

Salmon Bay Playground INTEGRATED SKATEDOT



www.parents4sk8parks.org

What is a skatedot?

According to Seattle's Citywide Skatepark Plan, a **skatedot** is a piece of "integrated skateable terrain" designed to blend seamlessly into the surrounding environment. Unlike a large skatepark, these features may not exceed 1500 square feet, should complement or enhance adjacent landscaping, and may support other types of uses beyond skateboarding.

By including skatedots in its small parks and school yards, Seattle will create networks of safe, accessible "skate trails" throughout the city. This will help attract existing skateboarding activity into appropriate areas and build an inclusive environment for practitioners of this popular active sport.

In Northwest Seattle, a growing network of complementary skatedots is already emerging thanks to the sustained efforts of the Parks Department. As an equal participant on the Mayoral Task Force that created the Citywide Skatepark Plan in 2007, the School District supports inclusion of skatedots on a site-by-site basis. Please support a skatedot in the Salmon Bay Playground.



Currently:

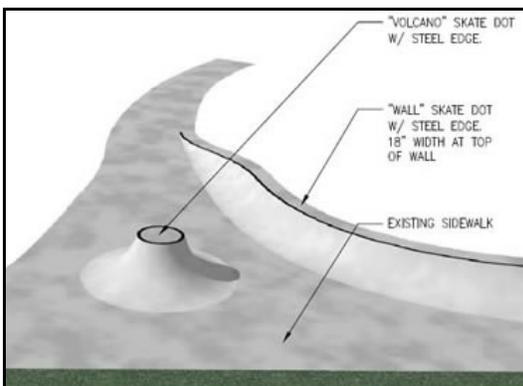
The Ballard Corners Park features this small section of raised curbing reinforced with a metal edge next to an ordinary sidewalk. The skateable area is approximately 200 square feet.



In Magnolia's Ella Bailey Park, a series of cascading ledges and this reinforced concrete bench are integrated with an asphalt pedestrian path.

"The skate dot at Ballard Corners Park is a wonderful addition. I think there should be more opportunities for skaters in Seattle's neighborhood parks. The skate dot was the idea of our park designer, landscape architect John Barker. The neighbors supported the idea. I've been fortunate to see skaters use it and judging by the marks left behind, it appears to be getting a lot of use. I support giving skaters more opportunities in other parks."

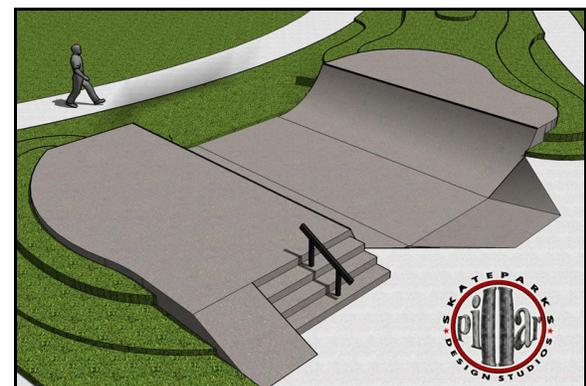
-David Folweiler, co-chair, Friends of Ballard Corners Park



By Fall 2011:

The volcano and bench features shown in this rendering by Seattle's own Grindline Skateparks will be built in Kirke Park at 7028 9th Ave NW.

Crown Hill Park at 9089 Holman Rd NW will include the 1500 square foot concrete mini-halfpipe with adjacent 4-stair and rail features shown in this rendering by Pillar Design Studios.



Please see the following page for more details. For more information and ideas about planning a skatedot in the Salmon Bay Playground, contact Scott Shinn at 909.0390. Thanks for your support!

A brief history of skateboarding, skateparks and skatedots in Seattle and beyond

- 1973 Skateboarding experiences a growth stage when the urethane wheel is invented. The "first wave" of public concrete skateparks is built in California, a caste of professional skaters is born and a skate to subculture emerges. During this period, skateboarding adds vertical skating to its repertoire of existing disciplines inherited from the 1960's: slalom, downhill, freestyle and longjump.
- 1980 Following the demise of pay-to-play skateparks, the sport of skateboarding adapts to landscaping and architectural features in the urban environment. This begins the era of "street style" currently practiced by 80% of skaters, who begin to construct "Do It Yourself" skate ramps, mostly from wood, during this period, which also includes the "second and third waves" of skateboarding participation.
- 1980 to 1995
- 1997 The Washington State legislature adopts SSB 5254 amending the recreational user statute, RCW 4.24.210, to expand covered activities by adding skateboarding to the list of activities allowed on public and private property. This legislation paves the way for public skateparks in this state.
- 2004 The Marginal Way skatepark is built illegally by skaters in the SoDo neighborhood. Today, the skatepark is a non-profit corporation managed by skaters with permission from SDOT.
- 2005 In a survey of six Salmon Bay middle school classes, 11 out of approximately 170 students (6.5%) request a skate park, skate ramp, half-pipe, and/or bike ramp.
- Seattle Parks completes the skate bowl in the Ballard Commons Park. As the first permanent concrete skatepark in the Parks system, the Ballard Bowl is a "skatespot" at 4500 square feet.
- 2006 A preliminary site analysis identifies the following potential issues for a skatedot at Salmon Bay:
- To reduce the risk of collisions, pedestrian lines of traffic should run parallel to skate lines
 - A skatedot could attract older skaters to a playground primarily used by younger students
 - Unlike a public park, a skatedot could pose a supervision issue for District staff
- 2007 Seattle adopts the second Citywide Skatepark Plan in the nation (Portland was the first in 2005) For more details, visit <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/projects/Skatepark.htm>
- 2008 Seattle Parks and Recreation completes the Lower Woodland skatepark near Green Lake. This is the first "district skatepark" built after passage of the Skatepark Plan.
- 2009 The Seattle Center Skatepark is rebuilt for \$2.9 million. The Skate Like a Girl organization moves its home office into a building next to the skatepark and assumes stewardship over it.
- 2011 The Salmon Bay Playground Committee raises the money and shepherds the process that builds Salmon Bay's newest playground. Will it support the fabled "fourth wave" of skateboarding?

How much will it cost?

It depends. Over the last six years, the City of Seattle has been building the first wave of skateparks, skatespots and skatedots with funding from the Parks and Green Spaces Levy and a "skate dot pot" of \$50,000 allocated in the Citywide Skatepark Plan. With million dollar skateparks slated to be built at Jefferson Park and Delridge Community Center, plus smaller neighborhood skatedots springing up all over the city, the true cost of building skateable terrain is currently in flux.

For reference, cost comparisons among several projects of various sizes are shown below. A landscape architect can often subcontract with a qualified skatepark designer to create an excellent skateable feature at minimal cost. Volunteer labor and materials can also help offset the cost of skatedot construction.



Kids on skateboards provided by the Skateistan program in Kabul, Afghanistan (©2009 Life Magazine)

Project	Cost	Square Feet	Cost per Sq ft
Lower Woodland	\$1.05M	17,000	\$62
Summit & John	\$12K	1,500	\$8
Seattle Center	\$2.9M	10,000	\$290

Project	Cost	Square Feet	Cost per Sq ft
Dahl Playfield	\$200K	4,000	\$50
Crown Hill	\$55K	1,500	\$37
Ballard Bowl	\$250K	4,500	\$56