



March 10, 2025

Grant Advisory Committee
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street, NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for Jacob's Skatepark in Mosier, OR

Dear Committee Members,

As the Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of the Columbia Gorge and a resident of downtown Mosier, I am writing to enthusiastically support the City of Mosier's grant application for the proposed development of the "Jacob's Skatepark" project. The 7000 square foot skatepark will memorialize Jacob Rogers, an avid skater, and son of Andrea Rogers, a former mayor of Mosier. The skatepark will be on city-owned land donated to the city by the Union Pacific Railroad, on a site between Highway 30 and the railroad tracks on the east side of downtown. It will have features that suit different skating abilities and be an inviting space for family and other observers. The skatepark design features will include tributes to the local geology and agriculture, while the park amenities will also honor the surrounding natural beauty of the site.

Creating inclusive and accessible outdoor spaces that bring together diverse Gorge communities is at the heart of Friends' mission. Jacob's Park will provide an easily accessible and low-cost opportunity for youth and families to participate in an activity that doesn't require transportation and/or expensive gear. It will accommodate all wheeled sports including skateboards, scooters, BMX bikes, wheelchair athletes and roller skaters.

Currently, besides Columbia River-based water sports, there is no other place in Mosier for either local or visiting families to gather and support an outdoor sport that is healthy, affordable, and inclusive of all ages and abilities. As a resident who walks by the proposed site daily, it is exciting to



February 25, 2025

Grant Advisory Committee
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: MCEDD's Support for the Proposed Jacob's Skatepark in Mosier

Dear Committee Members,

The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) supports the City of Mosier's proposed Skatepark project, aka Jacob's Skatepark.

As a regional economic development organization dedicated to fostering economic growth and community resilience, MCEDD supports new parks and recreation facilities within our five-county region that includes the City of Mosier. We recognize the importance of providing local recreational opportunities for all ages, genders and backgrounds. The Skatepark will provide an easily accessible and low-cost recreational opportunity for children and others who may not have the economic resources to participate in activities that require transportation and/or expensive gear. A skatepark in Mosier will provide recreational opportunities for all wheeled sports including scooters, BMX bikes, wheelchair athletes and roller skaters.

The Skatepark committee's slogan is "Think globally, recreate locally". There are sustainability benefits to local park facilities that eliminate car trips reducing pollution and congestion. But skateparks are also a significant tourist attraction in Oregon. The 2022 Columbia Gorge Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, adopted by the MCEDD Board of Directors and approved by the US Economic Development Administration, notes that Arts/ Culture/ Tourism/ Recreation are one of the key industry sectors in the Gorge. The plan voices our support for "*initiatives to invest in the quality of tourism sites and visitor infrastructure, spread visitors around the region, and increase resiliency.*" Jacob's Skatepark fits well with the Strategy and will benefit the local economy as skaters will visit the local market, food carts and restaurants.

Most importantly this project will help us memorialize Jacob Rogers, a passionate young skater, who died tragically in 2019. Jacob was the son of the former Mayor of Mosier and our great friend, Andrea Rogers.

We encourage Oregon Parks and Recreation District to award funding for this project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Metta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Jessica Metta
Executive Director

John Grim

From: Jill Maynard <beanstalk42@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:17 AM
To: Lee Campbell
Cc: Meme Rincon; John Grim
Subject: Re: OPRD Grant Application
Attachments: 20250326_090815.jpg

Hi Lee and John. Below is a letter of support from my son. Sorry it's not in a word doc, but we are away and I only have my phone. You have my permission to change things as you see fit. I helped with spelling and a few commas and punctuation, but that's it. I took a photo of him holding one of the finger skateboards that he makes. No worries if it doesn't work to include it. I likely won't check my phone for a few days since we're almost in Yosemite, so again, I have no problem if you need to make edits or minor changes to Miles's letter. Thanks for all of your work!

March 25, 2025

Hi! My name is Miles. I am 10 years old. I live in Mosier and am in 5th grade at Mosier Community School. It's the best school. I love to skateboard and scooter! I think building a skatepark in Mosier would be amazing! If there was a park in Mosier, then my parents wouldn't have to drive me far to Hood River or The Dalles. Instead of driving, I can just scooter right to the skatepark after school. Then, I can go all of the time, not just when my parents can drive me. So many Mosier kids would go too.

A lot of my friends and kids at school also love to skateboard and scooter. But a lot can't get rides to the park because their parents have to work and it's a long drive away, so they never get to go. If there was a skatepark in Mosier, kids could go all of the time!

A skatepark is good so you can skateboard and scooter instead of just like being on the couch and watching TV. Someone from Screen Strong just came to our school and talked about how bad screen are for our brains. Scootering is so much more healthy!

I love skating because it makes me feel so happy and good. Actually, sometimes I get bummed if I don't land a trick, but mostly I am really, really happy at skateparks. Almost every skatepark I have been to, people would help give me pointers. People are really nice there. And if there's trash, I would clean up and help keep it looking really nice. And I think others would too. I would do anything to get a skatepark to be built in Mosier!

Thank you,
Miles Buckwalter
Age 10
Parent contact:
Jill Maynard



GORGE ROLLER DERBY

PO Box 1406, Hood River, Oregon 97031

March 26, 2025

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Re: Mosier Skate Park

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

Gorge Roller Derby is writing to express our full support for the Mosier Skate Park Committee as they apply for the OPRD grant to build a skate park in Mosier, Oregon. As members of the communities in The Columbia Gorge and a non-profit who is deeply invested in the well-being of our youth and families, we believe this project will bring about lasting positive change for individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances in our town.

Gorge Roller Derby is a league comprising two adult teams and one juniors team. Our members include adults of all ages and juniors ages 7 to 17. Skate parks across the Columbia Gorge are frequent training, exercise, and social stops for all members of our league. Especially for our junior skaters, the proposed skate park will offer a much-needed safe and accessible space for youth to engage in physical activity, cultivate a sense of community, and express themselves creatively.

Skate parks in our communities are essential for young people who may have limited access to structured recreational programs or sports leagues. Skateboarding and roller skating are activities that encourage self-discipline, persistence, and confidence, helping participants build valuable life skills while engaging in an inclusive, non-competitive environment. Our communities are in dire need of healthy options for youth. This skate park provides such a place.

Our town is home to a diverse population, and the benefits of a new skate park will be felt by people from all walks of life. Whether it's young skaters from low-income families, adults looking for a recreational outlet, or people of varying abilities, a skate park can bring people together in a way that transcends cultural and economic barriers. Many families in our communities face financial hardship, and skating can be one of the few sports that requires minimal equipment and can be enjoyed for free, making it an especially valuable option for people experiencing poverty. It's an activity that doesn't require expensive gear (used gear is plentiful), and with access to a public space like a skate park, it offers an opportunity for everyone to participate regardless of their financial situation.

The skate park will also foster greater inclusion by accommodating diverse groups, from families with children to local residents of all ages. Adults, particularly those who may not have other recreational outlets, will benefit from the park's availability as a place to unwind, stay active, and engage with others in the community. It will be a gathering space for people of all generations, strengthening the social fabric of our town.

In addition to the direct benefits for individuals, a skate park will have a lasting positive impact on our community as a whole. It will provide a sense of pride and ownership for the residents, offering a place where they can come together to support one another, share experiences, and create a positive environment for youth. The presence of a skate park will also help keep young people engaged in healthy activities, reducing the likelihood of them being drawn into less productive or harmful behaviors.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support Mosier Skate Park Committee's application for this grant and believe that the construction of a skate park will be an invaluable asset to our community. We look forward to seeing how this project will empower our youth, promote inclusivity, and provide accessible opportunities for everyone in our community to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration, and for supporting initiatives that have the potential to transform lives. Please reach out to us with any questions you may have, we would be happy to talk more about how important this project is to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabrielle DeLeone". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Gabrielle DeLeone and Gorge Roller Derby Board of Directors
Board Secretary
Gorge Roller Derby

Michael Langdon
507 Mosier Creek Road
Mosier, OR 97040

March 27th, 2025

Oregon Parks and Recreation
Attn: Grant Review Committee
725 Sumner Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Jacob's Park Skatepark, Mosier, OR

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am writing to show my support for the proposed construction of Jacob's Park, an outdoor public skatepark in Mosier, Oregon. I am a year around resident and homeowner in the City of Mosier. I am also a father of two boys, ages eight and twelve, as well as a volunteer with the Mosier Fire District. I feel strongly that the addition of a skatepark at the proposed site would be a valuable contribution to our community.

Both my children and I would regularly utilize the park. Over the years, skateboarding has been a terrific source of enjoyment and an opportunity to bond as a family. Many communities across Oregon are fortunate to have well designed skateparks. Our family often enjoys these parks and their amenities when traveling out of town.

We currently frequent the nearby skateparks within the Columbia River Gorge area. I feel it is important for communities to have recreational options that are close to home and require little financial investment. I strongly support any effort that creates opportunities for families to reduce screen time and increase outdoor activity. I am confident construction of the Jacob's Park skatepark would be a positive addition to the city of Mosier.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Langdon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Langdon

City of Mosier

Mosier Community Members

May 3rd 2025

Re: Proposed Skate Park for Mosier

I am writing this letter of support for the proposed skate park on behalf of my Grandkids, Edi and Leo Schmidt and the children of Mosier. Our experience taking our Southern California (Harvey and Lou) and Mosier (Edi and Leo) grandkids to skateparks and pumptracks has been a wholeheartedly wholesome and rewarding experience for both Carole and I. The parks in Hood River and The Dalles are wonderful playgrounds for them to skate and scooter. We have found the older kids and adults who skate, scooter and bike at them for be so helpful and courteous to our grandkids. Take a trip to The Dalles and see what this community is all about. They look out for the youngsters and act as mentors and encourage them. We are not the only grandparents/parents at the parks. Skate Parks are a family experience as most parents these days have skated or are involved in outdoor activities that skating and scootering supplement. Parents take their kids there for entertainment and exercise and often participate themselves.

These above points are poignant because the image of the skater as a fringe element is long gone. Today's skaters are mainstream outdoor and team sport athletes who use skating as entertainment and training for balance coordination and endurance for their other activities. The old (and inaccurate) image of skaters is long gone as its now a mainstream activity and skateparks are the playgrounds of today. We have 170 students at Mosier Community School and a significant number of them scooter, bike and skate for fun. I'd like to see them gather at a fun community Skate Park than on the streets of Mosier. I think if you asked our local kids and parents they would agree enthusiastically.

Mosier is a lovely community to be a part of and a skate park will only add to the positive experience of living in Mosier for families.

Warmly in support

Greg and Carole Dearholt