



City of Mosier, Jacob's Skatepark Project Public Outreach Q&A Fact Sheet

Concerns and Responses

City Resources

Concern: The City doesn't have the resources (financial or staff) to do another project.

Response: Main Street Mosier (MSM) took this project on to eliminate any burden on the City. MSM has and intends to handle the entire work load and cost. The project will be handed over to the City upon completion. The only thing the City needs to do is approve the land use and cut the ribbon!

Cost

Concern: We can't afford it.

Response: Main Street Mosier and the skateboarding community is working with the city and public to create the skatepark. MSM has raised over \$15,000 to date which will cover all preconstruction expenses. There is no plan for the City to contribute any money toward the skatepark. This project in no way is a zero-sum game. It has no financial impact on the City's plans for any other projects in town. This facility will last for decades and will require very little low-cost maintenance.

Project Site Development

Concern: The City may choose to develop the UPRR parcel someday.

Response: The City Council considered this concern prior to approving the skatepark location in July of 2022. Councilors, generally, believed this location is a good place for a park to ensure future projects in this area are feasible; e.g. the Mosier Creek pedestrian bridge or a new pedestrian bridge crossing the RR tracks. Commercial development at this location could constrain these projects. The Council believes this is the best site for a future park.

Other Locations

Concern: The Skatepark should be located on other parts of the UPRR parcel.

Response: The City Council considered this concern prior to approving the skatepark location in July of 2022. Councilors, generally, believed this location is the best of 3 options that were evaluated. See the site evaluation report for the pros and cons of each of the 3 sites.



Environmental Impact

Concern: The skatepark presents a serious environmental impact. Trees will be taken down. Birds nesting habitat may be impacted.

Response: Efforts will be made to address environmental concerns. Designs will be sensitive to the natural environment. The City completed both an environmental report and a cultural resource study for this area. These studies concluded no significant impact.

1. The City hired an arborist to evaluate the trees at this location. Most of the trees are non-native invasive locust trees that are dead or dying. These trees are a fire and safety hazard and will be removed; regardless of the skatepark project.
2. The large oak tree will be preserved as a key element of the skatepark setting. A few conifers that are healthy will also be saved.
3. New native trees will be planted.
4. The Skatepark will preserve the 75-foot riparian buffer on Mosier Creek.
5. Trees will not be removed during nesting season.

Noise

Concern: The skatepark will be noisy.

Response: Skateparks are about as loud as a few people having a conversation and emit less ambient sound than a baseball field or playground. There will be no lighting so it will be quiet after dark.

Appearance

Concern: The skatepark will be an eyesore.

Response: The skatepark will be designed to be visually appealing and integrated with the park's surroundings. The park may grow in future phases into a City park. All disturbed areas will be restored. There will be opportunities in the future for more extensive landscaping improvements and other park-like features. Generally, this project will improve the aesthetics of the current site.

Maintenance

Concern: Maintenance will be expensive.

Response: Skateparks are made of concrete and are very durable. Little, if any, maintenance is needed for decades after they are built. The only anticipated maintenance is emptying the garbage can, litter pickup and painting over any graffiti if necessary. Skaters are very good at keeping their homefield clean.

Graffiti

Concern: The skatepark will be covered in graffiti.



Response: Measures will be taken to prevent graffiti, similar to other facilities. Graffiti is not a significant problem at other skateparks in the Gorge. The City may allow artistic cultural graffiti.

Space

Concern: There's no room for a skatepark here.

Response: The skatepark will be professionally designed to fit the available space. It is only taking up 5% of the UPRR parcel. By placing the park at the east end of the parcel it minimizes the impact on future development of the parcel. The skatepark committee evaluated 3 locations for the skatepark; all on the UPRR parcel. The City Council agreed that this location was the best fit. The evaluation is available for review.

Crowding

Concern: The skatepark will be too crowded.

Response: While the skatepark may be crowded, it's a good problem to have. Skateboarding is the 4th most popular sport in the USA.

Parking

Concern: There's not enough parking.

Response: Most skateboarders are too young to drive, and parking demands will be assessed based on similar skateparks. There will be 3 parking spaces including 1 ADA space. The City is working on an overall parking plan for the UPRR parcel. Parking is available to the west of the site.

Countercultural Lifestyle

Concern: Skateboarding promotes a countercultural lifestyle.

Response: While skateboarding media may portray some skateboarders as countercultural icons, skateparks are largely used by adolescent kids for all types of wheeled recreation like scooters, bikes and skateboards. Skateboarders today are your kids, your neighbors and your friends.

Liability

Concern: Skateboarding presents too much liability.

Response: Most skateboarding injuries are minor and occur to beginners. Skateboarding results in fewer emergency room visits per participant than basketball, baseball, and soccer. In Oregon the Recreational Immunity law prevents users from filing lawsuits against local government agencies unless there is proven negligence. No additional insurance coverage is needed; except as necessary to insure the asset.

Behavior

Concern: Skaters will use foul language, smoke, and drink at the park.



Response: The skatepark will attract skateboarders of all ages, promoting positive behavior through passive supervision. The location has good line of sight to allow good observation of skater activity.

Support Facilities

Concern: There are inadequate support facilities.

Response: The new restrooms are nearby. A few parking spaces will be built. It is close to Brenna's Market and restaurants.

Character of the Park

Concern: The skatepark will redefine the whole character of the area.

Response: The skatepark will enhance this area. It is currently a brownfield that hasn't seen use in over 75 years. Almost all of the trees are dead or dying and it is currently an eyesore with no established purpose and no plan to be used. The park will create a new generation of visitors and may lead to future expansion into a general park area. The skatepark may prevent development of this area in the future.

Special Interest

Concern: We shouldn't need to pay for this special interest. The City currently lacks free recreational opportunities in Town.

Response: The skatepark promotes positive activities for people of all ages, genders, diversity and economic status. It is inclusive. It provides a free recreational opportunity. It prioritizes recreation for residents of Mosier first. One emphasis of the Comprehensive Oregon State Recreation Plan is to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone.

Safety

Concern: Routes to and from the skatepark will be a nuisance or dangerous.

Response: The skatepark will provide a safe place for skateboarders. This site provides safer access than other parts of the UPRR parcel. UPRR will be installing a new fence in the near future to block access to the tracks which may increase safety at this site. Hopefully ODOT will complete the highway 30 sidewalks and crosswalks in the near future to make crossing the highway safer.

Public Notification

Concern: Some residents are concerned there has not been adequate public notification.

Response: Main Street Mosier and the City have conducted the following public outreach:

1. Conducted a skatepark poll sent to all subscribers of the MSM newsletter in 2022.
2. MSM published notice of the 2022 City Council meetings on its Facebook page.
3. The City published notice of 3 City Council meetings in 2022 and MSM presented the project to the City Council at these 3 meetings.



4. The City Council approved the project site by motion at the 3rd meeting on July 20th, 2022.
5. MSM created a webpage, an Instagram account and a Facebook page for the project. The City has notifications about this project on its website.
6. The Hood River news published an article about the skatepark.
7. MSM conducted 2 well published fund raisers in 2024.
8. MSM conducted 2 well published design workshops in 2024.
9. MSM has had a skatepark booth at multiple community events including Springfest and Mosierfest.
10. The City Council agenda included the skatepark project at its January 2025 meeting.
11. The City notified residents who reside between the highway and Third Ave from Center St. all the way to Riverside St. of the upcoming landuse hearing in June of 2025. This notification far exceeds minimum required notifications for a Conditional Use Permit.
12. Public comments have been heard at nearly every City Council meeting in 2025 to date.