



Skateboard Amenities Strategy – [skatepark development FAQs 2017](#)

Why is The City building more skateparks?

There has been little investment in skateboarding in Calgary since the construction of Shaw Millennium Park in 2000. This has resulted in a gap between the ever-growing numbers of 'wheeled-sport' users vs. amenities available. The City has is now addressing this gap.

What is the Calgary Skateboard Amenities Strategy?

The City of Calgary, with 'wheeled-sport' stakeholders developed the *Skateboard Amenities Strategy* (SAS). This document serves to inform an effective, strategic city-wide network for future skateboard amenities in Calgary. Council approved this document in December 2011.

What are wheeled-sports?

Wheeled-sports continue to grow in popularity and include skateboarding, bmx, in-line skating and scooters. Motorized vehicles are not considered a wheeled-sport.

Are wheeled-sports safe?

As with any sports there are some risks involved. However, proper equipment (helmets, knee/elbow pads) and a solid understanding of skateboarding fundamentals can reduce safety concerns. Moreover, skateparks that are purposely, well-designed further mitigate safety concerns and are statistically proven to reduce accidents in comparison to skateboarding on the streets.

How many skateparks does Calgary have currently?

In addition to Shaw Millennium skatepark, The City of Calgary is endeavouring 8 sites as part of phase one of the *Skateboard Amenities Strategy*. We have already built 6 of 8 sites and are planning the last 2 sites (in Bowness and at the Genesis Centre of Community Wellness) this summer 2017.

Additionally, Westside Recreation Centre has a public skatepark, and we will be building one at the new Rocky Ridge Recreation Centre. We've also heard of several private skateparks built by or for organizations.

How much does a skateboard park cost to build?

Skateparks can range in size and specifications, therefore, prices can range too. It is estimated that a small skatespot can start around \$100,000 and go up.

Is there noise pollution associated with skateparks?

The City of Calgary recently contracted an acoustical engineering firm to conduct a technical study of sports ramp sound levels. Patching Associates Acoustical Engineering Ltd., performed sound level measurements of both a wooden sports ramp and a urethane sports ramp being used by an adult. Additional testing was conducted by bylaw officers. Based on the findings, the level of sound emanating from the sports ramps ranged between 54 and 65 decibels. For comparison sake, conversation at a busy



restaurant is about 60 decibels and lawn mowers operate between 90 – 110 decibels on average.

Who will maintain the skatepark?

The City of Calgary (Parks) will maintain the skateparks embedded within communities.

What hours will the skateparks be open/closed?

The skateparks we are building as part of phase one do not include lighting and so we can assume that the primary usage will be during daylight. Further, we've aligned the hours of skateparks with that of the Calgary [Parks & Pathway bylaw](#), so they are the same hours as playgrounds and other city parks.

Is there light pollution associated with skateparks?

The skateparks we are building as part of phase one do not include lighting. Lighting can be requested by the community (residents or association) and is budget dependent.

Do participants of all ages and backgrounds feel safe at skateparks?

The City recently commissioned a survey of users at our newly built skateparks. The study revealed that 87% of users reported they felt 'extremely safe' when at the skatepark.

What are the benefits of a skateboard park in my community?

- Present-day built skateparks are more organic, integrated and are aesthetically pleasing. Current practices in skatepark design incorporate landscape architecture. Some typologies of skateparks can incorporate greenspace, trees, art, environmental ingenuity, and easy accessibility from existing pathway systems.
- For community residents who skateboard (inline skate or bmx) or parents whose children participate in these sports, a skatepark in close proximity provides peace of mind and little travel time.
- Skateparks 'activate' environments which lend to more people and thusly less crime. Recreational activities directly contribute to complete, safe, and vibrant communities.

Where can my children learn skateboard fundamentals? Does The City offer skateboarding lessons?

Yes, The City offers a number of skateboard lessons and holds skateboard daycamps during the spring and summer. Information on these programs can be found on Calgary.ca/skateparks.

When will construction begin and how long will it continue?

The City is anticipating building Bowness and Genesis (NE site) this summer 2017. Construction typically takes 16 weeks, weather dependent.

How can I learn more about the project?

Visit Calgary.ca/skateparks for the latest information on skateparks, skatepark programs and skatepark development.