skate - we're all friends there, we all support each other. It brings the community together."

- Corey Juneau, *Professional Skateboarder and Olympic Medalist, Team USA*

"We thought this was going to be popular but because it was done so thoughtfully, so professionally and so engaged with real users, it far exceeds expectations."

- Michael R. Brown, *Mayor, City of Grand Forks, ND*



## NATIONAL SKATEPARK NEED - HOW ARE WE DOING?

### SKATEPARK SERVICE LEVELS IN THE USA

The Skatepark Project has identified over 2,900 public skateparks open today in the United States (and estimates there are about 700 more that we don't have information about). There are around 329 million people in the US. Using the conservative framework of 10,000 sq. ft. of skatepark for every 50,000 people (to represent both sparse and densely populated areas), we know that the US needs 6,580 skateparks to meet the need. Even with 3,682 public skateparks, **the US has only met 56% of the skatepark service need.** The need gap is 2,898 skateparks and growing with population.

Fun fact: **The Skatepark Project has granted funds to 600 open skateparks across the US.** This means **The Skatepark Project has helped fund 20% of known public skateparks in the US, and 9% of the total US skatepark need!** Is yours next ?

The Skatepark Project staff keeps an eye on areas that have a lot of people, but not a lot of skateparks. These communities often recognize their need but lack the developmental guidance and funds to get their skatepark project started. Based on regional populations and existing skateparks, TSP has given each area of the nation a "skatepark level-of-service" grade.



Regionally, we see the greatest skatepark need-gap in the southeastern states: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. There are similarities between national skatepark service coverage and obesity maps, and this region has struggled to meet its general recreational needs for a long time, so the lack of skateparks is no surprise.

Of the 3,007 counties in the United States, 1,900 of them have no skateparks at all. Over 59-million Americans lack access to a skatepark at a county level.

Even areas with skateparks can exhibit large need-gaps. There are a dozen or so cities in the U.S. with more than a million residents. With 31% of the nation's population concentrated there, these communities have enormous needs for public recreation, yet their skatepark needs are only 24% met.

## GLOBAL SKATEPARK NEED

We can use the same conservative formula of 10,000 sq. ft. of skatepark for every 50,000 residents to get an idea of the global need for action sports recreation facilities. With a global population of 7.9 billion people, the world needs 158,000 10,000 sq. ft. skateparks for a total of 1,580,000,000. Globally there are an estimated 18,306 skateparks (at an average of 10,000 sq. ft.) for a total of 183,000,000 sq. ft. With 1.58B sq. ft. of need minus 183,000,000 sq. ft. estimated currently available, skate space **we estimate that the planet has only met 11% of it's total skatepark service need.**



## WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

*Every skatepark is the result of a partnership between youth, government, and local civic organizations. In spite of their rough edges, skateboarding youth (and other action sport participants) often prove to be incredible advocates for the things that are important to them, and the long process of skatepark development is transformative not just for the skateboarders, but for the agencies and individuals who work with them. - Peter Whitley*



## WORK TOGETHER

**CITY GOVERNMENT  
& PARKS DEPARTMENT**  
ARE COMMONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EXECUTION
- FUNDING
- SEEKING OUT AND WORKING WITH SKATERS/USER BASE
- TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE QUALITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
- MAINTAINING THE SPACE LIKE OTHER PARKS

**SKATERS, PARENTS, LOCALS**  
ARE COMMONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- ADVOCATING FOR NEED OF THE PROJECT
- COMMUNITY SUPPORT & COMMUNICATION
- WORKING WITH THE CITY AND STAKEHOLDERS
- INSISTING ON QUALITY DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
- STEWARDSHIP OF SPACE & INCLUSIVE TRADITIONS

This relationship results in a better skatepark and greater long-term stewardship of the space. This process of “civic engagement” provides government officials with good information and support from the user base of the skatepark, and it provides local volunteers with a valuable life experience that builds **networking, analysis, communication, civic and organizing skills**. It also leaves an impressive new item on a resume or college application.





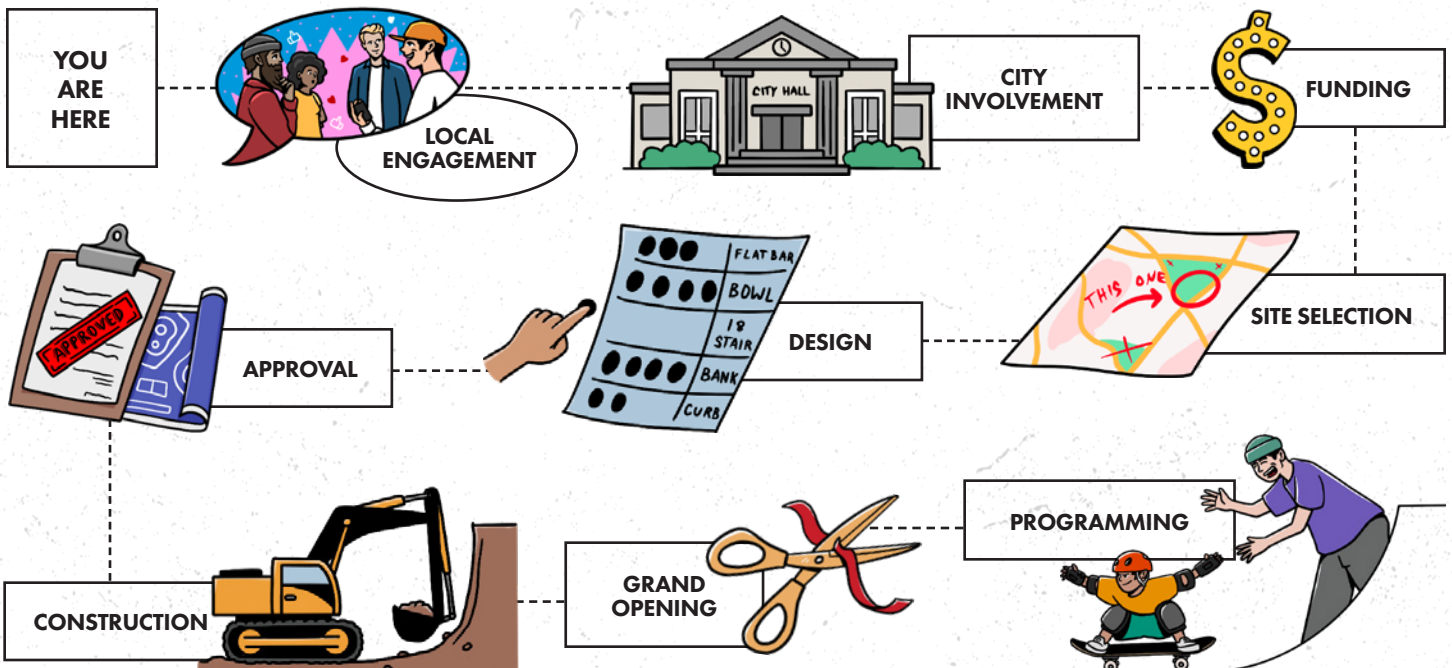
The last piece of the puzzle is hiring an experienced concrete skatepark design and construction firm. They will work with the advocates and city to refine the collective vision and build the skatepark to plan utilizing years of concrete skatepark construction experience.



## HOW DO SKATEPARKS GET MADE?

CIVILITY, CIVIC DUTY, KINDNESS & CONCRETE

### ORDER OF OPERATIONS:



Nearly every skatepark is the result of community volunteer activism, or, skatepark advocacy. Skaters must work with the city, and municipalities must work with and support skaters.

## SKATEPARK ADVOCACY

“Advocacy” is defined as: “public support for, or recommendation of, a particular cause or policy.”

There are no requirements to “be an advocate.” It’s a self-elected volunteer “position.” Anyone can step up and make change in their community. Most volunteer skatepark advocates start with zero experience. They learn along the way. It helps if you spend some time informing yourself about the civic engagement process and how capital improvement projects work in your town. You can ask city staff to help you learn more about how your local government works. For your skatepark project group - make sure your group members are on the same page to present a “unified front.” Sometimes this means having a short advocate meeting before a city meeting. You’ll want to make sure your group stays organized and communicates well.

For tons of information on how to advocate for a skatepark project, head to [skatepark.org/psdg](https://skatepark.org/psdg)

## ADVOCACY PROCESS AND MILESTONES

This is a general order of common skatepark advocacy tasks. While they usually go in this order, some of the tasks may go on at the same time or out of this order.

1. **Build your Core Group** (your local crew, parents of kids who skate, general supporters)
2. **Establish Regular Meetings** (weekly or bi weekly, time and location)
3. **Make a Plan** (name of group, size of park, main points, general guidelines of the project: be positive and prepared)
4. **Create a digital presence.** This is not where the work is done, it’s where you give the community updates on what work is being done on the project. [See page 37](#) for more on creating an effective digital presence.
5. **Connect with the City to create a Steering Committee** (Parks and Rec, City Council presentation, site selection, etc.)
6. **Find a Place for Donations** (most likely a local service organization acting as a fiscal sponsor for your group)
7. **Connect with a Skatepark Design/Construction Firm** (continue refining your plan, begin design process)
8. **Fundraise** (ONLY IF NECESSARY - CITY SHOULD BE FUNDING. most of the work, but there are a lot of fun events; you’ll meet the whole town, establishing yourself and team as the group creating the skatepark)
9. **Prepare for the Construction Process** (work with the city, take steps to ensure quality, qualification process, construction bids, etc.)
10. **Let it Happen!** Help where you can, be patient and get out of the way where you need to. [See Appendix C - Stakeholder Matrix](#) for more info on who does what, when.

Advocacy is not easy, and it’s not for everyone - but it’s worth it. If you’re looking around your community to find the person who should be doing this, it might be you...

## IS SKATEPARK ADVOCACY FOR ME?

All of this effort sounds like a lot - and it is. It’s why the common skatepark project takes a few years (sometimes more). You don’t have to have it all planned out now. But consider this. Start with one meeting. See who shows up to help, and how it feels when you all connect on the subject of a new skatepark. That feeling, and the basic understanding of this process, should be enough to help you figure out if advocating for a skatepark is for you. Worst case - you don’t want to lead a volunteer project for a skatepark, but you introduce a few locals to information on how to get it done. This can be very valuable as someone else may be more willing (and excited) to take on the responsibility. You can still help a project as a member of the core group, if you’re interested.





## LEAD ADVOCATES

Best case, you find yourself compelled to help move the project along as a lead advocate. Sometimes there are more than one lead advocate in the core group. These are the folks who spend the most time helping to organize (calls, emails, meetings) and move the project forward according to what your city insiders suggest. Lead advocates put in the most work, but often get the most reward. This can include mentorship from the city insider, new skills, and networking along the way.

### A NOTE TO SKATEPARK ADVOCATES

It's not an easy process, but make it easier on yourself by not taking the bumps in the process personally. You're there to help shepherd a project, you are not defined by the project. Take care of yourself and be patient. Remember - you are charged with a righteous mission - who wouldn't agree that a skatepark for the kids is a good idea? But don't let that feeling of righteousness go to your head. Keep in mind that the people you're talking to may not have the information you do (or share the same perspective), nor will the city employees and skatepark designers have the same amount of energy or fuel for the project that you do (be mindful of how often and how much you ask of these people). Above all, communicate where you need to, listen to advice, ask for help and do your best to develop a healthy non-attachment from the project so you don't stress yourself out more than needed during the process. As you develop this skill throughout the process you'll find a groove that you can ride to the end, picking up some new skills and friends along the way.

## RECONCILIATION

### CONFLICT - COMMUNICATION - COMMUNITY - CONSTRUCTION

Keep in mind that for a lot of these young skaters their interactions with authority have been negative and intense. If there aren't enough legal places to do it, it's likely they've been verbally accosted on a regular basis for participating in their passion. It's also likely that city staff have had to reluctantly shoo skaters away from the spot out front and have had more than a few contentious interactions over the years. When warranted, it's worth reminding group members, city staff and local skaters that this is a chance for a new type of interaction, and to prepare themselves accordingly. This means not reacting poorly to misconceptions or mischaracterizations of skaters, the value of the activity or the value of the skatepark. Part of your task will be helping those who are still angry about the way they've been treated (skater or city staff) that it's time to let go and put energy toward building a bridge of respectful engagement between the city's shredding constituents and local government.

### SKATEPARK ADVOCACY RIDES ON THE WHEELS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUSHED FORWARD BY LOCALS

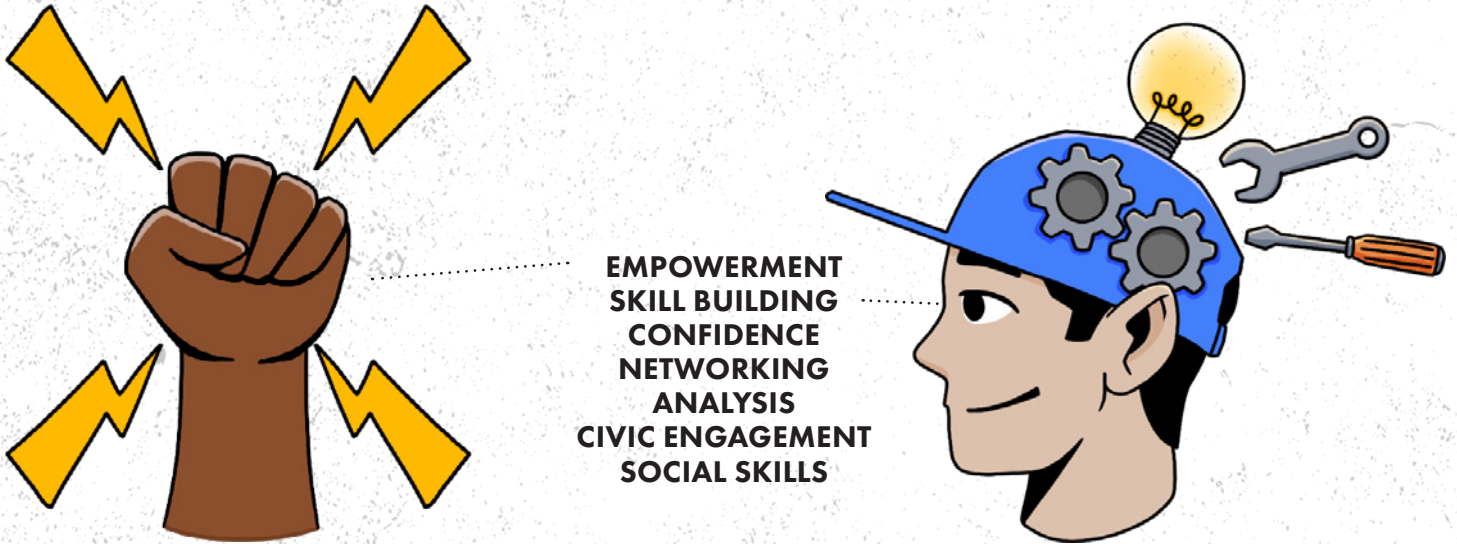
## CONVICTION

*It's not a matter of "if" it's a matter of "when."*

Dedicated advocates hold the space and confidence of an outcome already realized - they envision the goal as an inevitability. It's not a matter of IF the skatepark can be built, it's a matter of WHEN the skatepark will be built. Having this internal belief in the eventuality of a skatepark can help you frame the project properly both internally and externally in conversation. You have to believe in order to help others believe. It won't happen overnight, so you'll have to manage your expectations. But just like in learning to skate, you have to believe in the certainty of the outcome while you work toward your goal.



## VALUE OF ADVOCACY



**EMPOWERMENT  
SKILL BUILDING  
CONFIDENCE  
NETWORKING  
ANALYSIS  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
SOCIAL SKILLS**

Organizing and shepherding a public skatepark project is quite the undertaking. There's a lot to do, but most people learn how to do it along the way. This means at the end of the project you may find that you've developed some valuable new skills and have inadvertently developed a larger network. You'll likely have learned some things about the civic process, organizing, project management, analysis, networking and even public speaking. Nearly all skatepark advocates finish the public skatepark process feeling empowered and are happy with their choice to commit to the project.

## IS IT A NEW PROJECT?

If you're not sure if there's already an ongoing skatepark project in your town, do a web search for your "town/city name" + "skatepark project" and filter by news articles. You can also check social media. You may learn the progress of an existing project or learn about a defunct project. If there's an existing project, connect with them and ask if you can be of service. If a group has tried to bring a skatepark project to the town and fallen short of their goals, it may be time for another try. In either case, doing this search may help you learn the names of some locals or city officials who may have been involved and can help provide some insight into old challenges. It's possible that in the wake of the Olympics there's a shift in attitude about the subject of a skatepark in town. It's also possible there's been a shift in city staffing or elected officials who might be more supportive of the new project.

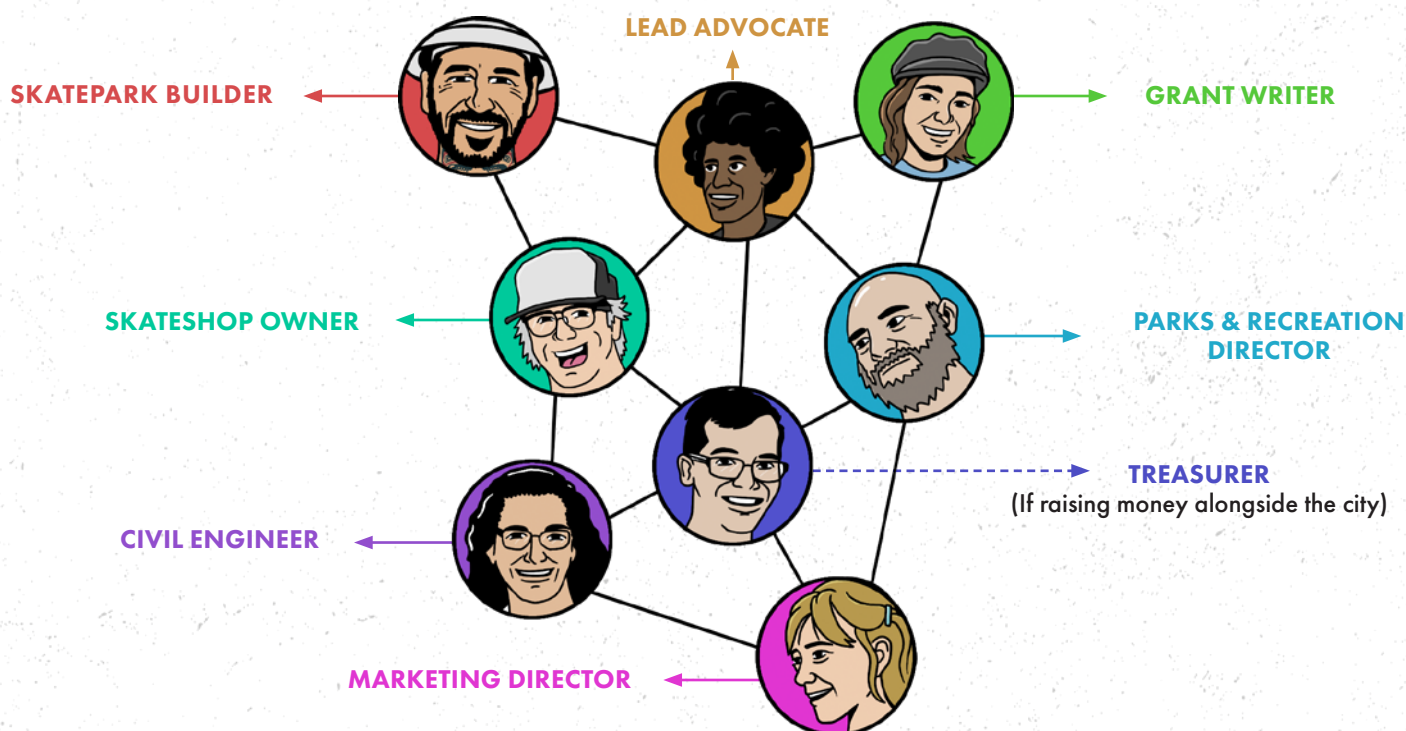




## BUILDING YOUR GROUP

You may have a crew in mind already, but expanding may help. If you put up signs around town and post online to recruit for a skatepark advocacy group, you'll find yourself with a crew of individuals who look like they are interested in supporting a new skatepark project in town. It may be worth having them fill out a simple form that captures **their contact information, what they are interested in doing for the project, what special skills they might have and how much time they may be willing to volunteer.** You can use an online form generator and a QR code that links to your form on any printed materials you put up around town. Regardless of how much the city will outright support (and/or fund) the new skatepark project, it's helpful to have a small army of supporters. These form responses might help you understand what motivates them, how much you can ask of them, and in what areas they can help.

As you continue with the project, you'll begin to see a network of helpful people form around the project. Some are in your core group regularly, some you engage with occasionally along the way.



## NAMING YOUR GROUP

One of your first tasks as a skatepark group will be to come up with a name for your organization. Getting the attention of the city gets easier when you sound like what you are - a group of local citizens on a mission. When thinking of names, keep it simple. Be sure to include the name of the area, and what you're doing. The most common (and often most effective) names are "Friends of (City name) Skatepark" or "(City name) Skatepark Committee" or (County name) Skatepark Coalition." You can be creative, but don't lose the opportunity to help folks understand and appreciate what you do the moment they read your name.

## MEMORIAL SKATEPARKS

Memorial skateparks can be a good way to enshrine a loved one's legacy into the fabric of the community for decades. If you're planning on naming the skatepark after the person, it's worth having that discussion early and even considering renaming the skatepark group in some cases.



## SKATEPARK ADVOCACY TERMS

**CIVIC DUTY** - One's internal nagging sense that they have the responsibility to do something to make their community better.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT** - A permanent change or addition to a property that improves the value of the space.

**STAKEHOLDER** - An individual who has an interest in a project or is impacted by the outcome of the project.

**CONSTITUENTS/CONSTITUENCY** - The body of people that a governmental figure represents/works for.

**PARKS AND REC** - A public agency that is responsible for the state of park access locally. (Sometimes this is a commission or committee if there's no municipality or parks and rec department)

**CITY COUNCIL** - A group of elected officials who oversee policy and budget.

**CITY MANAGER** - Appointed official who oversees and coordinates day to day administration city planning, all departments, city budget, research, policy recommendations and staff assistance to council members and committees.

**COUNTY SEAT** - The governmental center of a county.

**SPORTS CLUB/MINISTRY/GOVERNING BODY** - An official (or semi-official) collection of sport participants, designated with responsibility for the accessibility, rules, growth and/or performance of a sport.

**COMMITTEE** - A group of local volunteers OR elected officials (sometimes both) who study, deliberate and decide on policy and other civic matters.

**MOU - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** - A simple agreement between two or more parties, a contract.

**CITYWIDE PLAN/CITY PLAN** - A dynamic long term plan/document to improve the city (housing, parks, community facilities, economy, transportation).

**SCOPE** - The size and cost of a project. Can be dynamic.

**RFP** - Request For Proposal - An externally announced document, aimed at vendors, highlighting an available work

contract/project. The RFP outlines the goals, objectives and desired timeline of a project or series of projects.

**DESIGN / RENDERING** - The conceptual layout and visual representation (Computer Generated 3D) for a project to represent the end goal to the community.

**BID** - The process some communities use to allow companies to submit a price for a project or piece of work (sometimes design and sometimes construction). Bid Specifications define terms and eligibility requirements. Usually lowest qualified bid wins.

**RFQ** - Request for Qualifications - A document requiring builders to provide proof of eligibility to bid on a project. Specific language is used to ensure only qualified applicants are allowed to bid on specialty construction projects. Consider "Local Preference/Cultural Value."

**LAYOUT** - The general spacing and configuration of skatepark design.

**CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS (CD)** - Blueprints of a skatepark. Detailed engineering drawings that builders must follow to complete the project according to the designer's specifications.

**TOLERANCES** - The degree to which a builder can go outside the specifics of the approved design.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT EIR** - Important tests done before and/or after a capital improvement project to assess the (measured or estimated) impact of the addition on the community. Impact can be vehicle or pedestrian traffic, noise, lighting, environmental and more.

**SKATEPARK DESIGNER** - A skilled designer who understands the nuances of skatepark design and needs of action sports participants.

**SKATEPARK BUILDER/SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR** - A type of vendor with lots of experience and expertise in a certain specific field.

**CHANGE ORDER** - Changing a design element after plans have been finalized. Usually costs money





## TIPS FROM THE PUBLIC SKATEPARK DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

### THE LANGUAGE OF CITY ADMINISTRATION

Whether they're in planning, maintenance, or public relations, City and Parks officials face innumerable day-to-day tasks. Like the skatepark advocate, their time is valuable and should be used efficiently and respectfully. There are many things advocates can do to make these encounters as productive as possible.

### LEARN THE LANGUAGE

Ideas and concepts should be phrased in ways that allow the audience, whether it's one person or 100, to easily grasp the meaning. Resourceful advocates might check out any number of magazines or websites to get a feel for the concepts and language the audience may be receptive to (try your own city's web site, for example). However, be sincere, and conduct business as plainly as possible. Don't overdo it or attempt to impress anyone with flowery language. Consider what it would be like to have a bureaucrat trying to speak "skater." Some good sources of urban planning and park design language are magazines like *Dwell*, *Metropolis*, *American Society of Landscape Architects*, and *National Recreation and Park Association*.

### KNOW YOUR PURPOSE

Throughout the skatepark process an advocate will attend many different meetings, each with its own rhythm and objectives. In most of these meetings it won't be relevant to talk about skatepark design theory, for example. Advocates will want to deliver the information to the meeting attendees that they will be interested in. Stay on topic.

### WALK WITHOUT A PLAN

Before the end of any meeting, quickly outline what will occur before the next meeting and when that next meeting will be. Remember, sitting down with a person or group is the absolute best way to keep them invested in the new skatepark, so plan the next meeting with a group. Tell them when the group will be back and what will have been accomplished by that time. They'll come to expect success or commitment from the skatepark group and will become increasingly supportive.

### LANGUAGE OF SKATEPARK ADVOCATES

As most skatepark advocates are skateboarders, there is usually one thing that they'd rather be doing—skating. Most city officials in contact with the public are accustomed to citizens inexperienced in public policy or the processes for making capital improvements. Here are some ways that city officials can reach skaters.

### BE PATIENT

The local skatepark advocacy group may be given by the enthusiasm of a few young adults with little professional experience. They will make mistakes. Expectations and priorities may need to be adjusted. The local group will need help.

### SHARE YOUR CONCERNS

Skateboarding is about "going for it." It's filled with risks that scale with difficulty of the trick. Skatepark advocates may not have a clear sense of which challenges to the process are significant and which are trivial or procedural. If the city administrator can illuminate where their group can be most effective, the skatepark group will quickly gain valuable experience, confidence, and independence.

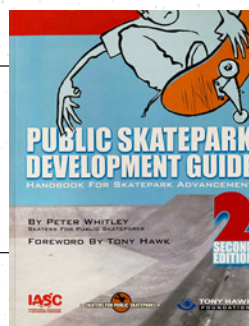
### BE A BELIEVER

Skateparks have been controversial for as long as they've been built on public property. Skaters are usually not surprised when their needs go unheard, and they won't be surprised when the interests of other influential groups are casually prioritized ahead of the skatepark plans. Skaters, being without clear political leverage, need staunch allies in City Hall.

### 20 REASONS FOR SKATEPARKS

1. Skateboarders need safe places to recreate.
2. Skateparks, if design and constructed correctly, are fiscally conservative and require very little maintenance.
3. Compared to other sports, skateboarding is underserved in the area.
4. Skateboarding as millions of participants nationally and it's still growing while more traditional sports are in the decline. There are currently abundant facilities for these other sports.
5. Skateboarding is a multi-million dollar industry.
6. Skateboarders represent a vital part of an urban community.
7. A skatepark can attract skateboarding tourists if designed to do so.
8. With national health issues looming for today's youth, its time to offer a greater number of healthy, athletic choices.
9. The cost to participate is accessible to every economic class.
10. Thousands of other communities have come to understand the value of skateparks.
11. Skating in a park is much safer than skating in the streets.
12. The community already has hundreds, maybe thousands of skateboarders.
13. In the future there are going to be many legitimate places to skate in the city. The time to embark on that positive future is now.
14. A skatepark is a place where skateboarders and other people who might not cross paths in the street can come together.
15. Skateparks can displace other less desirable activities in an area.
16. The skatepark can be an attraction for family vacations.
17. Skateboarding is "cool," and a skatepark will enhance the community's reputation.
18. Good skateparks often have volunteer teams to help maintain the facility.
19. Skateparks can draw skateboarders away from less appropriate areas.
20. Young and old people use skateparks.

TAKE A  
LOOK  
INSIDE



## ADVOCACY

**"There was no single project that was undertaken during my years as Mayor that had a bigger and more positive impact on the community.**

The skatepark is used constantly, it is used by people of all sizes, shapes, colors, genders, ages, you name it, people visit our skatepark, they love our skatepark and perhaps more importantly, they work very hard to protect and maintain our skatepark. It is emblematic of what community is all about and I could not be more proud to have been a part of making it happen."

- Mayor Jennifer Laird White, *Nyack NY*

**"This skatepark project is a wonderful example of how the community and local government can come together to create a project that will benefit not only the youth of the community, but the greater community as a whole."**

- Louis Svehla, *Defuniak Springs, Florida*

**"Planning a city-wide skateboard infrastructure has enabled a fuller vision of the inequities of our communities and has sharpened our focus to prioritize youth in need of resources."**

- Paul Forsline, *Minneapolis MN*

**"My original intent for becoming a public skatepark advocate was to simply get a great recreational facility developed in my home town. The bigger impact, though, was how working with other community members, organizations, and municipalities resulted in skateparks and skateboarding being not only accepted among the larger community, but skateboarding is now a part of our overall community culture. Kids who helped out early in our skatepark effort have grown up and helped get skateparks developed in their towns. Municipalities in nearby areas have seen our skatepark as a success, and want one for their young people. All it takes is one person's vision and determination to help create a cascade of opportunities for youth to get active and enjoy being outdoors. If you think you might be that person... you probably are!"**

- Trevor Staples, *Ann Arbor, MI*



**"The value in skatepark advocacy has personally given me the opportunity to become a community activist representing local skaters, my community and be a catalyst for social change. Professionally it's given me credibility with those donors, sponsors, industry leaders, and municipalities."**

- Kyle Little, *Portage Wisconsin*

**"You don't have to be a great skateboarder to be a great skatepark advocate."**

- Stephanie Murdock, *Baltimore Maryland*

**"The skatepark is a snapshot of the diversity within the city that many don't see: black, hispanic, white... old, young... different socio-economic levels... all come together peaceably to enjoy what they love."**

- Whitney Pickering, *Laurel MS*

"This ambitious project has the potential to not only dramatically transform our current skatepark, but transform our community as a whole. **Now more than ever it is important to provide our at-risk youth safe and positive environments in which to grow.**"

- Ryan Sevenski, *Parks & Recreation Coordinator, Quakertown Borough PA*

**"I learned that pretty much kids anywhere, could do pretty much anything. Because, I was a sixth grader, and look what we've done now – we've made a skate park."**

- Jaylin Law, *Chiloquin OR*

**"In between the infrastructures of a city we try to create active spaces - these spaces are breeding grounds for all kinds of culture and creativity and help keep the city progressive and innovative."**

- William J. L. Frederiksen, *Department of Culture and Leisure, Council of Copenhagen, Denmark*



## FOUR SIMPLE ADVOCACY RULES

*“You and your core group are representing the project and someone’s opinion will be formed by their impression of you.”  
Peter Whitley, Public Skatepark Development Guide*

**STAY CALM** - Skateparks can be a polarizing topic. Don’t let those that are critical of the skatepark vision get under your skin. Acknowledge their input, thank them for sharing and move on.

**STAY POSITIVE** - The tone of your advocacy should remain positive and focused on creating a successful community space.

**STAY AWAKE** - Things going on in town (and town meetings) can seem boring or irrelevant to the skatepark project. Try to see the opportunity to talk about skateboarding and the skatepark vision everywhere you look.

**STAY ORGANIZED** - You will need to maintain a calendar, a list of contacts, a handful of statistics, produce handouts for meetings, and remember peoples’ names. Thankfully, all of this complexity doesn’t come at you at once. Getting organized early and staying organized throughout the process will pay huge dividends in the long run.

For more advocacy advice and real world examples, [see Appendix G](#) and the [Public Skatepark Guide](#).

### A NOTE ON STAYING ORGANIZED AND CONNECTED:

Some people like using binders, some people keep everything on their phone or computer. If you store things digitally, you may also be able to use extra tags (words) to identify (and later search for) city employees, core group members, general skatepark supporters, potential funding partners and more. Tagging each type of supporter in your contacts (or separating them in a binder) can make short work of sending out group texts or emails to inform your stakeholders. If you meet someone who gives you a business card, store all that information. If you meet someone who’s interested in the project and they give you their information, send a followup “Nice to meet you” email and grow the connection. It will be easier to reach out with an invitation or an ask at a later time.

## CITY PLANS & INSERTING A SKATEPARK PROJECT

Every community is different. **Some towns may be very supportive of the idea of a skatepark, and some won’t even try to make a skatepark a priority.** It’s important to remember that cities often have a long term plan (often called a City Plan or Master Plan) that’s a written document depicting how the city functions currently, and what changes it might be scheduled to make over a period of years, sometimes decades.

When you reach out to the Parks and Recreation Department or someone in the City, you may learn that there’s already a skatepark project in the plan! If that’s the case, you can ask how to support or where to apply pressure to help make that project more of a priority - especially if it’s some years away.

The key thing to remember when working with the city on a skatepark project is that you are essentially inserting a NEW PROJECT into an office that has lots of things going on already. Needless to say, **respect and patience are key.** It’s very likely that local government employees will be excited that you or your group have taken an interest in working with them to help make the city a better place to live (and skate!). If you work with kindness and persistence, it’s likely that you’ll **find a helpful insider** or two in the government who will help the project (and your group) along the way. This often comes in the form of a “**skatepark steering committee**” that includes helpful city employees and local skatepark project group members.

However, sometimes local skatepark groups try hard to get the attention and support of their government but it seems that no one wants to help.





# IT TAKES A VILLAGE





## BAD REASONS, GOOD RESPONSES

### COMMON "REASONS" WHY A CITY WON'T MAKE A SKATEPARK A PRIORITY:

- A: an assumption about a lack of need for a skatepark**
- B: a lack of understanding of the value of these sports and facilities**
- C: misconceptions and concerns about (1) skatepark liability, (2) safety, (3) noise or (4) crime**
- D: an inability to put funds or staff time toward the project**

All of these concerns can and should be addressed appropriately. The Skatepark Project has resources and staff available to help you and your team navigate these waters.

### GOOD RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS:

Learn these short responses below - it's likely you'll be asked these questions MANY times during your advocacy journey. Be sure to familiarize yourself with more detailed information in the Appendix.

**A: Need:** It's often illegal to skate anywhere in town. Skaters are good at staying hidden (in schoolyards, parking lots, business parks etc.) so it's likely most people will not see them and then assume there aren't many skaters in their town. It's also worth noting that you usually only cultivate a sport when you have a field or court on which to do it... If you build it, they will come.

**B: Value:** Use what you've learned about the physical, emotional, social and societal benefits of skating and skateparks to help them understand. Explain what skating means to YOU, and what it would mean for you and others to have a safe place to do it.

#### **C: Misconceptions and Concerns:**

**Liability:** In most cases, state recreational statutes shield a city from skatepark and other recreational liability and insurance falls under their general city umbrella policy. Talk to your city and other cities (with free, unsupervised public skateparks) in your state to learn more. Research in skatepark-rich states like California also reveals that the fear of liability lawsuits is ungrounded. Skateparks do not invite liability suits any more than existing public ball fields and courts, playgrounds, and swimming pools.

**Safety:** According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, skateboarding is statistically safer than basketball and football—activities that most

cities already provide facilities for. The vast majority of severe skateboarding accidents involve a motor vehicle. It's important to skate in a safe place. Basketball has 10x more injuries than skateboarding per 1000 participants. One third of skate injuries happen in the first week - safety gear, skate programming, and/or beginner lessons.

**Noise:** Skatepark noise, according to every study conducted on the subject, consistently falls well below ordinary recreational standards and is completely appropriate for residential areas. Skateparks average 54-71 decibels, between office noise, conversational speech and normal street noise. (Concrete skateparks are quieter than prefabricated ramps)



**Crime:** The Skatepark Project interviewed 102 Law Enforcement Officers from 37 states across the USA. Here's what they said about their skateparks.

- Fewer complaints about skating around town (85% reported significant decrease in skate calls)

- The skatepark is NOT a magnet for crime (91% reported no major issues of behavior or crime)
- Visible location is critical. (15% cited location as a major role in whether or not they experience significant delinquency issues)
- Increased tourism in town (15% of officers reported)

For more information on Liability, Safety, Noise and Crime, [see Appendix D](#). To learn more about possible community questions, see the [PSDG's Community FAQ](#)

**D: Funding:** This is usually the most common issue. "We love the idea, we just don't have funds for it." It's an easy answer for the city to give. But don't let this stop you. Think about it - if you were to walk into a council meeting and slap a \$500,000 check onto the table and say "let's build a skatepark!" it's likely things would move much more quickly.

Council's and Cities are used to saying "no" to random citizens who want to create big new things - usually because there's no room in the city budget for a new project. However, if there is enough public support or the value of the project is understood, it's likely they will get behind the project and work with you to find funding. See the next chapter on funding.

Now that you have the basic answers to the most common questions, what happens if your city still doesn't seem to want to support a skatepark project or make it a priority?



# PULL VS PUSH

**COMPLAINING ON SOCIAL MEDIA WILL NOT GET A SKATEPARK BUILT.  
BEING ANGRY AND AGGRESSIVE WITH THE CITY WILL NOT GET A SKATEPARK BUILT.**

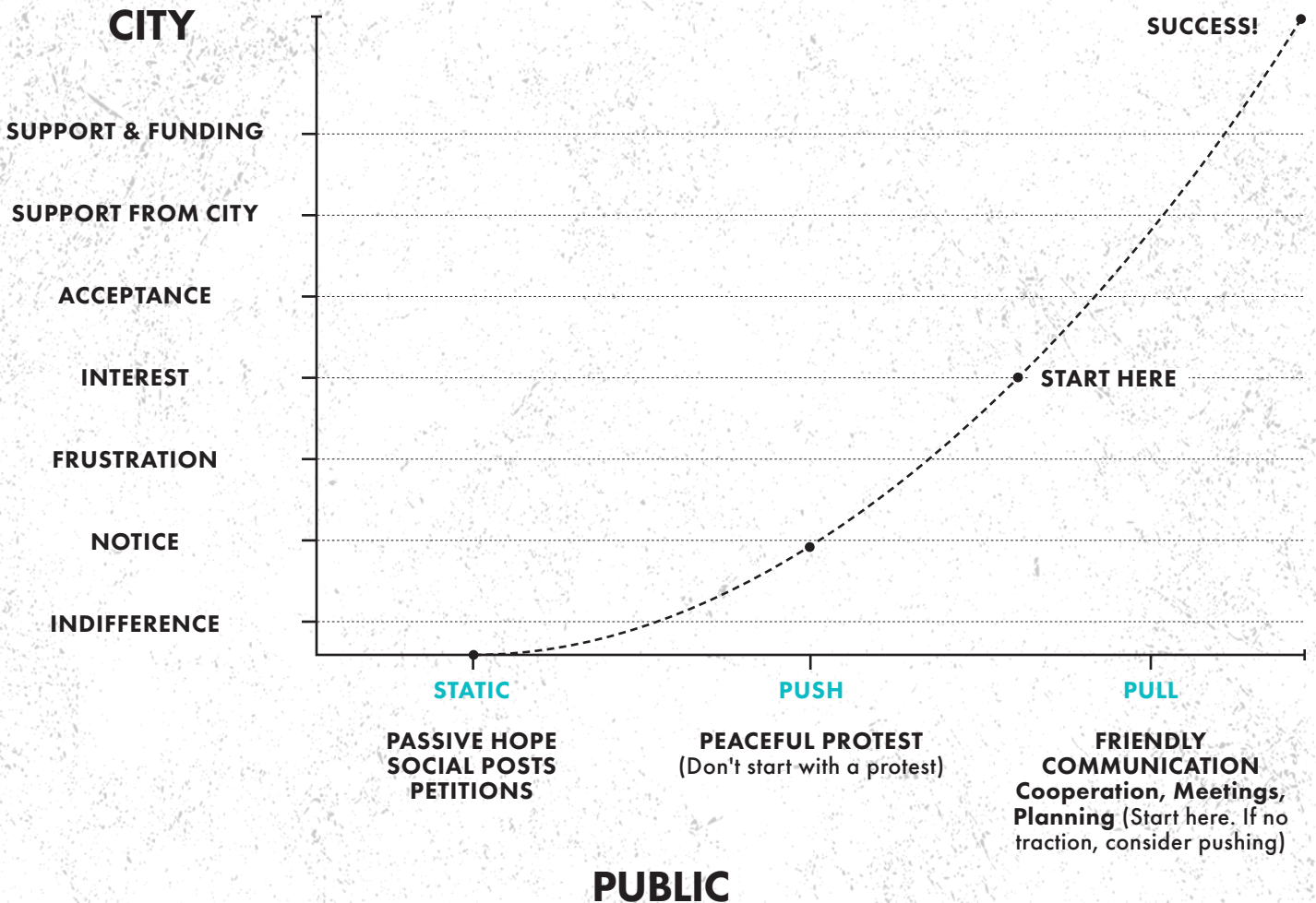
THE CITY WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE - NEVER FORGET THAT, BUT DON'T BE A JERK ABOUT IT.

It's always best to work together, period. That said, remember your rights as citizens to influence public policy and work toward improving your society. Pull people with the vision of this new space. Inspire folks and work together where you can, but push and protest if you have to. "Pulling" usually looks like asking the city what they need to see to make the skatepark a priority, and then working toward that (hopefully reasonable) goal. But sometimes people can be unreasonable, and when that happens, some choose to make noise as citizens. Throughout your project, you have a duty of care to yourself and to people in your group to make sure everyone stays safe while advocating for change.

If you find people are not being supportive of the skatepark project, keep working to run the project yourself and working to find those in government who will support the vision. Most importantly, if you do end up "pushing", once the project is a priority for the city, **resume kindly working together.**

Never lose your cool, never throw people under the bus or blame people/politicians. Successful skatepark advocates are soothers, not agitators. Positivity, kindness and a relentless pursuit of the goal are the tools of a successful skatepark advocate.

Advocacy is an act of democracy. In most cases you have the right to make reasonable requests from your local city council to hear and act on the needs of the community.





## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

At some point in your project you'll likely find yourself standing in front of your local city council explaining the needs of the local action sports community and advocating for a properly built, free, public skatepark.

Hopefully your insider tells you when it's appropriate to make your first council pitch. Don't worry about being nervous about public speaking, it's normal. Focus on explaining 1) why you, as a citizen of your great community, find the activity so valuable, and 2) why you think the space will be valuable for the community.

Feel free to use data and information from the beginning of this document or verifiable sources.



It's not necessary for everyone who supports the skatepark to speak at the meeting, but it's very helpful if lots of people show up for the meeting in support of the skatepark. You can have a small, diverse group of skatepark users and family members speak, and then ask for all those in the audience who are there supporting the skatepark to stand up or raise their hand. This demonstrates the volume of support for the project and is considerate of council members' time. Keep it short, explain the value, and demonstrate local support. It's very likely that your council will be stoked that you're there to improve the community, especially if you have little kids making adorable and truthful speeches. In the end, use the opportunity to ask the council for meaningful movement on the project.

## APPROPRIATE REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL

Your group can make appropriate requests for the council to make real moves supporting the skatepark project.

- **ACKNOWLEDGE THE "NEED" FOR A SKATEPARK**
- **ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL SKATEPARK STEERING COMMITTEE**
- **SUPPORT AN OFFICIAL RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SKATEPARK**
- **COMMIT FUNDS FOR THE SKATEPARK PROJECT** (repeat at appropriate intervals)

Ultimately, you'll try to get the city to make the project a priority, and if they don't, you'll start the project yourself while keeping them informed of your progress. Eventually the city will get on board once it has enough momentum. Why? Because you're doing their job and are creating something valuable.



## DEMONSTRATING SUPPORT AND ONGOING SKATEPARK ADVOCACY

In general, cities respond to public support. Whether you're getting tons of support from the city or not, there's still a good chance your skatepark group will need to demonstrate lots of public support for the project. Ask your city insider what they think is the best way to accomplish this. It may mean having a large group of skatepark users and families coming together for short presentations to City Council, Parks Board or a Planning Board to help them understand the value of skateparks

Even though most municipalities are very supportive of skateparks and many are now fully funding skateparks, **skatepark advocacy is always a critical element of a successful skatepark project.** Whether it is convincing a local government to start a skatepark project, pushing them to make it a priority, or helping them follow best practices to ensure quality - the local user-base should always be involved.

Your advocacy coalition should be a diverse group of local stakeholders, with a few key representatives engaging with the municipality for the duration of the project. Enlisting support from all types of future skatepark users, parents, teachers, law enforcement and supporters of all kinds will more accurately represent the community's diverse needs and desires. It will also help the city understand the extent of the need for the space and who will support the space once open.

GALLUP, NM



### EXAMPLES OF SKATEPARK ADVOCACY:

- Meeting at the skateshop to discuss a new skatepark project
- Putting up "Help us build a skatepark!" signs at the old park, at school, the shop, or around town
- Calling the Parks Department to discuss a skatepark project
- Holding skatepark project group meetings
- Creating a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the value of skateparks to Council or others
- Creating a video focused on locals explaining the value of the space and activity
- Attending city council meetings with lots of skatepark stakeholders
- Creating a steering committee for a skatepark project or system
- Establishing a Fundraising Committee with seasoned fundraisers
- Fundraising and awareness events
- Connecting with local service organizations for support & funding
- Engaging local skaters to inform your city-led skatepark project

### START A PETITION?

Petitions may seem like an easy way to get the city's attention, after all, cities respond to public support. However, it's best to only spend time on a petition if the city specifically asks for one. **Your time as a skatepark advocate is better spent having conversations with people inside the city about what the next steps are to get a park built. Focus on those steps and you'll truly help move the project forward.**

To learn more about how to be a successful skatepark advocate, be sure to read the [Public Skatepark Development Guide](#) by Peter Whitley, published by The Skatepark Project. Anyone serious about committing to a skatepark project should read this guide. It is the definitive long-form instruction manual for public skatepark advocacy and civic engagement.





## WEBSITE AND SOCIAL



This is a place to tell the story of the vision and the project. You'll likely want to set up an email address, a simple website and a social media account to help people connect and stay connected with the project.

### WEBSITE

A clean and simple website is a key asset to a successful skatepark project. People need a place to go to learn more about your project. They also need a place to donate and to sign up to help. See if you can get website design and hosting fees donated. Nearly anyone can design a simple website using today's website builders.

#### BASICS TO INCLUDE ON THE WEBSITE

- What you're doing
- The name of the town you're doing it in (you'd be surprised how many people forget this...)
- Why skateparks are valuable (benefits to individuals and the community, and who will use them)
- Who you are - who's a part of the team
- What's the scope of the project? (Timeline, size, cost - conservative estimates are fine, but mark as such)
- The skatepark design rendering once you have it, or an example design

- Where the skatepark will go, if appropriate to reveal at that time
- A place to accept donations

#### BONUS

- Quotes from a few locals
- Links to statistics (find some at [www.skatepark.org](http://www.skatepark.org))
- A visual indicator of funds raised
- A thermometer for funds raised
- A video describing the project
- Endorsements from city officials

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is not the place where skatepark advocacy happens. It's the place where you inform project stakeholders and other locals about the work that's being done to advance the project. You can keep them informed of what important things are happening, fill them in on what's already happened, and help educate them about how this whole process works. You can also recruit more support.

#### BASICS TO INCLUDE IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Put your basic project information (name of city, state, project goal, timeline) in the bio  
 Link to your website for donations and more information  
 Posts about recent project movement, fundraisers, supporters, meetings, design concepts, group members, community skaters and more.

#### TIPS

Keep it positive - don't tolerate online abuse  
 Move forward - don't use the space to blame the city for what they have or haven't done in the past.  
 Get your audience involved by asking questions



## TASKED WITH FUNDING

The municipality should fund skateparks as they do other recreational and capital improvement projects (CIP). If your city does not fund recreational facilities or capital improvement projects, or needs convincing, you may need to utilize skatepark advocacy and fundraising methods.

In the past, before skateparks were understood as valuable recreational assets and paid for by local governments or sports federations, local skatepark advocacy groups would work to convince governments to support the project and help raise funds for the skatepark. This often involved developing a team of experienced local fundraising volunteers.

### FUNDS FOR A SKATEPARK CAN COME FROM: (IN ORDER OF PRIORITY AND EFFECTIVENESS)

<p><b>Capital Improvement Project Budgets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal Budget</li> <li>County Budget</li> <li>Bonds</li> <li>Recreation Budgets</li> </ul> <p><b>Grant Funding</b> (Local, County, Regional, State, Federal)</p>	<p><b>Community Foundation Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private/Family Foundation Donations</li> <li>Service Organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc)</li> <li>Grassroots Fundraising</li> </ul> <p><b>Sponsorships</b> (avoid logo advertisement in public space)</p> <p><b>Plaque, Brick and Naming Rights Donations</b></p>
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## ACCEPTING AND STORING FUNDS

If you're tasked with raising some money for the skatepark, you'll need to have a legal place to put the funds. It helps if you can give your donors a tax deductible receipt for their donations to the project. Some of the available options are:

- **A city account solely designated for the skatepark funds. Get it in writing!**
- **A "Fiscal Sponsor"** - a local 501 c3 or 7871 non-profit organization acting as your skatepark group's "bank" - they usually charge a processing fee but provide some existing reputation and network. Good for one skatepark project. This is the most common route.
- **Establishing your own 501 c3 or 7871 non-profit organization.** Much more work and a longer time frame, but a decent option if you plan to do many skatepark projects or programming.

Regardless of where the money is stored, you should always have both a digital web address for donations as well as a physical address for donations. Any time you get publicity for the project, you should always end on a CTA - a Call To Action for donations for your project using the website and the physical address.

### GRANTS

Along with city support, grants are a great way to get funding for skateparks. Asking the city if they have a person on staff with grant writing experience can be very helpful. The more fleshed out your project plan is, the more likely you are to be successful. If the application comes from an official organization with an EIN you're far more likely to be taken seriously. Consider contacting the granting organization to see if they prefer in-depth application language or shorter responses. This is also a chance to introduce yourself and your organization to their organization.

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

Talk to your skatepark designer and a builder about a list of materials and services that can be donated from local groups to offset the cost of the skatepark build. This can include things like fill dirt, rebar, concrete, hotel rooms and food for the build crew and more.

### CROWDFUNDING

Crowdfunding may seem like it's the perfect marriage between a petition and a fundraiser, but it doesn't do either very well. It's easy to do, and it can seem like a good way to start, but it's often a bit of a false start without a long term understanding of these projects or who needs to be involved (the city...). It can leave lots of people waiting a long time without seeing much progress, and it doesn't appear as official (to the city) as other methods listed.

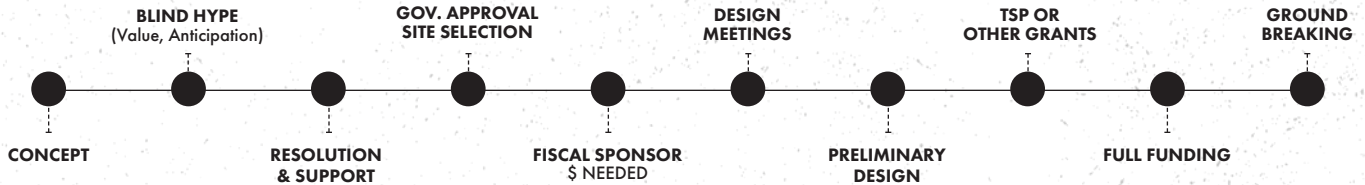




If you're faced with the challenge of raising some of the funds for a skatepark, be sure to read the **Public Skatepark Development Guide** in full. Ideally you get the city to prioritize funding for the park. If not, work toward that goal as well as getting support from city grant writers. You should consider working to assemble a group of experienced fundraisers to help your cause. Note: Avoid corporate logos on skatepark space - it's a public space and should look and feel that way.

Resources such as NRPA's Guide to Fundraising and groups such as the National Association of Park Foundations are valuable in educating leadership on the importance of fundraising and setting up structures to do so.

There are plenty of opportunities to promote the project. Consider using these milestones to promote the project through local and regional media outlets, as well as your own project's website and social channel.



## COMMUNITY GROUP SUPPORT

We believe skateparks should be funded by the city or National Governing Body of the sport. When that's not possible, it may be helpful to look for grants or donations from local community support centers. Use web searches and local online map searches to find community based organizations that may be willing to financially support the project if given good reasons to do so. Below is a list of potential community organizations and corresponding reasons why they should consider funding the construction of a community skatepark (or "investing in the future of our town"). Explain the value of the space, what your "sport" means to you, and remind them that this space will serve the community for decades to come.

A skatepark is an attractive and freely accessible space that provides individuals and communities with the many benefits of exercise, creative expression and social cohesion. **Skateparks help kids and adults build healthy habits.**

### WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS?

**FIND AND NOTE WHERE THE VALUE OF THE SKATEPARK INTERSECTS WITH THEIR MISSION.**

- Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau** - Local business and tourism networks
- Public Health Organizations** (public health, healthcare offices) - physical and mental health outcomes
- Mental Health/Suicide Support** - mental health support and social cohesion
- Inclusive Community Non-Profits** (BIPOC, LGBTQ+) - access and support for marginalized and underserved
- Art Scene** (museums, schools) - incorporating art into park design, sculptures and community process
- Local Schools** - benefits of exercise and social cohesion on academics
- Youth Centers** (Boys and Girls Clubs, Scouts, etc) - athletic and social support space for youth
- Trauma Centers** - Provide activity and social support network, promotes self-regulation
- Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers** - Healthy alternative activities and community engagement
- Athletic Clubs** - athletic accessibility
- Service Organizations** (Rotary, Women's Club, local service, etc) - support community and recreation
- Environmental/Natural Space Organizations** - skate space and signage can be good educational opportunities
- Children's Health** - youth attraction for social, creative and athletic pursuits
- Autism** - athletic, social and self-regulating benefits of skateparks
- Police and Fire Foundations** - keep people out of trouble and connected
- Neighborhood Foundations** - improve the quality of life and access to recreation



## SITE SELECTION

At some point during the skatepark project the city will want to begin looking into viable sites for the park to be built. There's a wealth of information about urban planning that will help make a community more accessible, vibrant and equitable. We encourage anyone working on a public space to learn a bit more about the built environment and the design of public spaces. Go online or to your local library, and have some conversations with your city planner to engage further.

### AUTHORS FOR GOOD READS ON CITY PLANNING AND/OR SKATEBOARDING:

JANE JACOBS  
IAN BORDEN  
OCEAN HOWELL  
PETER WHITLEY

### BASICS OF PUBLIC SKATEPARK SITE SELECTION

The site should be donated by the municipality. If the site is privately donated, it should be officially converted to city-owned public space or have a long-term lease to the city for public use. Usually \$1 a year.

Establish site selection criteria early in the process to support a collective and data based decision. This means creating a form with scoring criteria and reviewing all possible site options. See criteria options below. Using this process will help you support the decision with rationale and data, allowing for good responses should anyone push back about the decision to select a certain site.

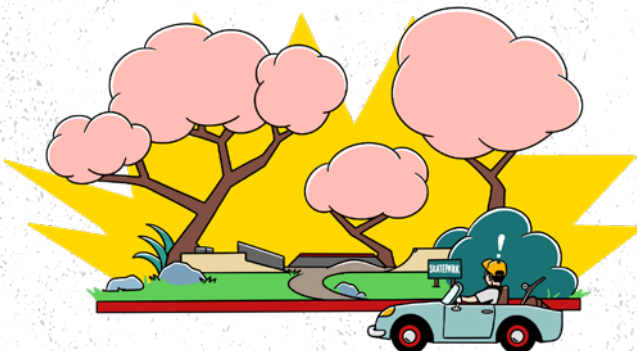
### DO NOT DISCUSS ANY SPECIFIC SITE PUBLICLY UNTIL OFFICIAL MUNICIPAL APPROVAL.

You don't want to create opposition before you have enough momentum to see the project through, or data behind your site selection process.

When engaging with your skatepark designer, they will likely ask for a Site Survey and a Geotechnical Report. This information can be gathered by city or local civil engineers - you'll likely be chatting as a group by then. It will help the skatepark designer understand the space.

The project may require an Environmental Impact Report. This helps civil engineers and the city understand how the new space will affect everything around it including: service patterns, traffic patterns, sound, light, crime and more. Talk with your city allies to see if this is the right time to introduce your group (and the value of skateparks, including correcting misconceptions) to the neighbors - as they may be introducing the skatepark concept to the neighborhood around that time. Most likely, the project is already public before an official EIR.

**CORRECT**  
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE,  
VISIBLE FROM ROAD, ACCESSIBLE



**INCORRECT**  
ISOLATED, INACCESSIBLE, NOT VISIBLE



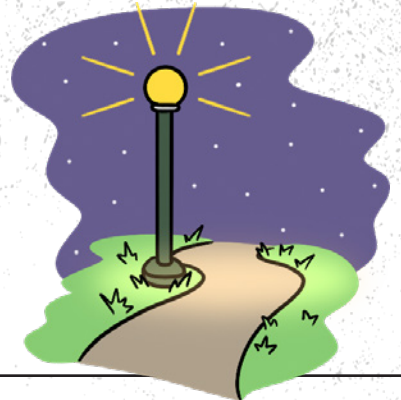


## PRIMARY CRITERIA



### VISIBILITY

A clear line of sight through the skatepark (for the general public and law enforcement/community patrol) will help increase community awareness, friendly public engagement and minimize anti-social behavior from non-skatepark users. This acts as “informal supervision” that can work in tandem with and support local skater stewardship.



### SAFETY/SECURITY AND SPORTS LIGHTING

Park security lighting can improve comfort and visibility. Factor this in during your site selection process. Skatepark/sport field lighting leads to greater use-hours and a better return on your investment. Existing sport lighting can be used, but lighting often needs to be installed along with the new skatepark. Factor that into your conversation with skatepark designers and the city.

### ACCESS

More densely populated areas and diverse access options provide greater access for more users and their families. Consider different ways to get there (public transit, bike paths, sidewalks and roads) and places to park your vehicle (board, bike, bus or car). It may also be important to ensure there’s appropriate vehicle access/restriction to the skate space (bollards to protect the park from vehicles). The more centralized the skatepark is, the more use it will get.



### COMFORT

Comfort for users and their families is essential for a well functioning skatepark. People need to be able to restore their personal comfort while using the park. A site that already includes basic amenities like bathrooms, water stations and seating areas is likely to increase use of the park and promote better “informal/passive supervision” of the space. In other words, more people will be able to stay there longer, keep an eye on things and get the most out of the space.

This also includes comfort for neighbors. Putting a skatepark directly in front of a neighbor’s house may not be the best idea. But across a well used street, in the right circumstances that can work for everyone. If noise is a concern, learn more about skatepark noise studies later in this document. Then look into sound abatement using obstacle orientation or greenery as long as the visual line of sight isn’t obstructed. You can also fill in sidewalk cracks to minimize local skate travel noise.



### ACTIVITY

The more active the surrounding space is, the better. You’ll have more people viewing, understanding and using the space, and more public community interaction. Having a skatepark near schools, other sports, public agencies (libraries, fire stations, etc), shopping and activities helps attract more users and contributes to “informal supervision” that helps keep the space and community healthy. The skatepark should be sited and designed to be a community hub that locals are proud of.

### ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Water table, soil quality, zoning issues, utilities, long term plans for the site, as well as proximity to safety and emergency services are other site selection considerations.



## THE OLD WAY & YOUR OLD PARK

There was a time in skatepark history when prefabricated skateparks were deemed a relatively acceptable option. That time is over. Shorter life expectancy, design constraints, noise, high maintenance costs and risks of heated metal and loose screws are the reasons that prefabricated skateparks are no longer the correct choice for public skateparks. Poured in place, custom concrete skateparks are the contemporary choice for successful public skateparks due to their longevity, design potential, lower noise, lower risk and lower maintenance.



### IF YOUR TOWN HAS A PREFAB SKATEPARK THAT IS FALLING APART...

Many communities start their new skatepark project journey by trying to figure out what to do with the old “skatepark” that’s falling apart. There are concerns about safety, liability and how much should be spent on repairing the old skatepark vs. saving for a new concrete skatepark.

In general we recommend putting most if not all of the effort toward replacing the park with a contemporary concrete skatepark. Here are some suggestions for how to make the process a little easier:





**MAXIMIZE USE, PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE**

Get to work on a concrete skatepark project as soon as possible, but utilize any existing ramps that are in good shape as long as possible (even after the new park is open, if you have space for them.)

NOTE: Moving prefab ramps is difficult, tricky and can be dangerous. On top of that, they rarely keep their shape after being moved unless disassembled and reassembled. (by professional ramp builders).

Utilize the space by fundraising for future concrete skatepark by highlighting and logging the use of the existing space. It's very likely that you'll get more users to a contemporary skatepark that's well designed and built out of concrete. Consider donating any old ramps to another city, but know that moving those ramps is not only difficult, they tend to lose shape and are hard to put back together.

**TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DEMOLITION**

If the park gets shut down due to legitimate safety concerns before a replacement skatepark opens, utilize this moment to gain more support for the new project through local news. Avoid blame, look forward to the future and share the vision.

**UTILIZING EXISTING SLABS**

If you have a prefabricated skatepark, it's likely that it was built on a concrete slab. This slab can be reused as additional (or central) space in the construction of the new skatepark. Work with your skatepark designer or builder to see if the slab is in good enough condition and how you might work the old slab into or around the new design.

**BEST CASE SCENARIO**

WORK TOWARD AND COMPLETE A CONCRETE SKATEPARK PROJECT THAT IS:

1. In another part of town to serve more people (assuming old park will still work for a while, open new park then work toward putting concrete obstacles on old park's slab)
2. Adjacent to the existing skatepark so both areas can be utilized. Once the old skatepark elements fall apart, continue to utilize the slab as an open skate space and eventually build concrete elements into the old space.

**RAMPS**

Ramps are best found in private residential backyards or driveways. If you're considering spending time building an expensive ramp out of wood to serve the whole community to ride, note that there's a point of scale where you'd be better off building out of concrete so it lasts a long time and you get a better return on your investment. Anything bigger than a miniramp should be made from concrete (and even miniramps should be made from concrete, nowadays). People like wooden ramps because they appear easier to build and can be moved. This doesn't work as a long term solution because they are extremely difficult to maintain, but they can benefit your skatepark project in other ways.

**UTILIZING RAMPS FOR AWARENESS EVENTS**

Creating some small ramps to demonstrate action sports in your community can be helpful. Just be mindful of the cost. They can also be used to activate an empty space with permission. However, they are not a permanent solution.

A quick note on the term "ramp": The modern definition of a ramp is a skateable object made from wood. The concrete equivalent of a ramp is usually referred to by its more specific "obstacle" name.

Ultimately, if people are going to make little ramps in an area, try to work with them to let them have it and start to think about permanent solutions. They are providing a needed service and it can be very valuable until the permanent space is created.

**REFURBISHING A CONCRETE SKATEPARK**

If your existing permanent concrete skatepark has a contemporary design and it's worth refreshing the concrete, there are firms that specialize in skatepark refurbishment. But if your city hasn't met the need, it's worth prioritizing getting enough skate space for all before spending money on refurbishment. Oftentimes older concrete can still be used while you meet the need. Once you do, you can go back and refurbish.



## SKATEPARK DESIGN CONSIDERATION & CONSTRAINTS

1. Hire an experienced skatepark designer
2. Get the local skaters and action sports community involved
3. Utilize green design and construction practices (see next page)
4. Skatepark design should NEVER be standardized

An experienced skatepark designer will understand the nuances of skatepark functionality, layout and design. They will take the requests from locals and implement them into a cohesive design that addresses potential traffic patterns and the needs of the community.

### NOTE FOR ADVOCATES:

- It's unlikely you will meet everyone's specific skatepark design desires, but you can create a design that will serve the whole community.
- Locals may be interested in designing the layout of the space. It's best to work with an experienced designer to make sure community design ideas are heard and implemented the right way.
- (Amateur community designer tip: draw the full scale skatepark layout on a parking lot with chalk to get an idea of spacing and flow)

### NOTE FOR BUILDERS:

When at all possible, please form with dirt, not with construction foam. The short term cost savings do not outweigh the long term environmental impact.

EXPERT ONLY - Planning, skatepark design and skatepark construction are part science, part artform. "How precise could it possibly need to be?" you might ask.  
**Skateboards and other action sport vehicles measure their wheels in millimeters.**

TALK TO YOUR SKATEPARK DESIGNER ABOUT DESIGN CONSTRAINTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

## DESIGN CONSTRAINTS

Your local civil engineer and your designer will need to discuss the following design constraints regarding your specific skatepark site options.



### BUDGET

Only design what you can pay for.



### SOIL

Some soil lends itself to construction, some doesn't. Sometimes better soil needs to get trucked in to make the build easier and last longer. Make sure your skatepark builder/designer and city have a conversation about needs.

### TOPOGRAPHY/ GRADE/ELEVATION CHANGE

How can you design to work with the existing shape of the land?

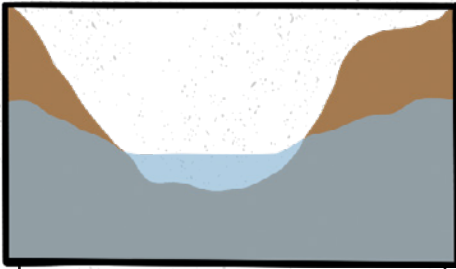


### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Rain water normally sinks into the ground where it falls, spreading out evenly. When you cover the ground, all that water gets collected and focused into one spot! Make sure it goes to the right place. Standing water in a skatepark is unacceptable. It's dangerous and will degrade the skatepark over time.





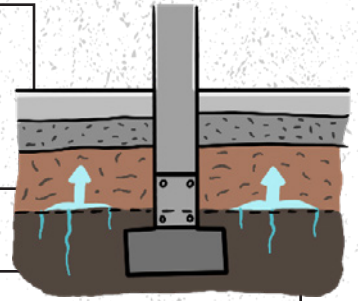


**WATER TABLE**

This is the depth below which the ground is saturated with water. If you build below this, or below where the table shifts with common storms or seasons, you'll get water seeping up into the skatepark.

**FROST LINE**

The depth to which ground water in soil is expected to freeze. If you live in an area with cold weather, you may have to build certain elements (footers) deeper than the frost line to prevent things from shifting due to water freezing.



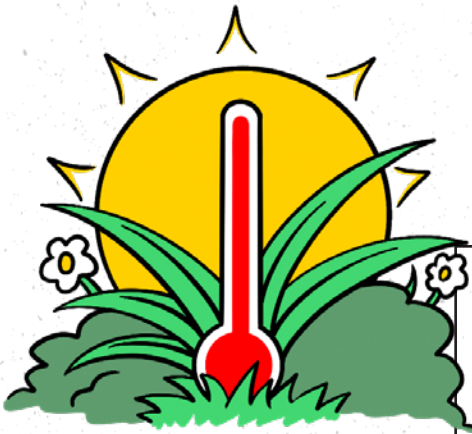
**UTILITIES AND EASEMENTS**

Many important things exist underground. Electrical wiring, sewer lines, telecommunications cables etc. Your designer will work with your city's civil engineer to understand what the restrictions are for your site. Easements mark property lines. You can only build in certain areas.



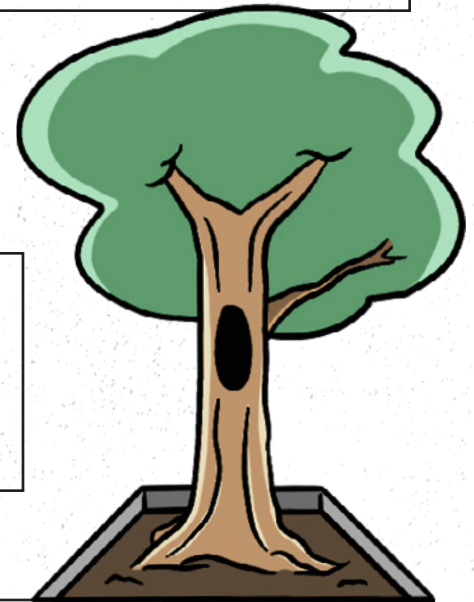
**FOOTINGS**

Concrete extensions into the ground that act as a foundation for certain elements, and prevents them from shifting over time. Particularly important in places with troublesome soils.



**UTILITIES AND EASEMENTS**

Many important things exist underground. Electrical wiring, sewer lines, telecommunications cables etc. Your designer will work with your city's civil engineer to understand what the restrictions are for your site. Easements mark property lines. You can only build in certain areas.

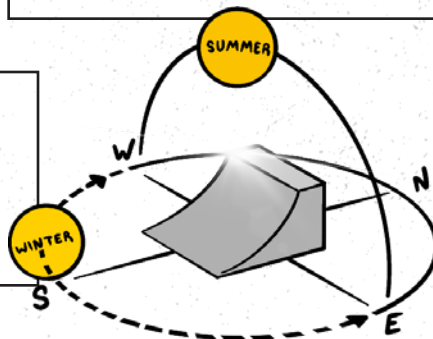


**DISPLACEMENT OF TREES (tree vs concrete)**

There are ways to work around existing trees. Consider what they need to survive, but also look out for species that drop danger pebbles (seeds and such) onto the skatepark.

**SUN GLARE ORIENTATION**

Understand where the sun rises and sets in different seasons in your town. Avoid positioning bowl deep ends or large walls where the sun sets right into your eyes.



Obviously most of these sound like they are meant for civil engineers and skatepark companies, but if you know this language and communicate with project stakeholders, you'll **minimize the chances of a weak link in the chain of successful skatepark development.**

(For more information on the intersection of skatepark and urban design, [see the PSDG](#))



## SKATEPARK CONSIDERATIONS

After you've selected the best site option for your project, you can begin to consider designing the skatepark itself.

### STYLE OF PARK

Modern skateparks should be around 50% "street" and 50% "transition." Street elements are designed to mimic obstacles found in urban or industrial environments. This includes things like stairs, ledges, banked inclines, rails, curbs and more. Transition elements are designed to mimic the curved radius inclines of backyard pools and ramps. This includes quarter pipes, hips, corners, spines, escalators and more. [See the Obstacles page](#) to learn more about each type of skatepark element.

### BASIC ELEMENTS

There are a few elements that should probably be at every skatepark. When sized, built and positioned properly, these basic obstacles can inspire and handle all types of users - from beginners to professionals. Some of these obstacles are: miniramp, flat bar, ledges, manual pad, launch, bowl corners, pyramids, etc.

### FUNCTION OVER FORM

It has to "work." Only hire experienced skatepark design firms and skatepark specialty construction firms.

### FLOW, CAPACITY AND SPACING

Obstacles are words, a good skatepark design is poetry. Only experienced skatepark professionals know this language.

### ACCESSIBILITY AND BEGINNER AREA

Inclusive design for adaptive skaters. Gentle slopes, ride on grinds for beginners.

### RECREATION VS. COMPETITION

All skateparks are recreational - that's their purpose. You can have contests at any skatepark, but to have big, well known contests, certain criteria need to be met. It is not necessary to meet these criteria to make a successful skatepark. There's no such thing as an "Olympic" skatepark, aside from the specific parks used for the actual Olympics, but there are specific sizes and requirements (in and around the actual skatepark space) necessary for world class skate events as dictated by those who produce those events. ([see Appendix F](#))

### REST AND VIEWING AREAS

Skateparks located in areas with diverse attractions will draw spectators. Provide a place for observers to check out the action without feeling like they're in the way or at risk of getting run into. Viewing areas should be separated by lower barriers so that conversations can occur face to face. Low seating walls, or even bollards or boulders, are excellent ways of delineating these areas. Viewing areas can be made "inactive" by employing textures that are not conducive to skating, such as roman pavers or cobblestones.

### COMFORT AND AMENITIES

Basic park amenities are important to the success of a skatepark. Users, and the people who support the young users, should have a place to be comfortable. Ideally many of these common comfort amenities are already available on site, but if they aren't, it's worth considering adding them to the project if possible. This includes things like bathrooms, shade, water and plenty of benches.

### LIGHTING AND SHADE

Accessibility lighting for safety, sports lighting for greater usage time. Shade sails for cooling temperatures on a hot and sunny day will also increase usability of the park.

Note on lighting: The added expense for good sports lighting and shading can greatly improve the use-hours and accessibility of the space. Ancillary security lighting, if not in place, can improve the accessibility and comfort of the space.



### FENCING

Skateparks don't need fences. They send the wrong message to the users and spectators - that skaters and the space are inherently dangerous. This can foster a lack of communication and understanding in a shared community space that can lead to discord. It can also create a feeling of inaccessibility for new users. Fences often end up dividing the community space in the wrong way.

There are only a few "reasons" behind wanting to fence a skatepark. 1) To keep skaters out of the space during off hours, 2) to keep small children from wandering into the space, 3) to block off large sheer drops, or 4) to prevent children from chasing runaway sports equipment into a busy street.





**SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS:**

1. Ensure the skatepark has appropriate hours (dawn to dusk or greater with lights). Have simple signage regarding closing hours, reasons why it closes (neighbors, safety, etc.) and notice of enforcement. Enforce where necessary, but having reasonable hours of access to include all types of users is key.
2. If the skatepark is close enough to where small children play, divide the space by a small fence, (3-4') max to indicate the skate area. For areas that aren't adjacent to kids play areas, you can also use paint, curbs or markers. If you do use a fence, consider the need for a maximum height of the bottom of the fence (around 4"). If it's too high off the ground, stray boards can roll underneath.
3. Normally skateparks are built down into the ground. If a shallow water-table makes this difficult, you may need to build up and will have tall, protruding decks. Consider the need for appropriate safety railings.
4. There should always be some form of protection between a busy street and any type of play area. A small fence is reasonable in this case.

**EMERGENCY BUTTON/COMMUNICATION**

Some park facilities employ an emergency call button so locals can contact public safety or emergency healthcare services.

**COLORED CONCRETE**

Skateparks don't have to be bland. For a small increase in cost you can have a colorful space that is aesthetically pleasing to all residents and users.

**ACCESS PATHWAYS**

Most permanent pathway construction is lined up during the design phase. It's worth anticipating organic desire lines to and from the skate space from all angles and planning accordingly. You can also wait to see where the desire paths start to show, then make pathways using this organic user-informed direction.

**PLANTING**

If there is shrubbery and planting around the perimeter of the park or inside the park, there's a risk of those plants getting beat up by stray boards. Be sure to consider designing barriers to protect plants and trees wherever possible. Beware of planting trees that drop lots of seeds or shedding onto the park space.

**LOCAL FLAVOR**

How can you incorporate your town's unique history into the design? A railroad track grind rail? A colored concrete strip to represent a local river? A stack of books as a grind ledge to pay homage to local educational institutions? Think creatively and talk to your designer about how you might represent your community well. See TSP's Signature Elements PDF for more.

**CREATIVE ETHOS**

Skateparks should never be standardized. While it's always a good idea to get basic staple obstacles in every skatepark, and many obstacles function best when sized appropriately, maintaining the creative traditions of skateboarding and skatepark design is key to the survival and progression of these spaces and the people they serve.





# SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SKATE WITHOUT A PLANET

A built environment always impacts the local surroundings. With a few simple decisions during the planning process, you can ensure that new construction is environmentally responsible and supports the local ecosystem. It can even make your project eligible for more grant funding from The Skatepark Project and others.



## PRACTICE

## BENEFITS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CENTRALIZED SITE LOCATION</li> <li>• MAXIMUM ACCESS TO AREA</li> <li>• REPURPOSING A SITE</li> <li>• SITE REMEDIATION (BROWNFIELD GRANTS)</li> <li>• CONTEMPORARY DESIGN</li> <li>• GREEN SPACES WITHIN SKATEPARK</li> <li>• PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION</li> <li>• LOCAL / RECYCLED MATERIALS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces local travel</li> <li>• Increases foot/bike traffic</li> <li>• Rehabilitates space into asset</li> <li>• Rehabilitates toxic space, funding</li> <li>• Attracts more users, greater return on investment</li> <li>• Place to rest, natural environment</li> <li>• Gets the job done the first time</li> <li>• Reduces construction waste, local flavor. Cycle forward new materials.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RECYCLED AGGREGATE AND FILL</li> <li>• STORMWATER MANAGEMENT / BIOSWALE</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces carbon footprint. Don't use foam blocks to form</li> <li>• Reduces erosion and storm discharge pollutants, recharges aquifer, provides habitat.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHADE TREES</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sequester carbon, reduce ground temperature, provide habitats. Avoid shedding trees that can dangerously disrupt skate space.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUPPLEMENTARY CEMENT MATERIAL</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces carbon footprint, increases durability and strength of material.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FLY ASH INSTEAD OF PORTLAND CEMENT, CARBON SEQUESTERING CONCRETE &amp; MORE</li> <li>• HEMP FIBERS IF USING MIXED FIBERS</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly ash cement needs increased hydraulic load support due to weaker setting during early stages.</li> <li>• Better alternative fiber</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE</li> <li>• NATIVE AND HEARTY PLANTING</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform users of the reason and importance of these decisions</li> <li>• A stronger local ecosystem. Work with the city and designer.</li> </ul>   |

\*Some cities have legal requirements for stormwater management at certain *size* thresholds. For example, some cities require a bioswale when a new project exceeds 5,000 sq. ft.





## ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY & FLOW

### MAXIMIZING FUNCTIONALITY

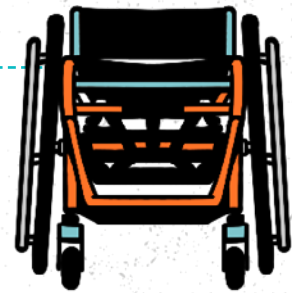
Considering accessibility, capacity and flow will ensure that the skatepark will serve more people, have a functional and enjoyable physical rhythm between obstacles and each obstacle will have the run up and run out needed to work properly.

Experienced designers and builders will understand the nuances of a good skatepark layout. They will utilize existing topography, local obstacle requests and stormwater management needs to create a space that allows traffic to flow safely - end to end or around a circuit. This is the nerdy design stuff that skaters don't often consider - but good skatepark advocates and skatepark designers must take these factors into consideration in order to create a good park.

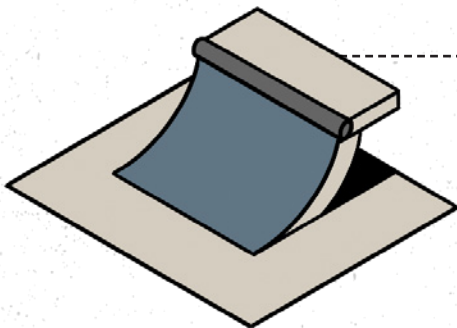
## INCLUSION WITHOUT LIMITATION



- **SECURITY LIGHTING** for access
- **WHEELCHAIR ACCESS RAMPS/ DECK WIDTHS** (consider widths from local/ national accessibility ordinance as well as local user suggestions. Often 36-42" wide with 5 degree incline (1:12 inches))
- **EXIT ROUTES FROM BOWLS FOR WCMX**, can double as channel (appropriate width and incline)
- **RIDE ON WCMX (WHEELCHAIR MOTOR CROSS) LEDGES FOR GRINDS.** (Insert text: 4"-12" wide, clean drop off for all users to skate)
- **REST AREAS**



36-42" wide with 5 degree incline (1:12 inches)



- **FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED RIPPERS CONCRETE COLOR CHANGE** at transition base for visual cues
- **PAINT COLORS FOR OBSTACLES** (flat bar with bright paint, painting around ledges)
- **MARK TOP OF AREAS OF INVISIBLE DROPS** (stairs where there would otherwise be a bank)
- **FOR HEARING IMPAIRED RIPPERS POTENTIAL MINIMAL VIBRATION STRIPS** for hearing impaired rippers.



4"-7" wide

## CAPACITY

Because there are no street signs, stop lights or lane markers at the skatepark, skaters utilize their own lines through the space. This means they need to have space to change lanes to steer around others, they need wide decks and areas to wait their turn, and enough separate "rooms" in the park to still get some runs in even when the place is crowded. That said, no amount of clever design work can make up for a skatepark that is too small for the user base in an area. Is your skatepark over-crowded all the time? Time to work on the next park to meet the need.

Lanes: Paths back and forth (or around)  
Rooms: Independent skateable sections

Do you have "lanes and rooms" that allow for multiple users to ride the park at once? Are there enough "lanes" for multiple skaters to ride back and forth simultaneously? Can your one giant bowl be converted into two interconnected medium bowls? That would "double the capacity" of your bowl section. Your skilled skatepark designer will understand how to account for potential traffic patterns given your allotted space and budget.



## FLOW

Flow can be defined as the overall combined functionality of obstacle types, specific geometries, proportions/sizes, orientations and spacing of skatepark elements. The goal is for each obstacle to function both independently (often retaining functionality regardless of rider approach angle) and in a series with other obstacles. Consider designing so someone can hit every wall in the park without pushing while still having plenty of open flat space. This is a tricky balance to achieve.



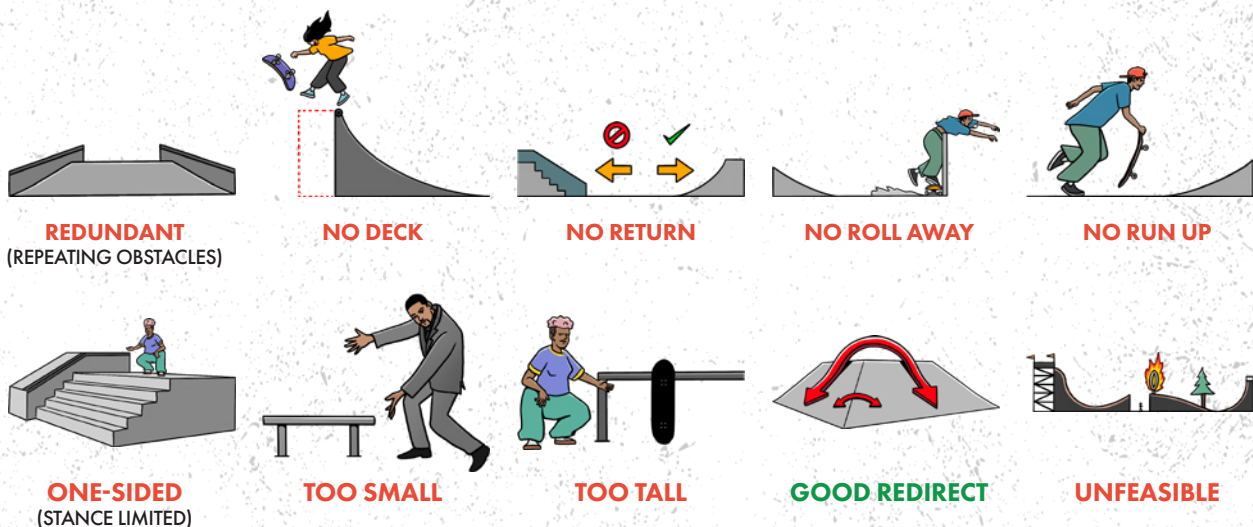
Good skatepark flow is dependent on obstacle selection, proportion and positioning. **All three of those depend on properly executed construction.** Most skatepark layouts are in a grid fashion, with lanes and rooms interacting with each other spread out over the site. Riders go back and forth in the lanes and spend time in the rooms. Some skateparks use a circular flow design, intending for riders to all go in roughly the same direction around the space.

Minimize dangerous lane intersections. Your skatepark designer will be aware of where lines intersect. It's helpful to consider minimizing these intersections where there could be more opportunity for collisions.

A roundabout or circuit design can increase flow, but keep in mind that learning something on a curved obstacle is more difficult (and less accessible) than a non-curved obstacle. Straight/Flat ledges/rails and flat walls (non-curved/bowled quarter pipes) are far more accessible than their curved counterparts. It's arguably better to have purposeful direction change from selected obstacles (hips and corners) rather than an entire skatepark that's full of curved obstacles. It's also worth ensuring that circuit style skateparks have clear lines of sight through the space for users to avoid collisions.

These and other reasons are why you should hire an experienced skatepark designer and builder. Most poorly designed skateparks look exactly like normal skateparks to the untrained eye and/or until you use them.

### COMMON SKATEPARK LAYOUT/DESIGN ISSUES

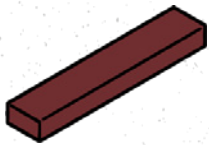




## OBSTACLES

Skateparks should never be cookie cutter or standardized. It's the responsibility of project leaders and skatepark designers to work together to keep skateparks creative and unique. With that responsibility in mind, some obstacles are commonly used (in certain size ranges) in most skateparks. These basic obstacles, when well designed, well constructed, well finished, well positioned and properly linked together, create an accessible space that flows well, safely serves many people at once and is easy for beginners and professionals alike.

Remember: these obstacles are worthless to the community unless an experienced skatepark builder creates them with the right geometry, finish and spacing.



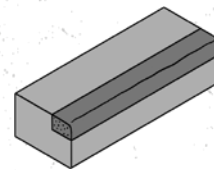
CURB



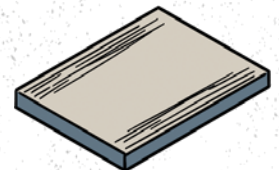
LOW FLAT BAR



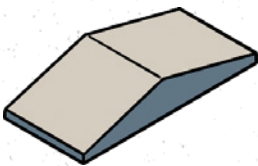
FLATBAR



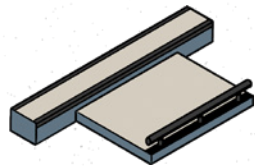
LEDGE



MANUAL PAD



MANUAL PAD (A-FRAME)



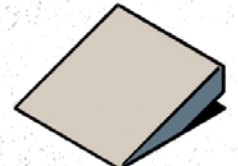
MANUAL PAD/LEDGE/  
FLAT BAR COMBO



POLE JAM



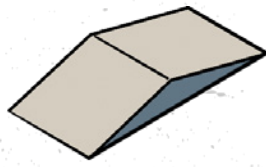
C - LEDGE



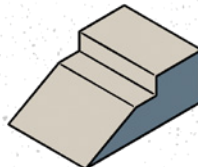
KICKER RAMP



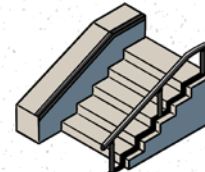
QUARTERPIPE CORNER



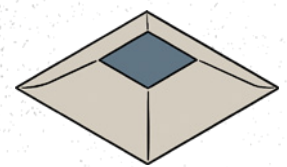
A - FRAME



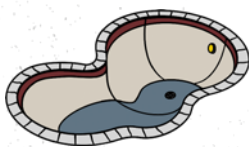
EURO GAP



STAIRSET W/ HANDRAIL  
AND HUBBA



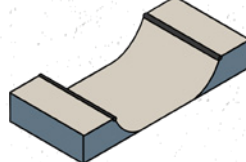
PYRAMID



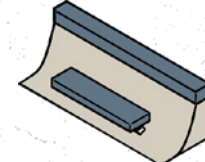
BACKYARD POOL/  
BOWL



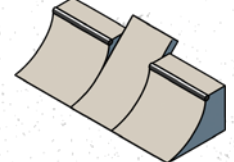
QUARTERPIPE HIP



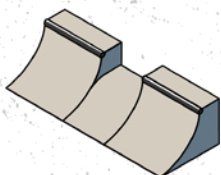
MINI RAMP



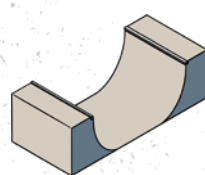
CHINA BANK OBSTACLE



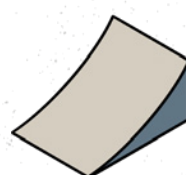
CHANNEL GAP  
W/ BANK



CHANNEL GAP  
W/ ROLL-IN



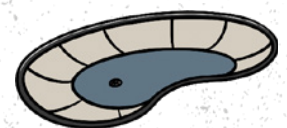
HALF-PIPE



KICKER RAMP



SPINE RAMP



MINI BOWL

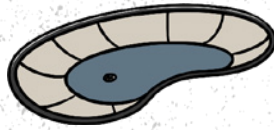


### BEGINNER OBSTACLES

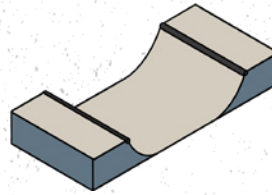
Experts can enjoy beginner obstacles, but beginners need accessible features.



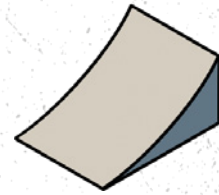
**RIDE ON RAIL/LEDGE**  
Grind early, grind often.



**SMALL BOWL**  
Basics of carving for beginners, timeless fun for all.



**MINI RAMP**  
The swing set of action sports. Accessible and always fun.

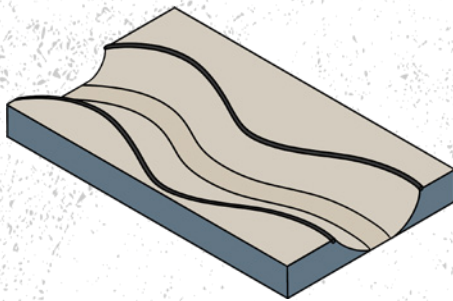


**LAUNCH RAMP/KICKER**  
Cheap airmiles.

### SNAKE RUNS & PUMP TRACKS

Snake runs and pump tracks can be good options to increase accessibility to novice riders or people who prefer cruising to tricks.

It can be a great place for beginners to learn to ride because it gives them a clear and single pathway to follow. The main risk behind this type of design decision is that the local riders may quickly outgrow the capability of the terrain. For that reason, they take up so much space and cost, it's worth making sure you leave room for the primary skate space and the features you want in the skatepark. Pump tracks and snake runs shouldn't take up more than 30-40% of the budget if it's your only skatepark in town. If you do utilize these features, consider designing obstacles into them (coping, lips & things to grind where appropriate). Avoid asphalt pump tracks; they can be (or quickly become) inaccessible to skatepark users with small wheels.



#### SNAKE RUN

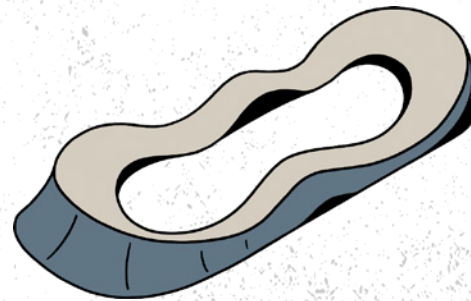
- Encapsulated space
- Often has walls (on each side)
- Steady elevation change/waterfalls

#### PROS

- Accessible, fun, challenging

#### CONS

- Lots of space, limited functionality, sometimes lacking coping or lips (features you can do tricks on), visibility for multiple rider use.



#### PUMP TRACK

- Ribbon of terrain connecting spaces
- Occasional walls
- Flat grade with frequent pump-hump elevation changes

#### PROS

- Accessible, fun for beginners, flexible and can create a full loop.

#### CONS

- Lots of space, limited functionality, often lacking coping or lips (features you can do tricks on)

### TRANSITION RADIUS

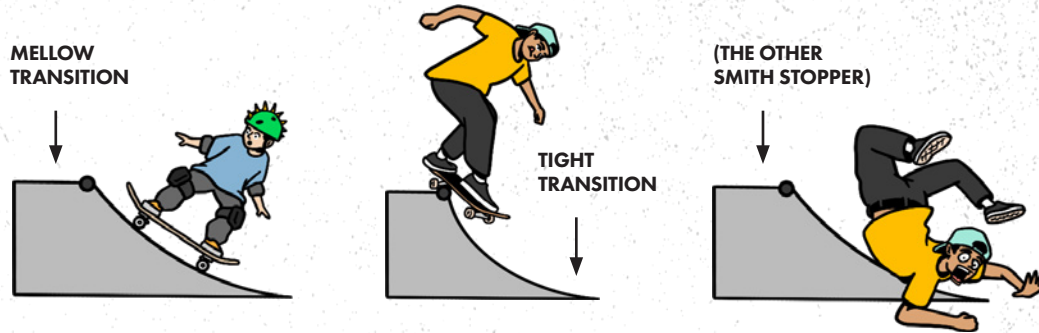
Ramps with curved inclines (quarter pipes as opposed to banks) are defined by their "transition radius." This has to do with how quickly the ramp gets steep relative to the height of the ramp. More technically, the radius is defined by the length of the radius of the ramp's curve once it meets "vert" or a vertical angle, if given the height to do so. See [Appendix E - Measuring Transition](#) to learn more. Most skatepark designers and builders will know what transition to put where, to make sure the park is both accessible and challenging. Only experienced skatepark builders will be able to build a smooth and consistent concrete transition. A concrete skatepark transition wall (corner or flat wall) has to be steel trowel smooth, with no kinks or deviations, both laterally and going up the transition vertically. This type of construction is a specialty trade skill that is part artistry and part structural engineering. Level to a tolerance of "1/4"-1/2" inch in 10 feet. See [Appendix A - Construction - Material Specifics and Tolerances](#) and [Appendix I - Bid Specification Suggestions](#) at the end of this document.





**TIGHT VS MELLOW TRANSITION**

Some examples of a tight transition and a mellow transition are shown below - both on a small ramp. Note that the tight transition is good for locking in to smith grinds, but not so good for beginners. A mellow transition is better for learning as a beginner, but not so good for smiths. Mellow ramps can be used to learn complex tricks as an advanced skater, but it shouldn't be the only type of transition in the park. Work with your designer accordingly.

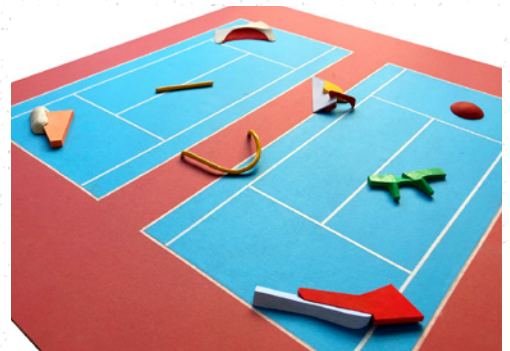


**PRECAST CONCRETE VS POURED IN PLACE**

Precast concrete ramps are created off site in molds and shipped to the skatepark. While this might seem like a decent option for budget strapped skatepark projects, it's usually advised against due to the risks. Concrete poured in another climate, shipping and installation damage, design restrictions, and installing precast skatepark elements in a way that makes them properly blend into each other (and the ground) are the common worries around this type of construction. It's usually better to go with the standard poured in place/cast in place method to ensure long term durability, design flexibility and seamless execution.

**UNIQUE FEATURES AND SKATEABLE ART**

Function over form, but play with form. Utilize very experienced designer/builder support to ensure functionality. Create connections with the local art institutions to support these initiatives. They can be standalone, incorporated into a larger park design, or the entire design scheme.





## DESIGN FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

If you're in an area that has a decent amount of regular inclement weather, it may be worth considering ways to ensure the skatepark is as usable as possible throughout the year. If you build a million dollar skatepark, but it rains or snows 25% of the year, you're losing a quarter of those use hours. That means you're only getting \$750,000 of return on your investment, and locals don't have access to their beloved recreation and social connection for that period of time. Ultimately you'll want to decide on this early so you can factor in the decision and cost before it's too late. So why not just put the skatepark indoors?

### VISIBILITY IS KEY

In order to keep city liability, insurance costs and restrictions to access (fees, pads, waivers) at a minimum, skateparks must be unsupervised. It's difficult to put a bunch of people (especially youth) in a closed, indoor space without supervision and not expect issues. If you supervise that space, it likely changes the liability designation for the city, which in turn changes insurance requirements, which in turn changes access requirements (fees, pads, waivers, etc.) All of this means greater costs for the city and the user, creating an economic displacement of the user base, resulting in fewer participants and what appears to be an unsuccessful skatepark.

### SOLUTIONS:

As long as the necessary site selection criteria is met (visible, centralized, accessible, etc), there are options that might work to cover all or some of the skatepark. You don't always have to cover all of the skatepark, so work with your designer to see what elements can be built in a specific section under a cover, so there's always some access to the skatepark. Researching annual weather patterns may help you decide how much cover your community might need. You can also consider using ice skating rink plexi-glass panels to create see through walls in cases of consistent extreme weather.

### UNDER A BRIDGE/ SEMICOVERED



#### PROS

- Cheap, existing infrastructure

#### CONS

- Additional stakeholder red tape (Department of Transportation), access and design constraints with support pillars



### BUILDING A COVER



#### PROS

- Customizable

#### CONS

- Costs money, design constraints with support pillars

Note: Historically, many communities have been physically, economically and socially divided by highways. Skateparks can be a way to bridge the gaps between these groups and promote regional healing.

### LOOKING FORWARD:

If a community is willing to foot the bill for an indoor space that doesn't place any access restrictions on the user (fees, waivers, unnecessary safety gear requirements) and commits to a long term (multi-decade) operation of the space, that may be a viable solution. But this means long term funding for not only the skatepark itself, but added insurance, staffing, utilities, repairs and more. Skateparks should not be used as a part of a revenue model. You risk establishing a valuable community space then displacing all of those users when it doesn't work out as an economic engine.





## SKATEPARK CONSTRUCTION - ENSURING QUALITY

### SKATEPARK CONSTRUCTION IS SPECIALITY CONSTRUCTION WORK. EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

Ensuring quality is the most important task in skatepark planning.

**Contemporary municipal skate space should only be designed and built by highly experienced skatepark speciality contractors. Experienced skatepark firms will understand the many nuances of skateparks and will be well practiced in their design and execution.**

#### WARNING!!

*Hiring anyone BUT a skatepark specialty firm (including general contractors with extensive concrete experience) is the quickest way to waste all the money for the skatepark. It will not function as intended, even if built according to the design. Many of the skilled trades in skatepark work are closer to artistic sculptural concreting and require years to learn how to do right.*

*Again - skateboard wheels are measured in millimeters!*

Skatepark design and construction requires highly experienced experts in multiple skatepark specific trades. It helps tremendously if they are also skaters themselves.



### HOW TO ENSURE QUALITY?

- **Ensure stakeholders** (municipal officials and local advocates) **understand the importance of quality**, and the steps needed.
- **Choose your desired designers and builders based on their experience, reviews and references** (from government and local skaters who have one of their parks in town).
- **If a project must go out to Public Bid**, work with a designer and the city to **create an appropriate Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or clear Bid Specifications to ensure that only experienced skatepark builders can participate.** This is a critical step. [See Appendix A on Specific Tolerances or Appendix I for example bid specifications.](#)
- **If no experienced skatepark firm is available, wait until one is available and pursue appropriate temporary options** (like a Community DIY Build. Call The Skatepark Project staff to discuss your available options)
- If you cannot wait: as a last resort, **consider hiring a project manager from an experienced skatepark construction firm to help manage a hybrid project.**
- **Consider aiming to hire women or minority owned or operated businesses whenever possible.**

### DESIGN/BID/BUILD VS. DESIGN/BUILD

Most governments are bound by law to have a public bidding process in place. This is intended to keep the public project award process fair. If the site or project is owned or managed by the city, it's likely that the project will need to go through the proper bid process: DESIGN/BID/BUILD. In which case, doing an RFQ or having stringent bid specifications is key to ensuring skatepark quality.

However, some projects are owned privately (sometimes handed over from the city to the project group or builder) until completion, and are then donated to the city. In these cases, or in cases where there's no legal requirement for a public bid process, project leaders can do a DESIGN/BUILD where they select the designer and builder without the bidding process. It's still critical to select experienced skatepark speciality firms in either case, and if donating a build project to the city, it's crucial to have a conversation with them about what they can accept and what they cannot accept as a new public park space.

## QUALITY - SPECIFIC LANGUAGE

Only hire a specialty skatepark construction firm if they have been responsible, either as a primary or as a subcontractor, for the footprint of the actual skatepark for a minimum of:

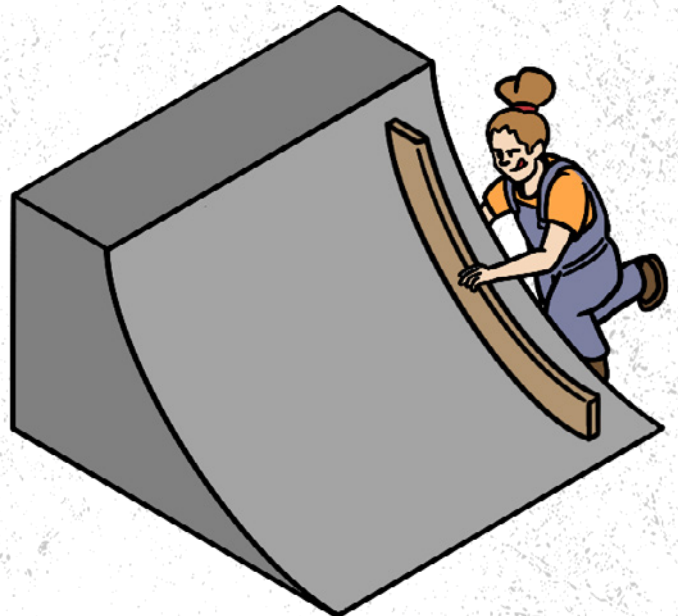
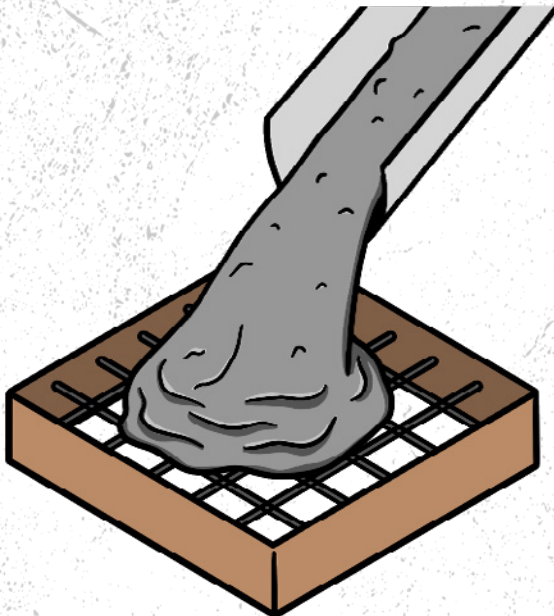
### THREE CONCRETE SKATEPARKS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

If you intend to work with a firm that cannot match that requirement, make sure their key personnel members can match the required experience.

### PROPER DUE DILIGENCE

- Get a list of key personnel who did the work
  - -**SITE MANAGER**
  - -**SHOTCRETE** (Certified Nozzle Operator for shotcrete on banks or transition steeper than 20 degrees)
  - -**SKATEPARK FINISHERS**
- Construction must be built per plan
- In a pre-bid meeting, all parties must read and agree upon specifications and tolerances (acceptable degree of error or deviation from plan) for construction and finish. [See Appendix A - Construction - Material Specifics and Tolerances](#) and [Appendix I - Bid Specification Suggestions](#) at the end of this document.
- For a municipality to reject work, they need to be clear about definitions and tolerances
- Every job can start with a test-panel pour to be judged by construction management and city engineer per specified tolerances. This pour can be a part of the project and does not have to be extraneous.

### Test Panel Pour for flat and/or transition



A tolerance check of test a panel pour can verify proper execution/construction of

- TRANSITION RADIUS
- COPING REVEAL
- FINISH
- COLOR
- CURING
- TRANSITION SEAMS



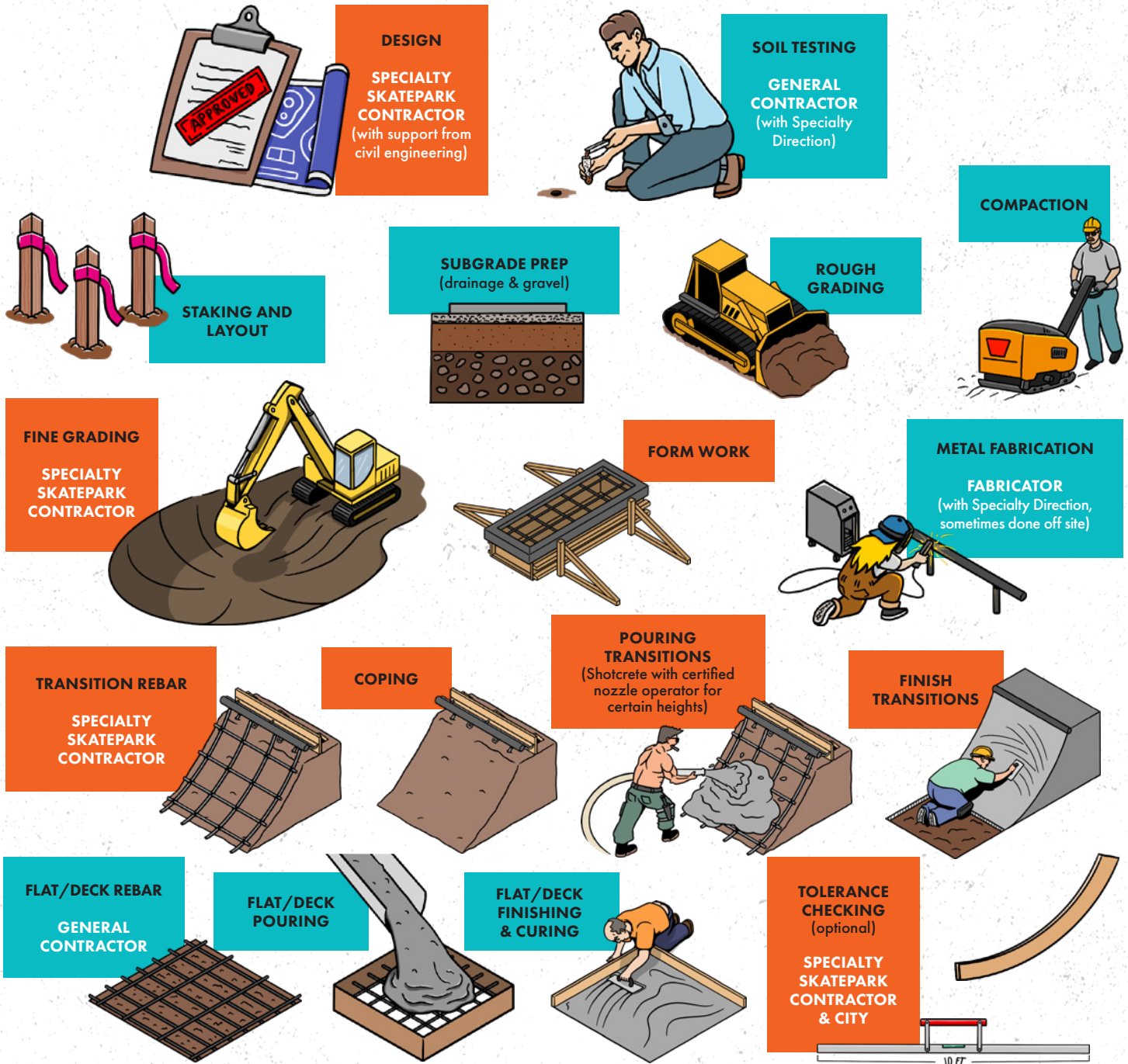


# PROCESS

## WHO CAN HELP?

The importance of hiring experienced skatepark construction specialists can't be understated. However, in a pinch, some elements of the job can be done by experienced general contractors if under the supervision of, and in communication with, the experienced skatepark construction firm. This should only be considered when all other funding options have been exhausted. In general, it's recommended to have the job handled by one experienced skatepark specialty company.

For more information on specific materials and tolerances, [see Appendix A.](#)



## SKATEPARK PROJECT TIMING & FINAL STEPS

### ACCEPTING AND SIGNING OFF ON THE BUILD

Oftentimes during a skatepark construction project, the city will sign the site over to the skatepark builder to manage the site and complete the build. The project is completed, and the city has a chance to inspect the build before accepting the work and signing off on the job as completed according to plan. This is where previous conversations about reasonable acceptable tolerances come into play. An independent inspector (with skatepark construction experience) or a civil engineer might be the ones to do a final inspection with the builders and inspect tolerances before the city accepts the project as complete. This Quality Control process is in place to ensure that the skatepark is built to the plans and specifications agreed upon and paid for.

### OPEN THE SKATEPARK AS SOON AS IT'S READY TO SKATE

An important note regarding timing of construction completion:

Minimize the time between construction completion (rideable concrete) and when skaters are allowed to use the park.

Consider a **soft opening** as soon as it's ready to skate, and a grand opening later.

The locals will be so excited to use the park that they may hop the fence if it's still closed, regardless of the reason. You don't want the neighborhood's first interaction with the park to be people breaking the rules, as it sets the wrong tone and may create conflict. You can use temporary fencing and direct skaters to the skateable area, and also alert neighbors that it is acceptable for people to ride at this stage, as long as the skatepark builder gives the all clear.

If your skatepark project is a part of a larger park development, align the project to open with the rest of the park, or open the skatepark for use while other parts of the larger space are being completed.

## MANAGING COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

The construction phase is a good opportunity to continue to manage the expectations of local stakeholders and officials. Chat with neighbors, the police and community outreach departments, local skaters and municipal officials to help them understand that this is a place for youth to learn. As such, they may see signs of antisocial behavior. It's important to prepare people for a transition phase as locals learn how to use and care for the space. When speaking with locals, ask for their patience and understanding, and give them a way to contact the skaters and the locals if they have questions or concerns. Having this conversation early can go a long way toward mitigating potential community growing pains.

## SKATEPARK GRAND OPENING



The skatepark opening is a special day in which all stakeholders should be celebrated.

As a municipality, **consider giving official certificates of appreciation to the local skatepark advocates who engaged in the civic process.** Their volunteer work deserves to be recognized.

**Invite funders and supporters** who helped the project happen.

Consider inviting the local skate shop team to do a short demo, and to run a quick skate clinic.

Helmet and board/gear giveaways (or extremely cheap sales to amplify a sense of ownership), along with an art workshop space to decorate helmets (paint pens, stickers donated from skateshop), can be a great way to make sure the kids have access to the space with a board and feel less shy about their protective gear. Food, music and fanfare can add to the occasion.





Keep the opening remarks short, and let the kids get to skating.



## THINGS YOU CAN RIDE AT A SKATEPARK

- SKATEBOARD
- BMX
- INLINE SKATES/ROLLERBLADES
- QUAD SKATES/ROLLERSKATES
- WCMX (WHEELCHAIR MOTOCROSS)
- SCOOTER
- SNAKE BOARD
- FREELINE SKATE

## THINGS YOU CAN DO AT A SKATEPARK

- INDEPENDENT  
(You're never really skating alone at the skatepark if there are people there)
- CRUISE
- LEARN NEW TRICKS
- TAKE TRICKS TO NEW OBSTACLES

### WITH FRIENDS

- GAME OF S.K.A.T.E
- ADD-A-TRICK
- FOLLOW THE LEADER
- THUGGIN'/FOOT DOWN
- VIDEOGRAPHY
- PHOTOGRAPHY





## SKATEPARK OPERATION - MAINTENANCE & SIGNAGE

Public Skateparks are a self governing space. Most of the time the space manages itself thanks to the stewardship of local skaters.

### Contemporary Public Skateparks Operation:



**FREE**



**PUBLIC**



**UNSUPERVISED**



**REASONABLE  
HOURS/LIGHTING**

### SUPERVISION

MODERN PUBLIC SKATEPARKS ARE UNSUPERVISED

#### PROS

- Parents can drop off small children like a daycare
- Repairs may be identified more quickly
- Potential for fixed ancillary resources (equipment rental, food, instruction)

#### CONS

- Increased liability
- Increased insurance costs
- Unnecessary equipment requirements and/or enforcement
- Employment cost for staffing
- Restricted hours due to staffing costs and/or availability
- Entry fee likely required due to increased costs
- User base displaced by fees, limited hours, equipment restrictions

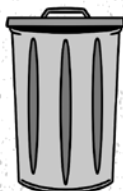
Supervising skateparks can increase your risk of liability, which can increase insurance requirements and cost. The responsibility of these cost increases usually fall on the end user, and skateparks should always be free to use. Increased insurance requirements may increase barriers to entry like needing to sign a waiver and wear unnecessary safety gear. Why would people repeatedly pay to skate if they can skate for free, without pads, in the streets?

### HOURS

Skateparks should be accessible from dawn to dusk, or later if there's appropriate lighting. They are used by people of all ages and schedules.

### MAINTENANCE

A contemporary concrete skatepark designed and built by professionals with community input should be relatively maintenance free. Trash service and graffiti removal should be the responsibility of the city like all other municipal parks. The skatepark group should not be responsible for funding this. Locals should make every effort to help keep the place clean.



**RECYCLING & TRASH**  
(provide enough bins for heavy use)



**OCCASIONAL TAGGING/  
GRAFFITI REMOVAL**  
(alternatively, allow mural art and graffiti art)

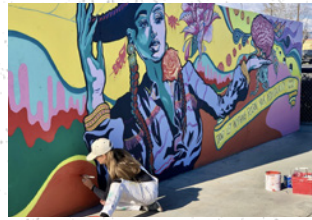


**LONG TERM CONCRETE  
TREATMENT OR REPAIR**  
(ask your builder about intervals and process)





## SKATEPARK SIGNAGE & MURALS



If you have lots of organic art in town, consider doing a sanctioned graffiti mural board erected near the skatepark. You can have a signup sheet and rotate artists. Just be sure the wall doesn't obstruct the line of sight from the street. Some parks sanction graffiti art/murals in the skatepark itself. If you're aiming to allow this, be sure to consult your skatepark designer/builder on what type of paint is appropriate and safe for skating on. **(There is a danger of paint layers caking up or certain paints being slippery!)**

### SIGNAGE

Skateparks can benefit from signage explaining basics around skatepark usage and rules, but signs can also play an important legal role. Work with local stakeholders to come up with appropriate signage that demonstrates state law & city ordinance rules for the space, as well as advice on how to use the space safely. Common language used is "This skatepark is unsupervised" and "Skate at your own risk." The term "non-motorized vehicle" is also commonly used to describe the "vehicles" that people use at the skatepark. This is an excellent place for an authentic message regarding who's welcome at the skatepark - everyone. **Create an inclusive message, with visuals, that welcomes all riders from all backgrounds and remind them that this is their space.** Consider a map of the actual space and lines to show common pathways. Work as/with local skaters to design it. Since this is a place where youth and adults congregate, consider including contact information for emergency and non-emergency services, domestic violence, mental health and suicide prevention hotlines. A simple sign can go a long way.

Plaques can be a good way to honor those in the community who supported this project, both from the local and municipal level.





# SKATEPARK OPERATION - HOW TO USE

## HOW TO USE A SKATEPARK

- **Everyone is learning**, so everyone is in the same place.
- **Welcome others**. Bring and maintain the vibe you want to be in.
- **Skatepark etiquette is real and has to be learned**. Respect and communication are key. You can consider putting up signage for this but avoid being prescriptive.
- **Learn the lanes of traffic, learn the rotation order to drop in**. Look around, it's new every time.
- **Teach the children well** - don't be afraid to kindly help someone understand how to use or take care of the space.
- **Nobody cares if you're wearing a helmet of protective gear**
- **You won't be alienated for wearing protective gear**
- **Pack your trash**

A note on "snaking": Snaking is basically cutting in line. However, if you're in a "rotation" waiting your turn, and you're not really paying attention, it's wasting everyone's time and the next person might go ahead. You need to be ready to get your turn. However, sometimes people are nervous, so if you're in a position to help someone learn how the rotation works, help them out with a simple: "Want to go? Looks like it's your turn!" That type of simple conversation can go a long way for people nervous about skating at a skatepark.

## SKATE SESSION DO'S AND DON'TS BY JEFF GROSSO

*"I think it's a pretty universal thing - you don't one-up people. Somebody's trying something, you don't just drop in and do it; steal their little moment of glory or photo. You let them do their thing. You get stoked for them and you try something else. Depending on the session, the crew and where you grew up, some people are really into snake sessions. Other people aren't. You kind of have to crawl up there and read the lay of the land. Depending on how it's going, you get involved in the mix. You try to bring something to the session and not take away from it. Not diminish it. Skateboarding sessions are little entities, they take on a life of their own and they build. There's a crescendo, everyone's all hyped, there's hugs and high fives. Everyone laughs. Everything that goes along with it, you try to get in that mix and build on it. Just get the stoke rolling. If you're one of those dudes that bums everyone out, you're diminishing the session. Use your eyes, use your ears and get involved. Make it good. Don't be a kook."*

Invaluable advice from the immortal and uncompromising **Jeff Grosso** in Thrasher Magazine. Rest In Peace, Jeff.

To learn more about the history of skateboarding, watch **Love Letters to Skateboarding** on Youtube.

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Consult state requirements for safety gear in skateparks, as well as other nearby public skatepark rules.

Sometimes state requirements are out of date.

Some cities strictly enforce safety gear rules, many do not.

Note: Enforcing these rules may create greater liability for the city, limit accessibility, and may cause more issues than it solves.

It is common for 18+ users to have the choice to wear gear.

ALL beginner to intermediate skatepark users should strongly consider protective equipment.





AFTER OPENING / PROGRAMMING

- **Work with the city**, assign local point person to park relations for stakeholder communication requests for skatepark relations
- **Connect with existing skateboard/action sports stakeholders** (skate charities, local skate shops)



**HELMET GIVEAWAYS** with customization station



**BEGINNER CLASSES**



**MEETUPS** that promote inclusion, progression and fun



**COMPETITIONS**

EVENTS, CLINICS and MEET UPS

Events and programming are a great way to activate a space, but cities don't like surprises. It's usually better to inform them of your plans. It's also better to have an official organization if you'd like to routinely program the skatepark. When using the skateparks for clinics or classes, try to designate one section of the park for the class and leave one section open for free use, then rotate. Official events will likely need permitting and insurance, non-official events may still require insurance, waivers and more. For more information on how to create social skate programming, see ["Starting A Social Skate Organization"](#) in Appendix H.

Wondering which events need a permit and which don't?

PERMITS

- MC'D CONTEST
- LIVE MUSIC
- FOOD
- CLINICS
- SALES



VS

NO PERMITS

- MELLOW MUSIC
- MEETUPS
- FOOD
- INFORMAL INSTRUCTION
- NO SALES



## DEALING WITH ISSUES

- **Pack in, pack out.** Trash is the quickest way to start having problems at the park. Remind the locals to keep it clean to remind the city you deserve the space. Let the kids know.
- **Exclusion - skateboarding has long traditions of inclusion and acceptance.** Exclusion, hate speech and bullying have no place at the skatepark. It's up to the locals to speak up and explain why it's not ok.
- **Harassment - speak up, stand up.**
- **Violence - call the authorities to deal with violent or criminal activity.**

### SKATERS LISTEN TO SKATERS



An important note to municipalities and community leaders:



Youth oriented park spaces attract humans who are still learning how to move about in society. Skateparks should not be CLOSED due to the misbehavior of a few people. You do not close a highway because of some people's repeated traffic violations. This is a space for kids and adults. Closing the skatepark displaces community members and disconnects them from their most valued space. There is no good reason to close a skatepark. Work with the locals who actually use the space as intended to find other ways to rectify the issue.

### ADVOCATE'S FOLLOW UP

If you've advocated for a skatepark and are successful, congratulations are in order. You've helped create a space that will serve many people for many years. Whether people recognize it or not, you've done more for your community and culture than most ever do. There's no doubt you've noticed benefits that have come along with working to get this done. After the skatepark opens, people from neighboring towns may ask for your advice, if you care to give it. You may also be asked to help the city understand what programming can be created at the space. But when all is said and done, you can just ride the park you've helped create. Don't forget to put this project on your resume or college application: "Lead advocate for X dollar public/private joint venture with the City of \_\_\_\_\_ resulting in a X square footage skatepark that serves X people annually." That's an impressive feat.

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Once the park is open, you have the opportunity to do a little bit of Monitoring and Evaluation of the skatepark. Tracking skatepark usage can be a good way to help the city understand how successful the park is and how they might approach the next skatepark projects in their system. You or members of your crew can count how many people are there at what time of day, what they are riding, and who's there in support (watching). You can ask your city to understand how much data they might like to see. Seeing those numbers will help you realize how many people this park serves.

You can also use the [TSP Skatepark App](#) to track your skatepark's usage data.

FIND MORE AT [SKATEPARK.ORG](http://SKATEPARK.ORG)





## ACCELERATED PROJECTS

A reasonably **aggressive approach to generating quick/instantaneous access** to action sports recreation space.

There's no substitute for a citywide system of well-designed and properly constructed municipal skateparks. Locals and government officials should prioritize those efforts. Even a fully funded, government led skatepark project can take a year or two to be built (at a minimum), and you can lose a generation of users in that time.

In the midst of those projects, it may be worth considering other types of skate spaces that may be immediately accessible or have a shorter timeline. Here are some ways to create skate space more quickly while the main skatepark project is underway. These spaces can remain as valuable recreation space before and after the professionally built skatepark opens. The same principles for urban planning and site selection mentioned previously in this document still apply.

In some countries these designated shared spaces are referred to as "ACTIVE CITY SPACES"

**The following types of skate space are NOT replacements for a professionally built skatepark or a system of skateparks.**

**SIMPLE SKATEPARKS, LEGALIZED SKATE SPOTS and DIY**

### INTERIM/ SIMPLE SKATEPARKS

**(This is not a replacement for a proper municipal skatepark)**

**You can convert existing unused concrete/asphalt space or shared sport courts as long as they are flat and smooth.**

Semi-permanent obstacles can be built by the community, and/or permanent concrete obstacles can be professionally built by a professional skatepark builder, the community, or the local Public Works/government (with the guidance of a professional skatepark firm)..

A note on asphalt or non-concrete sport courts:

#### RIDING SURFACE

You can reuse these areas for additional skate space. A few things to consider. Tennis courts and asphalt slabs are rougher in surface texture than finely finished skatepark concrete. It's not fun to ride on and even worse to fall on. Old concrete slabs may have protrusions, so be sure to cut or grind out all protrusions that are remotely dangerous. Consider an appropriate skim coating of new asphalt, Cool Seal sealant (if environmentally acceptable) or a skim coat of concrete where applicable. If these remedies cannot make up for large cracks or rough riding surface, you may need to look elsewhere for your ancillary accelerated skatepark project. Again, skateboard wheels are measured in millimeters...

#### Order of acceptability for riding surface smoothness

##### *Could potentially be reused:*

1. Smooth trowel finish concrete
2. Smooth/dense asphalt
3. Tennis court

##### *Likely needs a skim coat or resurfacing*

4. Rough/cracked concrete
5. Rough asphalt

See city storage and community build obstacles on the Interim Skateparks page. Correctly position a few of these safely off the bike path, on a lot or in a plaza. Paint some warning lines and/or place signs. It will be a valuable asset to the local action sports community.



### SINKING AND BLENDING

Consider the risk of heavier concrete sinking into the tennis court or asphalt slabs (especially if you have temperature shifts in your region). Most likely, you'll want to have a skatepark builder professionally cut into the floor material to 1) anchor the new obstacle to the ground, not on top of the old asphalt and 2) make room for blending the concrete into the existing slab.

### SKATE PATHS

You can add a new lane to existing isolated bike paths (away/protected from motorists) and add some simple skateable features along the lane. It's helpful to have markings or physical delineation for the skate area. This is not a replacement for a proper skatepark, but it can be a great way to activate space along bike routes from skate space to skate space.





## ACCELERATED PROJECTS - LEGALIZED SKATE SPOTS



Local skaters are attracted to existing space that is “skateable”. If it’s public space and it can be shared, it’s worth seriously considering officially legalizing skateboarding in spaces that are functional for action sports and already popular skating destinations. These spaces are often already existing and would cost little to designate as recreation space. Consult your local officials about what steps need to be taken to “liberate” a local skate spot. It’s a thing now, but you still have to advocate for it. It’s a very cost effective way to create nearly instant skate space in town.

### KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Municipal Code Changes to reverse “No skateboarding” ordinances**
- **Hours of Access** (illegal certain hours for heavy pedestrian traffic, legal other times when the space is less busy)
- **Lanes for pedestrian access**
- **Skate zone signage**
- **Dismount zone signage**
- **Wear and tear on ledges** - managing expectations







**Professional:** Investing to convert a normal ledge into a skate ledge by hiring a skatepark builder: Around \$100 per linear foot.

**DIY spot liberation:** With permission, use a "rub brick" to smooth the ledge down, Salba sauce (clear enamel spray paint) and wax.

**Alternative (still with permission)** - Clean ledge, apply angle iron with epoxy adhesive. Grind down edge of angle iron.

*"Cities are finding it not just economically viable to tolerate skateboarding, but also beneficial in attracting creative crowds to weave authenticity, spontaneity, and vibrancy into their respective urban fabrics." -Creativity, Conviviality, and Civil Society in Neoliberalizing Public Space: Changing Politics and Discourses in Skateboarder Activism From New York City to Los Angeles, Chihsin Chiu and Christopher Giamarino*

#### TWO TYPES OF CONVERTED SKATE SPACES

##### EXPLICITLY/OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED

- Tacoma Ledges - Tacoma, WA
- SouthBank - London, UK
- West LA Courthouse - Los Angeles, CA
- Praça XV, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Pier Seven, San Francisco, CA
- Brooklyn Banks (once before, in progress again)

##### UNOFFICIALLY "SANCTIONED" BUT WORLD FAMOUS

- MACBA - Barcelona, Spain
- 3rd and Army - San Francisco, CA
- JKwon - Los Angeles, CA
- Pier Seven, San Francisco, CA

RIP  
EMB  
LOVE PARK

*"Two hundred years of American technology has unwittingly created a massive cement playground of unlimited potential. But it was the minds of 11 year olds that could see that potential." - Craig Stecyk*

*"Skaters by their very nature are urban guerillas: they make everyday use of the useless artifacts of the technological burden and employ the handiwork of the government/corporate structure in a thousand ways that the original architects could never dream of." - Craig Stecyk*





## DIY SKATEPARKS

*“DIY is a solution when the politicians don’t step up and represent the entire community and leave the skateboarders out in the cold.” - Miki Vuckovich*



DIY Skateparks will likely always be around. Community members see the need for concrete change and decide to take matters into their own hands. This usually means finding a hidden location and building some small, simple obstacles to skate, usually out of concrete. It’s a great way to learn new construction skills, bond as a community and create a one of a kind space. The trouble is, most people don’t own land to build on, so they decide to build in other places - and without permission. This usually results in a lot of work from locals being demolished fairly quickly by cities or property owners. And who can blame them? Someone’s pouring concrete where they aren’t supposed to. That said, there are some instances where a DIY skatepark is valuable as both an ongoing community bonding exercise, and as a skatepark. They can even be useful to the skate scene/local skatepark effort during those devastating moments when they are torn down. Above all, never forget that every city should meet the needs of the local action sports constituency with professionally designed and built skateparks and skate spaces. DIY should be considered as a stop-gap or ancillary skatepark, or better yet, seen for what it is, a valuable ongoing community activation.

If you’ve poured concrete for a local DIY and it gets torn down, use it as an opportunity to leverage public (news) and city support for a proper skatepark. You’re literally doing the work to provide a recreation space. The need is evident. Work with the city - aim toward the future and don’t rage against the city for doing what they had to do when someone built somewhere illegally, it just slows things down. Stay focused on impending solutions.

If you’re considering doing a DIY skatepark, it’s probably worth trying to find a space that will give you permission to build and skate there. Getting permission to build small concrete skate obstacles and recreate in the area may be easier than you think. Use tools in the advocacy section of this document to make your case. Permission for a space must come from the owner of the space and it’s best to get it in writing (an MOU, contract or lease). It helps if you have an official organization (with a fiscal sponsor relationship) that can take some responsibility for the space, but it’s best if the city takes ownership. Helping the city or property owner understand what you’ll build may be helpful. Keep it simple and small, but don’t be afraid to be creative. Check out TSP’s simple DIY obstacle construction documents on our website. You can use these “CD” to help city employees and civil engineers understand the simplicity and safety of your budding DIY skatepark.

When planned well, DIY Skateparks are a creative community laboratory that provides valuable action sports recreation space for all.







#### TERMINOLOGY:

- **DIY** - Community built skatepark (possibly without permission)
- **Permission DIY** - Community built skatepark with property owner's written permission
- **Formal DIY** - Community built skatepark with the supervision of a professional construction manager and/or city approved specs. (Permission is implied)

#### KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Site Selection** - Similar considerations as normal skateparks. Talk with the city.
- **Permission** - All that effort is wasted if it gets torn down. Get it in writing.
- **Plan Ahead** - What's the overall goal of the space? Design and build accordingly
- **Experience** - People with skatepark and construction experience will help do it right and safely
- **Safety** - Design for your experience. Safety first in design and construction. Use safety gear. Boots, goggles, gloves, etc. Listen and learn from those with experience.
- **Keep It Clean** - If you want to be treated with respect and keep the space, respect and keep the space
- **Be Creative** - Of course it should skate well, but creativity is at the heart of skateboarding and skateparks.
- **Timing** - Consider build timing and concrete curing.
- **Reduce, reuse, recycle** - Reuse forms and materials when possible. Consider recycled tire fill construction as well as other options from the Green Skatepark Practices list.
- **Common Build Issues** - Don't build directly onto bridge pillars. Consult DOT or property owner for distance needed around existing infrastructure (they need space for inspections).
- **Compaction, Compaction, Compaction** - Make sure the earth is settled if you want your builds to be.
- **Don't Blow It** - It's not a clubhouse. Test the limits of acceptable public behavior and risk it all.
- **Try And Try Again** - Build. If it doesn't skate well, tear it down and recycle old concrete as fill material

To learn more about concrete and the DIY Skatepark construction process head to [Appendix B - LEARNING CONCRETE](#).



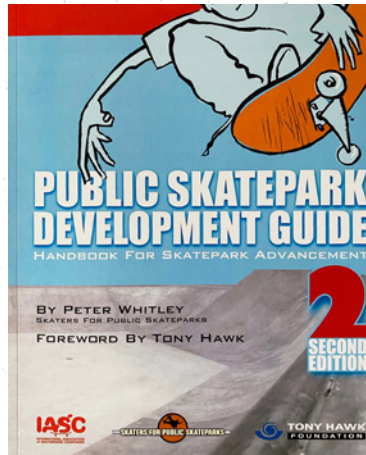


## SUPPORT FROM THE SKATEPARK PROJECT

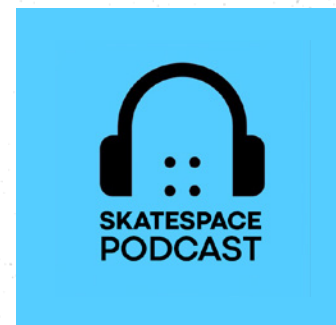
Founded by Tony Hawk, The Skatepark Project (TSP) is a nonprofit organization working to increase access to outdoor recreation and free play through the creation of safe and inclusive community skateparks. TSP provides the resources, advocacy skills, grants and fellowship programs that guide skaters in creating their own community skateparks, from conception through construction. This is a collaborative process between skaters and city authorities to invest in capital improvements that will enrich a community for decades. The Skatepark Project's grant programs have awarded over \$10 million to help fund nearly 700 public skateparks in all 50 states, enjoyed by an estimated six million people annually. The organization's International Program has provided technical and financial support to assist youth through the Skateistan educational programs in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa. To get involved, visit [www.skatepark.org](http://www.skatepark.org)



**FREE SUPPORT  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
WORKSHOPS  
BIPOC FELLOWS PROGRAM**



**PUBLIC SKATEPARK  
DEVELOPMENT GUIDE V2**

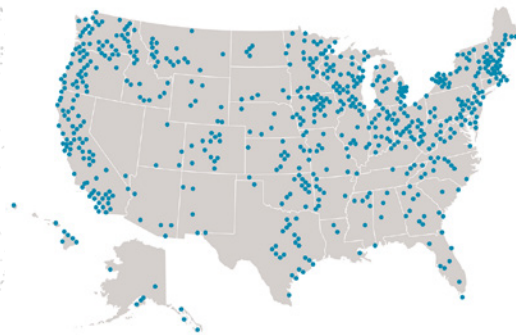


**THE SKATESPACE  
PODCAST**



**OTHER DOWNLOADS FROM TSP  
MOBILE APP  
INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS  
SIGNATURE ELEMENTS  
DIY CDS  
GREEN SKATEPARKS**

**SUPPORT FROM SKATEISTAN AND GOOD PUSH  
GOODPUSH TOOLKIT**



**GRANT FUNDING**  
Over 600 granted parks open in the United States.  
**LEARN MORE**

**FEEDBACK SURVEY**

**FIND MORE AT SKATEPARK.ORG**



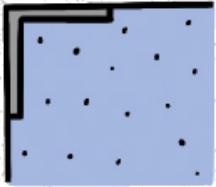
**SKATEPARK BEST PRACTICES GUIDE**

# CONSTRUCTION - MATERIAL SPECIFICS AND TOLERANCES

## MATERIAL AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

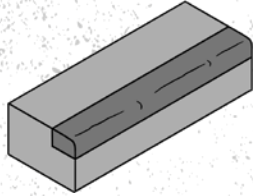
The following are suggestions based on best practices for skatepark design and construction to ensure intended functionality and durability. Additional tolerance specifications follow. Talk to your skatepark designer and builder about:

### STREET OBSTACLES



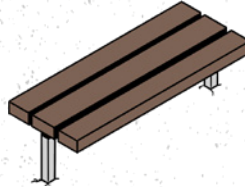
(Grind Ledge material)  
**Minimum 40 Schedule Steel** (some prefer 0.125 in beveled edge)

### GRANITE LEDGE (CAP)



**REPURPOSED EDGE MATERIAL**

### BUTTER BENCH

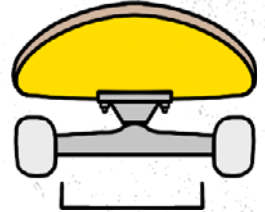


### FLAT BAR



**Minimum 40 Schedule Steel**  
 "Cast into concrete, not sleeved"

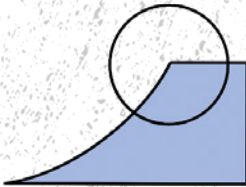
### TRUCK WIDTH



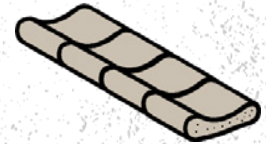
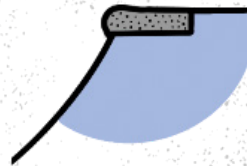
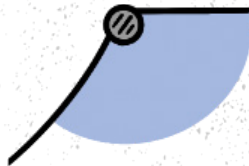
Optimum width for truck grinds on square rails (3 - 4 in)

## COPING

2"-2.5" Average outside diameter for coping and round rails



0.25" - 0.125" coping reveal on top and bottom (open to some slight interpretation)



Skate specific "bullnose" pool coping, tile of your choice.

### COPING EXAMPLES



REGULAR COPING



POOL COPING



FLAT COPING



FAT COPING



HYBRID/ CURB /HAND FORMED



"NO-PING"





## TOLERANCES

### GENERAL

The quality of features should comply with ASTM F2480 Standard Guide for In-Ground Skate Parks, or your national skatepark construction guidelines if they are up to date. Experienced skatepark builders who skate will understand these standards and know if a standard is up to date, or if practices should be held to a higher standard. For a complete list of potential bid specification language, tolerances and standards, see Appendix I.

### FLAT

Expansion joint locations should be designed to not interfere with approaches to obstacles. A professional skatepark designer and builder will know where to put them. Generally, sawcut is the way to go as it's a smaller "dip" in the concrete compared to alternatives. Vertical surfaces should be properly vibrated. Flat Finish Work must conform to Finish Work requirements listed below.

### METAL

All coping and steel edging must be cleaned, primed and painted correctly. Coping should be anchored by welded steel anchors, not rebar.

### TRANSITION FACE

ACI Certified Nozzle Operator required for shotcrete applications on banks and transitions steeper than 20 degrees. Transition Finish Work must conform to Finish Work requirements listed below.

### REBAR

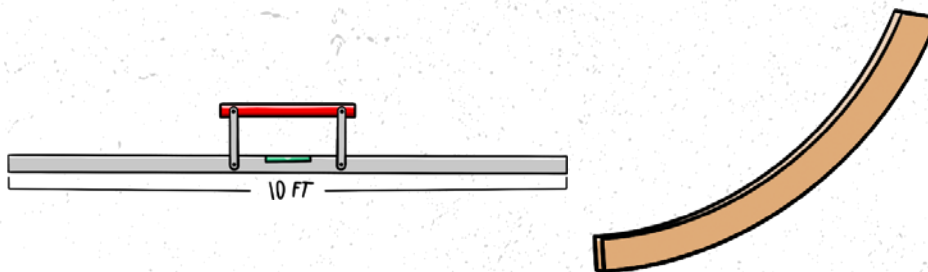
No smaller than 0.125" reinforcing steel rebar. Wire mesh can be used in addition to, but not to replace rebar.

### CONCRETE MIX

Generally around 4,000 psi. No aggregate smaller than 3/8", no slump greater than 5". Your experienced skatepark builder will have the mix design they know will work for the specific climate and application. Another critical reason to hire experienced skatepark build firms.

### TOLERANCES

The tolerances below are in line with proper skatepark construction, but any specifications and tolerances should be discussed by project stakeholders (municipality, designer and builder) and agreed upon prior to construction.



### DRAINAGE

All flatwork should have a uniform and consistent minimum of 2% slope for sheet drainage. Puddles and standing water in the skatepark are **unacceptable**. 3% slope is too steep in most instances.

### FINISH WORK

Uniform Finish: Float finish on unformed face of wall/flat shall consist of smooth, hard, uniform surface of smooth steel trowel (do not burn finish). **Level to a tolerance of 0.25 - 0.5 inch in 10 feet** when tested with a 10-foot steel straightedge placed on the surface horizontally, and vertically with radial template with appropriate radii. Be sure to agree to tolerances long before construction begins.

For more tolerances and bid specification language, [see Appendix I](#).



## LEARNING CONCRETE

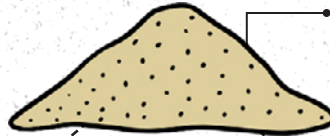
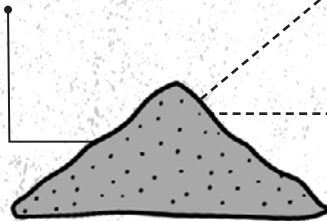
A temporary stop gap for long municipal project length.  
**NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR A PROFESSIONALLY BUILT SKATEPARK.**

These take practice. Practicing building with concrete takes time, money and permission to build, rebuild and use the space. We recommend starting with simple cinder block/angle iron ledges and smaller obstacles.

### CONCRETE MIX

#### CEMENT

Acts as a binding agent or glue to hold everything together. Generally extracted from limestone, clay, marl, shale, chalk, sand, bauxite, and iron ore.

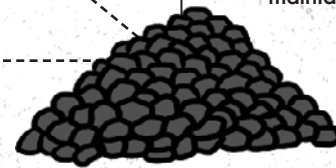


#### SAND

Filler that helps create the right mix.

#### AGGREGATE

Rocks of a certain size to fill the gaps and maintain strength



#### WATER

Helps mix and moisturize. Forms a paste that binds aggregate together. The water causes the hardening of concrete through a process called hydration.

Professional skatepark firms will have the "mix design" they know works best for skatepark work - another reason to hire pros. For DIY, you can consult a skatepark builder for a mix design range to order from a local concrete company or use store-bought if mixing on site.

### WARNING - CAUSTIC SOLUTION



#### GOGGLES

Keep your peeper safe! Critical gear.



#### GLOVES

Concrete can burn when left on your skin. Wear the right type of gloves: Nitrile



#### BOOTS

Rubber boots - your skate shoes have holes in them and won't have grip after working near 'crete.





## PLAN



The space, obstacles and build itinerary. Get permission to build and construction help from people with skatepark experience. Understand the tight timing involved with concrete delivery, pouring and curing.

## PROCURE



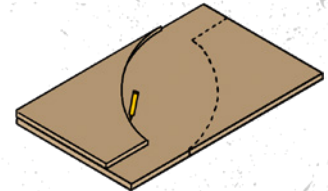
### CONCRETE

Depending on the size of the project you might need a wheel barrow, a mixer or a truckload. Do research and get some experienced help.



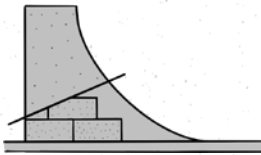
### PERMISSION

It sucks to build something to have it torn out immediately. Get permission in writing wherever possible.



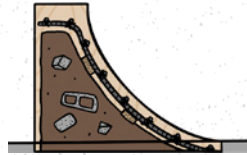
### FORMS

$\frac{3}{4}$ " Plywood to create the transition template forms. Learn to draw transitions for the type of ramp you want. REUSE FORMS WHEN POSSIBLE.



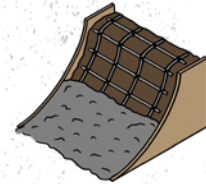
### BUILD FORMS

Structure and brace your forms, use cinder blocks on base/back/side, or keep 4" on every side of the fill dirt for concrete to fill up and create the outer structure.



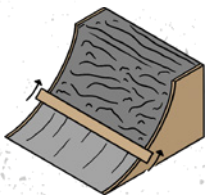
### FILL

Load recycled debris that won't biodegrade quickly (bricks, cinder, old concrete chunks (not leaves, tree wood, trash) into the base of the fill, bring the fill up to 4" under the edge of the surface of where the ramp surface will be. Compact fill dirt well. Put rebar on wood blocks 2" off of fill, 2" from surface (right in between the 4" between the fill and edge of the ramp surface.)



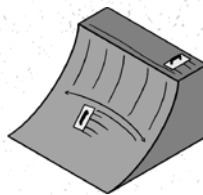
### STACK OR POUR

After prepping the form, mix the concrete or have it delivered. Hand-stack "mud" up to where it will hold itself. Let it settle a bit. Do some screeding on the lower half. Once that first half can support itself, stack the rest. Be sure to fill in around the side and back edges of the forms so the concrete builds the outer structure that holds the ramp and fill in place.



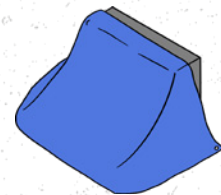
### SCREED

After prepping the form, mix the concrete or have it delivered. Hand-stack "mud" up to where it will hold itself. Let it settle a bit. Do some screeding on the lower half. Once that first half can support itself, stack the rest. Be sure to fill in around the side and back edges of the forms so the concrete builds the outer structure that holds the ramp and fill in place.



### TROWEL

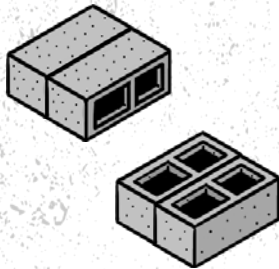
Take a level 2x4 wide enough to use the ends of the wooden transition template forms as a guide to scrape the wet concrete up. Shuffle the screed left and right but keep it smooth. Let the concrete bleed a bit to get the trapped water to the surface. You can vibrate the structure to reduce air pockets, but this is DIY, so do as you can.



### CURE

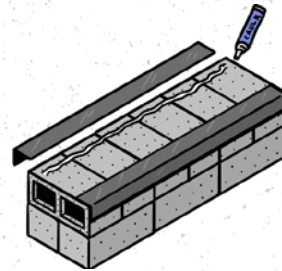
Cover the drying concrete and cure accordingly. Look up what a good time is for the amount of concrete, thickness, climate and sun exposure. You may have to spray it down a bit. Put a sign up so no one skates it until a certain date! Then enjoy!





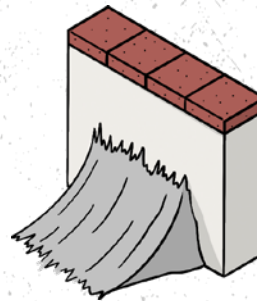
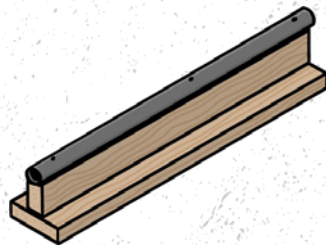
### CINDER BLOCKS

Can be used for walls on quarter pipe builds, or as a framework for a simple and easy DIY ledge. Use construction adhesive to mount a double stack of these to the ground (in a long configuration) You can use various types of blocks for different sizes of ledge, or to cap off the top or sides. For functionality, you can put the hole side on the top, fill with dirt and then cover the last few inches with self leveling quick setting concrete mix. Or, just use cinder block caps.



### ANGLE IRON

Use construction adhesive (gloves and goggles, people!) to mount a "cut to size" angle iron to the edges of the blocks. Use a grinder to grind down the edges so they grind better. Call the crew and break in the new ledge once the adhesive cures.



Other DIY obstacles can be made and brought to the site or made into existing infrastructure (again, with permission).

Note: Plan for the entire space. In general, the better things are built the longer they stay around. Get creative, get help, learn from your builds and make more places to skate so everyone has a place to ride!





# STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

MILESTONE/STAKEHOLDER		ADVOCATES	CITY INSIDER	CITY/PARKS	COUNCIL	CIVIL ENGINEER	PRESS	LOCAL SKATERS	PARENTS/SUPPORTERS	FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	SKATE SHOP	SOCIAL SKATE ORGANIZATIONS	SKATEPARK BUILDER	SKATEPARK DESIGNER	SUPPORTERS/FUNDERS/STAKEHOLDERS	NIMBY	CITY MAINTENANCE
CONCEPT	Discover Need	A	U					A	U		U	U					
	Idea for Skatepark	U	U		S		S	U	U		U	U					
	Blind Stoke	U						U	U		U	U					
	Learn Process	U	A	U	S		S	S	U		U	U					
	Build Core Group	U	S					U	U		U	U					
	Establish Regular Meetings	U	S	S			S	U	U		U	U					
CITY INVOLVEMENT	Approach City/Find City Insider	A	A	U	S			S	U		U	U					
	Skatepark Advisory Committee	U	U	U	S	S		S			U						
	Project's Digital Presence	U	U				S		U		U	U					
	Council Presentation	A	A	U	U	S	U	U	A		U	U				U	
	Announce Project Publicly	U	U	U	U		U				U	S			S		
	Resolution to Support Skatepark	U	U	U	U		U		A								
	Determine Service Level, System Plan	U	U	U	S	U		S				S					
SCOPE CLARITY	Determine Scope for next Skatepark	U	U	U	U	U				S							
	Shop for Skatepark Designers	U	U	U			U				S	S	U				
	Budget Clarity	U	U	U	U	U				U	U		U				
FUNDING	City Funds Approval (can be revised)	U	U	U	U	U	U				U						
	Bank Account/ Fiscal Sponsor	S		S						S		S					
SITE SELECTION	Site Selection Process	A	U	U		U											
	City Protocol Movement (Zoning, Permits)	S	U	U	U	U											
	Site Allocation	A	U	U	U	U	U										
DESIGN	Design Meetings	A	U	U		S	U	U	U		U	U	S	U			
	Grant Seeking	S	U	U	U					U					U		
FUNDING	Fundraising	U	U	U	U			S	U	U	S				U		
	Final Design/Budget	U									S				U		
QUALITY CONTROL	RFP for Construction	S	U	U	U	S	U					A					
	RFQ for Construction	S	U	U		S						A					
BUILDER SELECTION	Contract Award (Design/Build or Bid)	S				S	U					A					
	Designer/Builder/City Communication	S	A	A		S						A	A				
	Break Ground	A	U	U	U	S	U	U	U			U		U			
CONSTRUCTION	Construction	S				S	U					A	A	U			
	Soft Opening	A	U	U	U		U	U	U	U	S	S	S	U			
	Grand Opening	A	U	U	U		U	U	U	U		S	S	U			
	Plaque/Certificate	A	U		U			S			U	S			U		
	Use	A					U	U	U		U				U		
	Programming	S		U			U	U	U		S	U			S		
	Local Stewardship	A						A	U		A						
	Waste Management, Maintenance, Graffiti Removal	S		U		S		S				S					U
	Local Maintenance (coping fix, snow removal)	A						A									
Skatepark Repair (coping/section replacement)	A	U	U	U	S	S	U	U				A					

A = Always

U = Usually

S = Sometimes

Blank = Rarely



# COMMON QUESTIONS & MISCONCEPTIONS - SAFETY

There are misconceptions about skateboarding, skateparks and action sports that linger to this day. While working with your municipality and the public, you may need to help people reorient their understanding of the activity and the space. Prepare for these common misconceptions so you can respond calmly with good information and present a unified front as stakeholders to help move the project forward.

## SAFETY + LIABILITY

**According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, skateboarding is statistically safer than basketball and football—activities that most cities already provide facilities for.**

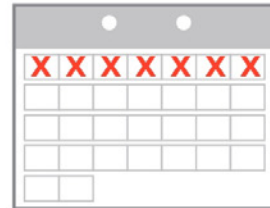
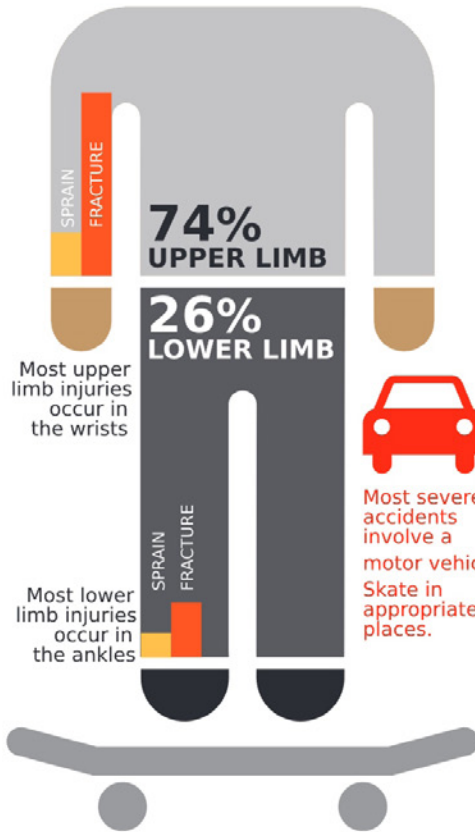
*Based on the annual U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (cpsc.gov) Electronic Injury Surveillance Survey (EISS) study of hospital emergency room visits.*

## HOW SAFE IS SKATEBOARDING?

**Know your limits.**



Wearing a **helmet** is the best way to prevent a serious injury



**1/3** of skateboarding related injuries happen to people with less than one week of experience.



Most severe accidents involve a motor vehicle. Skate in appropriate places.



Basketball injuries average **224** per 1,000 participants.



Skating injuries average **20** per 1,000 participants.

Sources: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons  
 US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
 BioMed Central Research Notes





## COMMON QUESTIONS & MISCONCEPTIONS LIABILITY & NOISE

### LIABILITY



*THIS IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE. CONSULT YOUR LOCAL MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS.*

***"Building a skatepark does not create the liability risk that many believe. Skateboarders understand that their sport of choice has risks, and the data proves that they are more successful than other athletes at avoiding injuries. Research in skatepark-rich states like California also reveals that the fear of liability lawsuits is ungrounded. Skateparks do not invite liability suits any more than existing public ball fields and courts, playgrounds, and swimming pools." - California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (cjpia.org)***

***It's important to look into relevant local laws in your own location or country during the skatepark planning phase.***

For example, in the USA, nearly every state has their own state statutes or laws that generally protect any government from liability for injuries involving the inherent risks associated with skateboarding or using skateparks.

Consult neighboring municipalities with unsupervised concrete skateparks to learn the appropriate laws in your community. Supervising skateparks can render a skatepark indemnification law ineffective and incur more costs and restrictions for the municipality and users (use fees, waivers and pads) that end up displacing skaters back into the wild.

Learn more about skatepark liability concerns at [Skatepark.org](http://Skatepark.org)

### NOISE



Prefabricated metal ramps are much louder than contemporary concrete skateparks.

Skatepark noise, according to every study conducted on the subject, consistently falls well below ordinary recreational standards and is completely appropriate for residential areas.

One of the earliest and most comprehensive skatepark noise studies was conducted by the City of Portland, Oregon in 2001. The chief noise officer for the Portland Sheriff's department concluded in a report that skateboarding noise was negligible at 50 feet but that sounds from some tricks (like ollies) could reach 65 to 71 decibels; about the sound of a bat hitting a ball. Other tricks (like grinds) reach between 54 to 65 decibels. Overall, a skatepark is about as "noisy" as a playground.

#### FOR CONTEXT, HERE ARE SOME OTHER AVERAGE DECIBEL READINGS:

<b>10:</b> Threshold of good hearing	<b>70:</b> Normal street noise	<b>105:</b> Snow blower
<b>40:</b> Household noise	(i.e., passing cars, outdoor conversations)	<b>115:</b> Football game
<b>50:</b> Office noise	<b>85:</b> Noisy restaurant	<b>125:</b> Chainsaw
<b>60:</b> Conversational speech	<b>100:</b> Passing truck	<b>130:</b> Threshold of physical pain
<b>65:</b> Skatepark		

To learn more about dealing with noise concerns and misconceptions, consult the [PSDG](#). To utilize best practices, talk with your skatepark designer to discuss noise abatement options like earthwork, foliage and positioning ramps to reflect sound to the intended direction.



## COMMON QUESTIONS & MISCONCEPTIONS POLICE STUDY

### (SELF-POLICING / STEWARDSHIP / OWNERSHIP)

The Skatepark Project interviewed law-enforcement officers in communities where TSP has contributed to the construction of a public skatepark. Each municipality included in this survey has had its skatepark open at least one year. In total, 102 officers in 37 states, from Oregon to New Hampshire, were interviewed.

The responses below may be helpful to include in your skatepark proposal or to convince local officials about the many benefits of a quality public skatepark.

### SKATEPARK IS A COMMUNITY ASSET



**90% (92) of the officers surveyed believed the skatepark is an asset to the community.** A common response from officers throughout the country was that providing kids somewhere to go and be active is always a positive thing. One officer in Maine stated, "The skaters are very respectful, and the skatepark has cut down on youth crime, especially vandalism and kids skating on the sidewalks. The park gives the kids something to do, especially the 'at-risk' youth." Some officers (15) found centralizing the local youth in one area beneficial for their department as well as the local parents. "The skatepark is great," stated an officer from Wisconsin. "With the kids congregated in one spot, we can keep a better eye on them."

### FEWER COMPLAINTS

**85% (87) of officers stated that since the public skatepark opened in their community, their police/sheriff's department has noticed a significant decrease in complaint calls from business and property owners regarding skate-related incidents/crimes.**





## SKATEPARK IS NOT A MAGNET FOR CRIME



**91% (93) of officers surveyed reported no major issues, such as bad behavior or crime, at the skatepark.** A common story shared by the officers was that giving youth something to do, and a place to go, decreases their chances of getting into trouble. A Sergeant from Massachusetts echoes this sentiment: "I can honestly say that, based on my 27 years of police work, if you can keep kids busy like the skatepark has done, you have completely prevented a future adult offender."

49% (50) of officers reported no change to overall youth crime since the skatepark opened, and 4% (4) noticed an increase in overall youth crime since the skatepark opened.

## VISIBLE LOCATION IS CRITICAL



**15% (16) of officers surveyed cited the location as playing a major role in whether or not they experienced significant delinquency issues at their skatepark.**

### SKATEPARK IS COMMON GROUND

**40% (41) of officers surveyed believe having a skatepark has had a positive impact on the relationship between law enforcement and local youth — "bridging the gap" between them. 15% (16) of officers interviewed report that the skatepark has increased tourism to their towns.**

For more on the TSP Police Study head to [Skatepark.org](https://www.skatepark.org)



## MEASURING TRANSITION AND DESCRIBING CURVED TERRAIN

*Curved and round walls are a common sight in a skatepark,* but not all curved walls are the same. Transitional terrain, named for being able to smoothly transition a rider from a lateral to a vertical direction, is described by its height and the radius of its curve.



Transition elements include quarterpipes, halfpipes, and fullpipes. And also snake runs, bowls, and launch ramps. Cradles, hips, and pockets describe transition structures.

**Transition is commonly described by its radius.** Most curved walls have a single consistent radius. You can draw a transition using a length of string equal to the radius; 7 feet of string would draw a 7-foot transition.

For many experienced skateboarders, a transition's character is sometimes described as "tight," meaning it has a small radius and the curve of the form is more abrupt. This often results in a more challenging structure that affords advanced tricks.

**A round wall can feature several converging curves of different sizes.** These complex forms are challenging to define in conversational language and require a skilled eye to shape the skating surface into a "smooth-feeling" continuous surface.

Transition areas are the fastest areas of the skatepark. Small irregularities in curved walls, when encountered at high speeds, can "trip" an unprepared skater. Poor design, an inexperienced construction team, and inappropriate concrete mixtures can all lead to imperceptible, and often critical, flaws in that feature. These "tripping hazards" are often referred to as "kinks."

**Kinks are unintentional irregularities in the radius of the round wall.**

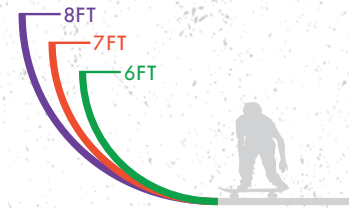
These can be caused by poor design, uninformed construction practice, and improper concrete mixtures.

These subtle variances, when encountered at high speed, can "trip" the skater.

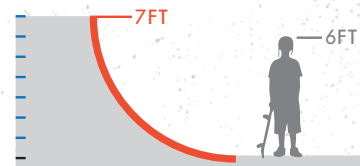
**Kinks in skateparks are dangerous and preventable.**

Most concrete transitional structures require the expert eye and skills of a skatepark specialist.

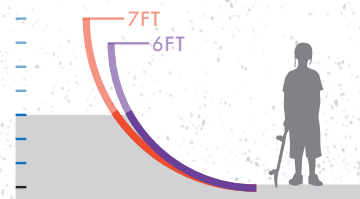
Vertical terrain doesn't occur until the height of the round wall is greater than the radius of its curve. Some skaters casually lump all "large transition terrain" into a "vert" category. This misidentification can be a source of confusion when discussing skatepark design in a public setting.



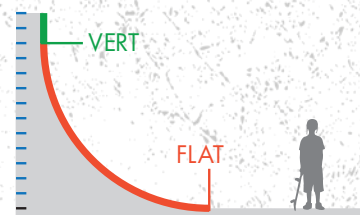
The **radius** of the transition defines the wall's curve.



This is a **7-foot Quarter** with **7-foot transition**.



This is a **3-foot Quarter** showing **7-foot transition** (looser) and **6-foot transition** (tighter).



This is a half of a **13-foot Vert Ramp** with **11-foot transitions** and **2-feet of vert**.



Flatbanks are not considered a transitional element even though **1-foot of a 9-foot radius** curve smoothly transitions the skater onto the incline.





## RETAIL & COMPETITION SKATEPARKS

### RETAIL SKATEPARKS

While retail (pay to play, for profit or non-profit) skateparks have been common in the past, time has shown that it's incredibly difficult to keep them afloat as a business or charity. If it's the only skatepark in town, it can be quite valuable to the community. But even then, only a few survive. Those that do often find their business models focused on indirect revenue streams (camps, contests, concessions and more) and even then they may not be economically viable decisions.

A retail park stays open as long as someone is willing to work hard to keep it open, and people have to pay to use it.

A public skatepark takes a few years of hard work on the front end, but then it's open for decades without any work to keep it open and it's free to use.

### "COMPETITION CERTIFIED" SKATEPARKS

You can hold some form of competition at any public skatepark. Some communities want to create a skatepark suitable for large scale annual contests with the hope of bringing in greater economic benefit. If your community is interested in doing this, do some research and talk to your skatepark designer about what specific skatepark elements are needed for the specific contest you're interested in. But understand that even though you may be in conversation with contest promoters, and you spend the money to design the park for a specific competition series, there's no guarantee that they will have that competition at your skatepark. Nor is there a guarantee that if you do hold the contest there that the town will experience the desired economic impact.

Splitting funds into a skatepark system may be more valuable (providing greater access to more individuals across the city) than making one giant park in the hopes it will attract a famous competition series to utilize the space.

A public skatepark does not have to be "certified" to be a good skatepark.





## FOUR SIMPLE ADVOCACY RULES

TAKEN FROM THE SECOND EDITION OF THE PUBLIC SKATEPARK DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

**THERE ARE FOUR PRINCIPLES** that all good advocates live by. These are not guidelines that you should loosely interpret and apply when it's comfortable, but absolute rules that you should do your very best to follow exactly.

Your mission will be judged partially by the character of your group. If you are scruffy, disorganized, and demanding, that's how people will consider the skatepark as a whole. You and your core group are representing the project and someone's opinion will be formed by their impression of you. Skatepark advocacy is more like a popularity contest than a fashion show. You don't need to be someone you're not, but you should be sensitive to the reality that the amount of effort you put into being persuasive won't be lost on your audience.

Later in this chapter you will read some key messages you can use while talking about the skatepark. These four rules are about your general approach to representing something important. (These rules are applicable to ANY advocate, not only skateboarders.)

### 1. STAY CALM

Skateparks and skateboarding are polarizing topics. You'll hear from people who see nothing wrong with them and think that building a skatepark is a wonderful idea. And you'll hear from people that hate skateboarders and are positive that the skatepark is the worst idea they'd ever heard. What you cannot do is to let those that are critical of the skatepark vision get under your skin. You will hear some outlandish ideas, and maybe even some outright lies, about who skateboarders are and the damage they do. The best way to handle these situations is to acknowledge their input, thank them for sharing, and move on. People are naturally drawn to calm, reasonable individuals.

Remember: Spend your valuable time building support, not fighting the opposition.

*True story: A skatepark advocate was attending a neighborhood council meeting with the intention of helping support a skatepark project that was being proposed for the area. When the skatepark topic came up, one person stood up and loudly announced how the skatepark would attract*

*a bad element to the otherwise peaceful neighborhood. The more he talked, the louder and angrier he got. Then the advocate raised their hand to speak, and listed the benefits the skatepark would bring, described what the skatepark would look like, and what kind of people would be using it. The irony was not lost on the other attendees; one person ranting about how disruptive, loud, and unsavory skateboarders are... and the calm, respectful skateboarder representing themselves. (Who would you believe?)*

### 2. STAY POSITIVE

It's fine to recognize that skateparks have specific challenges, and that skateboarders can be a difficult group to work with, but the tone of your advocacy should remain positive and focused on creating a successful community space. The skatepark, in other words, is not a place to attract and concentrate all of the unwanted behavior. Instead, it's a place where the community can come together and celebrate the commitment and accomplishments of the local youth.

*True story: A skatepark advocate was invited to a luncheon featuring leaders from the local government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The skatepark advocate was not told that there would be point-counterpoint presentations on the skatepark project, or that the person presenting the anti-skatepark position was one of the fiercest vocal critics of the project. It was, in other words, a set-up with the odds stacked against the skateboarder. With no preparation, the advocate presented the skatepark vision and expressed all of the benefits it would ultimately bring to the community. The skatepark opponent—in spite of their preparation—presented a list of reasons why the skatepark was a terrible idea. By the end of the "debate," the audience was wildly in favor of the skatepark simply because the advocate clearly wanted to improve the community, while the opponent came off as being angry and fearful.*

### 3. STAY AWAKE

There are lots of things going on in your town that may seem boring or irrelevant to the skatepark vision. However, the more sensitive you are to what's going on, the

more opportunities you will discover to reach new and influential people. Try to see the opportunity to talk about skateboarding and the skatepark vision everywhere you look.

*True story: Skateboarders had been pushing for a skatepark within larger Pioneer Park for a few months but were not getting much traction. A group called "Friends of Pioneer Park" was a volunteer organization that performed some routine maintenance at the park, but they were opposed to the skatepark. The skatepark advocates eventually discovered that the lack of progress was partly due to the Friends of Pioneer Park quietly working against them. They subscribed to the Friends of Pioneer Park newsletter and, when the opportunity presented itself, volunteered at one of their community events. During the event, skateboarders were able to work side-by-side with members of Friends group and get to know each other. The Friends of Pioneer Park people learned first-hand that skaters were not what they thought they were and changed their mind about the skatepark. Within the month, the skatepark project was approved at Pioneer Park.*

### 4. STAY ORGANIZED

The further you get through the process, the more complicated the effort becomes. You will need to maintain a calendar, a list of contacts, a handful of statistics, produce handouts for meetings, and remember peoples' names. Thankfully, all of this complexity doesn't come at you at once. Getting organized early and staying organized throughout the process will pay huge dividends in the long run.

*True story: The president of the skatepark group insisted on recording every meeting, event, and name in her skatepark binder. She took this binder everywhere and within a year it was filled with notes, business cards, flyers, and fact sheets. A grant opportunity came up that asked applicants to supply a brief history of the group's activity. She was able to deliver, in precise detail, exactly what her group had done, and when, from the very beginning of the project. The grant application was so well organized that her project won the foundation's top award.*





## HOW TO START A SOCIAL SKATE ORGANIZATION

Having an appropriate space to ride is essential. Finding a group of people who are set up to help you ride in a way that's comfortable for you can be essential, too. If you feel that there's a need in your community for a social skate organization, there are a few things you might consider along your journey to create one.

**MISSION** - Having a clear Mission Statement and intention of what your organization is here to do will help you stay on track.

**TIME COMMITMENT** - Making sure you have time enough to pursue the mission is key. Beware of burnout, be kind to yourself and plan accordingly.

**LEGAL/FUNDING** - Protecting yourself and others is important. Learn how organizations might be officially recognized and what legal risks are involved. If you need to bring in money to support the mission, you likely need to form an official organization like a 501 c3 or piggyback off another existing charity as your fiscal sponsor. Participant waivers are also very helpful to ensure your covered. Consult a legal expert.

**VOLUNTEERING/STAFF** - Oftentimes volunteers can fulfill the mission. At what point do you hire staff? Learn state and federal legal requirements first.

**EQUIPMENT** - Do you need skate equipment? You may be able to take in recycled skate gear. Is it in good/safe condition? You're responsible for this as well.

**INSURANCE** - Making sure you have appropriate insurance in place if you're working in the sporting sector. You may even need specific insurance to work on public skatepark property.

**PERMITS** - Sometimes people barge a space, but most public skateparks require permits for organized gatherings. Talk to the local parks department. They may require specific insurance, but will most likely be stoked if you want to activate the space.

**SAFETY AND PROTOCOL** - Understanding basic first aid and having a kit ready can be helpful. It's likely worth getting some training so you know what to do should there be an emergency. It's also critically important to carefully vet staff and volunteers with background checks to ensure the safety of all participants, especially when working with youth.

**INCLUSION** - Skateparks are for everyone. Some social skate organizations are set up to help people feel more comfortable in a space that's otherwise uncomfortable for them. If you're going to set up a space to include a certain group of people, and the space becomes exclusive to them, you may consider doing an additional event where both groups of people are encouraged to skate together so everyone can get a feel for what a truly inclusive space looks, feels and sounds like.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION** - Using a Theory of Change and collecting surveys from participants can help you better understand if you are truly on track to support your mission and meet the need. Make changes where needed. You can also use that data to demonstrate your impact to your donors and supporters.

***"Creating a social organization is real work. It takes patience and collaboration. It means putting yourself in a position to be vulnerable to really create a comfortable and consistent space for others. It means having the hard conversations and doing your best. There is no instant gratification." - Nicole Humphrey, Black Girls Skate***

***"Before you decide to start your own social skate project, think about what change you actually hope to achieve and then do your research to see what initiatives already exist. Whether you want to make a difference in your own community or on a global scale, you might find that there are great projects and organizations already out there that are looking for people with your skills - or you might need to be the one who gets the ball rolling. If you are starting a new project from scratch: believe in yourself, be open to feedback, and remember that you will not be able to help others unless you make sure to look after yourself along the way." - Rhianon Bader, GoodPush Alliance/Skateistan***



*"Skateboarding nonprofits are definitely a labor of love. It is hard work, tireless dedication, and relentless focus to make it happen, but the rewards are priceless. The positive impact and amazing relationships you make with the community are what make it all worth it. Our community is better because of those who rise to the challenge for a more positive and sustainable future." - Steve Zanco, Skatepark Respect*

*"A lot of people who start their own grassroots projects are super selfless, but the key to sustainability is to actually be more selfish. Why? Burnout is real. My advice is to regularly ask yourself, is this meaningful? Is this reasonable? And if you're answering yes to both of those questions, you know you're on the path of sustainability." - Kristin Ebeling, Skate Like A Girl*

*"If you have an idea or see a need for a program or project in your area, start with a micro version of that idea and don't obsess about growth, participation numbers, "success" etc.... If you start a skate meetup and two people show up, that's not a failure. Those two people wanted or needed that space and found it valuable. Make it rad for those two people and it'll grow from there, or maybe it won't and that's fine too!" Tim Ward, Skate After School*

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*"Running a skateboarding nonprofit is a great way to give back to the culture that has given us endless joy, purpose, and community. It comes with many challenges, but you will find that you can easily get advice and support by reaching out to other skateboarding nonprofits." - Amelia Brodka, Co-Founder of Exposure Skate*





## BID SPECIFICATION SUGGESTIONS

This is a generic concrete skatepark RFP that can be used as a template. You are invited to copy and/or modify this language to suit your needs.

**IMPORTANT:** *City Planners must be skeptical of proposals that cite "or like replacement" clauses in their bid proposals as they are often used to introduce steel or wood ramp products. Steel or wooden structures are **NO REPLACEMENT** for poured-in-place structures. Steel and wooden structures—and any skatepark structure that features a steel transition plate to adjoin two riding surfaces—are not equitable in structural, usage, or aesthetic quality and must be avoided.*

### ALL BIDDERS SHALL PROVIDE PROOF OF:

- 3 years of continuous operation under current corporate or entity name.
- 5 References, including name and contact information, based on contracts held by bidding corporation or entity using Poured in Place construction methods similar to those required under this bid.
- Proof of proper liability and Workers Compensation Insurance including limits.
- Declaration of any suits or claims against bidder, (or subsidiary or co-owned entity), for warranty, negligence or failure to complete any project within the last 10 years.

### BID REQUIREMENTS

- All Bids shall include a detailed timeline, including start and completion dates. Bids that do not include this item will be deemed unresponsive and disqualified.
- All Bids shall include full detail and specification sheet for concrete mix and supplier to be used in construction. Bids that do not include this item will be deemed unresponsive and disqualified.
- All Bids shall include a written plan for typical hydration and sawcut methods and schedule. (Expected special conditions such as summer or winter weather should be taken into consideration.)

### CONCRETE FINISH REQUIREMENTS

Concrete finish and smoothness is of the utmost importance. Before construction begins, the winning bidder shall furnish on-site samples of the following at bidder's expense. Samples must be of the mix type declared in Bid/ Proposal and will be retained by City for comparison to finished product. Samples may also be tested for color, stamped pattern and/or for comprehensive strength at City's expense. 24" x 24" x 6" flat with typical sawcut and rebar placement. Sample shall include any examples of radius edging and sealant proposed in Skatepark.

(Sample sections may not be appropriate for "skate spots" under 3,000 square feet. Photographic evidence of previous samples may suffice.)

- 36" x 12" EXAMPLE OF STEEL EDGING DETAIL including any radius edging adjacent to steel edging.
- 36" x 12" EXAMPLE OF STEEL COPING DETAIL including any radius edging adjacent to steel edging.
- IF APPLICABLE 36" x 12' EXAMPLE OF CONCRETE (pool) COPING DETAIL including any radius edging adjacent to CONCRETE edging.
- Cylinder test at City's discretion and expense.



### BASIC STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Coping and steel edging must be cleaned, primed and painted correctly.
- At no point shall standard 'flat' concrete be less than 5" thick.
- At no point shall ramp or bank concrete be less than 6" thick.
- At no point shall reinforcing steel be smaller than 3/8" rebar. Welded wire mesh may be used WITH—but not in place of—rebar.
- At no point shall reinforcing steel be spaced more than 12" on center except in flat pours where 18" is acceptable.
- No concrete shall have a comprehensive strength less than 4000 psi unless otherwise noted on plan or allowed by City.
- Water added on site shall not exceed 1 gallon per yard remaining on the truck unless allowed by the client.
- All concrete should be poured in place and obtained from a plant not further than 30 miles from the construction site.
- Concrete must be placed completely within 120 minutes of leaving the batch plant.
- No concrete shall have an aggregate smaller than 3/8".
- No concrete shall be poured at a slump greater than 5".
- ACI Certified Nozzle Operator required for shotcrete applications on banks and transitions steeper than 20 degrees.
- All vertical faces shall be vibrated smooth with no voids or projections.
- Steel coping shall be anchored by welded steel anchors. Rebar is NOT considered a steel anchor. All anchors shall be at minimum cold rolled black steel rod or bolts.
- Steel coping anchors shall never be placed within 2" of surface of concrete to avoid cracking and rust broadcast.
- ALL concrete shall have a 1/8" radius tooled edge in any instance where it comes in contact with steel edging.
- Vertical 1/4" steel plate is excepted from above requirement.

### BASIC JOBSITE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Site should be secured with fencing.
- Site must manage water retention.
- Site must remain clean, orderly and free of trash or debris at all times.
- Blowing debris must be contained at all times.
- Contractor shall have a dumpster or containment system on site at all times.
- Building debris must be cleaned and removed from site daily.
- All trash including food containers may not be visible at any time.

### WARRANTY INFORMATION

(Note: Cities are encouraged to develop a warranty that best suits their needs. It is not uncommon for Municipalities to document their own priorities for this type of purchase. In the event that a City allows the Bidder to propose their own warranty, consider including or amending the following items.)

- Contractor shall accept warranty items as follows;
- Contractor shall warrant that the product shall be free from hydration cracking for the entire duration of the construction project.
- Cracks in excess of 1/4-inch shall be warranted for 1 year.
- All steel edging shall be warranted against becoming loose for a period of 1 year.
- All concrete surfaces shall warranted against surface spalling or scaling for a period of 1 year.
- All concrete surfaces shall be warranted against spalling or scaling for a period of 1 year.
- Concrete under or adjacent to steel edging or coping shall be free from voids, chipping, and/or failure for a period of 1 year.





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**SKATEPARK ADVOCACY**  
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ALL SKATEPARK FIRMS WHO CONTRIBUTED

**Skateistan** is an award-winning non-profit organization which empowers children through skateboarding and creative education around the world.

**The Goodpush Alliance** is an initiative by Skateistan to support and share knowledge among social skateboarding projects worldwide, so that we can make a bigger impact together.



**What Are Skateparks**

Dreamland Skateparks - Mountain Home ID, Blue Haven Media,  
Brad McClain  
Town of Sweden, NY - Trevor Staples

**Types of Skateparks**

La Grange, IL - Vince Onell, Spohn Ranch  
Meredith, NH - Meredith Skatepark Advocates  
Bar Harbor, ME - Bar Harbor Skatepark Advocates  
Macon, GA - Macon Skatepark Advocates  
Ann Arbor, MI - Ann Arbor Advocate Trevor Staples  
Linda Vista, CA - Will Owens / 224 Media  
Stoner Park, Los Angeles, CA - Ray Zimmerman  
Poteet Canyon, TX - Dan's Skate Pages  
Des Moines, IA - Alec Beck  
Treasure Island, CA - Treasure Island Advocate Josh Matlock  
Legalized Skate Spot, WLA Courthouse - Jaimie Owens  
Active City Spaces - Quartersnacks  
Huntington Beach, CA - Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register/  
SCNG  
Des Moines - WHO13 Central Iowa  
Reused Sport Courts - Jesse Clayton, 5th Pocket Skateparks  
Newark, OH - Newark Skatepark Advocates

**It Takes A Village (left to right)**

Boston, MA - Lynch Family Skatepark Advocates  
Fallbrook, CA meeting - Alec Beck  
Newark, OH - Newark Skatepark Advocates  
Fallbrook, CA meeting - Alec Beck  
Redlands, CA meeting - Redlands Skatepark Advocates  
El Monte, CA opening - City of El Monte, @mulletvision  
NC Greensboro fundraising event - Greensboro Advocates  
Kickflip over barrier, Minneapolis, MN - City of Skate  
Alberton, MT - Alberton Skatepark Advocates  
Salisbury, MD - Salisbury Skatepark Advocates  
Wilmington, NC - Wilmington Skatepark Advocates  
Middleton, ID - Middleton Skatepark Advocates

**Good Responses**

Craig Hanaumi

**The Old Way & Your Old Park**

Prefab skatepark, New Jersey - Alec Beck  
Flow  
Charlottesville, VA - Charlottesville Skatepark Advocates

**Local Flavor**

Peace Sign, Alix Rice Peace Park, Amherst, NY - Amherst  
Skatepark Advocates  
LBC - Mike Donelon, ASK Long Beach  
Skillet, Wilkeson, WA - Grindline Skateparks  
Gallup, NM - Cecely Todacheenie  
Hot Rod - Chicano Park - Alec Beck  
San Luis Obispo - Alec Beck

**Skateable Art**

Des Moines, IA - Alec Beck  
San Luis Obispo - Alec Beck

Alexis Sablone Skateable Art Rendering, Montclair, NJ - Alexis  
Sablone, Skate Essex  
Beach Art Ledge - Elliot Toiminen, PC: Nils Svelnsson  
FreeSkateMag.com  
C Sculpture - Redbull  
Yellow Bench Sculpture - North Reeds Skatepark, Australia.  
Skateboarder.com.au

**Inclement Weather**

Boise, ID Skatepark - Boise Skateboard Association  
Rochester, NY - Trevor Staples  
Lynch Family Skatepark, Boston, MA - Boston Skatepark  
Advocates  
Cloverdale Youth Park, Surrey, BC - Newline Skateparks

**Opening**

Houston, TX - Houston Skatepark Advocates  
La Grange, GA - La Grange Skatepark Advocates  
Tony Hawk, Atlanta, GA - The Skatepark Project  
Brattleboro, VT - Jon Teixeira  
Providence, RI - David Santilli

**Murals**

Wyndam Skatepark - Wyndham Star Weekly  
Orange Bowl - Pixers.us  
Erika Kovalenko, Moses Lake - Columbia Basin Herald  
Beperapa Skatepark

**Signs**

Gallup Skatepark, NM - Gallup Skatepark Advocates  
Seattle Center - Peter Whitley  
Brisbane CA - Brisbane Skatepark Advocates  
Bradenton Riverwalk Skatepark, Bradenton, FL - Alec Beck

**Simple Skateparks**

Reused Sport Courts - Jesse Clayton, 5th Pocket Skateparks  
Providence Skate Spot, RI - Providence Skatepark Advocates  
Huntington Beach, CA - Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register/  
SCNG

**Legalized Spots**

West Los Angeles Courthouse, CA - Jaimie Owens  
3rd and Army, San Francisco, CA - Reddit  
MACBA - StayGenerator.com  
Southbank - Long Live Southbank Wikipedia Entry  
Brooklyn Banks - CUNY.edu

**DIY Skateparks**

Treasure Island Crew, San Francisco - Josh Matlock  
Plainville DIY, GA - Plainville Skatepark Advocates  
Harrison St. DIY, Kansas City - Jake Wickersham

**Additional Photo Support**

Ben Hlavacek

