

March 9, 2009



COLLINSVILLE
Skatepark Committee

Dear local business owner:

For the last several years we have seen an increase in the number of skateboarders in our community, and as a result, an ever-increasing need for a suitable skateboarding facility. In addition, Collinsville's young people have rated the lack of local activities for teens as one of their biggest concerns/problems with their community. Obviously, the construction of a skatepark that could be used for other social activities would benefit not only skaters, but young people in general and the entire community as a whole.

With the assistance of the Collinsville Area Recreation District (CARD) and the support of the City, the skateboarders in and around Collinsville have banded together to form the Collinsville Skatepark Committee, a group dedicated to the construction of a public skatepark in the City of Collinsville. Glidden Park is the chosen location, and a summer 2009 opening is the goal. The skaters have committed themselves to the long-range success of this project, and are asking for your support.

Skateboarders are devoted to their sport, the same as baseball or hockey players, and they deserve a dedicated, safe place to practice it. A skatepark would get the kids off the streets, and the curbs, stairs, and parking lots, minimizing conflicts with pedestrians, vehicles and businesses. A skatepark would provide a gathering place for teens, families and others to hang-out, have a birthday party, or just enjoy the park.

Financial support for the project is badly needed. A start-up budget has been approved by the CARD Board of Commissioners, but additional funding is necessary before construction can even begin. Business owners, civic organizations and others are being called upon to assist through donations and sponsorships. Please see the attached information and call upon your organization to support the youth of our community--and gain some positive recognition for your company or organization at the same time. If you'd like to see the skateboarders off the streets, you can help make it happen!

For more information or to provide a donation or sponsorship, please contact Tracy Carlson, City of Collinsville, at 618-346-5210 or tcarlson@ci.collinsville.il.us or Mark Badasch, Collinsville Area Recreation District, at 618-346-7529 or mbadasch@collinsvillerec.com

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Collinsville Skatepark Committee

Skatepark Project Information

*“When your City doesn’t have a Skatepark,
your City **BECOMES** a Skatepark”*



The City of Collinsville
in cooperation with the Collinsville Area Recreation District
and the Collinsville Skatepark Committee
125 South Center
Collinsville, IL 62234
Contact: Tracy Carlson, Planning Assistant
618-346-5210 / tcarlson@ci.collinsville.il.us

Background

With the support of City Hall and the Collinsville Area Recreation District (CARD), the skaters in and around the City of Collinsville have banded together to form the Collinsville Skatepark Committee, a group dedicated to the construction of a public skatepark in the City of Collinsville. The mission of the Committee is to fund, design, and build the skatepark in cooperation with the City of Collinsville and the CARD.

Skateboarding is one of the fastest growing sports in the US, and skateparks are being built in record numbers nationwide as communities realize the long-term economic and social value of these facilities. Locally, the number of municipal skateparks is rising, with Caseyville, Greenville and Granite City joining Highland, Belleville and Troy in the construction of new parks. Collinsville remains one of the communities with no public (or private) skateboarding facility, forcing our resident skaters to go elsewhere to skate -- or skate the streets.

Like organized team sports, skateboarding is an activity that is positive, healthy, wholesome and necessary to the present and future well being of the youth in our community. Skateboarders are committed to their sport, and deserve a dedicated place to practice it, just like a baseball or soccer field or a tennis court. When your City doesn't have a skatepark, your City becomes a skatepark, and that is what is happening in Collinsville. Skaters have taken to the streets, and parking lots, ramps, stairs, benches, curbs, and any other skateable area. The creation of an accessible skatepark will keep the kids off the streets, which will benefit the entire community. The impact will be immediately obvious to businesses, churches, schools, law enforcement, and residents.

Collinsville Area Recreation District: The year-long search for a suitable location finally ended when the CARD Board of Commissioners decided that Glidden Park should be designated as the location of the skatepark, and budgeted \$50,000 toward the construction. Proposals have been received and reviewed, and will soon be taken to the skaters so they can help decide on the design of the park. The CARD Board of Park Commissioners has agreed to manage, maintain and provide necessary oversight of the facility, but the skaters will maintain the area, policing themselves and ensuring the park remains clean and safe for the whole community.

City of Collinsville: The City of Collinsville has a duty as a municipality to be responsive to the needs of its citizens. The Skatepark Committee has confirmed a valid need for a Skatepark through the use of a user survey and various communications with law enforcement, area business owners and residents. By helping the Committee fulfill its mission, the City of Collinsville is able to continue its stated mission of "being responsible stewards of the citizen's resources to provide superior municipal services, partnering with the community and resulting in satisfied customers." Although CARD is the entity responsible for parks and recreation in its district, the City is committed to providing assistance to see the project through to completion.

Statement of Need

Skateboarding is a sport constrained by a shortage of adequate space that is both suitable and acceptable for skating. In the City of Collinsville, the only areas providing sufficient skate space are private owned parking lots, City streets and sidewalks, and various other components of a City streetscape such as stairs, curbs, benches, etc. A City ordinance bans skateboarding in the Downtown area and carries penalties and fines of up to \$100 and confiscation of skateboards, ultimately costing parents and creating a somewhat hostile relationship between law enforcement and the skaters. Property owners are torn between allowing

skaters to use their lots because they realize the need, and the possibility of injury and ultimate financial risk. The construction of a Skatepark will provide a safe place to skate, free property owners of an unwanted liability, give parents peace of mind that their children are not subjected to fines and legal action, and relieve law enforcement of the burden of enforcing skateboarding bans.

Although the primary beneficiaries of a skatepark would be the skaters, the entire community will benefit from such a facility. The impact will be obvious to property owners, the Police Department, parents, churches & schools, drivers, visitors, and the City itself. Those outside the City will come to Collinsville to utilize the skatepark, and parents dropping their kids off will spend time, and money, in local shops, stores and restaurants.

Skateboarding is an alternative sport providing youth who normally do not participate in traditional organized sports, like baseball, football or soccer with an outlet for exercise. Skateboarders are dedicated to their sport and deserve a dedicated place to practice it, just like a baseball field or a tennis court. Skateboarding is reported as one of the fastest growing sports in the US, and the International Skateboard Federation is lobbying to make skateboarding an Olympic event. Still, no matter how much the sport grows, or how much revenue is generated by skaters and skateboard-related events, in the end it is the young people of our Community who will benefit the most from the construction of a skatepark in Collinsville.

Project Description

The proposal is for a minimum 10,000 sq. ft. skatepark, of either concrete, in-ground elements, concrete “pre-cast” elements, or wood, steel, or composite-surfaced elements. Research shows that concrete based Skateparks are more costly in the short term, but require less overall maintenance and have a longer life expectancy than composite surfaces, wood or steel parks. Wood, steel and composite surfaces offer a lower initial investment, and the option of reconfiguring or adding to the design in the future. A modular concept will most likely be chosen, as this is the least expensive and provides the most options for growth, although the “skate plaza” concept would be ideal if funds allow, as it provides an aesthetically pleasing, multi-use environment consisting of ramps, stairs, flowerboxes, trees and landscaping, as well as walking paths and benches for use by others who are not skateboarding.

CARD has allotted a 3-acre space, suitable for a 10-15,000 sq. ft. skatepark at Glidden Park. Glidden Park consists of thirty acres located on Branch at Lebanon Road. Glidden Park is home to a newly added in-line hockey rink, five tennis courts, a basketball court, soccer field and walking trail. The 3-acres allotted by the Board of Park Commissioners will provide ample space for future additions, such as restrooms and a pavilion for birthday parties or family barbecues.

Some infrastructure work, such as sidewalks and storm drain completion is necessary to ready the site for construction. This work is being completed by the City as a part of its commitment to the project. CARD has agreed to accept liability, maintenance and general oversight of the skatepark once the complex is complete. A project timeline of approximately 90 days is our goal in order to have the park open and functioning this summer.

Project Budget

The \$50,000 budgeted by CARD will pay for the purchase and installation of the elements described in the proposals received. Additional funding in the amount of approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 is necessary for the construction of the concrete pad which will form the base of the skatepark. Any additional funds raised will be used to increase the size and design of the park by adding elements or choosing higher cost/quality

construction materials. Once the park is operational, fundraising will likely continue in order to provide for construction of a pavilion on site.