



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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July 30, 2012

The Honorable Vance A. Funk, Mayor
City of Newark
220 Elkton Road
Newark, DE 19711

Dear Mayor Funk:

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) regarding the City of Newark's approval of \$160,000 to establish skate plazas "about the size of tennis courts" in two parks. The "skate spots" will be constructed of concrete and "be smaller versions of traditional skateboard parks". Attached please find related articles for facilitated reference.

SCPD respectfully requests a copy of plans and guidelines for the skateboard park. Moreover, Council strongly encourages the City to mandate a "staffed" site, requirement of at least a helmet, and other safety standards which may reduce the risk of disabling injuries and concussions. Virginia Beach has maintained a similar 24,000 square foot skate park for decades known as Mt. Trashmore. It therefore has considerable experience with operation. Consistent with the attachments, it requires all participants to apply for a free park pass which includes a signed waiver of liability. The park is staffed and, upon presentation of the pass, pass holders are given a wrist band to enter the park. Helmets are required and no electric or motorized scooters or bikes are permitted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniese McMullin-Powell".

Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: Newark City Council
Mr. Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director
Division of Public Health
Brain Injury Association of Delaware
Nemours/AI DuPont

Newark OKs skateboarding 'spots'

By MELISSA NANN BURKE
The News Journal

Skateboarders will soon have a dedicated outdoor space to legally practice their maneuvers in Newark.

City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a \$160,000 project to build skate "spots" about the size of tennis courts in Phillips and Handloff parks. Officials estimate Newark has 1,300 to 1,500 skateboarders, many between ages 10 and 15.

"What we're talking about here is solid, concrete structures, for minimal noise," Councilman Mark Morehead said.

Newark police, businesses and residents have expressed support for the project, hoping the skate venues would cut down on incidents of skateboarders trespassing at shopping centers and plazas. Property owners complain about damage caused by boards' grinding on ledges and other surfaces.

The skate spots would likely replicate urban- and plaza-style

features in the parks, which are centrally located among neighborhoods with young families.

Newark will pay for the project using \$40,000 in capital funds, \$40,000 from a private donor and an \$80,000 grant.

Council also approved two developments proposed by Independent Investors LLC next to Klondike Kate's Restaurant on Main Street. Plans call for a four-story building at 144-150 E. Main St. with 2,760 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 22 two-bedroom apart-

ments upstairs, as well as five four-bedroom town houses at 21-27 Choate St., formerly occupied by Casablanca Restaurant. The project promises 87 parking spaces, 71 of which would be given to the city.

Council also approved spending more than \$1 million for redeveloping the former Curtis Paper Mill property, a brown-field site, as a future city park.

Contact: Melissa Nann Burke at 324-2329, mburke@delawareonline.com or on Twitter @nannburke.

City's first skateboarding parks should be open by late fall

By Donna C. Gregory Newark Post | Posted: Friday, June 1, 2012 4:21 pm

Skateboarders will soon be able to practice their tricks at two new skate spots in Newark.

City-council members voted unanimously Tuesday to design and construct skate spots at Norma B. Handloff Park, off Barksdale Road, and Phillips Park, right off Phillips Ave. on the south end of town. The spots will be smaller versions of traditional skateboard parks and could be open for skateboarders by late fall.

“We’d like to make each [skate spot] unique to themselves,” said Charlie Emerson, the city’s Parks and Recreation director. “We want them to be as different as they can, so if [skateboarders] go to either one, they’ll have a different experience.”

The parks department plans to include local skateboarders in the design process.

“We have already talked to some skateboarders, and will probably reach out to some others,” Emerson said.

Newark has an estimated 1,300 skateboarders, but no skateboarding facilities. The Handloff and Phillips skate spots will give skateboarders a designated place to practice their sport. During the past five years, the police department has received more than 100 calls from residents and businesses complaining about people riding skateboards in parking lots and on streets, officials said.

According to Emerson, Handloff and Phillips parks were selected because of their proximity to residential neighborhoods. Phillips also is close to the James F. Hall Trail, giving skateboarders safer access to the skate spot there.

Both skate spots will be constructed out of concrete, measuring about 3,000 to 4,000 square feet each.

The Handloff skate spot will be built in the grassy area between the Barksdale Road sidewalk and the tennis courts. The Phillips skate spot will be next to the basketball courts, replacing an unused asphalt volleyball court.

The city has received an \$80,000 grant from the Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund to partially fund the skate spots. A private donor has pledged another \$40,000, with an additional \$40,000 coming from this year’s capital-improvement budget.

The parks department has identified George Wilson Park as a potential location for a third skate spot, if funding becomes available.

There are approximately 11.8 million skateboarders in the U.S., according to a 2004 Sporting Goods Marketing Association Sports Participation Study.

Skateboarding is the third most popular sport for American teenagers, with football and basketball ranking first and second respectively.



Skate Parks

The City of Virginia Beach operates two premier skate parks located in Mount Trashmore Park and Woodstock Park. Both skateboarding facilities are free and open to the public.



Mount Trashmore Skate Park is a 24,000 square foot extensive street course flowing from an aboveground, seven-foot deep bowl. The skate park components are framed with treated wood and completely covered with composite material. It boasts a Skatelite Pro skating surface that skateboarders, inline skaters, and BMX bikers can enjoy.

Adjacent to the skate park is a competition-sized vert ramp that stands at a massive 13.5 feet tall and 40 feet wide. Located at 310 Edwin Drive. Phone: (757) 473-5237

Woodstock Park Skate Plaza has 10,400 square feet of concrete skateable area and 3,200 square feet of interior green space. Boasting several challenging components, the plaza contains a five-foot tall quarter pipe, vert wall, rails, hubba ledges, radial ledges, stairs and handrails to provide endless skating action. Bleachers are available for spectators. Located at 5709 Providence Road. Phone: (757) 366-4538

Coming in September 2012: Williams Farm Skate Park! [Learn more](#) about this exciting addition!

Skate Pass Information

Skate park participants must sign-up for a free skate park pass. The skate pass is valid for Mount Trashmore Skate Park and Woodstock Skate Plaza.

Simply complete the [skate pass application](#) and bring it the park staff. Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian complete and sign the form. Parent/guardian will be contacted to verify the information. Participants 18 years and over will be required to provide a photo ID and proof of residency for verification.

Once you are issued your skate pass, you will provide it to the park staff on each visit to receive your wristband, which is required to enter the park.

Hours of Operation

- 8 am until ½ hour before the posted park closing time, daily.

- Unauthorized access to the skate park after posted operating hours or when the facility is closed due to safety or maintenance reasons shall be considered trespassing. Violators will be prosecuted.
- Park staff reserve the right to open or close the skate park as needed.

Entering the Parks

- Patrons must check in and obtain a free wrist band to enter the skate park.
- Registered participants must present the Skate Park Pass upon each visit. To register for a free Skate Park Pass, please see park staff. Parks staff are not responsible for lost or stolen skate passes.
- All skate park participants must wear an industry standard helmet. Protective pads are strongly encouraged. Park staff reserve the right to deny access or use due to inappropriate equipment.

Using the Parks

- Patrons are expected to follow posted rules and staff instruction.
- Skateboards, bikes, razors, kick scooters, and rollerblades may be used at the skate park.
- No electric, motorized, training wheels, or "spark" apparatus are permitted in the park.
- Inappropriate behavior/actions and language, including failing to obey park safety requirements and rules, will result in disciplinary action and may result in the loss of skate park privileges.
- Smoking is not allowed in the skate park or at the entrance gate.
- Food is not allowed in the skate park at any time.

Inclement Weather

In the event of rain, snow or other condensation on the ramps or concrete, the skate park will close until park staff determine the facility safe for use.

Contact Information

Parks & Natural Areas

Direct: [\(757\) 385-0400](tel:7573850400) | Email: fun@VBgov.com