

SKATEPARKS HAVE A POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Hundreds are flocking to the new Fremont Skate Park from throughout northern California. Last Wednesday, Mike Brown and his buddies piled into a car and made an hour-long pilgrimage from Pittsburg to Fremont.

Demarcus James did the same from San Francisco. "Smalls," from Walnut Creek. Others, as far as Stockton and Sacramento. They're among the hundreds, if not thousands, who've made their journey to the Fremont Skate Park since its soft opening on May 31, turning our city into an unlikely mecca for the edgy action sport.

Source: *Newark Patch*
"New Skate Park a Tri-City Mecca"
Zoneil Maharaj June 13, 2013

The park is not intended to be an economic-development tool, though it has proven to be a draw for other cities. Stan Robinson, chairman of Recreation District No. 3 in St. Mary Parish, said his district's skate park, built in November, has been a worthwhile venture.

"I can't tell you how many times a parent has said to me that it's the best taxpayer money they've spent," he said. Nearby businesses, he said, are seeing their sales increase from visitors to the park. "We are already planning to expand it," he said.

Source: *Houma Today*
"Plans rolling ahead for new skate park"
Chance Ryan January 31, 2013

"The immediate response to our park was overwhelming. Both the youth of our town, and visitors alike bombarded our new park each and every day. This was a huge economic boost for our town, and continues to be as this contest has put Carbondale and our skate park on the map. Never underestimate the draw that a skatepark will have on your town.

Our town has been very pleased with the economic impact that the new skatepark has brought to Carbondale. With many visitors staying here over the Summer months just to skate our park, with large contests being held here and the free advertisements that skaters pass on to each other about Carbondale, our skatepark has been exceptional for town business."

Source: *Skaters for Public Skateparks*
Carbondale Recreation Coordinator Chris Woods - Carbondale, Colorado

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We do not have any specific studies on the economic impact of skateparks on communities, but from the feedback we receive from municipal skatepark managers, skateparks do seem to have a positive effect on businesses in the surrounding area. When a skatepark opens, it tends to draw folks from the outlying communities to come bring their kids to the skatepark, do some shopping, maybe have lunch, buy some gas, etc. Skateparks attract patrons to local businesses who might not otherwise be in the area.

Skateboarders are tenacious and will go wherever the compelling terrain is. While skateparks with high visibility and ample community interaction are healthier environments, skateparks in challenging locations can often serve to activate an otherwise underutilized space. Their presence displaces less desirable elements that require privacy and can be a steady presence for other visitors that may be reluctant to visit a desolate area.

Source : *Tony Hawk Foundation, 2013*

"To emphasize how much impact our skatepark has had since its opening, I would like to note that one of the most frequent questions at our Colorado Welcome Center is now, "How do you get to the skatepark?" The volunteers at the welcome center have requested that signs be placed throughout town to guide out-of-towners to the park.

There have been, as I am told, numerous skaters from across America that have come here specifically for the purpose of trying out our new facility. I've heard reports from local enthusiasts that fellow riders from as far away as Maine, Vermont, Florida, Washington, Oregon, Texas, California, and Indiana have been here to skate. For a city with a population of 10,000 we are impressed with the results. Tony Hawk even stopped for a ride with his group a couple of weeks ago. Word travels fast when a world class skatepark is constructed."



Source: *Skaters for Public Skateparks*
Mayor Joseph A. Reorda - Trinidad, Colorado

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