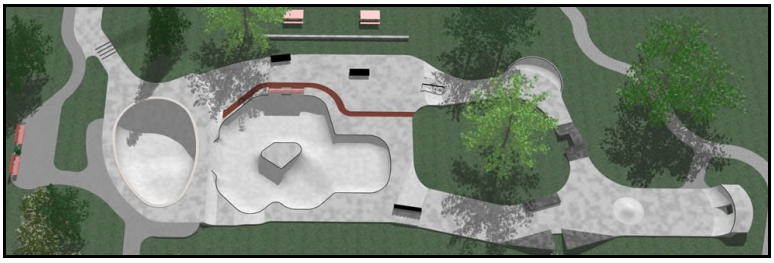
SEATTLE SKATEPARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Maple Leaf Reservoir DISTRICT SKATEPARK

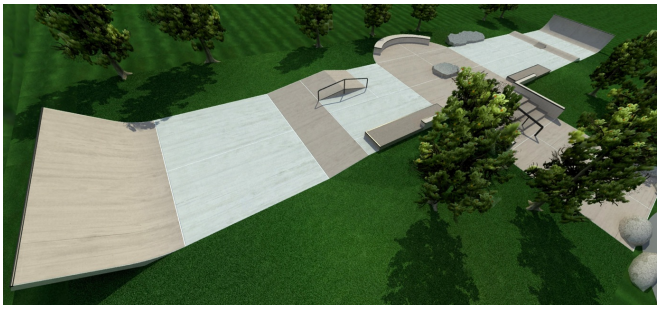
According to Seattle's Citywide Skatepark Plan, a ***district skatepark*** can range in size from 10,000 to 30,000 square feet, which is about the same size as two to four tennis courts. These skateparks are meant to serve a larger area than just a single neighborhood and, depending on the layout, can accommodate up to 30 users at a time. By planning ahead for the Maple Leaf Reservoir District Skatepark through the 2007 Citywide Skatepark Plan, Seattle is delivering on its commitment to provide safe, accessible terrain to the estimated 20,000 skateboarders in this city.

In Spring 2008, the Parks Department built the first district skatepark in Seattle at Lower Woodland Park in the Green Lake neighborhood. This 17,000 square foot skatepark is located next to baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts, and a BMX bicycle facility. After two very busy seasons with up to 70 skaters and spectators using the park at once, it is clear that Seattle's investment in this world-class facility is paying huge recreation dividends to its citizens. In the summer of 2009, a local stewardship group was formed to help promote and maintain this important community resource.



Skateboarders have been working to build a public skatepark in West Seattle since 1991. After nearly 20 years of sustained grassroots effort, the design for the Delridge district skatepark is nearly complete, with construction of this 12,500 square foot facility scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2010.

In January 2010, Seattle built the city's second ***skatespot*** (1,500 to 10,000 sqare feet) at Dahl Playfield and made plans for another one at Hubbard Homestead Park near Northgate, along with a third district skatepark in Jefferson Park! With existing skatespots in the Ballard Commons Park and Ella Bailey Park, the Maple Leaf Reservoir District Skatepark will join a growing network of complementary facilities for this popular active sport. Building this facility as part of the lid improvements, or as a future park feature, is consistent with Seattle's long-term vision for skateboarding.



For more information about this project, please contact the following people:

Seattle Parks and Recreation
Kellee Jones- 684-7052 - kellee.jones@seattle.gov
Susan Golub - 684-7046 - susan.golub@seattle.gov

Seattle Skateboard Advocates
Angela Johnson - algae77@yahoo.com
Ryan Barth- ryanpbarth@hotmail.com

For additional reference, please see the back page for a general list of skatepark design principles.

Great Skateparks! A Planner's Checklist for Success

Locate in Highly Visible and Vibrant Area Within New or Existing Multi-purpose Park or Community Center Complex

Select locations that are not isolated from other people and other uses. Put a priority on places where women and men of all ages will be safe and comfortable. Best places have both pedestrian and vehicular traffic along skatepark. Corner locations are desirable.

Choose the Locations that are Accessible to Users

Locate within walking distance to transit access, allow for parking, parental spectator space, drop off, waiting and pick up areas. Many young skaters need a ride to the park and many parents want to watch while younger kids skate.

Include a Balance of Uses

Provide for both street skating and transition skating.

Sun and Shade

Choose places with sun, but also provide places to skate, rest, socialize, and watch that are out of the sun. Seating areas should be in the shade. Also refer to season extenders below.

Design to Attract and Retain Multi-age Users and Spectators

Go beyond building surfaces to skate. Acknowledge the potential to build a wonderful community amenity and design this to be a park for skating. Reap the value and benefits of strengthening community, increasing cross-generational social interaction, and a create a self-policing atmosphere that features exercise, recreation, safety, comfort, and beauty.

Size Adequately, Provide for All Skill Levels, Plan for Expansion Potential

Provide enough room for everyone to play. Include places for beginners to learn and expert skaters to hone their skills. Plan a bicycle strategy and enforce it.

Demand High Quality Design and High Quality Concrete Construction

Skateparks should be designed and built by people who completely understand skateboarding and concrete shotcrete construction. This includes accomplished skaters who currently practice the sport. Skatepark designers should work on a team with landscape architects and others to ensure smooth integration of the skatepark into the surrounding context.

Spectator Gallery with Community Gathering Potential

Provide comfortable accommodations for passive enjoyment by spectators and parents of younger skaters. Where possible, build provisions for skatejams and organized competitions.

Integrate Seamlessly Into Adjacent Landscaping

Create site-specific design that incorporates a park atmosphere with skating surfaces. Make these places green and sustainable. Make them beautiful. On a practical level, keep dirt, grass, mulch, bark, gravel, etc. contained, isolated and away from skate surfaces in order to reduce maintenance and increase safety. Use care in selection and placement of trees because litter from trees increases maintenance and can cause unsafe skating conditions. Tree roots can heave and damage concrete.

No Fence

Choose location and design the skatepark to be a safe place without a fence. Protect pedestrians and spectators from the action where necessary, but don't enclose or cage the skatepark. Don't jeopardize user safety or enable vandalism because of faulty site selection and inadequate self-policing, or inferior site planning, line-of-sight, construction, or maintenance processes.

Utilities

Wherever possible and appropriate, provide a drinking fountain, hose connection, trash receptacles, locked container for maintenance tools, safe restrooms, and lights.

Season Extenders

Consider permanent, seasonal, or weather permitting roof or cover to extend usability by keeping areas dry or shaded. Consider radiant heat in concrete to dry skate surfaces after precipitation and dew and to prevent condensation of moisture on skate surfaces in wetter climates.

Art

Encourage art that respects all skatepark users and spectators.

10 Tips for “Street” Skateparks

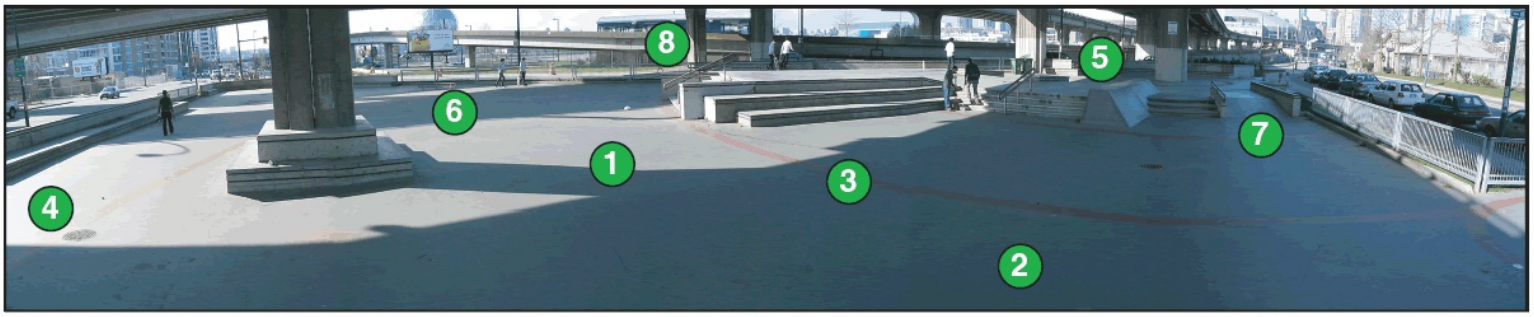


PHOTO COURTESY OF BROCK MCNALLY

1. Leave extra pushing room between features. Too much space between things is better than not enough.
2. Leave room for "freestyle." Pushing is okay. Flat is good.
3. Use different kinds of materials and textures to create a diverse skateboarding experience.
4. Understand the constraints of skateboarding. Expansion joints, drainage grates, and debris are all hazardous for skateboarders.
5. Use fillet edges with a 4mm radius or smaller on all leading edges in a street area.
6. Space and position the obstacles in a way that lets skaters travel through the park as they wish.
7. Allow for enough space between structures to avoid collisions among skaters.
8. Include a ledge and a flat rail that are easily approached from either direction.
9. Don't assume a "street" park means a "beginner" park. In other words, don't be afraid to include larger features such as 4+ stairs.
10. Don't underestimate the amount of speed a skater may need to hit a particular obstacle.