

carol lolatte

From: Leslie Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 7:21 AM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: Criteria

Hi,

Just wanted to comment on what a great job you people are doing on the Skate Park Site Selection Committee, especially to Carol who has been so helpful to me personally.

I really think the skate park criteria list is headed in the right direction for a successfully refined evaluation process in my opinion, but just had a few questions if I may.

Should "Seasonal Accessibility" be added under the "Location" heading or is it somehow covered I'm not aware of?

Speaking as the father of an avid skateboarder, I'm not so sure the "inclusive" status of the proposed skate park isn't trying to please too many varied wheel sports in this initial stage which I believe will put undo limitations and restrict use/flow for skateboarders (who are so restricted by law themselves) while risking safety when introducing a higher risk for collisions with such a mismatch of combined sport activities and abilities thrown on top of the mix considering the size a 6,5000 ft. skate park is by itself. As we had stated in our Flat Street video if you watched, I think captures it all, "This is a skate park , not a playground" even though this comment may not be politically correct as inclusive enough, teens and young adults need a place they can call their own. It reminds me of my youth in the 70's when they came out with a combination of a record player, tape deck and clock radio all in one type of product that malfunctions sacrificing quality as opposed to rather buying a nice turntable w/speakers system that would last a lifetime, maybe this is old school attitude but I think it holds some truth. There are already plenty of outlets for bike and scooter use.

However, depending on the site, I think future expansion could accommodate multiple uses such as pointed out in our Upper Living Memorial Park as a possible Skate park Location video where additional trails could be planned for future use, but in my opinion you have to be careful to stick to the existing mission, what's available in the present, and not so readily expect future planning is a given in this economy.

Just my opinion again, but I do think there has been too much emphasis put on the skate park having to be located in close proximity to other sport activities, but to me other than being convenient to carpooling drop off, is more or less a none issue except for the fact it needs to be centrally located . Les Montgomery



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carol lolatte

From: Becky [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 8:41 AM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: Just a suggestion

I just read the article in today's paper about the search for a parcel of land for the skate park. I don't know who owns the tract of land beside the Phoenix House on Western Ave. but I've often thought it would make a great site for a skate park.

Becky Steele

Sent from my iPad

carol lolatte

From: Tatiana Schreiber [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 02, 2014 11:57 AM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: consider parking lots please!

Dear skate park committee,

Although I am not a resident of Brattleboro, I have been following the skate park controversy with great interest and concern for many years, and welcome the opportunity to express my point of view. I have a longstanding interest in the ways human beings relate to their environment, and pursued this interest to the point of obtaining a doctorate in the field of Environmental Anthropology. I believe that our connection to our environment, our habitat, is fundamental to our experience of the world and our sense of well-being.

In an urban environment such as downtown Brattleboro, the connection residents feel to the natural world is essential – witness the recent moving description of Pete Seeger re-locating his childhood associations with a ring of maple trees in the Crowell Lot (Brattleboro Reformer, 1/30/14, p. 7). Who can predict what meaning these trees will have for today's children when they come back to Brattleboro fifty years from now? I urge you in the strongest terms to NOT consider any sites that involve destruction of existing green space in Brattleboro, especially if it involves destruction of trees, which are our witnesses to the passage of time (not to mention their critical role as carbon sinks and oxygen producers...).

There are countless reasons (in my mind) why the Crowell Lot was a terrible choice for a skatepark. Besides reducing existing greenspace and potentially damaging ancient trees, the area is a traffic nightmare. With increased parking, and more use of the area by young people, (i.e. less experienced drivers) the potential for tragic accidents will increase exponentially.

Instead, I suggest you look for sites in existing parking lots. Yes, I know that parking is scarce in Brattleboro, but I'm sure there are underused lots that could be repurposed to include the skatepark as an additional use. Re-designing parking lots for multiple uses enhances our communities, rather than undermines existing greenspaces. The idea of making parking lots friendlier for uses other than parking cars is an important recent development in urban planning. If you search for information using the search term "multiple use parking lots" you will encounter many resources such as this from the University of Washington:
http://depts.washington.edu/open2100/pdf/2_OpenSpaceTypes/Open_Space_Types/parking_lot_parks.pdf

If the new skatepark were located in an existing parking lot, preferably close to downtown, Brattleboro could enhance that lot by planting corridors of trees and shrubs to delineate the skate park and passageways to get to it, which would provide shade for cars, and increase habitat for wildlife such as birds and insects (i.e. pollinators). The pavement around the skatepark (and perhaps in the skatepark itself) could be paved with permeable materials to allow rainfall to penetrate, and support the growth of the trees and shrubs. Benches and picnic tables could be added in the now more pleasant ambience of the parking lot. All this would encourage people to hang out in the parking lot (perhaps having lunch there, for example) thus providing some supervision for the skate park users, and discouraging any behaviors which might be problematic.

I don't know which parking lots might work for this. Ideally the lot would be close to downtown so as to minimize the need for kids driving to get there. My dream location would be the lot of the Church Street building behind the food coop – but I don't know if there is enough room there. Other possibilities that come to my mind are the very large paved areas around the Cotton Mill building, and the Marlboro Graduate School parking lot, at the far end.

I hope you will consider my ideas, and research all possible existing parking lots as potential sites to develop a model new multiple use parking lot that would surely be viewed as an example for other small, vibrant communities to emulate.

Page 2 of 2

Tatiana Schreiber

(PhD, Environmental Studies, Antioch University Graduate School, 2005)

3532 Westminster West Rd.

carol lolatte

From: Laura and Fred Wallingford-Bacon ([REDACTED])
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 9:35 AM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: Brattleboro skate park

First, Thank you for inviting ideas from the public for the Brattleboro skate park.

I'm wondering why land near the Middle School and BUHS isn't listed as one of the parcels under consideration. Such a location would have easier access for students and parents, and concentrate the town's student recreation areas.

Just wondering....

Laura Bacon

carol lolatte

From: Orion M. Barber II [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:52 AM
To: SKATEPARK SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE; Brattleboro Reformer: Editor of the Reformer
Subject: skatepark siting
Attachments: skatepark siting.pdf

an open letter to the Skatepark Site Selection Committee:

I am concerned about two issues I have not heard or seen adequately considered in all the debate about where to put a skatepark in Brattleboro: the geology of the site selected and catastrophic weather events.

Heavy rains have often hit Vermont and have caused flooding. But monsoon storms like Irene that camp in one place and pour for days are, I believe, new to our experience.

I worry especially about sites like the Crowell Lot that are close to the edge of a steep drop-off with dwellings below. Many older homes in Brattleboro are sited in this way, either above or on banks below a steep drop-off. And it is what's hidden underground -- the geologic structure of a site -- plus the roots of trees the site may possess that will in great part determine how well the site can hold its soil and its structure under a saturating deluge like Irene.

A concrete structure like a skatepark can, it seems to me, be turned into a sluice with destructive power unless every eventuality is carefully taken into account and planned for.

The last few years have taught us that old assumptions about weather can no longer be relied on in siting the works of man. I hope that these ideas will be part of your process. Thank you for your work.

Orion M. Barber II
751 South Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

voice/fax: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2/19/2014

To: Skatepark Site Selection Committee

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The last few years have taught us that old assumptions about weather can no longer be relied on in siting the works of man. I hope that these ideas will be part of your process.

carol lolatte

From: Adam Hubbard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:45 PM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: More Criteria

Dear Committee,

I thought of two more criteria that you may want to consider:

- 1) Displacement of existing use. Might have to be a negative number, depending on the value of use displaced. Or All sites get a 5 and those with displacement, like parking, get ranked lower, like a 2 or 3.
- 2) Soils. Subsoils will make a difference in the long term integrity of the concrete. Clays and silts heave a lot in frost, creating cracking and lips. Sands and gravels are well draining and more stable. Mundane criteria, but somewhat important

Adam Hubbard, RLA
Stevens & Associates, P.C.
95 Main Street, P.O. Box 1586
Brattleboro, VT 05302

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 7:21 AM

To: 'skateparkideas@brattleboro.org'

Subject: Criteria

Hi,

Just wanted to comment on what a great job you people are doing on the Skate Park Site Selection Committee, especially to Carol who has been so helpful to me personally handing out info sheets.

I really think the skate park criteria list is headed in the right direction for a successfully refined evaluation process in my opinion, but just had a few questions and opinions if I may.

Should "Seasonal Accessibility" be added under the "Location" heading or is it somehow covered I'm not aware of?

Speaking as the father of an avid skateboarder, I'm not so sure the "inclusive wheel friendly" status of the proposed skateboard park isn't trying to please all and take on an unreasonable burden offering too many varied wheel sports in this initial stage for this one platform. I believe such an attempt will put undo limitations and restrict use/flow for a broad range of skateboarders who are currently already restricted by town law themselves. Setting up such a diverse convergence for one site, in my opinion creates a higher safety risk for collisions and friction when designating this questionable incompatibility of use for combined sport activities with all abilities thrown into the mix considering the size limitations of a 6,5000 ft. skate park is by itself. As it is, a proportion of the skate park will be devoted to beginners a definite necessity, but consequently also will scale down some available space for some of the more intense features seasoned skateboarders desire and have requested.

As we had stated in our Flat Street video if you watched, I think captures it all, "This is to be a skate park, not a playground" even though this comment may not be politically correct as inclusive enough for some, teens and young adults need a specific place they can call their own to express and improve their skateboarding skills uninhibited. It reminds me of my youth in the 70's when they came out with a combination record player, tape deck and clock radio all in one type of product sacrificing quality that tends to malfunction as opposed to rather buying a nice turntable w/speakers system that would last a lifetime and concentrate on LP's. In other words, let's address the original purpose of building a skate park for skateboarders with in the budget, not confuse or complicate the expected need to the point of disappointment, otherwise skateboarders will quickly become boarded and the park will end up not serving the very users it was intended to be built for in the first place. Maybe my adage seems more or less an old school attitude driving for core quality, but I think it presents a valid question as to a skate park's definition of use and how it specifically applies to the needs of those Brattleboro youth who envision this important addition to our towns recreational needs. There are already plenty of outlets for bike and scooter use.

However, depending on the site, I think future expansion could accommodate multiple uses such as pointed out in our Upper Living Memorial Park as a possible Skate park Location video where additional trails could be planned for future use. But in my opinion you have to be careful to stick to the existing mission, what's available in the present, and not so readily expect future planning is a given in this economy. So hard choices must be made and the design must be refined to better accommodate the basic need.

Just my opinion again, but I do think there has been too much emphasis put on the skate park having to be located in close proximity to other sport activities, but to me, other than being convenient to carpooling drop off, is more or less a nonissue and should not have an imperative to be centrally located (although preferred) because this is all relative to where any given user happens to live.

As before mentioned, I would like to stress the importance of adequate setback to be a safe distance off major roadways with inherent, hazardous traffic problems. Les Montgomery

carol lolatte

From: Leslie Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:09 AM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: Grading Scores

Hello Members,

I have a suggestion for an outline to grade the Brattleboro Skateboard Park criteria as follows:

First part of grading system process involves specific yes or no questions Yes being a positive, No being a negative (no less than 10 for each category) developed by the committee addressing the needs/concerns submitted by all those who have expressed an interest in the project to date. Does the criteria satisfy the need, Yes/No. Score according to the most Yes's.

For those specific Questions addressing size requirements, Yes/No? { Example: Will there be definite room for expansion? }

For those specific Questions relating to development costs and purchase price, Yes/No? { Example: Will there be a gain in revenue? }

For those specific Questions addressing skate park features, Yes/No? Example: { Will there be challenging features such as bowls, ramps and rails? }

For those specific Questions addressing location requirements, Yes/No? Example: { Will there be bathrooms? }

For those specific Questions addressing safety requirements, Yes/No? { Example: Are the site lines impaired? } { Example: Is there adequate set back from major arteries leading into town that pose Hazards for an increase of pedestrian use? }

For those specific Questions addressing Topography requirements, Yes/No? { Example: { Is the location a safe distance away from dangerous hills surrounding skate park? }

The second part of the process would grade the concerns of the category, "Skate Park Impacts" rated 1-5, Good to Bad, highest score loses here.

No Less than 20 concerns expressed by community for this section. { Example: Adequate buffer zones on all side of Skate Park } Rated a 3 as three sides are do not respect neighbors being in very close proximity } Downtown this is less of an issue of course. Example Aesthetic Alteration, Loss of Historical Green Areas, Park Use Displacement, Established Park Tree Removal and cost, Noise, Traffic Flow, Buffers, Events, Utilizing existing Hardtop or building, possible revenue gained by admission pass/ helmet use waver, Boost down town economy during events, encourage local artisans to contribute to landscaping/appearance, planting trees, ect. .

Thank you for your time,

Les Montgomery 2/20/14

2/20/2014

carol lolatte

From: Leslie Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:18 AM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: Mistake

When I used the example of " Are the site lines impaired" should be; Is the visibility for patrol open on all sides? This is a good example in how the question has to be worded in such a way to allow yes to represent a positive response.



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SKATE PARK CRITERIA

1. SIZE

- a. Acreage (6,500 sq. ft. minimum) (more acreage would rate higher?)
- b. Meets design Criteria (Is this necessary considering this is covered in (a.) and the graded criteria will eventually prove this?)
- c. Can accommodate skill/age level (at what square footage does this become feasible without depriving skilled skateboarders wanting challenging features?)
- d. Property includes viable grounds for expansion or mixed use. (possibly 6500 sq. ft. = 1 and every 500 sq. ft. there equals an additional number up to 10)

2. Location

- a. Accessible by foot/sidewalks (are they mainly linked to High School or downtown?, neighborhoods and individual elementary schools are too varied and spread out to be relevant in my opinion)
- b. Accessible to schools (again, how can you rate proximity from one school to the next, it's all relative to where you go to school or live)
- c. Parking Available (Adequate for events and safe distance from major roadways where speeds exceed 25 mph, 1-10 rating)
- d. Near neighborhoods /population density (maybe Yes or No)
- e. Near or benefit to local retail businesses (locally owned or chain store ie. Downtown or Putney Road?)
- f. Proximity to other recreational attractions (Have there been discussions why this is a necessity?) (Near youth clubs, theater and hangouts like COOP)
- g. Proximity to Restrooms/Water/ Shade (should these be grouped together or separated as they are very different requirements?)
- h. Served by Public Transit (Yes or No ?)
- i. General Accessibility (rating 1-10?)
- j. ADA Accessibility (Yes or No ?)
- k. Liveliness- level of activity (does this refer to other recreational activities (f.) or expected level generated by the skate park itself)

3. Safety

- a. Visibility (open vs impaired rated 1-10)

- b. Ability to patrol by police / emergency service access (Yes or No)
- c. Quantity of pedestrian activity (Attribute or congestion Hazard)
- d. Ability for emergency phone/cell service (yes or no)
- e. Traffic safety (safe setback off major hazardous traffic route intensity, crosswalks, stop signs, slower speeds, rated)
- 4. Cost
 - a. Purchase price (rated?)
 - b. Loss or gain of revenue (yes or no or rate individually, Impacts?)
 - c. Maintenance costs (in addition to skate park itself or elevated/affected by specific location? otherwise this would be the same for all locations unless indoors)
 - d. How is the site currently being used (Park, historical, scenic or playground displacement- Impacts, rated)
- 5. Topography
 - a. Act 250 and other land use controls (Yes or No)
 - b. Flood control/drainage (Two separate issues)
 - c. Noise levels (Impacts, rated)
 - d. Topography (surrounding hills)
 - e. Site remediation (Established Tree/Shrub/Hedge /green are/ loss or removal , displacement of existing uses or historical significance, Construction vehicle/work impact, drainage excavation, aesthetics, impacts- all individually rated maybe under own category of "Impacts")
 - f. Other physical /environmental concerns (grouped under impacts category possibly)
 - g. Green to gray/gray to green (should be separated under impacts)
 - h. Buffers (could be rated under impacts)

In my opinion I believe there could be a category grading impacts by rating 1-10 score 10 being the highest. Boiler plate criteria under such headings as Cost, Size, Safety and Location answering to yes or no should pose/form a question in such a way as to determine yes we need this, no we don't then add up the yes and no's so each grader would rate the total number of yes's.

Under Location; Can support skateboarding events & year round facility

Under Safety or Impacts or even a new category of "Skate Park Features": fences, rules, supervision, and user fees for up keep. Thank you, Les Montgomery 2/19/14

I think each possible location at Living Memorial Park (3 at least) deserves an individual rating.

carol lolatte

From: Wendy Creager [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 3:12 PM
To: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org
Subject: Idea for Skatepark

Attachments: Solar Panel parking lot cover 2.jpg; Solar Panel parking lot cover.jpg

I was recently at the Brooklyn, NY Whole Foods Market. The parking lot design was brilliant. The covering for the parking were the solar panels used for the building.

What a great idea for a covering a skate park. Solar Panels. A great covering for a three season skate park and bring electricity to our community.

I bet there would be grant money to fund this idea.

Thanks,
Wendy Creager





