

## Columbia Skate Park

This facility is presented to the Columbia City Council and the Citizens of Columbia from the City of Columbia and the Columbia Parks and Recreation Staff and Commission in appreciation for making this possible.

### REMARKS FROM A SKATER'S PARENT

Pat Smith, a parent of a teen who likes to skate, recalls "Two years ago (March '97) I sat in a Columbia City Council meeting with my son as the city's Parks and Recreation director presented several options for developing a skate park. At that same meeting, the council invited interested citizens to serve on a committee to develop input regarding the park. Both my son and I accepted the invitation: he, because he genuinely wanted a place to skate; me because I wanted to help him realize that individual citizens can make a difference in their community. We both achieved our goals. Now, when people ask me how and why it happened so quickly, I always reply, "I knew that once the idea was embraced by the powers that be, it would be done right." It definitely was.

Columbia's new skate park is first-rate because of the manner in which Columbia Parks and Recreation approached it. From the beginning, Parks and Recreation staff welcomed input from the young skaters who served on the committee. Both Mike Hood, Columbia Parks and Recreation Director and Steve Saitta, Park Planner spent many evenings meeting with them, sorting through their jargon and developing compromises between what is ideal and what would be possible, in light of space and budget demands. The skaters themselves designed the park, and never were they meant to feel insignificant or ancillary to the process. When changes had to be made, Parks and Recreation staff consulted them. Even as concrete was starting to be poured, Saitta invited them out to review the final plan on-site. The ownership these young citizens feel regarding their park is because they feel they figuratively built it, a credit to a department that recognized how valuable user input is.

That the park is a success is obvious by the hordes of skaters that can be found enjoying it daily - even before it is officially open. What isn't so obvious is the successful process by which it came to be."

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### Dedication

June 19, 1999



Columbia Parks  
& Recreation Department  
Columbia, Missouri



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In 1997 the downtown business community asked the City to deal with the skateboarding problem in Columbia's downtown and it lead to a vocal appeal to the City to provide a place for this group of young people to practice their sport. In September of 1997 the City Council approved the development of a skate park.

The actual design of the park was achieved by combining the talents of the park planner with the expertise of a design committee made up of skateboarders and inline skaters. This process proved to be very effective in that it allowed the future user group to express their desires and to educate the planner. The types of materials, maintenance concerns, safety concerns, and operational issues were among the most important matters considered. The actual construction plans and specifications were completed by the planner. The skaters have a very strong sense of ownership in the park and this may be the most important benefit of the joint planning effort.

The Skateboard Park is approximately 120 feet wide, 140 feet long and is constructed of concrete. The design is described as an elaborate street course that incorporates many popular features including: transitions, flat ramps, spine ramps, pyramids, curbs, coping and grind rails.

The Roller Hockey Rink is adjacent to the Skateboard facility and will offer participants a chance to skate on a full size rink that is specifically designed for the sport of Roller Hockey. Its surface is constructed of a material which is designed for roller blade use and the rink will be bordered with hockey dasher boards. This facility will be open for pickup skating and is expected to become a programmed facility as leagues develop. The Skate Park will be open from 7:00 am until sundown.

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department designed, constructed and landscaped the Skate Park. Construction cost is \$64,000 including \$39,000 from the Public Improvement Fund and \$25,000 from the Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club.

## Schedule of Events

12:00	Skate Team Demonstrations
12:30	Pro Skate Team Demonstrations
1:30	Dedication
2:30	Open Skate

## Dedication Program

- I. Welcome and Introductions - Mike Hood
- II. Remarks - City Manager, Ray Beck
- III. Remarks - Mayor Darwin Hindman
- IV. Remarks - Columbia Cosmopolitan Club
- V. Remarks - Columbia Skate Park Association
- VI. Ribbon Cutting - Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

### City Council

Darwin Hindman, Mayor

Rex Campbell	Donna Crockett
John Coffman	Christopher Janku
Almeta Crayton	John John

Raymond Beck, City Manager

Michael Hood, Parks and Recreation Director

*A very special thank you to the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club for its generous donation.*