

City Center Skatepark – Eugene, Oregon

MISSION

To revitalize Washington-Jefferson Park by building an 18,000 square foot **destination skatepark** under the existing cover of the I-105 Bridge in a currently under-utilized area, allowing the only regional opportunity for year-round and fully-lit use by local and visiting skate enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels.

LOCATION BENEFITS

Washington-Jefferson Park was chosen through an extensive public input process as the prime location for a regional scale urban skatepark for many reasons, including:

- Invigorate a neighborhood
- Utilize existing cover and lighting, creating the only covered skate facility for 150 miles
- Great access and connectivity
- Revitalize and reclaim an urban park
- Increase visibility to the site and improve ODOT and public safety access
- Build new safe restroom and playground in more visible locations
- Correct scale and good synergy of existing uses

SKATING BENEFITS

According to the May, 2009 edition of The National Parks & Recreation Magazine, “A successful skatepark can lure troublesome youth off street corners, burn away energy and aggression, teach motor skills, eliminate boredom, and even become a morale booster for parents and the entire community.”

- Skating is intensely aerobic and physical
- Goal oriented, encourages rapid progression
- Breaks down boundaries between age, gender, race and class and improves self-confidence

WORLD-WIDE EXAMPLES

Around the US, Canada and Europe, skateparks have been utilized in revitalizing unsavory areas into family friendly, positive, active, public gathering spaces. Just a few examples of this urban renewal include:

- Downtown skate plaza, Vancouver, B.C.
- Burnside Bridge, Portland, OR
- SoMa Park, San Francisco, CA

TOURISM BENEFITS

The skatepark is being designed and built by a world-renowned skate design/build firm who has a proven track record of attracting the biggest names in the sport. City Center Skatepark will be a destination skatepark because of its large scale, easy access, skate features and unique attractions. It is sure to be a must-stop on northwest and national skate tours.

- Adds to Eugene’s creativity and diversity, fits in well with the City’s desire to be the Worlds Greatest City of the Arts and Outdoors
- Confirms Eugene’s commitment to being a youth friendly community
- Skateparks, especially in urban settings, often become landmarks (Love Park in Philadelphia, PA is an excellent example)
- Skate tours are growing in popularity and bring skate enthusiasts from around the country to communities far and wide
- Communities with well built skate facilities attract events such as ESPN’s X-games with millions of world-wide viewers
- According to a 2002 economic impact study done for a skateboarding festival in Cincinnati, OH, it was estimated that direct and indirect visitor spending totalled \$2.2 million over course of the nine-day event

SKATING STATISTICS

Skating, as a culture is occasionally misunderstood. For example, the myth exists that skating is a minority anti-establishment based activity that invites problems into an area. People are often surprised to learn that skateboarding is the fastest growing sport in the nation, with 13 million active skateboarders and participation increasing by the day.

- There are 16 million baseball players in the U.S. and over 110,000 baseball diamonds compared to just 2,300 skateparks serving 13 million skateboarders.
- Safety studies show that skateboarding injuries fall well below other sports related injuries, including basketball, football, and baseball – even tennis! Often, skating related injuries are sustained outside of sanctioned skateparks where the hazards are much greater.
- A properly constructed skatepark generates about as much sound as a casual conversation.