



City of Homer

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George Overpeck

Organizer, Friends of the Homer Skate Park

Submitted electronically: geopeck@gmail.com

Mr. Overpeck,

The City of Homer supports the Friends of the Homer Skate Park's (FOHSP) efforts to rehabilitate the skate park with the understanding the future of current location of the park (HERC grounds) is uncertain. Staff have reviewed the improvements suggested, and approves of FOHSP working on the below listed projects with Public Works and Parks Division oversight; all projects must be reviewed by City staff and a Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed before work can commence.

1. Remove the two least used elements (spine ramp and double height box) and build a wood frame, steel surface manual pad. The manual pad is a low platform (roughly 8" high, 10-14' long, 4-8' wide) that can be used at a range of skill levels.
2. Move the fun box which is currently on the south side a bit further north to a more central position. As it's currently positioned riders have to push slightly uphill to access the hip and it makes what would otherwise be the best piece of equipment there fairly tough to use.
3. The steps and handrail on that same fun box unit are almost entirely unused due to the lack of ability to carry speed into them, they could be replaced with another banked or transitioned ramp to make a great central hit from either direction. The handrail is the most challenging and dangerous piece of equipment there, even riders with high risk tolerance don't use it. Replacement with another transition changes it to a less challenging hit that opens a lot of skill building opportunities.
4. Transition plates at the base of most ramps, especially the two quarter pipes that are on each end. Transition plates are narrow sheet metal strips placed at the base of the ramp that will buffer the bump a rider meets as they are going from pavement to steel and then back. Due to the design of these particular ramps, it's a bit difficult to maintain confidence and control while doing any tricks. This fix would benefit riders of all skill levels as well as addressing a serious safety issue.
5. Other improvements as approved by the City that address immediate safety concerns, could be removed to a new skate park location if the City chose to relocate the park, or are small improvements of limited scope and cost.

I appreciate the grassroots efforts of volunteers interested in improving the park. As the future of the HERC and grounds continues to evolve, I encourage FOHSP to participate in the conversations and make sure this user group is represented.

Best,

Katie Koester
City Manager

CC:
Matt Steffy, Parks Maintenance Coordinator
Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
Mike Miller, Homer Foundation

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