

Date: December 31, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Skate Park Feasibility Study**

On [May 7, 2024](#), the City Council approved a recommendation to request the City Manager to work with the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department (PRM) and report back in 180 days on the feasibility of potential new sites for skate parks within the city of Long Beach, including the location, size, and approximate boundaries of each potential site; identifying a preferred location or locations; and providing a general overview of the rules and guidelines users are expected to follow. In response, PRM staff have explored locations and designs of existing Long Beach skate parks as well as the necessary requirements and potential locations of new skate parks. Preliminary findings and recommendations are outlined below. As the City further considers constructing new skate parks, a more detailed and formal analysis by consultants specialized in this area will be needed. The City is prepared to onboard qualified consultants upon further direction from the City Council.

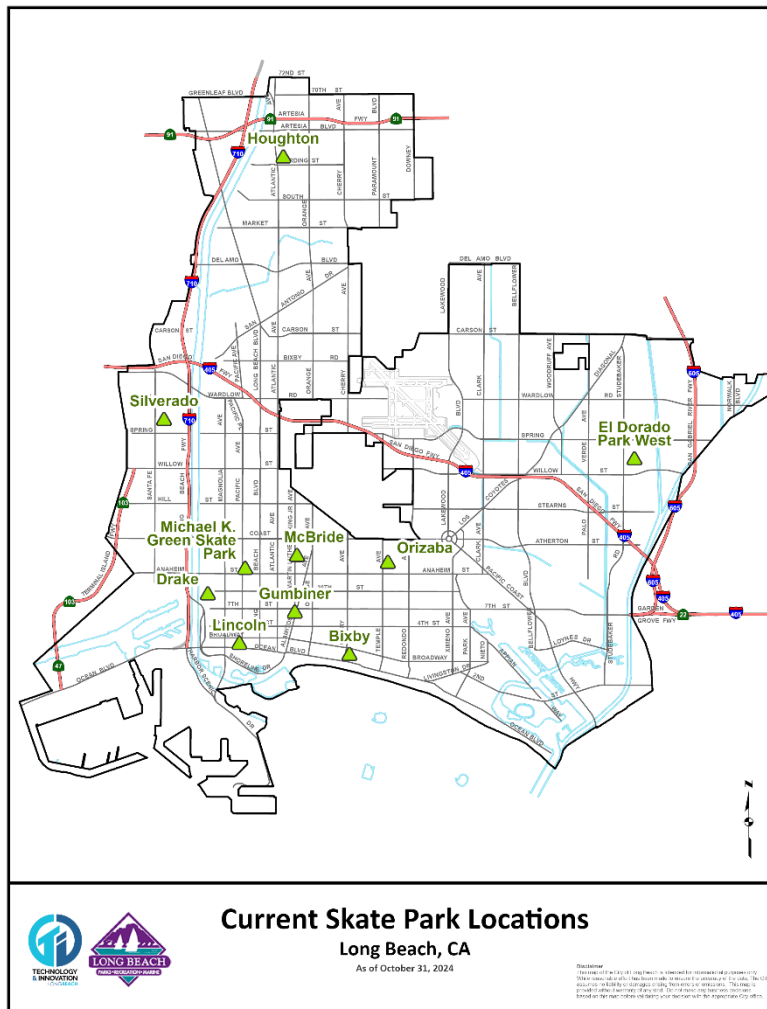
There are a total of 10 skate parks in Long Beach, seven of which are located south of Pacific Coast Highway, while the other three are located in the far eastern, western and northern parts of Long Beach. Investing in the development of additional skate parks in Long Beach will help promote public health, youth engagement, and economic wellbeing while addressing the City's desire to reduce crime and more equitably distribute resources within communities. For example, within three years after the opening of the Michael K. Green skate park in 2003, drug related incidents dropped 60.9 percent, violent crime dropped 29.3 percent and overall incidents dropped 22.8 percent (ASK Foundation Website, November 2024. *About Us*. <https://www.asklongbeach.org/about>).

The City Council adopted the [Parks Make Long Beach](#) (PRM Strategic Plan) on January 18, 2022. The PRM Strategic Plan was developed with equity at the forefront and in alignment with the City's Framework for Reconciliation and the Equity Toolkit. Developing additional skate parks is congruent with the goals of the PRM Strategic Plan, which is the Department's vision for the next ten years. For example, to ensure there are well-resourced parks in all parts of the city, the PRM Strategic Plan recommends analyzing the disparities between types and conditions of facilities in different parts of the city to prioritize investments in existing parks (Goal #1). Another goal of the PRM Strategic Plan is to increase youth participation from all ages, genders, and abilities in physical activities like sports and recreation, and to provide spaces and programming that serve Long Beach residents of all ages at accessible times and locations. (Goal #2). Adding additional skate parks in Long Beach would address existing inequities by providing additional recreational opportunities in a community where one may be lacking.

Existing Skateparks

As previously mentioned, there are ten existing skate parks within the city. **Exhibit 1** shows the distribution of skate parks throughout Long Beach. The majority of existing skate parks are located in areas south of Pacific Coast Highway. The following map depicts the existing parks with a skate park:

Exhibit 1: Existing Long Beach Skate Parks



Bixby Skate Park

Bixby Park is a 16.7-acre community park located at 130 Cherry Avenue. Included at the park is the historic bandshell/stage, community center, playground, picnic area with barbeque pits, restrooms, volleyball court, sports field, skate park, fitness loops, and a dog park.

The Skate Park, also known as "Cherry", was built on an old shuffleboard court with elements that originally came from the now-defunct DIY spot, LB Free. Bixby Skate Park is a legendary

spot, its beauty is in its simplicity and the epicenter of the modern street skate scene. The skate park includes low impact street elements, manual pads, and ledges.



Drake Skate Park

Drake Park is a 6.6-acre community park located at 951 Maine Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets. In addition to the skatepark, the park includes a basketball court, community center, handball/racquetball court, picnic area, playground, soccer field, softball field, tennis court, volleyball court, restrooms, and open space. The Drake Skate Park consists of three prefab elements, a rail built on top of an old tennis/basketball court, and open space for flat land tricks.



El Dorado West Skate Park

El Dorado West Park is a 272.5-acre community park located at 2800 Studebaker Road. This expansive park features a spacious community center, night-lit basketball and multi-use courts, softball and soccer fields, skate park, four reservable picnic sites, a disc golf course, a tennis center, playground equipment and a duck pond.

El Dorado West is home to Long Beach's first skate park that opened in 2000. This legendary spot is often crowded with a mix of skaters, bikes, and scooters. The park is known for its open bowl, quarter pipe, and street area elements.



Gumbiner Skate Park

Gumbiner Park is a 36,590 square-foot neighborhood park located at 880 East 7th Street. The park serves approximately 32,000 residents who live within a half-mile radius. The park has a playground, skate park, performance area, picnic area and public art. The skate park is a cozy, 2,000-square-foot concrete park that includes two benches, a flat bar, kickers to ledge, and a flat bank.



Houghton Skate Park

Houghton Park is a 26.4-acre community park located at 6301 Myrtle Avenue in North Long Beach. The park includes the Doris Topsy Elvord Community Center, fitness center, playground, basketball courts, tennis courts, skate park, baseball field, and open space.

Built in 2004, this skate park is Long Beach's second and biggest skate park, home to Long Beach's only true bowl. It has a fun clover with three bowls and a street section. The Bowl is notable for its faded mural and street art features.



Lincoln Skate Park

Lincoln Park is a 4-acre community park located at 101 Pacific Avenue in Downtown Long Beach. Amenities at this park include a universally accessible playground, dog park with designated small and large dog areas, fitness equipment, synthetic turf sports field, half basketball court, skate park, discovery zones for learning and exploration, grass areas for seating and play, and a Lincoln Penny installation.

The Skate Park features a street plaza layout designed to cater to the diverse needs and preferences of street skateboarders. From ledges and curbs, the park offers a variety of obstacles for skaters.



McBride Skate Park

McBride Park is a 2.5-acre community park located at 1550 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in Central Long Beach. In addition to a skate park, the park includes an outdoor basketball court (lighted), game room, community center, gymnasium, picnic area, playground, weight room, restrooms, and a small, paved walking path. The McBride Skate Park, also known as "LBC" Park, getting its name from the iconic LBC letters in the middle of the large bank, was built in 2012. This is a modern street plaza, with a good flow directing riders around the park with rails, ledges, gaps, and some transition elements.



Michael K. Green Skate Park

Michael K. Green Skate Park is located within the 60-foot-wide median greenbelt of 14th Street Park, on 14th Street between Pacific and Pine Avenues. The skate park was built in 2010 and named after Mike Green, a promising up-and-coming skater whose life was cut short by gang violence. The skate park is divided into three sections: a skatelite halfpipe, street section with concrete banks, and a mellower end section with a mix of concrete and prefabrication elements.



Orizaba Skate Park

Orizaba Park is a 3.72-acre community park located at 1435 Orizaba Avenue. In addition to a skate park, the park includes open space, a KaBOOM! playground, picnic area, basketball court, restrooms, fitness zones, community center, and walking paths.

The Skate Park, built in 2012, includes a quarter pipe, taco, banks, ledges, and a rail element. The park has a great group of locals who call this spot home.



Silverado Skate Park

Silverado Park is a 12.24-acre community park located at 1545 West 31st Street in West Long Beach. In addition to an indoor swimming pool, the park includes a community center, senior center, indoor gym, playground, outdoor basketball courts, tennis courts, skate park, baseball field, and open space.

The Skate Park features a 5,000 square-foot skate park that was constructed on an old basketball court. It was created from remnants of the Michael K. Green Skate Park and Bixby Skate Park after those parks were renovated, as well as some elements donated by the Dew Tour in 2018. In late 2023, the original wood elements were removed and replaced with more durable concrete ramps.



Feasibility Study Process

A steering committee consisting of community members and staff from the City's Office of Youth Development and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine worked together to create a community feedback survey, analyze survey results, visit potential skate park sites, and provide input to the development of this feasibility study. The community members chosen include individuals who were active in the skateboarding community and reside in the City of Long Beach.

A community survey was created to identify the following: current use of skate parks in Long Beach, interest of the community for additional skate parks, potential locations, amenities

desired, and other desirable conditions. The survey was made available throughout the City of Long Beach for the duration of six weeks. The survey was distributed on the City of Long Beach website including the specific Parks, Recreation, and Marine webpage, various City social media posts, the Office of Youth Development’s distribution lists, the Long Beach Unified School District’s distribution to students’ families, and by steering committee members attending community events and visiting local skate parks to gather feedback.

Of the 650 completed surveys, an overwhelming 87 percent of respondents stated that the City of Long Beach should build an additional skate park(s) (Exhibit 2). While 55 percent of respondents stated that they had no concerns about building additional skate parks, safety was mentioned as the top concern for 29 percent of the respondents. 22 percent of respondents were youth between the ages of 10-24, 14 percent adults between 25-29, and 26 percent adults between 30-39.

Exhibit 2: Survey Result

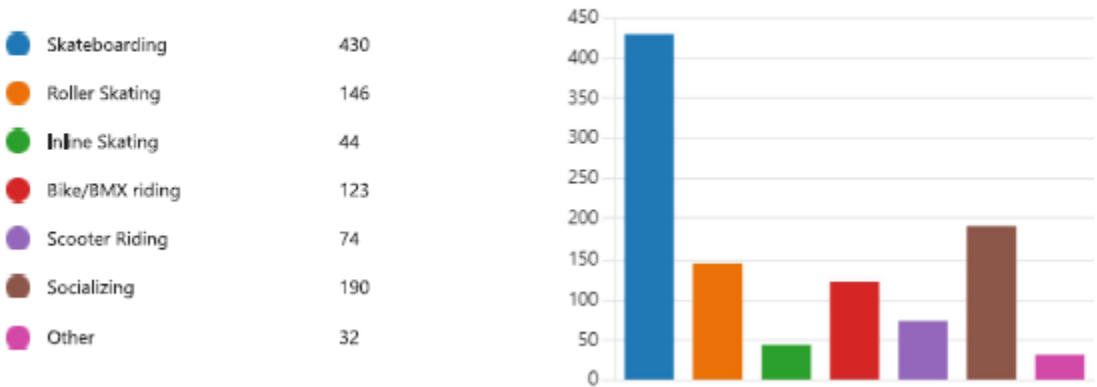
Should the City build additional skateparks?



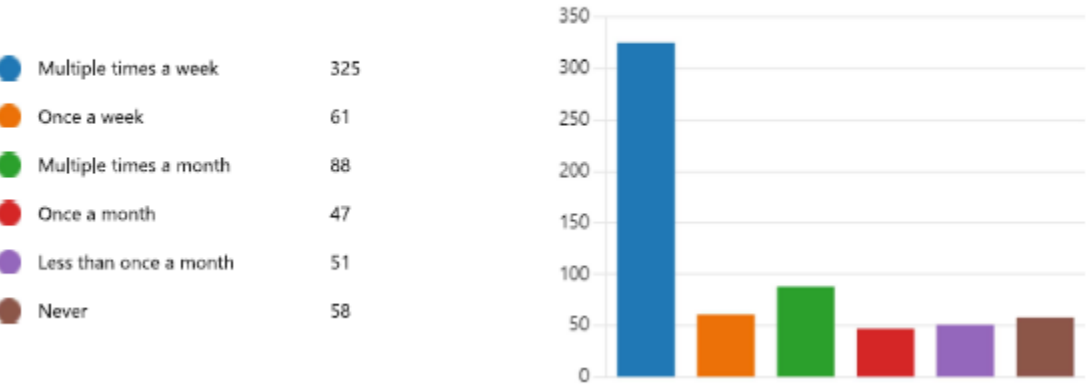
Current use of the existing City of Long Beach Skate Parks

The survey also examined the current use of skate parks in the City of Long Beach with some of the following results:

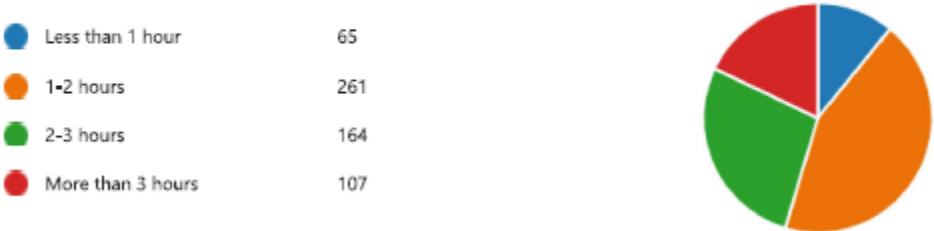
If you have an interest or visit skateparks, how would or do you utilize it? Mark all that apply.



How often do you utilize a skatepark?



How long do you typically spend utilizing a skatepark in a single day?

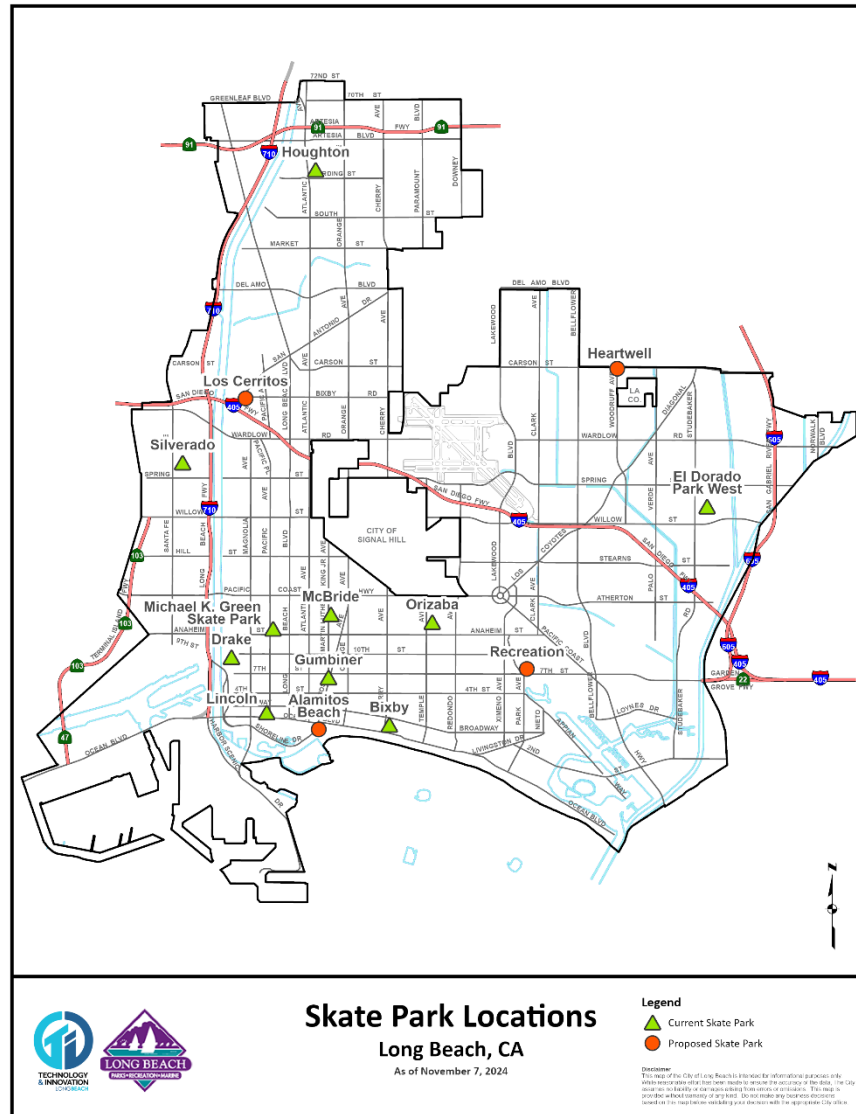


Furthermore, a majority of the respondents stated that they either drive themselves or are dropped off at the skate parks; and although some are not concerned about the distance of a skate park from their house, over half stated that they would like a skate park within a 10- to 15-minute walk.

Identification of Potential Skate Park Sites

Based on the results of the community feedback survey, four Long Beach parks were identified for a potential new skate park, the Beachfront, Heartwell Park, Los Cerritos Park, and Recreation Park (Exhibit 3). Locations that can be easily accessible with available parking and in a safe location with a welcoming and supportive community were taken into consideration. Amenities desired at each location included access to restrooms, availability of shade, drinking fountains/water bottle filling stations, lighting, and a seating area.

Exhibit 3: Map of LB with existing and proposed new Skate Park Site



The following pages profile each of the park sites considered for a new skate park in Long Beach. Existing amenities, opportunities, and site constraints are discussed.

Beachfront (Alamitos Beach)

A beachfront area located on the beach across from the Alamitos Beach parking lot is close to a restaurant, restrooms, and the beach walk/bike path. Opportunity exists to create a large destination style skate park that can meet standards suitable for a world class Olympic skate facility.



Sample Skate Park Design, Photo: Venice Beach Skate Park, Venice, California.

Heartwell Park

The northwest corner of Heartwell Park by Carson Street and Woodruff Avenue is away from homes but close to other amenities such as a walk/bike path, baseball/soccer fields, and a parking lot. It has high visibility and has ample open space for a skate park. There is opportunity to create a spot with a unique design, different from existing Long Beach skate parks, but something to compliment the system. The ideal design could be fun, wavy, and flowy—similar to designs that may be seen with a pump track.



*Sample Skate Park Concept Design, Photo: Photo © Copyright Evergreen Skateparks.
Desert Skate Ranch, Mojave Desert, California.*

Los Cerritos Park

This spot would be located adjacent to the tennis courts on the non-access street separating the two sections of the park, close to open space, tennis courts, and the playground. A skate park developed here would be of similar size and design of the Michael K. Green Skate Park on 14th Street.



Sample Skate Park Design, Photo: Michael K. Green Skate Park, Long Beach, California.

Recreation Park

Near the corner of Seventh Street and Park Avenue, to the east of Woodrow Wilson High School, this location is away from homes but with high visibility not too far from the bandshell and playground. Although there are two small skate elements currently located at Recreation Park, this development would allow for a larger neighborhood skate park with more elements.



Recreation Park Existing Skate Elements



Sample Skate Park Design, El Dorado Skate Park, Long Beach, California.

Matrix of Desirable Characteristics

As demonstrated in the chart below, each of the candidate parks has desirable qualities that provide accessibility through different modes of travel, as well as from an equity perspective, and are prioritized in the next section based on opportunities and constraints.

Park	Public Transit Access	Existing Parking	Amenities available
Beachfront	✓	✓	✓
Heartwell Park	✓	✓	✓
Los Cerritos Park		✓	✓
Recreation Park	✓	✓	✓

Locations with Opportunities and Constraints

The considerations discussed above are summarized in the table below, with potential park sites ranked in order of feasibility.

Location	Opportunities	Constraints
Beachfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large destination skate park • Near desirable amenities • Parking lot available • Close to other Downtown/Beachfront activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need Coastal Commission approval • High costs to build
Heartwell Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique design similar to pump track • Highly visible, located away from homes • Parking lot available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New restroom potentially needed
Los Cerritos Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood skate park • Near desirable amenities near 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited space • Topographic constraints: park is on a slope • Homes on one side
Recreation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly visible, located away from homes • Near desirable amenities • Close to playground and bandshell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees may need to be removed • Limited parking

Potential Projects Costs

The cost to build a new skate park will be determined by factors such as site conditions, type of skate elements, timeline, product delivery, and inflation. For this report, staff obtained costs for comparable projects to build a skate park at a new site. The costs may range from \$500,000 for an approximately 5,000 square-foot skate park to \$5 million for a 25,000 square-foot skate park such as the one described for the beachfront.

In comparison, the total project costs to renovate Silverado Skate Park was \$137,600. The renovation consisted of the removal of the old wood elements and installation of new concrete skate elements in the existing skate park.

The costs can be further refined at various stages of the project, during a formal feasibility stage and various stages of design. Including a skate park maintenance budget as part of the PRM Department's budget will be an essential part of the conversation as plans for a new skate park move forward. This will help ensure the park's success in serving the community from a facility maintenance approach as well as from a programming standpoint.

Funding Opportunities

Future funding would include a combination of grants and local funding that support recreation and park infrastructure. Eligible funding sources include:

- Private Partnership and Foundation Funding – This could include organizations such as Spohn Ranch, the Tony Hawk Foundation, and/or fundraising by the ASK Foundation.
- Long Beach Measure A – voter-approved local sales tax initiative to support infrastructure projects. All Measure A dollars are currently programmed for the next several years through the Elevate '28 plan. But if additional infrastructure dollars become available, this could be a potential project.
- LA County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Measure A:
 - Annual allocation – Cities within Los Angeles County receive an annual allocation with Long Beach receiving approximately \$2 million each year that is divided into five different planning areas within the City (North, South, East, Central, and West).
 - Bonding Measure A – City agencies may use their annual allocations to secure bond financing should RPOSD and/or the County issue a bond in any given year.
 - Competitive grants – In addition to annual allocations, RPOSD manages a competitive grant program for Measure A funds that support recreational amenities.
 - County priority projects program – Project would need to be identified as a high priority by a member of the Board of Supervisors.
- Competitive grants – Other competitive opportunities may become available through federal, state, and local sources.
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund –A federal funding source through the National Parks Service which supports a broad spectrum of park and recreation projects.
 - State Parks Prop 68 – A tax approved by California voters to fund a variety of park and recreation projects, restoration, and water conservation projects. This fund has a focus on equity and disadvantaged communities.
- Appropriations – Federal and state appropriations are potential funding sources to support project design and/or construction.
- Repurpose and re-scope existing planned infrastructure projects that are funded through grants or Measure A.

General Skate Park Rules

As part of the skate park feasibility, City Council also requested PRM to provide a general overview of the rules and guidelines users are expected to follow. Per the City of Long Beach Municipal Code 16.16.015, "Skate activity" means the use of any non-motorized recreational apparatus with wheels, and "Skater" means any person participating in a skate activity. These are the existing skate park guidelines as posted at parks and available on the PRM website:

Skate Park Motto: Safety + Courtesy = Fun for Everyone

- Skate parks are from dawn to 10 pm every day.
- Skate parks are free and unsupervised.
- The skate park is open to everyone except during scheduled events.
- The City of Long Beach assumes no liability for injuries sustained in the used of this facility. Helmets, knee and elbow pads are required for all skate park participants while inside the skating area.

Rules

- Helmets, knee pads, elbow pads and shirts are required
- Observe park hours - dawn to 10 pm
- Be courteous to other users and take turns, when necessary
- Keep noise to a minimum
- Protect your skate park from graffiti and abuse
- Keep food and drink off the skating surface
- Additional obstacles or other materials (ramps/jumps) may not be used
- Do not use the facility if a hazardous condition exists. Report these by calling (562) 570-3100

Next Steps

A new skate park in Long Beach would provide multiple recreational and health benefits in an under-resourced area, in accordance with the City's approach to equity. It is believed that a new skate park can be delivered with the potential for funding from a variety of sources, as outlined above. In order to engage in a formal feasibility analysis to further explore the four proposed sites, the PRM Department would need to hire a consultant for an estimated \$50,000, which is currently not budgeted.

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, at (562) 570-3170 or Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov.

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