

Help Bring a Skatepark to Downtown Eugene

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, BUILD A DOWNTOWN SKATEPARK!

Skateboarding provides an active, healthy, independent activity for our youth. In 2003, skateboarding participation nationwide was over 11 million - roughly the same as **baseball**. American Sports Data group estimated that skateboarding had over 14 million participants in 2005. Skateboarding participation grew over 80% between 1998-2002. Eugene has followed this nationwide trend.

Over the past several years, the Eugene Parks & Recreation staff worked with the community to develop a guiding plan for the future of our parks and open spaces. Certain projects consistently bubbled to the top, reflecting the greatest needs. Providing a **covered centrally located skatepark** was one of these projects and was given a Priority 1a status – the highest priority level in the plan.

Where should we build a large flagship skatepark? Washington-Jefferson Park - one of Eugene's most under-utilized open space assets – is the answer. This area is perfectly situated to support a lit, covered skatepark by utilizing the bridge overpass.

LET'S GET THE PROJECT UNDERWAY!

What: A partially covered and lighted skatepark open to all ages. The design of the park would allow for use by all levels of skateboarders from beginners to advanced and

incorporate the widest range of obstacles and terrain. Skateparks are urban recreation centers created for skateboarders.

Who: The skatepark will benefit all of Eugene, especially our youth. Skateboarding is a healthy, athletic activity and is an important recreational outlet for all participants, especially youth who are not as interested in group sports. Participation has been growing rapidly for the last decade.

Why: "A healthy body fuels the mind!" Like all positive youth recreational activities, skateparks keep kids away from the TV and video games, allowing them to interact with their peers and channel their energy. Also, everyone knows, it rains in Eugene! Building a roof over at least a part of the park or perhaps utilizing the highway as part of the roof, kids would have a year-around center instead of one dependent on our fickle weather.

Where: The Washington/Jefferson Park area is a city park encompassing approximately 10 square blocks underneath the I-105 downtown bridge. There is ample underutilized land that is perfectly suited for use as an urban skatepark. Constructing a larger flagship skatepark in this central location would be a perfect complement to the city's outlying smaller skateparks in the north, south, and west of town. It would also provide an alternative to the Springfield skatepark that is in the far eastern edge of the metro area.

When: With your help, the skatepark could be completed in 2007.

How: Funding is always an issue, especially in these fiscally constrained times. However, communities around the state from Lincoln City and Newburg to Medford and Redmond have demonstrated that with grassroots support as well as a clear direction from civic and political leaders, skateparks can be built in short periods of time. Funds for the project are likely to be derived from a partnership of public and private sources. The total construction costs will likely be approximately \$500,000.

Take action: Write, call, and/or visit your Eugene City Council representative and show your support for the cause.