South Portland Skatepark

Skatepark Committee Presentation
March 26, 2019
Skatepark Committee Members

- **Kirsten McWilliams** – District One (Morgan : District One)
- **Cybil Kipp** – District One (Lewis : District Two)
- **Michelle Danois** – District Two (Henderson : At Large)
- **Cyril (Jack) Gundling** – District Three (Rose : District Three)
- **Lucas Brown** – District Three (Beecher : At Large)
- **Darrell Rogers** – District Four (Cohen : District Four)
- **Jeff Woodbury** – District Five (Dhalac : District Five) [appointed by Adrian Dowling]
- **Kate Lewis** – City Councilor Representative (District Two)
- **Anthony Johnson** – Parks & Rec Department : City Staff Representative
- **Tom Long** – Owner of Long’s Board Shop : Non-Voting Member
“If your town doesn’t have a skatepark, it is one.”

*The Richmond Times Dispatch* by then-mayor of Richmond, VA, Dwight C. Jones, Sept. 2013
How We Got Here

- **2005**
  - “Ollie Skatepark Project” attempted.

- **April 2017**
  - Petition received by Council to request building a skatepark (577 signatures collected by middle school student John Emmons).
  - The idea is warmly welcomed by the Council, but never formally gets off the ground.

- **May 2018**
  - Council decides to have a skatepark committee formed.

- **June 2018**
  - Public meeting held to gain interest and support (over 20 people attend).

- **Aug. 2018**
  - City Council appoints an Ad-Hoc Committee tasked with finding a location, funding and design for a park.

- **Sept. 2018**
  - Committee begins meeting monthly.
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<tr>
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<td>10. Summary</td>
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Skatepark Benefits

Skateboarding is a healthy, athletic activity for many who aren’t drawn to traditional team sports.
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It’s an engaging outlet and an opportunity to belong to an active community.
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There is virtually no upper or lower age limit to participation.

South Portland could be the home of a future Olympian!
Many Questions Were Considered by the Committee

• Location?

• Type of park design?
  – Pre-fabricated
  – Concrete
  – Indoor

• For all types of riders?
  – Skateboards
  – Inline skates
  – Scooters
  – Bicycles

• Regulations?

• Maintenance?

• Costs?
  – Planning
  – Design
  – Construction
  – Maintenance

• Timeline?
  – Planning & design
  – Budgeting
  – Approval
  – Construction

• Public Input?

• Public Support?
Concerns That Were Addressed

Visibility
• Visibility improves safety and reduces crime.

Access
• How best to provide safe, easy access?

Construction type and quality
• Best construction type for value and longevity?

Opposition
• How to be good neighbors.

Risks of waiting
• Costs increase over time.
• Momentum is lost.
Steps Towards Our Goal

1. Vision
2. Advocacy
3. Site Selection and Design
4. Funding in Process
5. Construction
6. Management
Supporters

More than 570 signatures from residents in support.
Overview of the City
South Portland, Maine
Public Schools
Greenbelt
Metro Routes
Route 21
Route 24B*

*Except weekends
South Portland, Maine

Public Schools
Greenbelt
Metro Routes
Route 21
Route 24B*
Route 24A
*Except weekends
South Portland, Maine

Public Schools
Greenbelt
Metro Routes
Route 21
Route 24B*
Route 24A
Parks

*Except weekends
Possible Locations Considered and Ranked
Possible Locations Considered

- Public Schools
- Greenbelt
- 24B* Routes
  - Route 21
  - Route 24B*
  - Route 24A
- Parks
- Traffic Bottleneck

*Except weekends
Public Schools
Greenbelt
Metro Routes
Route 21
Route 24B*
Route 24A
Parks
Traffic Bottleneck
Locations considered
*Except weekends

Possible Locations Considered
1. Legere Park
2. Mahoney Middle School
3. High School Park
4. 360 Main St, Cash Corner Fire
5. Municipal Golf Course
6. Hamlin School
7. 120 Evans Street
8. 35 Southeast Road
9. Wainwright Fields
10. Wilkinson Park
11. Anthoine Creek Park
12. 159 Pine Street LL Fields
13. Yerxa Park
14. Sawyer Park
15. 77 Waterman Drive
16. Elizabeth Taylor Lane
17. Macarthur North Cr, Red Bank
18. Bug Light Park
19. Gateway Park
20. Thomas Knight Park

*Except weekends

Locations considered

Public Schools
Greenbelt
Metro Routes
Route 21
Route 24B*
Route 24A
Parks
Traffic Bottleneck
Locations considered
### Ranking Methodology: Assigning Point Values

#### Visibility & Access

- **Visibility** (0-3)
  - High = 3 / Hidden = 0
- **Walking Access** (1-3)
  - Easy = 3 / Difficult = 1
- **Street Access** (yes/no)
  - Yes = 1 / No = 0
- **Greenbelt** (0-3)
  - Within 500’ = 3 / 1000’ = 2 / 2000’ = 1
- **Public School** (0-3)
  - Within 500’ = 3 / 1000’ = 2 / 2000’ = 1

#### Proximity

- **Emergency Response** (0-2)
  - Within 500’ = 2 / 1000’ = 1
- **Public Transit Stop** (0-2)
  - Within 500’ = 2 / 1000’ = 1
- **Restroom** (0-2)
  - Within 500’ = 2 / 1000’ = 1
- **Food** (0-2)
  - Within 500’ = 2 / 1000’ = 1
- **Parking** (yes/no)
  - Yes = 1 / No = 0

#### Other

- **CDBG Funding** (yes/no)
  - Yes = 2 / No = 0
- **Flood Risk** (no/yes)
  - No = 0 / Yes = -1
- **Buried Utilities** (no/yes)
  - No = 0 / Yes = -1
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<th>Possible Locations: Initial Rankings</th>
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*Unknown how long Mahoney will remain a school, or what plans are for future use*
<p>| Possible Locations: Initial Rankings |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <strong>ACCESS</strong>                  | <strong>PROXIMITY</strong>     | <strong>OTHER</strong>     |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
<th><strong>GISP #</strong></th>
<th><strong>Size</strong></th>
<th><strong>Visibility (0-5)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Walking Access (1-3)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Street Access</strong></th>
<th><strong>Greenbelt (0-3)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Public School (0-3)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Emergency Response</strong></th>
<th><strong>Public Transit Stop</strong></th>
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<td>422 MacArthur North Cr, Red Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>610 Thomas Knight Park</td>
<td><strong>Lack of available space</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unknown how long Mahoney will remain a school, or what plans are for future use
Top 10 Locations Considered

1. Legere Park
2. Mahoney Middle School
3. High School Park
4. 360 Main St, Cash Corner Fire
5. Municipal Golf Course
6. Hamlin School
7. 120 Evans Street
8. 35 Southeast Road
9. Wainwright Fields
10. Wilkinson Park

*Except weekends

Public Schools
Greenbelt
Metro Routes
Route 21
Route 24B*
Route 24A
Parks
Traffic Bottleneck
Locations considered

- Top 10 Locations Considered
- Metal Routes
- Route 21
- Route 24B
- Route 24A
- Parks
- Traffic Bottleneck
- Locations considered
### Possible Locations: Top Ten Ranked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GISP #</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Proximity</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>3317</td>
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<td>Mahoney Middle School</td>
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<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6034</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>3 2 1 0 3</td>
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<td>360 Main St, Cash Corner Fire</td>
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<td>27,000</td>
<td>0 1 1 0 0</td>
<td>0 0 0 0 1</td>
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**Access**
- Visibility (0-3)
- Pedestrian Access (1-3)
- Street Access (1-3)
- Grounds (1-3)

**Proximity**
- Emergency Response (1-3)
- Public School Access (1-3)
- Public Transportation Access (1-3)
- Food Access (1-3)

**Other**
- Buried Utilities
- Flooding Potential
- Total Points

*Unknown how long Mahoney will remain a school, or what plans are for future use*
Possible Locations: Top 3 Choices

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<th>Walking Access (1-3)</th>
<th>Street Access</th>
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<th>Public School (0-3)</th>
<th>Emergency Response</th>
<th>Public Transit Stop</th>
<th>Restroom</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Parking</th>
<th>CDBG Funding</th>
<th>Flood Risk</th>
<th>Buried Utilities</th>
<th>Mobility</th>
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<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Unknown how long Mahoney will remain a school, or what plans are for future use
Top 3 Locations

1. Legere Park
2. Mahoney Middle School
3. High School Park
High School Park

Community Center

High School
High School Park

- Close to geographic center of city
- Existing (shared) off-street parking
- Metro access (1 line)
- Near Community Center (additional recreation activities when open, and bathrooms)
- Nearby Public Schools (High School and Dyer Elementary)
- Access from Broadway and Highland Avenues
- High visibility
Mahoney Middle School Field
Mahoney Middle School Field

- Metro access (3 lines)
- Greenbelt proximity
- Nearby Public Schools (Mahoney and Brown)
- Nearby shopping
- Nearby restaurants
- Nearby other parks
- Existing on-street parking
- Field space for other family recreation
- High visibility
- Unsure of future property plans
1 Legere Park

McDonalds

Mill Creek Shopping Center
Legere Park

- Existing off-street parking
- Existing recreational attractions (playground and basketball court)
- Metro access (3 lines)
- Greenbelt proximity
- On corridor between Cape Elizabeth and Portland
- Nearby Public Schools (Mahoney and Brown)
- Nearby restaurants
- Nearby shopping
- Three other parks within walking distance
- High visibility
- Eligible for CDBG funding
Residential Reach
Residential Reach: 1-mile radius
Residential Reach: 1-mile radius
Residential Reach: 1-mile radius
Residential Reach: 1-mile radius

- Small School
- Brown School
- Mahoney School
- Kaler School
- Dyer School
- High School
Residential Reach: 1-mile radius
Residential Reach: 1-mile radius

1. Kaler School
2. Brown School
3. Mahoney
4. Memorial
5. Skillin School
6. High School
Types of Skateparks Considered
Who Uses Skateparks?

Not just skateboarders.
Types of Skateparks Considered

Pre-Fabricated
Scarborough

- Lowest construction costs
- Annual maintenance needed
- Higher maintenance costs
- Subject to faster decay due to weather and materials
Problems With Pre-Fab Skateparks

Pre-Fabricated Scarborough

- Lowest construction costs
- Annual maintenance needed
- Higher maintenance costs
- Subject to faster decay due to weather and materials

It doesn’t look like much, but cracks like this can break arms.
Types of Skateparks Considered

**Pre-Fabricated**
- Scarborough
  - Lowest construction costs
  - Annual maintenance needed
  - Higher maintenance costs
  - Subject to faster decay due to weather and materials

**Concrete**
- Portland
  - Median construction costs
  - Lowest maintenance
  - Lowest maintenance costs
  - Long-lasting
Types of Skateparks Considered

**Pre-Fabricated**
Scarborough

- Lowest construction costs
- Annual maintenance needed
- Higher maintenance costs
- Subject to faster decay due to weather and materials

**Concrete**
Portland

- Median construction costs
- Lowest maintenance
- Lowest maintenance costs
- Long-lasting

**Indoor**
Bath

- Highest costs of construction and maintenance
- Requires building permits, more construction, electricity, plumbing, sewage, staffing, supplies, maintenance, permits & more
A Concrete Park Is the Most Reasonable Solution

Pre-Fabricated Parks:

• While the initial cost is lower than a concrete park, maintenance costs are higher, and longevity is far lower.

• Saving money in the short term will cost more long-term.

Indoor Parks:

• Costs of building both a building and a park are unreasonable.

• Maintenance, utilities, and staffing will be an ongoing cost.
Hypothetical Concept Renderings
Pillar Design Studios: Concept Rendering B

6,000 sq. ft. park: estimated cost $250K
Pillar Design Studios: Concept Rendering D

11,000 sq. ft. park : estimated cost $500K
American Ramp Company: Concept Rendering #22286

5,000 sq. ft. park: estimated cost $250K
American Ramp Company: Concept Rendering #22311

8,200 sq. ft. park: estimated cost $410K
American Ramp Company: Concept Rendering #2867

10,100 sq. ft. park : estimated cost $500K
Funding
Planning, Design & Feasibility

Planning and Design

- Community Development Block Grant: $15,000
- CIP funding: $25,000

Planning & Design Costs
- Quotes from Pillar & American Ramp = $32-39K
- CDBG Planning Grant for $15K = secured!
- CIP request for $25k = hopeful for Council approval
- Total Cost for Planning & Design Services = $40K
Possible Construction Costs and Funding

**Construction Costs**
- Depends on size, type and location of park
- Concrete parks (recommended) range from $250k (5000sq ft) - $500K+ (10,000 + sq. ft)

**Possible Sources of Funding for Construction**
- CDBG (location-dependent)
- CIP
- Tony Hawk Foundation (up to $10K, for concrete only)
- Fundraising
- Business supporters
Funds for planning, design & feasibility study will allow the committee to get to the next level of this process by:

- defining the scope of work
- reviewing applicable studies/data
- conduct site visits
- prepare conceptual and schematic designs
- conduct public design workshops
- develop a project cost and budget
Design and Development Process: Pillar Design Studios

Phase I
Feasibility and Skatepark Programming

Phase II
Schematic Design and Preliminary Estimate

Phase III
Design Development

Phase IV
Construction Documents
Timeline of Events
Timeline of Events: Where We Are Now

- Jan. 2017: Emmons Whited asks City Council to create skatepark
- Summer 2018: Public presentation at Community Center restarts project
- Aug. 7, 2018: Skatepark committee established
- Jan. 2019:
  - Jan. 3, 2019: CDBG app due
  - Dec. 12, 2018: Capital Improvement Plan app due
  - Dec. 4, 2018: CDBG grant approved
- Feb. 2019:
  - Jan. 9, 2019: CDBG app due
  - Feb. 6, 2019: City Council Open Mic Night
  - Feb. 16, 2019: CDBG grant approved
- March 2019:
  - March 6, 2019: Committee meeting
  - March 26, 2019: Presentation to City Council
Timeline of Events: The Immediate Future

Jan. 2017
Emmons Whited asks City Council to create skatepark

19 Months

Aug. 7, 2018
Skatepark committee established

Summer 2018
Public presentation at Community Center restarts project

Sept. 19, 2018

Oct. 24, 2018

Nov. 14, 2018

Dec. 4, 2018
Capital Improvement Plan app due

Dec. 12, 2018

Jan. 3, 2019
CDBG app due

Jan. 9, 2019

Jan. 17, 2019
Community forum at Brown School

Feb. 6, 2019
City Council Open Mic Night

Feb. 16, 2019
CDBG grant approved

March 6, 2019

March 26, 2019
Presentation to City Council

April 2019

May 2019

June 2019

July 1, 2019
CDBG program year begins

July 2019

Aug. 7, 2019
Committee findings & recommendations due to City Council

July 24, 2020
Summer Olympics begin

2017
2018
2019
2020
Timeline of Events: Looking Towards the Goal

- **Aug. 7, 2019**
  - Committee findings & recommendations due to City Council

- **2019**
  - Funding efforts under way
  - Choose contractor
  - Approve design
  - Groundbreaking

- **To Be Determined:**
  - Dates: Public forums
  - Date: City Council approval
  - Date: Construction complete
  - Date: Opening ceremony

- **July 24, 2020**
  - Summer Olympics begin

- **2020**
  - Date: Funding complete
Partners, Supporters, and Media
March 7, 2017

On this week’s front page: South Portlanders hoping the city council will recognize the need for a Skatepark in the Knightville/Mill Creek area include, from left, Owen Russell, 9, Nash Olsen, 12, Emmet Russell, 12, Kipp Gill, 11, Tuck Gora, 12, Jack Smart, 11, Emmons Whited, 11, who started an online petition to support the cause, and Gus Whited, 9.

(Duke Harrington photo)
State rep: Youth voice in South Portland is important

To the editor:

There is something very special when young people participate in our democratic process and advocate for their local communities. Young people make up 20 percent of Maine’s population and are 100 percent of our future.

When they speak to policy makers about how our communities can be more inclusive and healthier, it is our duty as community members to listen to them and to encourage their input. In South Portland, we have a unique opportunity to include the youth perspective in the location and design of a skate park our community. I am very proud of these young people for participating in the democratic process in our city.

Victoria Morales State Representative, District 33 South Portland
To the Editor:

As a fourteen year resident of Ferry Village, I appreciate and value the diversity of the South Portland neighborhoods. Within five minutes, I can walk to marinas, stores, oceanfront restaurants, artists’ studios, and a local tavern. Jogging to Bug Light, I pass public housing, classic waterfront homes, neighborhood playgrounds, and senior housing. What makes our neighborhoods great is that these places aren’t exclusive. We’re equally welcomed to grab a bagel or a beer, to check out coffee and art, or to buy a car. However, one thing I notice missing from our great neighborhoods is a place for teens to be outside engaging in the activities they love.

A local group of young residents has gotten together to fill this void by advocating for a Skatepark. I am beyond excited to hear that the city is taking their proposal seriously.

I have been a public middle school teacher in Maine for 17 years. I understand the apprehension that accompanies the proposal of something like a Skatepark. However, I have also seen the power of students pursuing their passions. When kids are engaged, poor behavior fades, and cooperation and community blossom. When kids are in the community, they rise to the level of respect and admiration that adults show them. We have the opportunity to support a group of passionate and engaged kids who are authentically advocating for something that could add to the diversity of our great neighborhoods. We owe it to these kids and to ourselves to follow their lead and support the installation of a Skatepark.

We are a city on the rise. With each addition to our neighborhoods - whether it be a knitting studio, brew pub, music venue, or Skatepark - we increase the variety and vibrancy that we can all enjoy. As I ride my skateboard down the Greenbelt, my six year old daughter cruising on her scooter beside me, I imagine that one day we’ll be able to head over to the Skatepark to enjoy some play while celebrating the diversity of our great city.

Peter Hill, South Portland
Feb. 15, 2019
Dear Sentry,

Its writing in support of a recent proposal to build a Skatepark for our youth in South Portland. As a local educator, former summer camp director, parent and South Portland resident, I wanted to voice my support for such a great idea.

For many youngsters, skateboarding is a fabulous pastime and activity that’s positive for so many reasons. Its healthy, athletic, fun, engaging and builds a ton of community. Young people connect with each other and with adults and bond over a common interest. A Skatepark would give our youth a place to gather, build community and to engage in an activity that’s great all the way around. All four of my children are/or have been avid skateboarders and use skateboarding to get outside and have healthy, active fun. There’s also a considerable advantage to having a Skatepark in that it enables skateboarders to avoid the dangers associated with skating in the street and/or at busy places like Mill Creek. Skateboarders and traffic and pedestrians don’t mix well. Young people skate at places like parking lots and shopping malls because it provided suitable terrain for them to enjoy their passion. A Skatepark would provide that opportunity without the downside and it would be a win-win for all parties.

For these reasons, I strongly support the development of a Skatepark for our youth in South Portland.

Sincerely,

Tim Cronin, South Portland
Feb. 22, 2019
Dear Ms. Lovell,

I am writing to support building a Skatepark here in South Portland. As the program director of SoPo Unite-All Ages, All In - a Drug Free Communities Coalition funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and as a prevention specialist, a Skatepark would truly benefit the youth of South Portland. The mission of SoPo Unite is: *Creating and sustaining a safe, just, and healthy community to prevent youth substance use.*

We know that a number of protective factors can reduce and prevent youth substance use. Some of these are: having positive relationships, strong neighborhood attachment, and healthy alternatives. The brain is ready to take risks at the age of 13, so having safe, designated spaces for skateboarding, skating, and biking, can provide youth with healthy risk taking opportunities. We have so many great spaces for other activities and sports in South Portland and a Skatepark will help reach students who may not be accessing those options. When youth have nothing to do or nowhere to go, risky behavior is more likely to occur. Having opportunities for social interaction helps to develop trust and connection to the community.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Dodge
Feb. 8, 2019
Letter to the Editor:

Who knew a skatepark could provide so many positive things?! It is a safe place to skateboard, scooter, and bike especially for young people.

Other positive things are creativity, acceptance, respect, a peer group, a lifestyle – not simply a hobby or sport. And still more – being outdoors, being active, & enjoying risk taking. Wow! Skateboarding is a powerful alternative to more typical sports. A skatepark is an affordable, concrete way to support our young people. I’m told skateboarding is a way to practice autonomy and independence especially as a young person. And I am reminded that I once worked with a teen who skateboarded every day for a year nurturing his self-esteem, healing wounds from repeated childhood grief and trauma, gaining hope and confidence. Literally, skateboarding saved his life.

As a community builder in the West End (Redbank Village & Brickhill) I highly recommend building a city skatepark. Let’s save and support the lives of young people in South Portland.

Sincerely,

Merrie V. Allen
March 13, 2019
Supporters

More than 570 signatures from residents in support.
South Portland city councilors support Skatepark proposal

City councilors expressed support last week for the construction of a Skatepark.

Councilors said they are seeking volunteers for a committee to help identify possible sites for the park, as well as funding models. **They said they would like to fast-track the project and possibly have it open by summer 2019.**

They decided to schedule a forum next month to gather public input on the project, but did not set a date.

In a City Council workshop last Tuesday, resident Brian Leonard told councilors he used to skate in dangerous and illegal places not designed for recreational use while growing up in Detroit.

“I wish we had a Skatepark when I was a kid,” Leonard said. “I’m all about this and I hope you are, too.”

**Seventh-grader Emmons Whited, part of a group of students who started an online petition a year ago to generate support for the project,** said they have attracted attention, including from a North Carolina contractor who wants to build the facility.

Councilor Claude Morgan said the decision could come down to “location, location, location,” noting Councilor Adrian Dowling had identified some areas in the city where a park could be built, including the Redbank neighborhood.
Legere Park catching air as site of new S. Portland Skatepark

SOUTH PORTLAND — Legere Park in Knightville emerged as the front-runner at an inaugural meeting Monday to gather input about where to build a Skatepark.

About 30 people attended the South Portland Community Center meeting led by Councilor Kate Lewis, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Adams and Anthony Johnson, parks and recreation operations manager.

City councilors said last month they are seeking volunteers for an ad hoc committee to meet monthly to identify possible sites for the park along with funding models.

They said they would like to fast-track the project and possibly have it open by summer 2019.

The project was spearheaded by several middle school students who circulated an online petition last year to urge the council to consider building a park.

Emmons Whited, a rising eighth-grader, said he would ideally like to have an in-ground park because it’s a better and more exciting design for users. He compared it to the difference between an in-ground or above-ground pool.

“…Legere Park is within walking distance of Mahoney Middle School, Holy Cross School and Small elementary school, on a Metro line, and is eligible to receive Federal Community Development block grants.”

“Legere is also an attractive location for the project because it already has 32 parking spaces nearby, is city-owned, and is highly visible to the public.”
Skate park committee to present to council March 26

SOUTH PORTLAND — When the average person imagines skateboarding as a sport, they may immediately think of professionals such as Tony Hawk, or the athletes who are to participate in the 2020 Summer Olympics. The truth is, you are almost never too young or too old to be a skateboarder. A perfect example of this is 18-year-old Lucas Brown, who has been practicing with a board since the age of 6.

On Tuesday, March 26, the ad-hoc Skate Park Advisory Committee will present its findings to the South Portland City Council at a public hearing held at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. The committee seeks to study the possibility of having a skate park in the city. Its methods include collaborating with and speaking to community members, as well as looking at existing research and previously built parks.

Brown is an active member in the movement. He believes a skate park is an intergenerational place, where people of all ages can come together in the name of exercising and improving their health. He described a “great communal aspect” that emerges out of such a recreational environment. Nobody is left out, and unlike competitive sports, each participant can go at their own pace.
“If your town doesn’t have a skatepark, it is one.”

The Richmond Times Dispatch by then-mayor of Richmond, VA, Dwight C. Jones
Summary
Now Is the Time to Act

The committee has performed due diligence.

- Reviewed more than 20 possible locations
- Listened to concerns of citizens
- Ranked each location impartially

Waiting is costly.

- The longer we wait, the more costs increase.
- Resident support is strong; inaction is demoralizing.
Thank you.