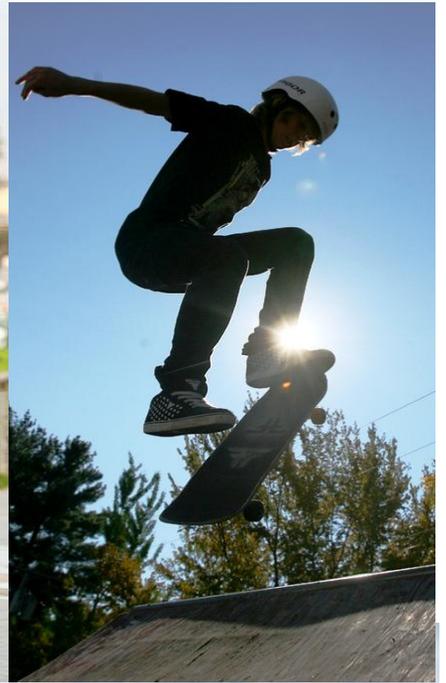


# Skate Park



**Staff Evaluation**  
Ocala Recreation and Parks  
Kathy Crile, Director

January 2014

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The City has been discussing the need for a skatepark for well over a decade. In September 2008, the City of Ocala Recreation Commission requested Marion County's assistance in providing for a public skatepark in Marion County. After meeting with the County's Parks and Recreation Advisory Council, County staff prepared a "*Skatepark Feasibility Study*". While the study demonstrated that a need for a skatepark exists, funding for such an amenity has remained elusive.

In early 2012, staff conducted both a public survey and a community meeting to evaluate citizen interest and support for a public skatepark. Those who participated overwhelmingly supported a public skatepark.

At their 2013 Strategic Planning Workshop, City Council expressed an interest in proceeding with a skatepark and asked that staff bring forward the details related to same. During the FY2014 budget process, staff requested funds to begin the concept/design phase, but upon advising Council that the \$200,000 requested would not provide a facility that would meet the community's needs, Council advised staff to further evaluate the need and related costs and to report back to Council with a recommendation.

This "*Skatepark Staff Evaluation*" provides statistical data in support of the need for not only a skatepark, but a skatepark system.

A level-of-service evaluation indicates that the City of Ocala needs one to three skateparks (depending on which standards are applied) just to meet city resident needs and not even factoring in non-city residents who will likely use the park.

Florida State Statutes provide liability protection for local government operators who develop skate parks on land they own or lease and which they operate in accordance with state guidelines. The state does not provide the same liability protection for non-government operators even when the parks they operate are on public property.

Skateboarding is the second fastest growing sport, second only to snowboarding. Skateboarding is more popular among youth ages six to seventeen than baseball. These statistics demonstrate a cultural shift in recreational pursuits.

The injury ratio for skateboarding is lower than football, baseball, soccer and volleyball. Of 42 skateboarding related deaths in 2011, 40 happened on a public street and 30 involved a motor vehicle. Most could have been avoided had the skateboarder been skateboarding in a skatepark.

Staff evaluated eight sites for a potential skatepark and based on rated criteria recommends Scott Springs as the ideal location for the park.

# FEASIBILITY AND NEEDS DETERMINATION

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## What is a Skatepark?

**A skatepark is simply any place that sanctions skateboarding.** You've heard the phrase, *"If your community does not have a skatepark, your community is a skatepark"*? What this means is that skateboarders only need a smooth skating surface and desire a few challenges to make them happy. It is best for the community if these needs are met in a controlled and safe environment that is sanctioned for skateboarding such as a skatepark.

## Industry Statistical Data

- Over 6.8% of Americans skateboard. That's roughly 20 million skateboarders.
- The average age of a skateboarder (on a national level) is 14 years old with nearly 93.7% younger than 24 years of age. Almost all skateboarders are between 5 and 24 years old. Nearly 1 in every 7 youth in the nation are skateboarders.
- Skateboarding is the second fastest growing sport only behind snowboarding.
- Skateboarding is more popular among youth ages six to seventeen than baseball.
- There were 101 skate parks developed in the United States in 2011.
- Reports of injuries on skateboards are less than those participating in bicycling, basketball, baseball, football and hockey.

- There are fewer facilities for skateboarding nationwide than other popular sports despite its growing popularity.

\* Information provided by the University of Florida, Spohn Ranch and the Tony Hawk Foundation

## Local Data and Survey Results

- Applying the data above, at the City's current population of 56,316, if the local demographic matches the national demographic, we have 3,829 skateboarders in Ocala; and, at the County's current population of 325,000, we have 22,100 skateboarders in Marion County.
- Because we provide no skateboarding facilities and skateboarding is prohibited on public property, we've failed to provide any legitimate alternatives for skateboarding in the City of Ocala. A local survey in 2012 asked respondents *"How many times have these things happened to you while skating?"* More than 90% indicate that they have received a citation or warning while skateboarding.

**A 2012 local survey provided valuable information about local skate-boarders. There were 282 responses to the survey.**

- 67% of respondents indicated they live in the City of Ocala. 21% indicated they live within 5 miles of the City and 12%

indicated they live over 5 miles from the City.

- 62% were aged 18 and under. 17% were 19-29 years old and 21% were over 30 years old.
- The average amount spent by respondents on equipment in the past year was \$493.
- 55% of respondents indicate they usually skate “on the street”. 21% indicate they skate “on found obstacles”. And 24% indicate they skate at home.
- 91% of respondents indicate they would pay up to \$5 for admission to a skate park if there was in fact an admission fee.
- Respondents indicate that they would use a local skate park 17 days a month on average.

A local public meeting regarding the feasibility of a skate park was held at Ocala Golf Club on March 8, 2012. The meeting was attended by over 100 participants who overwhelmingly supported a skatepark in Ocala.

## Level of Service

### Number of Recreational Facilities Provided City-Wide

In order to make a comparison of skateparks to other City provided recreation/sport related facilities; staff evaluated the number of public facilities available to meet citizens’ needs. The below listed numbers include only public/non-school facilities within the City of Ocala. The National Standards published by the National Recreation and

Parks Association in 1983 and the State Standards provided in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are consistent with each other in terms of recommended facilities to meet a stated population. These standards indicate the number of facilities that should be provided in Ocala based on current population.

Facility	# in Ocala	National Standards	
		NRPA State Standards	SCORP
		Recommended #	Surplus or Deficit
Skate Parks	0	3*	-3*
Tennis Courts	27	28	-1
Basketball Courts	15	12	+3
Shuffleboard	10	10	0
Volleyball	8	10	-2
Soccer & Football Fields	16	10	+6
Baseball & Softball Fields	12	12	0

\* There are no State or National standards for non-traditional sports facilities such as skate parks, BMX tracks, archery ranges, etc. which is not surprising given that the national standards were published over 30 years ago before the explosion of these sports. In order to determine the number of skate parks that would be needed based on the same logic used for other NRPA and SCORP recommendations, staff used a conservative standard of one for every 20,000 residents which is the same standard applied for swimming pools.

A survey by the Trust for Public Land indicated that on average, metropolitan areas provide 1.86 skate parks for every 100,000 residents served. Applying this same

standard to Ocala would result in 1.05 skateparks to serve Ocala's population.

## The Skatepark System

A skate park system is similar to a park system in general. In a park system, you typically have tot lots, neighborhood parks, community parks and regional parks. Each is recognizable by size, serves a certain geographical area and population number and has certain types of facilities depending on classification. Similarly, skatepark systems have dots, spots, district and regional parks as described below. The distribution of the classification of parks is determined using an industry recognized S.A.M. formula as explained below.

## The Skatepark Adoption Model

One of the first questions to ask is "*How much skatepark do we need?*" It is extremely important to answer this question correctly and to plan properly. The Skatepark Adoption Model or S.A.M. is a formula used by the industry to calculate the area needed to meet a community's overall need.

**Step 1** is to determine the target area's broadest needs.

**Step 2** is to determine how to shape that need into a skatepark system that will best service the community.

## Skate Dots

- Integrated skateable terrain such as skate-able sculptures (more on that later)
- Small skateable elements along paths or part of a streetscape

## Skate Spots

- These are 1,500sf to 10,000sf
- They accommodate up to 13 users at a time
- They provide for a narrow range of skill abilities and terrain
- Similar in size to a single tennis court



**Channing Park Skate Spot in Lithia, Florida is 2,500SF of skate-able surface.**



**The Suwannee Skate Spot in Live Oak, Florida is 4,000SF of skate-able surface.**

## District Skate Park

- These are 10,000sf to 30,000sf
- They accommodate 13 to 20 users at one time
- They provide for a wider range of skill abilities and terrain
- Similar in size to two tennis courts and/or a softball field
- On the larger size, could host regional tournaments

## Regional Skate Park

- Larger than 30,000sf
- They accommodate 50 to 300 users at one time

- They provide for all skill abilities and style of terrain
- Similar in size to a football field
- Large enough to host regional competitions

## Skate-able Art

One of the newest trends in the skatepark industry is skate-able art. These are skate-able art installations that are appreciated not only by skateboarders, but art enthusiasts as well. This type of feature is typically popular along a linear park or greenway and serve as a skate “dot” in a skatepark system.

## Types of Construction

Skateparks are typically concrete permanent structures or modular structures (which can be permanently installed, but which are more temporary in nature.)

Without a doubt, properly constructed poured-in-place concrete skateparks are more expensive to build; however, they provide the least amount of safety and liability concerns and result in less maintenance cost in the long term.

Modular skateparks are above-ground structures typically constructed of wood, steel, fiberglass or other composite plastics. Problems inherent with modular units are that surfaces are prone to rusting, composites are prone to peeling, nails work their way up, etc. These issues create unlevel and unsafe situations and are an ongoing maintenance issue.

The decision of whether to go with poured-in-place or modular really comes down to pay now or pay later as reflected in durability, lifespan and maintenance.

Some examples of skateparks are provided in the appendix.



Skate-able art in South Jordan, Utah

# REGULATORY INFORMATION AND SAFETY CONCERNS

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## Regulations

### City of Ocala Code of Ordinances

Sec 58-103. Skateboards and roller skates prohibited on downtown sidewalks.

No person shall ride a skateboard or roller skates on a sidewalk in the B-3 zone of the city.

### Florida Statutes

F.S. 316.0085 Skateboarding; inline skating; freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling; paintball; definitions; liability.—

(1) The purpose of this section is to encourage governmental owners or lessees of property to make land available to the public for skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, and freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling. It is recognized that governmental owners or lessees of property have failed to make property available for such activities because of the exposure to liability from lawsuits and the prohibitive cost of insurance, if insurance can be obtained for such activities. It is also recognized that risks and dangers are inherent in these activities, which risks and dangers should be assumed by those participating in such activities.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Governmental entity” means:

1. The United States, the State of Florida, any county or municipality, or any department, agency, or other instrumentality thereof.

2. Any school board, special district, authority, or other entity exercising governmental authority.

(b) “Inherent risk” means those dangers or conditions that are characteristic of, intrinsic to, or an integral part of skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, and freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling.

(3) This section does not grant authority or permission for a person to engage in skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling on property owned or controlled by a governmental entity unless such governmental entity has specifically designated such area for skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling. Each governmental entity shall post a rule in each specifically designated area that identifies all authorized activities and indicates that a child under 17 years of age may not engage in any of those activities until the governmental entity has obtained written consent, in a form acceptable to the governmental entity, from the child’s parents or legal guardians.

(4) **A governmental entity or public employee is not liable to any person who**

**voluntarily participates in skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling for any damage or injury to property or persons which arises out of a person's participation in such activity, and which takes place in an area designated for such activity.**

(5) This section **does not limit liability that would otherwise exist for any of the following:**

(a) The failure of the governmental entity or public employee to guard against or warn of a dangerous condition of which a participant does not and cannot reasonably be expected to have notice.

(b) An act of gross negligence by the governmental entity or public employee that is the proximate cause of the injury.

(c) **The failure of a governmental entity that provides a designated area for skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling to obtain the written consent, in a form acceptable to the governmental entity, from the parents or legal guardians of any child under 17 years of age before authorizing such child to participate in skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling in such designated area, unless that child's participation is in violation of posted rules governing the authorized use of the designated area,** except that a parent or legal guardian must demonstrate that written consent to engage in mountain or

off-road bicycling in a designated area was provided to the governmental entity before entering the designated area.

Nothing in this subsection creates a duty of care or basis of liability for death, personal injury, or damage to personal property. **Nothing in this section shall be deemed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity under any circumstances.**

(6) **Nothing in this section shall limit the liability of an independent concessionaire, or any person or organization other than a governmental entity or public employee,** whether or not the person or organization has a contractual relationship with a governmental entity to use the public property, for injuries or damages suffered in any case as a result of the operation of skateboards, inline skates, paintball equipment, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycles on public property by the concessionaire, person, or organization.

(7)(a) Any person who participates in or assists in skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain and off-road bicycling assumes the known and unknown inherent risks in these activities irrespective of age, and is legally responsible for all damages, injury, or death to himself or herself or other persons or property which result from these activities. Any person who observes skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain or off-road bicycling assumes the known and unknown inherent risks in these activities irrespective of age, and is legally responsible for all damages, injury, or death to himself or herself which result from these activities. **A governmental entity that**

**sponsors, allows, or permits skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain or off-road bicycling on its property is not required to eliminate, alter, or control the inherent risks in these activities.**

(b) While engaged in skateboarding, inline skating, paintball, or freestyle or mountain or off-road bicycling, irrespective of where such activities occur, a participant is responsible for doing all of the following:

1. Acting within the limits of his or her ability and the purpose and design of the equipment used.
2. Maintaining control of his or her person and the equipment used.
3. Refraining from acting in any manner which may cause or contribute to death or injury of himself or herself, or other persons. Failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph shall constitute negligence.

**(8) The fact that a governmental entity carries insurance which covers any act described in this section shall not constitute a waiver of the protections set forth in this section, regardless of the existence or limits of such coverage.**

## Safety

A paper published by Skateboarders for Public SkateParks reported that in 2011, 42 people riding skateboards died. Of those, 41 of them were not in a skate park, 40 were on a public street, and 30 (71%) involved a

motor vehicle. In other words, of these 42 deaths, 41 of them might have been prevented had the person been skating in a skate park instead of the streets.

Injuries for skateboarders are lower than most other popular sports:

Sport	Participants	Injury Ratio
Football	18,285,000	2.2%
Baseball	49,881,000	1.8%
Soccer	17,734,000	1.0%
Volleyball	20,500,000	.54%
Skateboarding	11,649,000	.07%

Most injuries occur when skaters are using homemade ramps or skate in unsafe areas too close to traffic.

One-third of injuries are suffered by those who have less than one week of skateboarding experience.

The Florida Bar Association conducted a review of the Florida Statute's claims for liability protection in 2007 and revealed three critical aspects of making public skate parks safe (and thus reducing liability claims): Proper design, high quality construction and site supervision.

## Helmet Laws

There is no national or Florida law requiring an individual to wear a helmet while skateboarding, but Florida does require helmets for those under age 16 while riding bikes and there is question as to whether this applies to skateboarders using public roads. The previously referenced report on

skateboarding fatalities indicates that at least 5% of those fatalities could have been avoided if a helmet had been worn (they were backward falling incidents) and possibly up to 26% could have been avoided (it is difficult to ascertain in forward falling accidents whether the helmet could have prevented the injury as the face is not covered by the helmet.) In staff's research, we've found that most skateparks highly recommend, but don't require helmets.

## Waiver Requirements

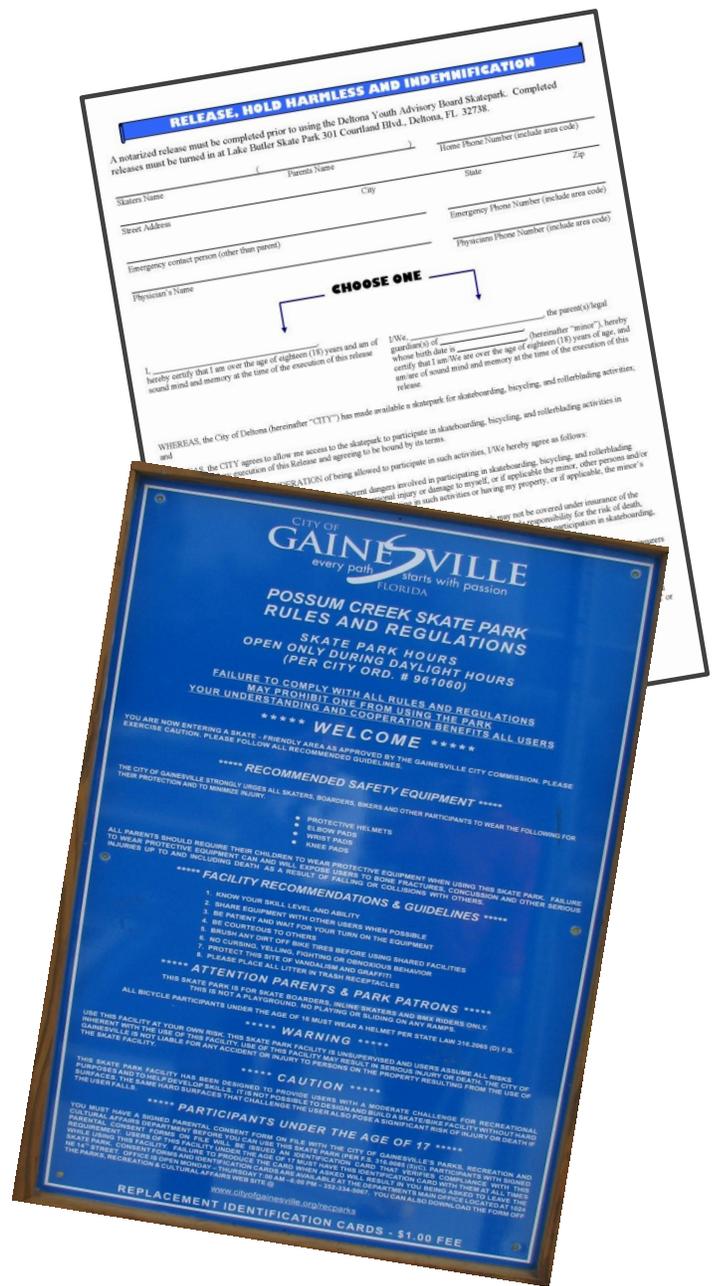
In order to receive the liability protections provided by Florida Statutes (F.S.316.0085(2)(a) (5)(C)), the government entity must obtain a written waiver from the guardian of a child under 17 years of age before that child can skateboard at the government provided facility. A failure to obtain this waiver can eliminate the liability protection unless that child's participation was in violation of posted rules that govern the authorized use of the area. In other words, rule signs need to make it clear that a child under 17 years old must have a signed waiver on file to maintain the limits to liability afforded the government agency under the statute.

## Visibility

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a principle that is imperative when locating a skate park. Sites that are visible from all direction ensure that the skate park becomes a thriving hub of athleticism and not a hideaway for those who wish to engage in

illicit activities. Proximity to major streets and busy areas allows parents and law enforcement to easily patrol the park, without making users feel like they are being spied upon.

Samples of other Florida skatepark rules and waivers are provided in the appendix for reference purposes.



## SITE EVALUATION AND SELECTION

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Staff looked at several factors when evaluating potential sites for a district skatepark including:

- **Visibility** – Is the site easy to monitor from nearby streets and/or other areas of the park and allow for passive supervision?
- **Access** – Is the site accessible by foot, auto or public transportation? Is it easy to get there? Is it easy to find?
- **Support Amenities** – Does the site have other support facilities that can serve the skate park patrons (i.e. parking, restrooms).
- **Integration** – How does this fit into the site and how does it correlate to existing or planned facilities at the site? Is there adequate space to accommodate the skate park without overcrowding?
- **Proximity** – What is its proximity to other facilities serving the same likely demographic?

Each of the above factors was rated on a skate of 1 to 3.	Visibility	Access	Support Amenities	Integration	Proximity	Total
<b>Scott Springs</b>	3	2	1	3	3	12
<b>Jervey Gantt Park</b>	3	3	2	1	3	12
<b>MLK Recreation Complex</b>	3	3	1	1	2	10
<b>Clyatt Park</b>	1	3	1	1	3	9
<b>Lillian Bryant Park</b>	1	2	1	3	1	8
<b>Ocala Regional Sportsplex</b>	2	1	2	1	1	7
<b>Tusawilla Park</b>	1	2	1	2	1	7
<b>Brick City Park (County)</b>	1	1	1	1	3	7

Based on the scoring, Scott Springs and Jervey Gantt Park ranked highest as suitable sites for the skatepark and for different reasons.

While **Jervey Gantt** is more easily accessible and visible, it is already at capacity in terms of facilities. Therefore locating the skatepark at Jervey Gantt would likely mean eliminating an existing facility (i.e. softball) or reconfiguring existing facilities and support facilities to best accommodate the skate park.

On the other hand, **Scott Springs** has ample space to install a skatepark at the entrance to the park, provides an opportunity to provide a unique facility that is fitting for a nature park like Scott Springs and is ideally located near other commercial facilities that often cater to the same demographic including Easy Street, the movie theater and the mall.

Both facilities would require some degree of support facilities including parking and/or possible restrooms.

## OPERATION ALTERNATIVES

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### **Pay-to-Play or Drop-In Skating?**

A skate park can be operated as a gated, pay-to-play facility or it can be an open-skate facility similar to how a playground, or basketball court is operated. Pay-to-play facilities rarely cover the cost to staff, light and operate them; therefore intentions to charge a fee to cover operating costs are not often realized. This pay-to-play scenario also puts pressure on operating entities to limit access hours to reduce costs. One benefit of staffed facilities is there is someone at the site to ensure it is used in accordance with adopted policies.

Another alternative is a drop-in skating scenario where the facility is open access during designated hours and skaters skate at will and in accordance with established policies. In this type of scenario, the facility would be monitored by park rangers who are in and out of the park throughout the day, but there would be no ongoing supervision. Park rangers could spot check for safety equipment and waiver forms.

### **What about the BMX-er?**

Next in line is the BMX biker. They need a place to play too. Many skateparks do not allow BMX bikers to use the skatepark. The reasons cited are usually related to overcrowding which creates unsafe conditions and damage to the facility that results from metal “pegs” on the bikes. Both of these hurdles can be overcome by managing the skatepark to allow for joint use and eliminate damage potential from

bikes. Many parks have BMX only days set aside to provide time for BMX-ers to use the facility. As to the potential damage? This is overcome by requiring plastic pegs only. Staff believes that with a little bit of scheduling, there’s room for both at a skatepark.

### **Public or Private Operation?**

The Florida legislature recognized that there was not enough land set aside for skateparks and that local governments were reluctant to provide for and operate skateparks due to liability concerns. With this in mind they passed regulations to minimize a government entity’s liability in relation to properly operated skateparks. This liability limitation does not pass on to a private operator either on private or public property. What this means is that if the government agency operates a skatepark on publicly owned land, then the liability protections apply. However, if a private operator runs a skate park on public property, the liability protections do not apply.

There is much speculation as to why the legislature did not pass the liability protection on to private operators of public facilities, but most believe it is because of the lack of regulations and oversight provided in the operation of skateparks at this time. This lack of regulation and oversight removes assurances that parks will be constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with any particular standard such as exists with the swimming pool industry.

## COSTS AND FUNDING OPTIONS

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### Cost to Build a Skatepark

A skate park will cost anywhere from \$35 to \$50 per square foot including design and construction. Since the City of Ocala has never built a skate park we have nothing to compare to for a cost evaluation. Prices for design and construction are highly variable depending on geographical area. In order to work through this, staff turned to the City of Gainesville who built the Possum Creek Skatepark in 2009. The cost for design and construction was \$34 per square foot with a piggy-back purchase off the Miami-Dade Purchasing Contract. Gainesville estimates that they saved approximately 20% off market rates by combining design and construction into one contract and utilizing the Miami-Dade contract. Elimination of the savings would have put their cost at \$42.50 per square foot.

Utilizing a \$35-40 per share foot cost for design and construction, staff estimates the cost of a 18,000 square feet skatepark to be \$630,000 to \$720,000. In addition and depending on where the skate park is constructed, other support facilities will be required including parking, restrooms, etc All things considered, staff anticipates the cost to be approximately \$900,000 for design and construction.

### Funding Options Considered

Options for funding of a skatepark are itemized below:

- **Utilize the balance of bond funds and neighborhood enhancement funds -**

This option requires a multi-year funding approach and prioritization of other projects/programs that also utilize those sources

- **The Tony Hawk Foundation Grant –** This is the only skatepark specific grant program. These grants provide up to \$25,000 in funding assistance (but only one \$25,000 grant is awarded each year. Other awards are typically in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range). Unfortunately this source of funding also does not fund programs that require parents to sign waivers. Therefore, in the State of Florida, a publicly constructed and operated skatepark is deemed ineligible in relation to the statutory requirements to obtain waivers.



- **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grants –** In the past, this would have been a great source to partially fund a skatepark (up to

\$200,000 and requiring a 50/50 match). Unfortunately the program has not been funded for the past few years due to revenue shortfalls at the state level. As the state's revenues turn around, it is expected that this grant program will be reinstated, but to what level is unknown. Staff anticipates that we will submit a grant for the next funding cycle (due in the Fall of 2014) and even if funds for a park are expended before the grant award, this grant program allows for retroactivity and therefore could provide a reimbursement of funds expended.

- **Corporate Sponsorships and Private Donors** – These are always an option, but in the local community, large corporate sponsorships are extremely hard to come by for public recreation facilities.
- **Financing** – The City could opt to finance a skatepark and pay off the debt over a set period of time. Unfortunately, this debt service would create additional ongoing burden to the general fund which is already overburdened in meeting other municipal needs.

## CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND TIMELINE

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### Conclusions

Based on S.A.M., staff calculates that with the potential need to serve anywhere from 3,800 (city) to 22,000 (county) skaters, the local community would need minimally 48,000 square feet city-wide and upwards of 120,000 square feet county-wide of total terrain. Preferably, this need would be refined into a skatepark system featuring a regional skatepark, several neighborhood skateparks and several skate spots.

Applying national averages provided by the Trust for Public Land for metropolitan areas, the City would need one skatepark to meet Ocala's population.

Applying national (NRPA) and state (SCORP) standards, the City would need to

provide two to three skateparks to meet the need.

The ideal locations for the skatepark using stated criteria would be Scott Springs or Jervey Gantt parks.

Safety and liability issues are adequately addressed by Florida Statutes to the extent that staff is diligent in posting waiver and helmet requirements.

Staff estimates the cost for design and construction of the skatepark and support facilities to be approximately \$900,000.

Funding for skateparks is limited.

## Recommendation

Factoring in the city-wide need only, and given the lack of skate facilities of any kind, the logical first step is one district city skatepark with approximately 18,000 square feet of skate-able surface.

Staff recommends construction of this skatepark at the entrance to Scott Springs park given the site's potential in providing a unique design and proximity to other commercial ventures that already serve the same demographic.

Staff recommends funding this project over two years with design in FY2014 and construction in FY2015 using the balance of bond funds and neighborhood enhancement funds. Staff will submit for available grant applications for potential partial reimbursement of construction costs (typically up to \$200,000)

Staff recommends issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a design/build contract

with funding for design in FY2014 and funding for construction in FY2015.

## Potential Timeline

February 2014	Issue RFP
April 2014	Begin Design
June 2014	60% Design and Construction Estimate
August 2014	Design Complete
October 2014	Construction Begin
April 2015	Skatepark Open



**Let's give them a place to skate!**

# APPENDIX

# SAMPLE FLORIDA SKATEPARKS

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## Possum Creek Skatepark – Gainesville, Florida

**Skate-able Surface** – 18,000 square feet

For the skaters and community members who had spent years advocating for a state-of-the-art public facility in Gainesville, the Possum Creek Skatepark is nothing short of a dream come true. One of Florida’s premiere skateboarding landscapes, the park is a triangular expanse of unique terrain. The park’s focus on aesthetic symmetry and a diversity of skateable features makes it a one-of-a-kind destination skatepark.

This captivating skatepark features modern plaza elements, a multi-level bowl and inspiring obstacles which allow skaters to transition through the park’s integrated landscaping. These landscaped areas give the skater’s the feeling of a real urban environment, while providing opportunities for eco-friendly stormwater management. (Source: Spohn Ranch Skateparks)



## Bethune Point Skatepark – Daytona Beach, Florida

**Skate-able Surface** – 16,000 square feet

Set beautifully in front of the water on the Florida coastline, the Bethune Point Skatepark has transformed the City of Daytona Beach into a skateboarding destination for skaters from across the state of Florida. In 2010, Transworld Skateboarding praised the park, “Daytona Beach isn’t just for Spring Break and NASCAR anymore, this new plaza they’ve got looks amazing.”

On opening day, Daytona Beach’s Recreation Director, Percy Williamson, also shared his appreciation for the world-class facility when he declared the park “the finest skatepark in the country”. As skaters enter the park via a circular terrace, their individual style of riding dictates their path through a diversity of distinct features and terrain.

A unique skateable sculpture, the “Broken Pyramid”, anchors the lower plaza level, providing a compelling centerpiece and letting skaters smoothly flow to any corner of the park. The piece was also cast with integral lighting on each corner, making it the perfect feature for an imaginative nighttime photo shoot. Integrated landscaping helps transform the park into a vibrant recreational space where skaters and their families both feel welcome. (Source: Spohn Ranch Skateparks)



## Lakeland Skatepark – Lakeland, Florida

Skate-able Surface – 24,000 square feet



## Tallahassee Skatepark – Tallahassee, Florida

Skate-able Surface – 24,500 square feet



## Robert-Laryn Skatepark at Treaty Park – Saint Augustine, Florida

**Skate-able Surface** – 28,000 square feet

The skatepark has 28,000 sq. ft of concrete in the form of several bowls and dips and raised ledges, which makes a very interesting series of challenges for all skill levels.

They even have a Little Dudes Park designed for beginner skaters or ages 12 and under to practice their skills.



## Rippin' Riverside Skatepark – Oviedo, Florida

**Skate-able Surface** – 30,000 square feet

The Rippin' Riverside Skatepark is a lighted skatepark with street course and multiple bowls to challenge all skill levels.



## MODULAR PARKS

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The problems with many modular parks typically falls into one category – maintenance. The structures must be constantly maintained and if not become a liability concern. Below are some examples that demonstrate the problems with these skatepark features.



# SAMPLE RULES AND WAIVERS

CITY OF  
**GAINESVILLE**  
every path starts with passion  
FLORIDA

**POSSUM CREEK SKATE PARK  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**SKATE PARK HOURS  
OPEN ONLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS  
(PER CITY ORD. # 961060)**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS  
MAY PROHIBIT ONE FROM USING THE PARK  
YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BENEFITS ALL USERS**

**\*\*\*\*\* WELCOME \*\*\*\*\***

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING A SKATE - FRIENDLY AREA AS APPROVED BY THE GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION. PLEASE EXERCISE CAUTION. PLEASE FOLLOW ALL RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES.

**\*\*\*\*\* RECOMMENDED SAFETY EQUIPMENT \*\*\*\*\***

THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE STRONGLY URGES ALL SKATERS, BOARDERS, BIKERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO WEAR THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND TO MINIMIZE INJURY.

- PROTECTIVE HELMETS
- ELBOW PADS
- WRIST PADS
- KNEE PADS

ALL PARENTS SHOULD REQUIRE THEIR CHILDREN TO WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHEN USING THIS SKATE PARK. FAILURE TO WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CAN AND WILL EXPOSE USERS TO BONE FRACTURES, CONCUSSION AND OTHER SERIOUS INJURIES UP TO AND INCLUDING DEATH AS A RESULT OF FALLING OR COLLISIONS WITH OTHERS.

**\*\*\*\*\* FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS & GUIDELINES \*\*\*\*\***

1. KNOW YOUR SKILL LEVEL AND ABILITY
2. SHARE EQUIPMENT WITH OTHER USERS WHEN POSSIBLE
3. BE PATIENT AND WAIT FOR YOUR TURN ON THE EQUIPMENT
4. BE COURTEOUS TO OTHERS
5. BRUSH ANY DIRT OFF BIKE TIRES BEFORE USING SHARED FACILITIES
6. NO CURSING, YELLING, FIGHTING OR OBNOXIOUS BEHAVIOR
7. PROTECT THIS SITE OF VANDALISM AND GRAFFITI
8. PLEASE PLACE ALL LITTER IN TRASH RECEPTACLES

**\*\*\*\*\* ATTENTION PARENTS & PARK PATRONS \*\*\*\*\***

THIS SKATE PARK IS FOR SKATE BOARDERS, INLINE SKATERS AND BMX RIDERS ONLY.  
THIS IS NOT A PLAYGROUND. NO PLAYING OR SLIDING ON ANY RAMPS.

ALL BICYCLE PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST WEAR A HELMET PER STATE LAW 316.2065 (D) F.S.

**\*\*\*\*\* WARNING \*\*\*\*\***

USE THIS FACILITY AT YOUR OWN RISK. THIS SKATE PARK FACILITY IS UNSUPERVISED AND USERS ASSUME ALL RISKS INHERENT WITH THE USE OF THIS FACILITY. USE OF THIS FACILITY MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY ACCIDENT OR INJURY TO PERSONS ON THE PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THE SKATE FACILITY.

**\*\*\*\*\* CAUTION \*\*\*\*\***

THIS SKATE PARK FACILITY HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO PROVIDE USERS WITH A MODERATE CHALLENGE FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND TO HELP DEVELOP SKILLS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DESIGN AND BUILD A SKATE/BIKE FACILITY WITHOUT HARD SURFACES. THE SAME HARD SURFACES THAT CHALLENGE THE USER ALSO POSE A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF INJURY OR DEATH IF THE USER FALLS.

**\*\*\*\*\* PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 17 \*\*\*\*\***

YOU MUST HAVE A SIGNED PARENTAL CONSENT FORM ON FILE WITH THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE'S PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT BEFORE YOU CAN USE THIS SKATE PARK (PER F.S. 316.0085 (5)(C)). PARTICIPANTS WITH SIGNED PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS ON FILE WILL BE ISSUED AN IDENTIFICATION CARD THAT VERIFIES COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REQUIREMENT. USERS OF THIS FACILITY UNDER THE AGE OF 17 MUST HAVE THIS IDENTIFICATION CARD WITH THEM AT ALL TIMES WHILE USING THIS FACILITY. FAILURE TO PRODUCE THE CARD WHEN ASKED WILL RESULT IN YOU BEING ASKED TO LEAVE THE SKATE PARK. CONSENT FORMS AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENTS MAIN OFFICE LOCATED AT 1024 NE 14<sup>th</sup> STREET. OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY - THURSDAY 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM - 352-334-5067. YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD THE FORM OFF THE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS WEB SITE @

[www.cityofgainesville.org/recparks](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/recparks)

**REPLACEMENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS - \$1.00 FEE**

**RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFICATION**

A notarized release must be completed prior to using the Deltona Youth Advisory Board Skatepark. Completed releases must be turned in at Lake Butler Skate Park 301 Courtland Blvd., Deltona, FL 32738.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Skaters Name ( Parents Name ) Home Phone Number (include area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency contact person (other than parent) Emergency Phone Number (include area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Physician's Name Physicians Phone Number (include area code)



I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
 hereby certify that I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and am of  
 sound mind and memory at the time of the execution of this release

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent(s)/legal  
 guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_,  
 whose birth date is \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter "minor"), hereby  
 certify that I am/We are over the age of eighteen (18) years of age, and  
 am/are of sound mind and memory at the time of the execution of this  
 release.

WHEREAS, the City of Deltona (hereinafter "CITY") has made available a skatepark for skateboarding, bicycling, and rollerblading activities;  
 and

WHEREAS, the CITY agrees to allow me access to the skatepark to participate in skateboarding, bicycling, and rollerblading activities in  
 consideration of my execution of this Release and agreeing to be bound by its terms.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of being allowed to participate in such activities, I/We hereby agree as follows:

(1) I am/We are aware of and fully understand the inherent dangers involved in participating in skateboarding, bicycling, and rollerblading  
 activities at skate parks, including the risk of death and/or personal injury or damage to myself, or if applicable the minor, other persons and/or  
 my or the minor's property or the property of others while participating in such activities or having my property, or if applicable, the minor's  
 property, at the site of such activities.

I/We further acknowledge that participants in such activities and other persons at the skatepark may not be covered under insurance of the  
 CITY. I/We freely and voluntarily execute this Release with such knowledge, and assume full and sole responsibility for the risk of death,  
 personal injury and/or property loss arising from or in any way connected with my, or if applicable the minor's participation in skateboarding,  
 bicycling, and rollerblading activities at the skatepark.

(2) I/We hereby release and forever discharge the CITY, its agents, employees or independent contractors and their respective sureties, insurers  
 successors, assigns and legal representatives, from any liability, claim, cause of action, demand and damages for injury, death or damages of  
 any kind or nature whatsoever to me, or if applicable the minor's, property as a result of my or the minor's participation in skateboarding,  
 bicycling, and rollerblading activities whether such injury, death or property damage is caused by the intentional or negligent act or omission  
 on the part of (i) any other participant in skateboarding, bicycling, and rollerblading activities at the skatepark, (ii) any employee, agent or  
 independent contractor of the CITY, or (iii) any other person at the skatepark. Furthermore, I/we agree to pay any and all attorney's fees and  
 costs of the CITY, and any of its agents, employees and independent contractors if I/we bring any action, claim or demand against the CITY or  
 any of its agents, employees and independent contractors for any reason for which this Release applies.

(3) I/We agree to indemnify and hold the CITY, its agents, employees and independent contractors, their sureties, insurers, successors, assigns and legal representatives harmless from any liability, claim, cause of action, demand or damages for injury, death or damages of any kind or nature whatsoever to any person or their property as a result of my, or if applicable the minor's, participation in the skateboarding, bicycling, and rollerblading activities. As a result of any actual or claimed intentional or wrongful act or omission by me, or if applicable the minor, arising from or as a result of my, or if applicable the minor's, participation in skateboarding, bicycling, and rollerblading activities. Furthermore, I/we agree to pay attorney's fees and costs for any persons covered herein for any action arising under this Paragraph, whether or not such action is well founded.

(4) I/We agree to and hereby bind my, or if applicable the minor's, heirs, executors, assigns and all other legal representatives by executing this Release.

(5) I/We hereby acknowledge and agree that this agreement is intended to be construed and interpreted as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of Florida. If any portion of this Release is found or declared to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of this Release not found to be invalid and the remainder of this Release shall remain in full force and effect.

(6) BY EXECUTING THIS RELEASE, I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I/WE HAVE READ THIS RELEASE UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS HEREOF, HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK INDEPENDENT COUNSEL OF MY/OUR CHOICE AND CERTIFY THAT I/WE HAVE FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY EXECUTED THIS RELEASE. I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT, BUT FOR THE EXECUTION OF THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS HEREOF, THE CITY WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE ME, OR IF APPLICABLE THE MINOR, TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE SKATEPARK AND PARTICIPATE IN THE SKATEBOARDING, BICYCLING, AND ROLLERBLADING ACTIVITIES OF THAT FACILITY.

(7) I/We agree to abide by all regulations that the CITY may impose regarding the operation and utilization of the Skatepark.

EXECUTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (other parent/legal guardian)

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day, before me, an officer duly authorized in the State aforesaid and in the County aforesaid to take acknowledgments, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who is/are personally known to me, or who furnished the following forms of identification, \_\_\_\_\_.

Who executed the foregoing instrument, and (s)he acknowledged before me that (s)he executed the same.

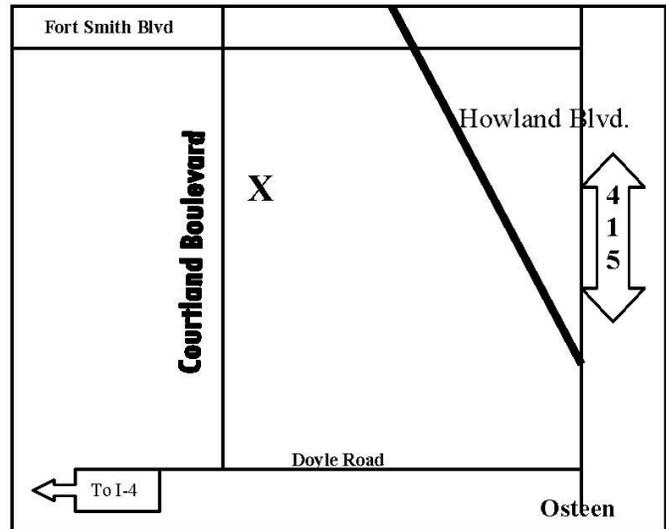
WITNESS my hand and official seal in the County and State last aforesaid this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_ My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_.

# LAKE BUTLER RECREATION COMPLEX

## Youth Advisory Board Skate Park

The Deltona Skatepark is owned & operated by the City of Deltona. The street course area is a cement street course which is 15,350 sq. ft. Questions regarding the park can be answered by the Deltona Recreation Department at (407) 302-1053



### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. A signed, notarized release must be on file prior to using the skate facility
2. Know your abilities and skate/bike at your own risk
3. All skaters and cyclers must wear helmets with securely fastened chin straps.  
Elbow and kneepads are encouraged (shoes required for cyclers and skateboarders).
4. No skating against traffic on ramps or pipes.
5. Do not proceed down ramp until clear of other skaters.
6. Skating will be allowed only in the skate facility, not in surrounding areas.
7. No smoking, profanity, glass containers, or pets allowed within the fenced skate area.
8. Any person violating these rules will be asked to leave.
9. Obey all posted rules and adhere to all the instructions.
10. No trespassing is permitted when the facility is closed



# Rippin' Riverside Skate Park

Oviedo Recreation & Parks, 1608 Lockwood Blvd., Oviedo, FL 32765 (407)971-5585 Fax (407)971-5817

## Waiver and Release Form

**WARNING: IN-LINE SKATING AND SKATEBOARDING ARE DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES. BY ENGAGING IN THESE ACTIVITIES, THE PARTICIPANT ASSUMES THE RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**

In order to participate in this activity, I agree to hold the City of Oviedo, promoters, officials and advertisers harmless, and I waive any right to make claims or lawsuits against them. I acknowledge that this is not an essential service provided by the City of Oviedo.

I understand and acknowledge that the activities that I am about to voluntarily engage in as a participant have certain known and unknown risks. Some of these risks include the risks inherent in skating such as falling and coming into contact with ramps and walls. Latent or apparent defects or conditions in equipment or property, and passive or active negligent act of myself, the City of Oviedo, promoters, officials and advertisers are possible risks. I understand that the above list is not complete or exhaustive and that those and other risks known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated may also result in injury, death, illness, disease or damage to myself or my property or other third parties. I voluntarily agree to promise to accept and assume responsibilities, and injuries, death, illness, disease or damage to myself or my property arising from my participation in the activity.

This waiver does not apply to any injuries or damages that are the result of willful, wanton, or intentional misconduct. My participation in this activity is voluntary and no one is forcing me to participate in spite of the risks. I understand the effect of this waiver and acceptance of risk on my legal rights.

My signature indicates that I have read this entire document, understand completely and acknowledge that it cannot be modified or changed in any way by oral representations, and agree to be bound by its terms. This agreement shall be binding on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representative and estate.

I do hereby give **RIPPIN' RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK**, its assigns, licensees, and legal representatives the irrevocable right to use my name, picture, portrait, or photograph in all forms and media and in all manners, including composite, for advertising, for publication or any other lawful purposes, and I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written copy, which may be created in connection therewith.

**TODAY'S DATE:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

**Cell:** ( ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of participant using facility (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

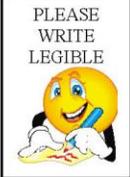
**Signature of participant using facility** \_\_\_\_\_

\*If the participant is 18 or over, identification containing a picture (e.g. driver's license) is required.

DRIVER'S LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

Resident \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Resident \_\_\_\_\_



If the participant is under 18, this release must be signed IN PERSON by a parent/legal guardian. I hereby certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the participant named above, give my consent to the foregoing, and agree to hold the City of Oviedo harmless from any liability.

Parent Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License Number \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL: E-mail address**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Membership/Pass Status/Waiver Renewal

Circle One: Member Non-Member Date:

Circle One: Individual Family Receipt#:

Pass Status		
Type	Date of Purchase/Expiration	Receipt #

Waiver Renewal: If there are any changes in address, that can affect Resident or Non-Resident status sign a new waiver, if there are no changes other than age, sign below to renew waiver.

Signature, Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Parks & Recreation Department

### Treaty Park Skate Park Liability Waiver

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Waiver and Release of Liability – Read Before Signing

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way at the Treaty Park Skate Park, I the undersigned acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist even when these activities are conducted in accordance with all such rules. These activities are inherently dangerous, and,

2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,

3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official immediately; and

4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring age sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event (“Releases”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASES OR OTHERWISE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AGREEMENT, I FULLY UNDERTAND ITS TERMS AND I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT. I SIGN FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

**FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (Under age of 18 at the time of registration)**

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all Releases, and, for myself, my heirs, assigned, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify the Releases from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emergency Phone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notary Information:**

State of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_ who is (check one):

personally known to me \_\_\_\_\_ or has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as

identification \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ my commission expires:

Notary Public

Return to : St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department  
2175 Mizell Road  
St. Augustine, Florida 32080 -9157