



Subject: Skateboard Park Policy	Number 060-P 7.18	
	Effective August 14, 2003	
	Supersedes N/A	
Approved: 	Department: Parks & Recreation	Page 1 of 3

1.0 PREFACE

Seattle Parks and Recreation recognizes skateboarding as a healthy and popular recreational activity and a legitimate use to be accommodated in the parks system. The Department seeks to develop skateboard parks at selected sites in the city to serve a variety of skill levels.

2.0 PURPOSE

To create a policy, general criteria and guidelines for the development and operation of skateboard parks in Seattle parks.

3.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

- 3.1 Seattle Parks and Recreation
- 3.2 Seattle park users including members of the skateboarding community

4.0 REFERENCES

- 4.1 Seattle Park and Recreation Plan 2000
- 4.2 Public Involvement Policy for Proposals to Acquire Property, Initiate Funded Capital Projects, or Make Changes to a Park or Facility 060-P1.9.2

5.0 POLICY

- 5.1 It is the policy of Seattle Parks and Recreation:
 - 5.1.1 To seek public input on the development and operation of skateboard parks in a manner consistent with Reference 4.2.
 - 5.1.2 To develop publicly-owned skateboard parks in the City of Seattle consistent with Reference 4.1. Generally, skateboard parks should include components that serve a variety of skill levels. Skateboard parks that serve specific skill levels can be considered in the context of the site.

6.0 SITING CRITERIA

- 6.1 Skateboard park sites should consider adjacent uses and potential noise impacts. Sites should be selected where impacts to surrounding neighbors can be minimized and mitigation measures can be maximized.
- 6.2 Different considerations may apply for sites that serve specific skill levels. The following does not preclude consideration of site specific features that may be appropriate depending on the skill level including fencing, lighting, community-generated art, etc.
- 6.2.1 Skateboard park sites should:
- be developed as part of a larger park space that provides other park amenities.
 - be located to provide maximum visibility in and through the skateboard park area.
 - be located near public transportation (i.e. bus routes).
 - have a code of conduct.
- 6.2.2 Ideal skateboard park locations would include:
- spectator accommodations (i.e. seating and/or viewing area).
 - community generated art.
 - a drinking fountain.
 - a bike rack.
 - restroom facilities within the park.
- 6.3 The department will seek to distribute facilities throughout the City, with the goal of providing at least one skateboard park in each quadrant of the City, and generally will not seek to develop skateboard parks as stand alone facilities.

7.0 SKATEBOARD PARK DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- 7.1 Skateboard-park design will be created through a public involvement process consistent with the Department's existing Public Involvement Policy.
- 7.2 Skateboard-park design will be consistent with any applicable Department design standards.
- 7.3 The Department will use consultants/designers who have experience in the design of skateboard parks.
- 7.4 Skateboard parks may be designed and then constructed in phases.
- 7.5 Design and materials selection will consider available products which mitigate ongoing maintenance costs, aid in noise reduction and increase safety.
- 7.6 Design elements within the park should be spaced so participants can maneuver and recover without interfering with other users or another element. Also elements requiring different

skill levels should be situated so that users of different levels do not interfere with one another.

- 7.7 The Department will provide signage as to the specific rules of conduct for each skateboard park. Signage may include hours of use, recommendations for helmets and padding, prohibition of other uses such as in-line skates or bikes, presence of supervision, etc.

8.0 SKATEBOARD PARK MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

- 8.1 The Department will consider contracting with a qualified organization to operate and maintain skateboard parks.
- 8.2 A fee may be charged at some facilities for special events.
- 8.3 No amplified music will be played at the facilities unless permitted for a special event.
- 8.4 Use of skateboard parks will not be directly supervised by Park and Recreation staff.
- 8.5 Use of skateboard parks by in-line skaters will be permitted when the Department determines such uses can be safely accommodated. The Department may limit non-skateboarding use of the skateboard parks.