

Benefits of a Skatepark Facility

Research shows that strategies involving physical activity and recreation appear particularly promising in minimizing or removing risk factors for youth. Therefore, the benefits of a skatepark facility are:

- *Reduce Health Care, Social Service and Police/Justice Costs*
 - Activities such as skateboarding can lower healthcare costs by reducing both the incidence and severity of illness and disabilities.
 - Activities such as skateboarding can decrease police, justice and incarceration costs by minimizing crime.
- *Improve the Quality of Life*
 - Activities such as skateboarding can provide positive lifestyle choices and alternatives to self-destructive behaviour. Being involved in recreational, sports, arts or cultural activities promotes:
 - Higher self-esteem and a positive self-image
 - Personal growth
 - Acquisition of life skills
 - Satisfaction with life
- *Reduces Anti-Social Behaviour*
 - Activities such as skateboarding can reduce self-destructive behaviour, reduce crime, racism, isolation, loneliness and alienation.
 - Teen 'hang-out' socialization space - developed space for positive social activities.
- *Build Strong Families & Healthy Communities (Human Development)*

Skateparks can:

 - Produce leaders who serve their communities in many ways
 - Build social skills and stimulate participation in community life
 - Act as the catalyst for building strong, self-sufficient communities (that is, sports groups, art guilds, etc.)
 - Help people understand their neighbours, their history and their environment
 - Generate pride in a community.
- *Balance Physical, Intellectual & Social Development*
 - Skateparks can help children and youth:
 - Learn motor and social skills through play and sports
 - Develop creativity through play, art and cultural activities
 - Expand intellectual capacities and concepts
 - Acquire and improve many other necessary life skills.
- *Make a Significant Economic Impact in the Community (Pay now or Pay later)*
 - Small investments in these areas often yield large economic returns: money generated by events, capital development and ongoing services is spent several times in the community.

Skateparks Countering the Following Barriers:

- *Lack of money:*
 - The City of Regina's skatepark facility would be free.
- *Transportation:*
 - Skatepark facilities encourage youth to travel by skateboard (alternative form of transportation) to their destination point.
- *Lack of information:*
 - Skatepark facilities are great at reaching a target audience of youth, as they act as a gathering place.
- *Program structure:*
 - The skatepark facility will be unstructured allowing youth to be creative.
- *Sport focus:*
 - The skatepark facility will be structured to allow ad hoc use.
- *Adult program focus:*
 - Skateparks are all about the identity of the youth involved.
- *Class and racial discrimination:*
 - Skateparks break down racial and class structures, as the youth involved just want to skate.