

BULLETIN

SKATING PARKS

Even though we do not recommend skating parks, there are some precautions to consider if your city elects to have one.



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Introduction

Several cities have shown an interest in furnishing a skating park for their residents. We do not recommend them because of the increased liability exposure. There are some precautions to consider if your city elects to have one. Skating parks are usually made of concrete with sloping walls, grind rails, and pits. These parks have liability hazards similar to swim-

ming pools. They attract children and have significant fall hazards, but without the drowning exposure. Identifying and controlling the hazards associated with skating parks will be an important task in minimizing liability claims.

Precautions

Minor children will be the biggest users of skating park and may be responsible for a substantial

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constructed and opened to the public. Cracks, defects, vandalism (tagging), and debris will require routine maintenance.

Controls

Rules should be posted near the main entrance of the skate park. The Parks and Recreation director should suggest proposed rules to the Board. The Board should approve a set of rules, which the park and police department can use as a guideline of enforcement.

All surfaces should be smooth and free of defects and obstacles. Walls should be gradually sloped and a buffer zone should be maintained outside the edge



of the surface area. The ground along the edges of the surface should be sloped to ground level to eliminate any sudden changes in level.

Fencing can be placed around the skate park to limit access and direct the public to a main entrance.

Some skating park grants conflict with installing fencing to allow free access of the park.

Conclusion

When deciding on skating parks, please contact us for further information and services.

liability exposure with major claims and litigation. Slips, trips, and falls at the skating park can result in scraps, bruises, cuts, contusions, broken bones, or worse.

Drop-offs behind the sloped walls or fences too close to the edge of the surface can increase this fall exposure. Pits, which are similar to empty 8 feet deep swimming pools, do not have ramps or stairs and must be entered by climbing into the pit. Injured skaters would be difficult to remove from the pit.

Ongoing repairs will be required once the park is

