

Parks and Recreation Policy No. 6 Swansboro Skateboard Park Operating Policy

At its special meeting and workshop on January 11, 2012, the Swansboro Board of Commissioners created a Skate Park Review Committee. The purpose of the committee was to examine safety and liability issues of the newly constructed skate park facility at the Municipal Park. The committee was comprised of Commissioner Larry Philpott (chair), Commissioner John Lister, the Police Chief, the Public Works Director – and participation by skateboard park users. The committee met several times to discuss the issues and legal information available, including the opinion of the town attorney.

Following extension research, a report/recommendation was provided to the Board of Commissioners at its March 14, 2012 workshop meeting and subsequently placed on the March 20, 2012 regular meeting agenda for consideration. The following general management and operating policy guidelines were adopted.

The skateboard park would be operated as an unsupervised facility and that its use be restricted to skateboards only.

General Management

- Post park hours and secure the gates on a daily basis. Violators will be instructed to leave. Coordination for opening and closing the park will be developed by staff.
- Post a sign designating Saturday and Sundays, 8 am – 12 noon, for users 12 years of age and younger. Due to the unsupervised nature of the park, compliance will be on a volunteer basis.
- Remove benches from inside the skate park facility. Due to an occasional flying object, spectators should not be inside the activity area and benches serve as an encouragement.
- Post a sign(s) that displays the address of the park and emergency 911.
- Instruct staff to prepare an inspection form and routinely inspect the facility to insure it is in good repair. In the course of these inspections if a problem is discovered, the park shall be closed immediately, a sign posted indicating the park is closed for repair and shall not be re-opened until necessary repairs are made. Inspection reports are to be signed, dated and kept on file for a period of four (4) years. Users can assist by reporting repair needs to public works (or in the future the recreation department), therefore, post a contact number.

Operating Policy

- The town manage the skate park in a manner consistent with the delivery of other unsupervised park facilities (playground, basketball, tennis courts, etc.) within the town's park system and that no fees or waivers will be required; and;
- To instruct staff to develop a Skate Park Brochure and to place similar information of its contents on the town's website. The brochure will serve to give a description of the facility, specify rules and operating hours, educate parents/users on the inherent danger/risks of skateboarding and to inform users of the required personal safety equipment. Per state statute for unsupervised skate parks, users of the skate park, even those opting not to wear protective equipment, will do so at their own risk and will assume all liability; and;
- As part of their normal town duties, police officers shall continue to patrol Municipal Park on a routine basis and enforce general town policy/ordinances. This includes and is not limited to the prohibited use of bikes, scooters and rollerblades inside the skate park area; and in general, for vandalism, general misconduct, smoking, alcohol and/or illegal drug activity; and;
- Furthermore; repeat offenders to any of the above skate park operating policies are subject to temporary suspension or loss of skate park privileges indefinitely. For the purpose of substantiating repeat offenders, the police department may issue written warnings and/or citations.

Approved by motion on March 20, 2012.