

More than anyone, and everywhere young people need to feel like they are recognized and appreciated (by their communities): In too many places skateboarders get the wrong message and public image from local authorities who limit or outlaw skateboarding and ignore its inherent (health- and selfempowerment) benefits for the skateboarders and

***communities around
skateparks.***

You can attract new residents to your community - and help current residents put down roots - by ensuring you have adequate youth community spaces.

Skateparks are an example of a municipal initiative that benefits both residents and the economic development of your community.

Skateboarding and public Skateparks should be supported, because of the pro-social & community benefits — highlighting the value of open Spaces in fostering the development of young peoples' social skills, self-esteem, cooperation and respect for self and others.

A successful and inclusive city and/or community supports public spaces that encourage interaction, spaces that enable them to celebrate and share common interests. The growing culture of

skateboarding has made a huge impact on communities and successful introduction of Skateparks shows that it is used by people from all walks of life. These people may not know each other socially outside of skateboarding but at the skate park they have the opportunity to become friends and form bonds that cross economic, geographic, and even language barriers. Skateparks are a win-win for cities and (their) communities: Skateparks promote an active lifestyle, no matter the age. Well-designed skateparks can even provide security & economic benefits. Providing a skatepark or public place will allow citizens to thrive in a positive environment dedicated together with economic benefits for their communities.

Skateboarding teaches Commitment: Similar to martial arts, skateboarding skills and fundamentals must be learned and mastered over time with practice and patience, (unlike the instant gratification provided by television and video games).

Skateboarding teaches Responsibility: Skateboarding provides a perfect opportunity for a young person to take calculated risks in a controlled environment, with very real and immediate consequences if maneuvers are not executed properly.

Skateboarding encourages Bravery: This is another amazing skateboarding benefit that not many sports offer. The biggest fear while skateboarding is losing control while doing a stunt. Hence every stunt requires countless hours of practice so that the skateboarder can perform even the most complex stunts with a clear and focused mind. This ability of not giving up, and having a calm and focused mind can prove extremely beneficial in real life (and emergency scenarios).

Skateboarding encourages Confidence: Through practicing tricks for many times and eventually making it after some time and dedication — you will feel there is nothing hard for you, and you can do & try anything (in life).

Skateboarding encourages Social Skills And Friends: Skateboarding is a social sport, indeed. It is very super fun for a bunch of people to do the same thing that all love. And you can get help and advice from other people about how to skateboard better. And you can learn how to communicate with others, and how to make friends with others. For introverted children, skateboarding is a great helpful social activity to help them go out and make friendships

Skateboarding helps with Stress Relief: Any physical activity is considered to be good for relieving stress. Skateboarding can help you take your mind off things. Alternatively, it can also help you think clearly about things.

Skateboarding seems to bring things into perspective and allows you to feel as though you're more in control of other aspects of your life.

Skateboarding encourages Overall Health: As with all forms of physical exercise, skateboarding can reduce or eliminate your risk for many health problems, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity

Skateboarding improves Coordination and Balance: Skateboarding involves a lot of coordination between your eyes, legs, feet and arms. The more you skate, the better you'll get at this. Precision and coordination are used throughout your life, whether you skate or not. When you improve these traits, you better your ability to do all sorts of different things from driving to climbing to multi-tasking.

Skateboarding teaches Determination: Bruises and bumps. Scrapes and scars. Aches and pains. They're all a part of skateboarding. And since we love skateboarding so much, we're willing to take the abuse. The fun and excitement

of skating is far greater than the pain involved. Most small injuries go away. You forget about them. But you'll never forget your first kickflip, your first drop-in, or your first handrail. So we roll with the punches. And those punches become easier to deal with each and every time. We fall. We get up. We try it again with even more determination.

Skateboarding encourages to get rid Of bad habits: Nowadays many people have such bad habits of staying indoors for a whole day, keep playing smartphones or video games, or more. However, when you pick up your skateboard, such things will not bother you anymore.

Communities should provide open spaces like skateparks, because

Skateparks & public Places reduce illicit behavior: The myth surrounding skateparks is that they are a breeding ground for crime and other illicit activities. While there will be an occasional "bad seed", providing designated spaces for positive activities is the best way to curb unlawful behavior among youth. When youth having nothing to do or nowhere to go — that is when they cause trouble.

Skateparks & public Places provide a safe environment: The majority of skateboarding injuries happen outside skateparks. The most common injuries are falls due to surface irregularities and collisions with motor vehicles or pedestrians. Skateboarding is going to happen whether skateparks exist or not, so the best way to keep youth safe is to provide them access to safe, designated spaces to pursue their activity.

Skateparks & Public Places draw skateboarders away from less appropriate areas: Without a skate park, people will continue to skate wherever there is compelling terrain. With the creation of a skate park we are able to create activity where we desire it to be, and move it away from those places where we don't. Reclaiming public spaces help people to feel like they are part of a caring and secure community. The busier the place, the more appealing for the youth and the more 'included' and valued people feel. An important psychosocial benefit of creating a skate park is that it allows community members to 'feel safe again'.

Skateboarding & other creative outdoor activities have significant physical health benefits: Arguably the most important reason for participating in action sports is the fact that it keeps you healthy and physically fit. Finding an activity that gets kids off the couch and keeps them in shape is vital for the youth of this nation, especially in this time of a national health crisis.

Skateboarding & other creative outdoor activities have significant mental health benefits: Skateboarding is a unique activity because it combines extreme physical exertion with precise muscle coordination and balance. The complexity of performing tricks on a skateboard improves brain function at a fundamental level and stimulates new cell growth in the brain

Skateboarding is a sport, an art form, a lifestyle, and a culture which also creates friendships between people from different (social) backgrounds. With more than

100 million (estimated) active skaters, skateboarding is gradually becoming one of the most popular hobbies shared by people around the globe. Contrary to what most parents think, apart from funky clothes, shoes, attitude, and gravity-defying tricks, skateboarding does offer some amazing benefits for the mind and body. The best part about this sport is the convenience of practicing it anywhere; it can be performed indoors or outdoors, and in large spaces or small confined areas. Skateboarding brings the people together from different backgrounds and economic statuses.”

Skateboarding encourages Self-Empowerment & (Social) Skills Development

Economic Benefits:

Skateparks create the need for relevant businesses, like skateboard shops, bringing new jobs and tax revenue to the community; skateparks help create new skateboard teaching and instructional jobs as well. The community can set up skateboard lessons and camps, which creates a win-win environment for the skaters, instructors, and community.

Also, a well-designed skatepark can attract out-of-town visitors, who spend money within the community. And, best of all, a public skatepark shows that the community is invested in its younger citizens, which helps convince people to move to the community, or to work there, or just to visit and spend money.

Recreation:

Skateparks give youth something to do, at a place where they can develop a sense of community, which helps reduce lawlessness. Skateboarding is a popular sport and growing, as is BMX (bicycle motocross), and both offer a form of physical activity for youth who aren't interested in traditional team sports. The truth is that skateboarding will happen regardless of the presence of a skatepark. A community that makes skating difficult or illegal only encourages more street skateboarding, which can cause accidents or unsafe behaviour. Without a skatepark to gather in, youth may be forced to play in the streets or find a way to make their own fun. Skateparks have been shown to reduce damage to public and private property

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Skateboarding helping to combat the national rise in mental health issues

New research has shown a striking correlation between people who skateboard and their improved mental health. The study conducted by Instinct Laboratory and Flo Skatepark, has shown involvement in skateboarding can reduce stress, increase confidence and provide escapism.

Skateboarding is well known for its physical health benefits, but the recent study has shown that individuals who partake in skating stated they do so to reduce boredom, provide them with escapism, help them to build their confidence and use skateboarding as a coping mechanism for their emotions.

Youngsters also attributed skateboarding to helping them feel a sense of achievement (when performing new tricks), learning and progressing when

getting better on a board and feeling like they could be themselves when at a skatepark, surrounded by others with a similar outlook

KIDS DESERVE A PLACE TO GROW

Skateparks build and sustain healthy communities. As a gathering place for dedicated, athletic youth, the skatepark provides the forum for visitors young and old, beginning and skilled, to meet and share experiences. For many skateboarding youth, the skatepark becomes a home-away-from-home

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Because skateboarding can be practiced alone also as a group activity. By experiencing skateboarding together, we are able to build strong interpersonal relationships. Along the way in our journeys to different places and skateparks, we will meet like-minded individuals who share the same passion (and often also the same values) as us. More than a bond in just the training, we develop deep emotional connections with other practitioners that we call friends and homies. In spite of all the associated dangers, skateboarding sure does wonders for the body and mind in the long run. Skaters need to be focused and alert, particularly in a skatepark setting, to maintain their balance and to perform the maneuvers they do.

At skateparks, older skaters tend to look after younger skaters. They offer tips, help them out when they fall, and will rise to the occasion when they have the opportunity to set a positive example or mentor a younger skater. A skatepark is a place where skaters get together and enjoy the space, the camaraderie, and the physical thrill of riding. An outdoor, open, highly visible location—as most skateparks are—is not the place to bully kids, use drugs, or be a nuisance. Skaters are there for a reason, and are generally very good at policing each other about behavior that interferes with their enjoying the park. Skateparks, where the skaters have trouble with non-skating drug users and delinquents showing up, are typically located in secluded areas, where casual supervision is infrequent or doesn't exist. It's an unfortunate situation, but it's one that the skaters suffer from, rather than create themselves. It is

important that the skatepark is positioned somewhere in the community where there is ample pedestrian traffic. This prevents people from preying on the captive skatepark audience. A well-built and properly sited skatepark that reflects the needs of the local skaters is a hive of creative, physical activity, a place where kids and adults who enjoy skateboarding come together and are focused on their sport in an inherently positive environment.

Public Skateparks and open Skatespots encourage positive (social) Change (in their communities)

How Much Do Skateparks Cost?

This is a complex question whose answer depends largely on what kind of skatepark you're talking about. It's kind of like asking, "how much does a car cost?" There are two costs associated with skateparks. The first expense is the cost to design and build the facility. The second expense is the cost of maintaining and operating that facility over a period of time. (These expenses together are considered the "total cost of ownership," or "TCO.")

Square-foot size of skatepark X \$50

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Skatepark Creation Cost Estimate

+/- Project Cost Factors

The average price to design and build a skatepark is from \$40-\$60 per square foot. Most projects cost around \$50 per square foot in total. Skateparks rarely are more than \$65 per square foot, and can sometimes be as low as \$25 per square foot.

At the average cost of \$50 per square foot: