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# Town of Fairfax Public Skatepark



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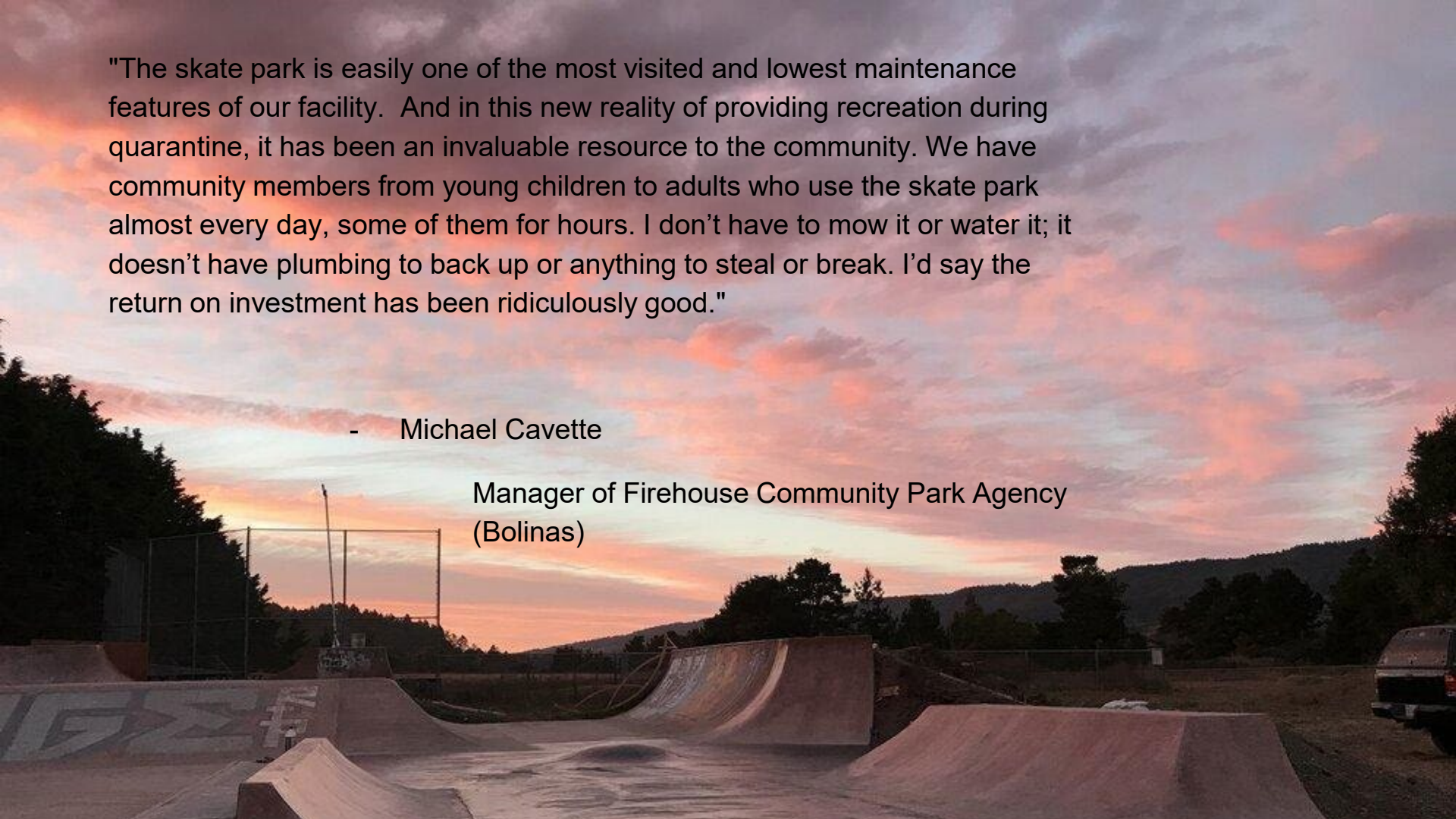
# The community is asking the Town Council to:

- 1) Designate a skate/scooter space in Fairfax for immediate use on a trial basis during lockdown
- 2) Create permanent skatepark solution:
  - A) Dedicate resources (staff time)
  - B) Collaborate with our stakeholder group to identify a location
  - C) Build permanent skatepark (with stakeholder resources)

"The skate park is easily one of the most visited and lowest maintenance features of our facility. And in this new reality of providing recreation during quarantine, it has been an invaluable resource to the community. We have community members from young children to adults who use the skate park almost every day, some of them for hours. I don't have to mow it or water it; it doesn't have plumbing to back up or anything to steal or break. I'd say the return on investment has been ridiculously good."

- Michael Cavette

Manager of Firehouse Community Park Agency  
(Bolinas)



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# Can skateboarding be a part of our town's culture?



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# Traditional sports are on hold

In the age of Covid & social distancing most physical activities are no longer available to kids. Many kids aren't even getting P.E. because they aren't at school. Kids need activity for physical and mental wellness.



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# Skateboarding /Scootering is Covid-safe

Skating does not require teammates, scheduled events, or large crowds.

It is an outdoors, “Non contact” sport, no gear is shared, and can be done with masks and socially distanced.



# — Skating/Scooting are healthy screen time alternatives

Especially during Covid, with stay-at-home orders limiting activities and gathering with friends, many children have very few alternatives to playing on their phone or computer.

Even school is on the computer...

...For hours, every day.



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# Skateboarding empowers a positive community

A common interest that brings together children from different backgrounds





# — Skateboarding is gaining popularity

Skateboarding popularity is at an  
all time high (Why Cities are Finally Showing  
Skateboarders Respect 11/17/2020 NY Times).

Skateparks require an initial  
investment but no residual  
maintenance expense.

We currently have generous offers  
to fund the initial investment of the  
park as well as contractor labor  
and volunteer time.



# — Skate parks foster mentorship and shared responsibility

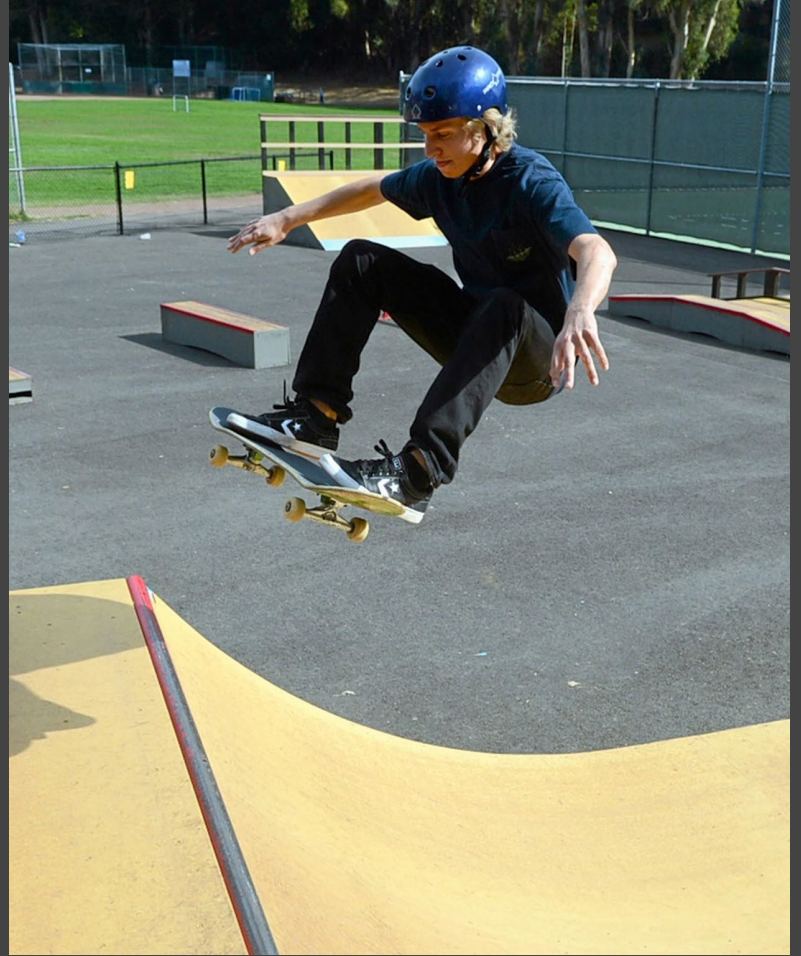
Skateboarding provides an opportunity for the older skaters to teach younger skaters to respect the skate space as well as the people in it.

A space can be great for skateboard and aesthetically pleasing at the same time.



# BENEFITS FOR ALL:

- Active kids are better learners. (Teachers)
- Positive risk-taking (allows growth and avoids negative risk-taking behaviors). (Community)
- Inclusive, builds community & social skills. (POC, Minorities, Community, All income levels )
- Mental wellness (happier, less depressed). (Parents, Caretakers, Police, Doctors)
- Designated Skateparks reduce skating in more dangerous/undesirable places (Businesses, Government, Private Property Managers and Owners)



# Neighboring towns who have built skateparks have had a positive experience:

(Bollinas, Terra Linda, Mill Valley, Marin City, Corte Madera, San Anselmo)

- Easy access to Covid -safe recreation.
- “A skatepark is about as loud as a playground” (skatepark noise study City of Portland 2001)
- There is no maintenance to a permanent concrete park.
- Used by community members of all ages daily.
- High use per square foot compared to other recreation facilities.
- Having a park that kids can get to without driving.
- Skating poses no more risk than other sports and park activities.

# Burning Questions

*Q: Where would the park be located?*

A: We are confident there is a feasible spot on Town property. We want to partner with the Town to identify the most suitable site, ideally in the heart of the Town's recreational and commercial complex. Currently, Fairfax has no good, safe, legal place for kids to skate!

*Q: Does it create liability for the Town?*

A: No. Look to all the neighboring towns who have done it and it has been a simple addition to current parks and rec insurance coverage.

*Q: Who would fund it?*

A: We have received generous offers of funding and labor from local residents, businesses, and contractors. If needed, we will raise additional funds. Town resources requested are staff time and insurance coverage.

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# Community Support Growing Daily:

- Approx. 35 emails (within one week) to Town Council expressing strong support
- Over 50 Fairfax residents have signed petition and more continue to roll in. (Note - challenges of getting petitions signed during lockdown/social distancing!)
- Over 30 submissions (within one week) through our website expressing support and volunteering time and labor

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# Additional Information & Resources:

1) Skateboarding no longer “renegade” - becoming mainstream and debut in 2020 Olympics! <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/17/nyregion/nyc-skate-parks.html?referringSource=articleShare>

2) Benefits of skateboarding <https://sportstotry.com/benefits-of-skateboarding/>

3) People have misperception that Skating/ Scootering is very dangerous. US National Safety Council statistics show there are fewer injuries from skating/ scootering annually than from basketball, soccer, biking, or playing on playgrounds. <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/safety-topics/sports-and-recreational-injuries/>

4) If/ when injuries *do* occur with skateboarding, they tend to be minor <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2526087/>

5) City of Portland, OR research on skatepark noise <https://publicskateparkguide.org/maintenance-and-operations/noise/>