



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

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WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT TO BUILD YPSILANTI AREA SKATEPARK

YPSILANTI, MI. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission is excited to announce an award of a \$250,000 *Built to Play* Skatepark Grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation and Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to build a skatepark in the Ypsilanti area.

The Parks and Recreation Commission pledged \$250,000 in matching funds towards the *Built to Play* skatepark grant. "We couldn't be more excited to partner with the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation on this project," said Washtenaw County Commissioner & Parks Commissioner, Conan Smith. "Our parks and recreation commission has a passion for innovative and engaging urban recreation projects, and the Ypsilanti skatepark is going to be another jewel in our system. It's the kind of development that is perfect for kids of all ages and will help draw new energy into a community that deserves greater recognition as a unique regional destination."

Washtenaw County is home to the world-class Ann Arbor Skatepark (a project which also received financial support from Washtenaw County Parks), but it is often not feasible, especially for youth, to travel to Ann Arbor from the eastern portion of the county. This *Built to Play* Skatepark Grant will help provide a much of the resources needed to match Washtenaw County Park's commitment to build a skatepark in the eastern region of Washtenaw County.

"This is great news and great work for the residents of eastern Washtenaw County. I believe a state of the art skateboard park will draw out of town visitors," says Ricky Jefferson, Washtenaw County Commissioner and Parks Commissioner. "But more importantly, I celebrate the voices of the skate board community in the area for their advocacy to have the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission make this a priority."

Our work will begin by gathering feedback from local skate community to guide the location and include the desired features in the skatepark design.

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The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, founded in 1973, currently manages 13 parks and 33 nature preserves totaling more than 6,000 acres. Washtenaw County Parks provides recreational and nature-based programming. Besides trails within most facilities, WCPARC major trail initiative, the Border-to-Border (B2B) trail, connects Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston counties via a 70+ mile trail system. Visit us at www.washtenaw.org/parks or call 734-971-6337.

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