

WASHINGTON/JEFFERSON SKATE PARK SAFETY STRATEGY

Skaters for Eugene Skateparks, the Eugene Downtown Rotary and the Eugene Parks and Open Space Division have joined forces to create a world class skate park at Washington/Jefferson Park. As skateboarding continues to grow in popularity as a recreational sport in the United States, the new City Center Skate Park will provide a large scale and high quality facility where youth can engage in a sport that is the “wave of the future”.

In general, it is agreed that construction of a destination scale skatepark in Eugene will help build a healthier community by offering positive social and recreational opportunities for young people. Importantly, this facility will be located under the I-105 bridge overpass, providing a dry and lit environment within which to skate year-round. The partners in this project share the belief that it is critical that the new skatepark be a safe place for everyone who uses it, particularly these young people.

Goal: To ensure that lawful park users feel safe and are safe.

The following safety strategy for the Washington/Jefferson Park identifies actions that supporting organizations can take collectively to achieve this goal.

Safety Strategy Actions

- 1. Maximize public safety through environmental design.**
 - a. The project will be designed to include good visibility into the Skatepark area, including clear lines of site from adjacent streets.
 - i Vegetation that blocks lines of sight will be trimmed or removed.
 - ii To the degree possible, the hilly areas that block sight from street level will be graded to improve visibility into the park.
 - b. Existing lighting under the bridge and over the skatepark will be upgraded to ensure safety of all users in the area.
 - c. Vehicle access to the skate park area by police, emergency medical personnel, City employees, bridge and park maintenance personnel and other authorized users will be provided.
 - d. Site design shall accommodate safe pedestrian access into and through the skatepark area.
 - e. It is the City’s goal and intent to replace the existing restroom pending adequate funding. When this occurs, the new facility will be designed and located within the park to maximize public safety.
 - f. Comfortable viewing areas for spectators will be provided.
 - g. Publicly accessible web cams (similar to highway webcams) focused exclusively on the skatepark should be considered in order to allow skaters to view skating in the skatepark and to provide crime deterrence, allowing the public, including parents, to monitor the area.
 - h. Project planners will consider creating concrete pads for vendor carts with adjacent seating areas.

Project partners will investigate and consider incorporating additional design elements to improve safety and security in the park, incorporating appropriate design concepts from the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) literature.

2. Provide Positive Community Presence and Supervision

- a. Supporters of this strategy will take actions to positively affect the culture of the park. For example, City of Eugene Eugene Parks and Open Space Division will review and consider extending park hours of operation. Park rules will be conspicuously posted and enforced.
- b. The new skate park creates the opportunity for expanded year-round recreational programming by the City of Eugene Recreation Services & Skaters for Eugene Skateparks. Consistently scheduled programming will create a positive adult presence and program supervision hours at the skate park. Programs will consist of after-school skate lessons and camps, drop-in supervised skate opportunities, and community wide skate competitions.
- c. City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division will continue to work with community members to facilitate incorporating additional active uses in the vicinity of the skate park. These could include street hockey and bicycle polo.
- d. The Eugene Police Department will provide assistance as follows:
 - i Safety training for staff, park users, and volunteers.
 - ii Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) consulting.
 - iii Routine patrols of the park (same as current service level).
 - iv Emergency assistance as needed (911).
 - v Coordinated patrol assistance for specific events such as morning clean-up crews, unlocking facilities, etc. can be pre-arranged with the on-duty watch commander.
 - vi Seniors on patrol drive-bys to check park, report issues directly to patrol.
 - vii Coordination with downtown enforcement efforts to respond to any displacement of criminal activity from that project.
 - viii Coordination with social service agencies.
 - ix Continued efforts to mitigate impacts of, and/or reduce access to fortified alcoholic beverage sales in the vicinity of the park.
 - x Crime prevention activities should be scheduled around the opening of the park, coordinated with patrol.
 - xi If requested by event organizers, participation at special events may be possible with advance notice.
- e. A Washington-Jefferson Park Volunteer Park watch program or group will be encouraged and supported by organizations and departments, including but not limited to, the Eugene Police Department, Skaters for Eugene Skateparks and the Eugene Parks and Open Space Division.
- f. The Park will be maintained to the same degree that other City community scale parks are maintained. If graffiti appears, it will be quickly removed. Members of the Volunteer Park Watch program or group could be instrumental in assisting with ongoing park maintenance and care.

3. Skatepark and Skatepark User Safety

- a. The skatepark will be designed and constructed by world class skatepark design and construction specialists.



- b. Ongoing maintenance of the skatepark features will be performed by the City or park volunteers in order to maintain consistent predictable skating surfaces.
- c. As with any athletic activity, skateboarding carries with it inherent risks for injury. However, safety studies consistently demonstrate that skateboarding has no higher injury rate than sports such as basketball or baseball. Oregon law requires all skateboarders under age 16 to wear helmets and this law will apply to all skatepark users.

4. Follow up and Evaluation

The strategy supporters will annually review and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the skate park project and the public safety strategy.

5. Strategy Supporters



The following organizations support the goal of this strategy and commit to work together to implement the actions listed above, subject to their individual limitations on available resources:

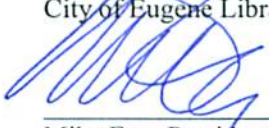
Kurt Corey, Director
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City of Eugene Police Department

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