



December 14, 2006

Dear Park Patrons,

Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Skatepark Advisory Task Force are pleased to present the Draft Citywide Skatepark Plan. In February 2006, at Councilmember David Della's request, the City Council passed a resolution calling for Parks and a newly formed Task Force to; "engage the community in a citywide planning process to develop a network of safe and accessible skateparks" throughout the city.

Over 700 citizens have participated and provided input during the public planning process. One hundred thirty sites were nominated during that process as potential skate facilities. This draft plan presents the Task Force and Parks staff recommendations and is meant to form the foundation for creating a healthy, vibrant system of skate facilities for Seattle.

Key components of the draft plan include:

- Typology or hierarchy of skate facilities
 - **Skatedots:** Integrated Skateable Terrain. Small skateable elements in areas that are currently skated. Average size is approximately 20 sq. ft.
 - **Skatespots:** Similar in size to a single tennis court, but can range from 1,500–10,000 sq. ft. Because of the small size of these facilities, they can usually accommodate only one user group level. The Ballard Bowl, in Ballard Commons Park is a skatespot.
 - **District:** Similar in size to a double tennis court, but can range from 10,000–30,000 sq. ft. and accommodate a wide variety of user groups. Lower Woodland is a district-sized facility.
 - **Regional:** Similar in size to a little league field. Its size would be greater than 30,000 sq. ft and could accommodate 50-300 users at one time.
- Siting criteria for each of the types of skate facilities,
- List of recommended sites for skatepark development,
- Recommendations on projects that should receive priority funding, and
- Additional recommendations, such as:
 - **Filling the gaps in citywide system** – Consider future park acquisition and development, public private partnerships, and opportunities with the Seattle School District. Although there are no school sites recommended in this plan, Seattle Parks is interested in working with the School District to investigate future possibilities for skatepark facilities at school sites.

On December 14, 2006, the Board of Park Commissioners will hear the Parks staff briefing and hold a public hearing on the Citywide Skatepark Plan. The meeting is scheduled in the Lower Level of Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave., Seattle (8th and Seneca.) The plan will also be presented to the City Council's Parks, Education, Libraries and Labor Committee on December 20.

At its Thursday, January 11 2007, meeting the Board will discuss the plan and make its recommendation to me. The Mayor and I in turn will make recommendations to City Council, and City Council will then vote on whether to adopt the plan in early 2007.

Sincerely,

Ken Bounds
Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation