

# **Agenda**

**Leamington Skateboard Park Committee**

**To be Held on Monday, September 30, 2013**

**Commencing at 3:00 p.m.**

**At the Leamington Kinsmen Recreation Complex**

**In the Boardroom**

---

**Call to Order:**

**Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest:**

**Items for Consideration:**

1. Minutes of the meeting held Monday, July 15, 2013.  
Pages 2-3
2. Discussion re: Skateboard Park Open House
3. Results of Online Skateboard Park Survey  
Pages 4-7
4. Delegation Rob Bondy - Essex County Skateboarding (to arrive at 3:30 p.m.)  
Pages 8-16
5. New Business
6. Determination of Next Meeting Date

T:\Corporate\C00-Council&By-laws\C05-CommitteeofCouncilMtg\Skateboard Park\093013-Skateboard Park Committee Agenda.doc

**Minutes**  
**Leamington Skateboard Park Committee**  
**Held on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Leamington Kinsmen Recreation Complex**  
**Boardroom**

---

**Members Present:** Councillor Hilda MacDonald  
Jeph Maagdeleyn  
Lenny Martinez

**Members Absent:** Ted Wigfield, Chair  
Daniel Dick

**Also Present:** Amanda Smith, Manager of Culture and Recreation Services  
Lucy Jackson, Records Co-ordinator

**Election of Vice-Chair:**

**Moved by:** Jeph Maagdeleyn      **Seconded by:** Lenny Martinez

That Hilda MacDonald be appointed to chair the meeting.

**“Carried”**

**Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**Moved by:** Lenny Martinez      **Seconded by:** Jeph Maagdeleyn

That the minutes of the Leamington Skateboard Park Committee meeting held Thursday, June 20, 2013, be approved.

**“Carried”**

**Business Arising from the Minutes:** None.

**Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest:** None

**Upcoming Skateboard Park Open House:**

The date of Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 was confirmed for the Open House, which will be held between 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Kinsmen Recreation Complex. The Manager of Culture and Recreation Services will notify the press as well as post the event on the Municipality's website.

The Manager advised a laptop will be set up during the Open House so residents can complete an on-line survey. Paper copies of the survey will also be available for completion. The Manager advised the purpose of the open house is to obtain feedback and gauge community support for an outdoor skateboard park, particularly as it relates to a location. The Manager distributed to Committee members the proposed survey for their review.

Lenny Martinez, suggested a "multi-levelled" park would be ideal as it would attract skateboarders at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Also, he noted that a colourful, kid friendly park could help minimize graffiti.

Amanda Smith advised a concrete park would be preferred over metal as it would not require maintenance or annual inspections.

After a brief discussion, it was decided it would be beneficial for committee members to visit the existing skateboard parks in the area. A site visit to Wheatley, Tecumseh and Forest Glade was scheduled for Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Committee members are to meet at the Kinsmen Recreation Complex at 3:00 p.m.

The Committee reviewed a "Skatepark Site Selection Worksheet" distributed by the Manager which outlines criteria to be considered for the location of a new park. The Committee suggested that "Access to Concessions/Food" be moved to the Secondary Criteria section of the form.

**Adjournment:**

**Moved by:** Jeph Maagdeleyn      **Seconded by:** Lenny Martinez

That the Skateboard Park Committee meeting adjourn at 3:55 p.m.

**"Carried"**

**Date of Next Meeting :** Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. (Site Visit)

/lj

T:\Corporate\C00-Council&By-laws\C05-CommitteeofCouncilMtg\Skateboard Park\071513-Skateboard Park Committee Minutes.doc

## Results from the Online Survey

### 1. Participate in activities

	Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Skateboarding	34	63%	n/a	n/a
BMX	9	17%	n/a	n/a
RollerBlading	15	28%	n/a	n/a
Not Applicable	14	26%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>54</b>		
		(skipped this question)	128	
View conditional responses (if applicable)				<a href="#">view</a>

### 2. Want a skateboard park?

	Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes	47	87%	n/a	n/a
No	7	13%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>54</b>		
		(skipped this question)	128	

### 3. Drive to another community?

	Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes	32	59%	n/a	n/a
No	22	41%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>54</b>		
		(skipped this question)	128	

### 4. Affected by skateboarders?

	Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes	9	17%	n/a	n/a
No	45	83%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>54</b>		
		(skipped this question)	128	

### 5. Skateboard location?

View responses to this question				<a href="#">view</a>
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>32</b>		
		(skipped this question)	150	



### 6. Gender

	Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Male	34	63%	n/a	n/a
Female	20	37%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>54</b>	100%	
		(skipped this question)	128	
View conditional responses (if applicable)				<a href="#">view</a>

### 7. Age?

	Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
13 - 19	15	28%	n/a	n/a
20 - 29	8	15%	n/a	n/a
30 - 39	10	19%	n/a	n/a
40 - 49	12	22%	n/a	n/a
50+	5	9%	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Respondents (For this Question)</b>		<b>54</b>		
		(skipped this question)	128	
View conditional responses (if applicable)				<a href="#">view</a>

8. Live in Leamington?

		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes		43	81%	n/a	n/a
No		10	19%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents (For this Question)			53		
(skipped this question)			129		

## Leamington Skateboard Park - Community Feedback

Respondents: 182

Status: Closed

Launched Date: 07/19/2013

Closed Date: 09/05/2013

### 9. Comments?

1. I've noticed other communities tend to put these activities in out-of-sight places and that would seem to lead to them becoming trouble spots. At my suggested location, it would add people and activity to a very abandoned uptown. Very visible and very central.
2. I hope this project moves forward.
3. All skateboard parks end up with graffiti on it, however i did see somewhere a park that must of hired an artist to do some pretty cool drawings.  
Fence it in with a locking gate and have restricted hours.
4. you need youth activities. There are so many for young children but when your teens get bored it spells trouble.
5. Essex is experiencing many problems with their skateboard park right now. This is a project, I as a taxpayer do not feel there is enough interest in this sport to take on the huge debt it would cost the taxpayers, Cleaning up downtown should be top priority on their list.
6. We live in Ruthven and are in Leamington at least twice a week. We have 2 bots who are avid skateboarders!
7. Skateboard park in Leamington is way past due.  
  
I am disgusted that the local OPP are not able to enforce kids to not block off sections of the public road and right-of-ways for skateboard use. Daring traffic to run them over and often making vehicles come to a complete standstill until they (skateboarders) are ready to move over to the side of the road. Many, many narrow misses have been personally seen with respect to vehicles having to slam their brakes on in order to avoid striking them. This has even been reported to the OPP personally on numerous occasions.  
  
Problem is.....I'm not convinced that a skateboard park is going to get them to use it as opposed to the road that is so nice, flat and convenient to their homes.
9. let's encourage a place where our youth can gather together in participation! we are classified as an "in motion" community are we not?
10. This would lead to good clean fun for our youth and keep them out of trouble.
11. Please make sure this is well and deliberately researched. There are reactionists on both sides of the skatepark issue.  
  
Please feel free to contact me regarding any of the above or for related matters.  
- Andrew Hopkins, LKRC employee (B.A. Hns, M.A., personal trainer, etc) :)  
rewshops@gmail.com
12. it's an awesome idea!! we need something like this in our community!
14. paved multiuse trails for boarders to get to park
15. I have witnessed the drug use first hand at the Wheatley skate park as well. If this could be monitored when opened I would reconsider. The money spent could be better spent on programs for at risk youth to curb the negative behaviour that caused my opinion>  
  
I think that giving people who are interested in any outdoor activity a place to go these days is really important. This is a great way to encourage kids of all ages to be active and have a place to meet outdoors. It also helps with the awkward position that roller bladers and skateboarders are in when attempting to ride. Roads are dangerous, sidewalks are hard to share with pedestrians. I'd love to see a skate park in our town!
16. if built it would be nice to see a bowl added to the skatepark
17. please add bowl
18. please add a bowl
19. add a bowl if built
20. add a bowl
21. "Technically" I live in Wheatley, but I do everything in Leamington and having a park in Leamington would be so awesome and beneficial! I would like to add that keep in mind to make objects smaller for beginners - i believe that is a big reason that Wheatley park isn't used that much. There isn't much for new beginners there because objects are too high...
22. al botham sent me

## Leamington Skateboard Park - Community Feedback

**Respondents:** 182

**Status:** Closed

**Launched Date:** 07/19/2013

**Closed Date:** 09/05/2013

### 5. Skateboard location?

1. Mill Street area
2. empty lot on the corner of Princess and Talbot.  
I would love to see in one of the corners in Seaciff park. It's a central location for the youth to gather and is already a community recreation area that is open and is already patrolled by the OPP. The skate park would also fall under the towns liability insurance with splashpad and current service agreements & infrastructures.
3. Inside town parks not a good idea (noise)  
By the Sherk Complex not a good idea(not enough room)  
Maybe Mersea Park?
4. Leamington Farmer's Market
5. no
6. Location should be near a roadway so easily monitored by law enforcement. It also needs to be lighted for safety. I have cleaned up many smashed beer bottles from teenagers at both Wheatley and Kingsville's skate parks before riding as they use the parks to hangout due to secluded locations..
7. Anywhere other than our streets and right-of-ways!!!!!!
8. Complex only
9. by Sherk Complex possibly near parking lot area. or possibly Seaciff Park/Marina area.
10. Somewhere in teh uptown
11. It should be somewhere out in the open where it is visible. (close to the Sherk Center would be great)  
Seaciff Park (beach): <http://www.leamington.ca/en/discover/seaciffpark.asp>
12. Seaciff Park's waterfront is already used by skateboarders, and it is popular with the local teen population (likely the major target audience for skateboarding); further, skateboarding has long connected with beach culture (in line with surfing). The area is also highly accessible to the general population. It would showcase skateboarding to Leamington residents.
13. seaciff park
14. seaciff park, oak st west at trail, already municipal owned  
not in Leamington as I worked beside the old one and suffered from the vandalism and witnessed first hand the bullying of the smaller children who were there for fun. I am opposed to this for these reasons>
15. I find that some communities are placing skateboard parks near police stations. I think that is because of an unfortunate stigma attached to skateboarders and I would discourage such a location in leamington. I think it would be awesome near the water!
16. near the recreation center would be convenient.
17. seaciff park or open area next to leamington pool
18. seaciff park
19. It needs to be put in a highly lighted area where no crime or any other illegal activities can take place.
20. at seaciff park
21. seaciff park
22. seaciff park
23. Somewhere in the centre of town, not too busy with traffic, in a good neighbourhood
24. where the VI used to be
25. clean, spacious, some shaded areas
26. by seaciff park
27. seaciff park
28. Just dont make it like Wheatley and shove it in the back of somewhere where its not visible from anywhere... You will attract a lot of sketchy characters. A good central location is probably best, but not super close to a road.
29. complex
30. At Eastside Park there is a pretty big empty space. I could imagine one being put there.
- 31.
- 32.



LEAMINGTON SKATEPARK COMMITTEE

# Skate Park Tour/Review



A report on design aspects of skateparks in  
Kingsville, LaSalle, Windsor and Tecumseh.  
Prepared by Essex County Skateboarding



### **Background**

On Wednesday, July 31, 2013, members of the Leamington Skatepark Committee traveled to skateparks in Kingsville, LaSalle, Windsor and Tecumseh to assess various design aspects and identify potential design elements that might be desirable for a potential skatepark in the town of Leamington.

Essex County Skateboarding was represented by its director, Rob Bondy. The role of ECS was to provide information about various design aspects in each park including:

- level of difficulty of various design aspects
- accessibility of design aspects for different users (skateboards, BMX, scooters, etc.)
- potential design flaws that reduce the functionality of individual design aspects or the park as whole
- the impact of design and maintenance on safety

### Kingsville Skatepark

The Kingsville Skatepark is a small concrete park located near the Kingsville arena. Its most popular features are the banks, euro-gap, hubba ledges and handrail.



#### Positives

1. The park is located in an open space that is both accessible yet out of the way of nearby facilities (arena, ball-fields).
2. The park is made of concrete and has been very well constructed. After several years of use, there are no notable issues with cracks, irregularities or damage to the surface.
3. Ledges and rails: Hubba ledges are placed on both sides of the West bank, allowing for all riders to perform frontside and backside tricks regardless of stance or riding preference.
4. The ledges and rails are low enough that falls are more easily navigated.
5. Diversity: The park contains a mini ramp(seen above at the back of the picture)as well as a variety of street elements that are usable by beginner and intermediate riders.
6. Garbage and recycling bins are provided by the town. Park users will tend to generate more recycling than garbage with bottles and cans.

Negatives

1. The central flat portion of the park is too compact. The run-up and landing area for the rail, ledge and manual pad in the middle of the park are too short for the average skater to use effectively. Approaching these obstacles using the banks provides too much speed for 3 out of 4 central obstacles.

*banks leading into a ledge and rail**Reverse angle showing paint manual pad*

2. The graffiti at the park has been eliminated by painting over it with grey paint. The paint makes the riding surface much more slippery than the standard concrete. In some cases, painted banks can not be climbed in running shoes. Falls will occur due to sliding wheels that would not occur on an uncovered concrete surface.
3. No immediate shade. There is no natural shade for park users.

### Vollmer Skatepark

The Vollmer Skatepark is located behind the Vollmer Recreation Complex in the Town of LaSalle. It is in the middle of a complex consisting of an arena, gym, pool, soccer and baseball fields. It is a street plaza style park, and its main features are a pyramid in the center of the park and a 5-stair set with a square rail and hubba ledges near the Northern entrance.



#### Positives

1. Location. The park is integrated into a broad recreation complex and is easily accessible.
2. Aesthetics. The park is made of white, grey and red concrete. The landscaping minimizes the visual impact of the park to the surrounding area. Some rocks have been incorporated at the south end of the park. (The park has very few incidents of graffiti as a result)



3. The park has a variety of obstacles that can be used creatively by skaters and riders of all ability levels.

Negatives

1. The Northern and Eastern approaches force riders to travel up hill, which makes it very difficult to fully utilize the manual pads, ledges and small stair set in those locations.



2. The transition for the larger quarter pipe at the Southern end of the park is too tight for its height. Please refer to the Skatepark planning guide provided by ECS for more information on transition design.
3. The hubba ledges and the rail that are part of the 5-stair set are too steep for their height. While such ledges and rails are standard components of modern street skating, the steepness of these particular obstacles make them too advanced for the vast majority of users.
4. No immediate shade. There is no natural shade for park users.
5. No lighting. Many hours of use are lost, especially in the fall and winter, because of the lack of park lighting.

### Forest Glade Skatepark

Forest Glade Skatepark is the area's oldest concrete skatepark. It features a wide variety of obstacles. Forest Glade was built at a time when there were no skatepark companies available to design or consult on the construction.



#### Positives

1. The park has a wide variety of elements that are useable by all difficulty levels.
2. The quality of the cement is very good considering the age of the park.

#### Negatives

1. The park was not set on level ground. Using some elements requires skaters to battle up hill.
2. Some of the seams in the concrete between obstacles and flat ground are placed in less than optimal position. (long term tripping hazard with deterioration of concrete)
3. Graffiti. While some of the graffiti is very well developed street art, the prevalence of amateur tagging has made the park less visually appealing.
4. The elements of the park are too closely spaced. There does not appear to be any natural flow to the park.



### **Tecumseh Skatepark**

The Tecumseh Skatepark is the newest in the county, having opened in late July of 2013. It is a professionally designed park and was built by Bear Construction. It is a street style park with a half-bowl element at one end.



### **Positives**

1. The park was designed in consultation with the youth who would use it. Therefore the features reflect the interests of the riding community.
2. The presence of both street and ramp elements make the park more diverse.
3. The park is located in a complex which includes the town hall, an arena, ball diamonds and a police station.
4. There are beginner, intermediate and advanced elements. (the park is designed to best serve the intermediate to advanced rider.

### **Negatives**

The park is very new, and the limitations of the design will appear over time, but there are some concerns.

1. As can be seen in the middle picture above, there is a street element on the upper deck, placed very close to the half-bowl. This is an unnecessary safety risk for those using the manual pad.
2. Approaching the open end of the half-bowl with speed is difficult as there is no element placed specifically to feed riders into it. This makes the half-bowl function more as a mini ramp.



### Summary

1. The most accessible and enjoyable parks in the county have been designed by skatepark design companies.
2. The dominant theme in the most popular parks is street skating. (rails, ledges, stair sets)
3. For elements to be useful and safe, they require a certain amount of space leading to it, away from it and on both sides. (see skatepark advocacy guide). Avoid reducing these areas as a cost cutting measure.
4. The cleanest and most unblemished parks are part of an existing athletic complex. This is because they are well supervised and have a feeling of being incorporated into the activities of the community.
5. Solid grey concrete is a more attractive canvas for graffiti. The most unblemished parks (Vollmer and Tecumseh) are multi-tone by design.
7. Parks that are well cared for by the users tend to have shade, benches, garbage cans and nearby access to water and washrooms. For adolescent park users, an individual session can last between 2 and 5 hours).
8. Parks that get used often, and properly, are designed in conjunction with the community of users. They are built by municipalities that set out to create a recreation facility of genuine quality, as opposed to putting in the minimal investment to placate riders.

---

Essex County Skateboarding is a non-profit skateboarding advocacy group that promotes skateparks in Essex County. ECS is available to help your community and has experience in consultation, facilitating communication between riders and municipal governments, organizing and running contests and demonstrations, photography, filming and video editing.

Let us know how we can help your project develop.

Rob Bondy

essexcountyskateboarding@gmail.com