



Healthy Community • Healthy Youth® Initiative of Livingston, Inc.

*A collaborative partnership between youth and adults creating a community where all young people thrive*

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**LIVINGSTON  
TEEN CENTER  
&  
SKATE PARK  
  
PROPOSAL**

*Presented January 30, 2007*

**TEEN CENTER & SKATE PARK  
PROPOSAL  
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**(1)**  
**COMMUNITY NEED FOR A  
TEEN CENTER & SKATE PARK  
IN LIVINGSTON**

- **A Town-wide survey initiated in 2005 by the Livingston Vision 20/20 committee showed a large % of respondents wanted a place where our youth could go, that would be a safe environment, and would be a place for them to “hang out”.**
- **Skating & Skate boarding are widely popular and healthy activities that youth gravitate toward.**
- **Skating & Skate boarding are already being done in town at locations that interfere with residents and businesses. For example, in the Town Center garage, the Independence Bank garage, the school facilities, up and down many of the streets in town, and in many of the private parking lots around town. These activities are completely unsupervised and a danger to our residents & businesses.**
- **A Town that provides a skate park has the right to legislate against skate boarding and skating in other parts of the town. A skate park will allow us to control the sport.**
- **The town currently allows rollerblading at the Oval on a limited schedule. Skate boarding has not been addressed.**

(2)  
**LOCATION**

- **We recommend that the Skate Park and Teen Center be located at Monmouth Court, near Northfield Ave.**
  
- **The field behind the Monmouth Court building is large enough to house a 10,000 sq. ft. Skate Park. The Skate Park would be located in the south east portion of the field, near the Roosevelt Plaza parking area. The topography is fairly level. There is room for expansion. There is adequate parking. It is visible from many different locations. It has adequate emergency access. The Skate Park would not interfere with the T-Ball field that currently exists.**
  
- **The Monmouth Court building will be utilized as a Teen Center. There is an existing game room, a gymnasium with a stage, and the room that housed the old Paradise Café can be utilized as a snack bar that would also service the skate park.**
  
- **This would be the place that our youth have been asking for: “A place to hang out.”**

(3)

### **TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION**

- **There are primarily two types of Skate Park construction:**
  - **In-ground concrete structures**
  - **Above-ground modular units are constructed using steel, wood, and composite materials.**
  
- **We recommend the above-ground modular construction due to safety and cost factors and the ability to maneuver and change the configuration. The in-ground concrete is much more costly and the surface is unforgiving, more likely leading to serious injury. It has been documented that once a concrete course is mastered, it becomes mundane. In addition, the above-ground allows you to add and subtract at some later date. The permanency of the in-ground method can be undesirable.**
  
- **We recommend the park have flood lights for skating at night.**
  
- **Clinton, NJ has an above-ground modular park that could be the model for Livingston's Skate Park. Appendix # 1 includes photographs of the Clinton, NJ Skate Park.**

(4)

**LEGAL ISSUES & INSURANCE**

- **Monmouth Court is currently used for recreational activities. Therefore, there would be no dramatic change in land use.**
- **Waivers must be signed by all skaters and a legal guardian.**
- **“Skate at your own risk” signs must be visible on the facility.**
- **“No trespassing” signs must be visible to avoid after hours usage.**
- **The park can only be utilized during the posted hours.**
- **All participants under the age of 10 must be accompanied and supervised by a guardian over the age of 18.**
- **State law mandates that helmets must be worn at all times when biking and skate boarding.**
- **According to the Township’s insurance advisors, the current Township insurance policies have no Skate Park exceptions and the Skate Park has a lower risk factor than the Township Pools.**

**(5)**  
**MANAGEMENT**

- **We strongly recommend that the park have management on the premises during open hours.**
- **The management of the park could be supervised by College Students and/or recent College graduates. These would be paid positions. Supervision by this demographic appeals to youth, and would not intimidate them while still maintaining adult supervision, similar to a summer camp counselor.**
- **A job description and requirements must be created for those who perform the job of park manager. These are to include knowledge of skating, computer skills, and a rudimentary knowledge of First Aid. Other requirements may be added.**

(6)

## **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

- **We recommend a minimum age of six years old.**
- **Time slots would be put aside for specific ages and levels of expertise. These time slots would follow a general practice time when everyone can skate together.**

(7)

## **SPORTS INTEGRATION**

- **There are three types of activities that could take place at this park: skateboarding, rollerblading, and BMX biking.**
- **We recommend that both skateboarding and rollerblading be approved immediately. BMX biking poses maintenance and cost problems that we feel are detrimental to the operation of the park. The cost of maintaining the park could increase tenfold if bikes were included. Based upon that documented number, at this time we recommend excluding bikes.**

(8)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- **Membership to the park would only be allowed to Livingston Residents. Skate Park badges would have to be purchased in order to establish a membership. Proof of residence would need to be furnished when buying a yearly membership. We recommend a yearly membership fee to be \$100.00 with the ability to purchase seasonal memberships for a \$30.00 fee. A badge holder would have unlimited access to the park.**
- **If a badge holder or resident would like to purchase a guest pass for a friend, the price would be \$10.00 for each time that guest participates.**
- **At the time of purchasing a skate park badge, waivers must be signed by both the badge holder and if under 18 years old, a parent or legal guardian.**
- **The badges and guest passes can only be purchased at the recreation department and not at the park.**
- **A computerized data base would be created to track all the memberships and waivers.**

(9)

**MAINTENANCE**

- **The park manager would conduct a daily cursory visual inspection of the facility. An inspection sheet must be checked off to indicate that each component has been assessed.**
- **A more involved inspection would take place once a week by the park manager. Again, an inspection sheet would be created to direct the park manager as to what needs to be checked, etc.**
- **Signs must be visible around the park with the phone number of the recreation department. The signs would indicate that if anything is wrong in the park, witnesses should report it to the recreation department.**
- **The park would be inspected every six months by a state approved recreation and playground inspector.**

**(10)**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

- **Monday through Thursday: 2:30PM to 8PM**
- **Friday: 2:30PM to 10:00PM**
- **Saturdays: 10:00AM to 10:00PM**
- **Sundays: 12:00PM to 6:00PM**
- **Holidays (School is closed) 10:00AM to 8:00PM**
- **Summer hours 10:00AM to 8:00PM during the week**

**(11)**  
**RULES**

- **Helmets must be worn at ALL times.**
- **Knee, elbow, and wrist pads are strongly encouraged but left to the discretion of the skater.**
- **All participants under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult who is over 18 years of age.**
- **Other than during open skate periods, skating would only be permitted within the time frame of age and or proficiency level. Individual proficiency level would be determined by the manager of the park.**
- **Three infractions would necessitate a confiscation of the membership badge for one month. If confiscated from a minor, the badge would only be reinstated by accompaniment of the parent or legal guardian at the recreation department. Upon reinstatement, one more infraction would cause the loss of membership for 6 months. Upon reinstatement, if another infraction were incurred, the membership badge would be forfeited and not reissued.**

**(12)**  
**SECURITY**

- **Periodic patrols through the skate park/teen complex by the police.**
- **During closed hours of the park, the fence would be padlocked.**
- **During off hours and at night, police patrols would be increased.**
- **Motion lights should be installed. In the event of an unauthorized entry into the park, the lights would go on to alert police that trespassing had occurred. Also, the park can be alarmed to a central station utilizing motion detectors.**

(13)

**COSTS & FUNDING**

- **Leveling and asphalt: \$3.00 per sq ft x 10,000 sq ft = \$30,000.**
- **Fencing: \$25.00 per linear ft x 400 ft = \$10,000.**
- **Equipment Estimates: Based upon Clinton NJ model. High end equipment = \$150,000.**
- **Total Estimated Cost for a New Park: \$200,000**
- **\$25,000 put aside by the Township for a feasibility study should be applied to this project. The balance of funds needed should come from the Township. This will be a township project and as such, should be funded. The senior center was paid for by the town and we should do the same for our youth.**
- **The costs of managing and maintaining the park are:  
Labor: based upon the recommended hours and a full 52 week operation, the park would be operating 40 hours per week. Estimate of \$10.00 per hour wage = \$400.00 per week or \$20,800 per year. Factoring in payroll taxes and some additional hours for holidays and events, the total labor estimate is \$25,000 per year. Estimate for janitorial, garbage pick up etc. and other miscellaneous costs to the recreation department is \$300.00 per week (high side). Total cost of operation \$40,000 per year.**
- **At badge membership of \$100.00 per year, a total of 400 memberships would be needed to be sold to cover the costs of operating the park.**

(14)  
**Events & Programs**

- **Skateboard & Rollerblade competitions.**
- **Local bands performing while people are skating.**
- **Skating classes for younger children, taught by the older members as a form of mentoring.**
- **The Monmouth Court building to be open at the same hours. Utilization of the game room, gymnasium, and perhaps the Paradise Café to be used as a snack bar.**
- **Events to be held at the Teen Center would be live music, sport tournaments, and comedy & theatrical productions on stage.**
- **Different nights and events for the High School students and Middle School students.**
- **Many other event possibilities are being researched**

*This proposal is a collaboration between the Livingston High School Community Action Club, chaired by Natalie Agajanov and Eric Karpas, the HCHY Skate Park Committee chaired by Jill Denker, and the HCHY Teen Center Committee chaired by Julia Mazzarella. In addition, Mr. Andrew Hines, a State Licensed Parks & Playground Inspector, has contributed most of the technical information contained in this report.*