

### **Where Will the Park Be?**

The City of Pittsfield has allocated the Coultas horseshoe area of King Park as the future site of the Pike County skate park.

### **How Can I Help?**

This is a family and community project. We are committed to involving youth in the process.

You can help by:

- Supporting your child's participation in fundraising and planning.
- Involving your family, your business, your church or your civic organization in the project.
- Giving of your time, your money and your talents.

### **Register with iGive.com to support PCKS8 with your online searches and purchases.**

Simply register at [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) with Pike County Skaters as your cause.

Download the toolbar. Each search and each qualifying purchase will earn money for us!

Illini Community Health Care Foundation, a 501c(3) public charity, serves as fiscal agent for Pike County Skaters, providing fiscal oversight and fund allocation.

### **Important Meeting! Tues. 4-21-09 6:00 pm JWCC Pittsfield**

**Webinar event with American Ramp Company design team to determine the first pieces of equipment to be placed in the park**

### **Pike County Skaters**

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# **PIKE COUNTY SKATERS**

**An organization of  
Pike County youth  
and adults who support them**



## Why Build a Skate Park in Pike County?

### Increase Recreational Opportunities

- A skate park will provide much needed recreational opportunities for the young people of Pike County, an active alternative to television and video games.
- Skateboarding builds stamina, strength, coordination, balance, and perseverance as youth practice hours on end to achieve the next trick.
- Skateboarding is an individual sport that promotes cooperation as youth coach and encourage each other.
- Because younger children will have an opportunity to practice their skills, the number of skaters in Pike County is likely to grow after a skate park is built ensuring the park's use for generations to come.

### Encourage Economic Growth

- A skate park is a "destination park" that will bring people in from outside Pike County.
- A skate park will appeal to young families considering relocating to Pike County.
- New business opportunities may be encouraged such as a skate shop, safety equipment rental, and skate lessons.

### Support Youth

- A skate park bridges the gap between the county's youth and adult community leaders. When a park is built, the youth feel appreciated, valued, and heard by community officials and law enforcement.
- Skateboarding provides a non-competitive activity for youth of all ages and is a constructive activity for at-risk youth.
- According to the Tony Hawk Foundation, "The easy answer is that [skate parks] provide a place for kids who aren't attracted to traditional team sports a place to go and express themselves in an individual and athletic manner. Getting kids, particularly at-risk kids, involved in a personal and esteem-building activity like skateboarding helps them build the confidence to do well in other aspects of their lives."

## What Do the Experts Say?

**Communities should develop skateboarding parks and encourage youth to use them** based on findings that: **Skateboarding is a safe sport** when the appropriate safety gear is used. Statistically, **skateboarding is safer than playing basketball**, according to researchers from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in coordination with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (*Journal of Trauma*, October 2002).

**Most skaters seem to behave responsibly and police themselves to retain their use of the track.**  
(National Recreation and Park Association, 1994).

**A skate park is not considered any more dangerous than a football field or a basketball court**, according to the Park District Risk Management Agency, which covers liability insurance for many Illinois park districts. (*Illinois Parks and Recreation*, July/Aug 2000).