



## City of Ketchum

June 15, 2020

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors  
City of Ketchum  
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

### **Discussion and Direction to Staff on Options to Allow Scooters in the Skatepark**

#### Recommendation and Summary

Staff is requesting council direction in the review of rules concerning scooter use at the Guy Coles Skatepark.

The reasons for the request are as follows:

- Scooters are not allowed in the Guy Coles Skatepark
- The city has received two requests from the public to allow scooters in the Guy Coles Skatepark.

#### Introduction and History

The 2005 construction of the Guy Coles Skatepark and the 2017 expansion were paid for with both public funds and fundraising efforts of the local skateboard community. The skateboard community continues to contribute to the Guy Coles Skatepark Account in the Parks and Recreation Development Trust funding repairs and maintenance of the park. Skateboards and in-line skates were the intended users of the original skatepark design. Since its inception, scooters have been prohibited at the Guy Coles Skatepark.

Two comments have been received from the public requesting scooters be allowed at the Guy Coles Skatepark, managed by the City of Ketchum on public property. Both comments site language included on the existing signage at the Guy Coles Skatepark prohibiting the use of scooters. One comment recommends designating specific hours permitting scooters while allowing for exclusive skateboard use outside of these designated hours. The other comment mentions the observed flow of users throughout the day, with younger users in the morning and an older demographic later in the day. Based on these comments, staff is providing three options for Council consideration of scooter use in Guy Coles Skatepark:

- A) Allow scooter use with no restrictions.
- B) Allow scooter use during designated times (ex: 7am-4pm).
- C) Continue to prohibit scooter use.

#### Analysis

Skateparks are common in mountain towns throughout the west. Mammoth Lakes, Breckenridge, Aspen and Crested Butte allow the use of scooters in their skateparks. The City of Bend allows the use of scooters in some, but not all, of their multiple skateparks. Aspen did not allow the use of scooters in their Rio Grande Skatepark until two years ago when they changed their rules to allow scooters after staff observed an organic shift in use. Park City recently upheld the rules prohibiting scooters at their skatepark citing user safety, potential damage to the high-density concrete surface of the park, and the availability of other parks allowing scooter use in the area.

Locally, the City of Hailey allows scooter use at their skatepark until 7pm. Ketchum's Guy Coles Skatepark is 15,000 square feet compared to the 21,000 square foot Hailey Skatepark. Rhodes Skatepark in Boise, the largest skatepark in the region at 40,000 square feet, allows the use of scooters.

The Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP) indemnifies the use of scooters in skateparks. There is not language in the construction contract or warrantee from the Guy Coles Skatepark construction contractor, Dreamland Skateparks, LLC, regarding the use of scooters in their skatepark product.

Sustainability Impact

There is no sustainability impact.

Financial Impact

Selection of new rules allowing scooter use will require the purchase of a new sign reflecting these rules.

Attachments:

Sarah Uhlenhopp Email dated May 18, 2020

Nicky Elsbree Email dated May 19, 2020

## Robin Crotty

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**From:** Robin Crotty  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Robin Crotty  
**Subject:** FW: Guy Coles Skate Park

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**From:** Neil Bradshaw <NBradshaw@ketchumidaho.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** Participate <participate@ketchumidaho.org>  
**Cc:** AllCouncil <AllCouncil@Ketchumidaho.org>; Suzanne Frick <sfrick@ketchumidaho.org>; Robin Crotty <rcrotty@ketchumidaho.org>; Julian Tyo <jtyo@ketchumidaho.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Guy Coles Skate Park

Thanks Sarah

We are looking into the use of scooters and there are many differing opinions

I do think we want to encourage diversity while being respectful of our history and the original intent

I hope we can find a balance that works for all

Appreciate you sharing your view

Neil

### NEIL BRADSHAW | CITY OF KETCHUM

Mayor

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**From:** Sarah Uhlenhopp  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 8:41 AM  
**To:** Participate <[participate@ketchumidaho.org](mailto:participate@ketchumidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** Guy Coles Skate Park

Dear Ketchum City Council,

I am writing with regard to the Guy Coles Skate Park and the outdated signage and rules. I ask the Council to please consider allowing scooters to use this city park in addition to skateboards & incline skates.

As we just honored "Kids to Parks Day" day on May 16, I echo Mayor Bradshaw's Proclamation "Whereas, Kids to Parks Day is **open to all children and adults across the country to encourage a large and diverse group of participants**, and broad children's appreciation for nature and the outdoors."

Our community has a deep skateboard history and clearly their passion has driven the development and expansion of our local Dreamland jewel. When I moved to Ketchum in the late '90's the new skate park was popular, as it continues to be today. However, times have changed and scooters are now an alluring option for recreation as well.

I have talked to numerous people and understand that this change would not be welcome by all, but I remain hopeful that we can come to a compromise. Perhaps we only allow scooters during certain restricted hours? For example, what if from sunrise to 4PM both are permitted, and then skateboarders could use the park exclusively from 4pm-10pm? I believe with some dialog and collaboration we could find a solution.

Please ask yourselves if limiting this valuable amenity to a select group of users is aligned with Ketchum's values? To me, it seems only fair that anyone that can ride safely in the skate park is welcome and encouraged to do so, regardless of his or her choice of equipment.

I am eager for your attention to this matter as summer is quickly approaching and many activities are limited due to COVID-19. Thank you.

Best,  
Sarah Uhlenhopp

## Robin Crotty

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**From:** Robin Crotty  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** Robin Crotty  
**Subject:** FW: Skate Park

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**From:** Nicky Elsbree  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 4:03 PM  
**To:** Participate <[participate@ketchumidaho.org](mailto:participate@ketchumidaho.org)>  
**Cc:** Nicky Elsbree <[claytons.cabin@gmail.com](mailto:claytons.cabin@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Skate Park

Dear City Council Members,

A few years ago I was thrust into the role of Skateboarder Mom. It's pretty cool and falls into the "who woulda thunk it" category. My favorite store is now the Board Bin.

The community aspect of the Guy Coles and any park, I imagine, is really interesting. And because my daughter is on the younger side, I choose to stay and observe. I've been having fun taking photos, to distract me from saying "be careful" too many times or getting involved in any debates that take place over who did what, to whom.

I would like to share a few observations that may prove helpful to the park vibe. I have shared some of this with the Mayor, John Kearney and some Board Bin people along the way.

The biggest issue is that the signage is, well, hard to see, scratched up and is not respected. I suggest new signs be placed in appropriate greeting spots. (I think there is money somewhere from the two fundraisers that occurred at the Board Bin).

And at this time, perhaps the rules should be reviewed.

Should scooters be allowed? Are bikes OK if there is absolutely no one in the park? Reminders to throw your trash in the can and perhaps consider recycle bins.

Reminders to watch language and how you treat those around you. Share a bit of history about the park, so that people know the work that has gone into this labor of love.

All this, so that the participants know the boundaries and can self-regulate with words, actual rules, to back them up.

The skate-park is an amazing resource and I have seen all the different layers of learning and integrating that takes place there.

Free-play, self-teaching, peer teaching, how to deal with adversity and people who are perhaps not your style. Learning how to adapt to the flow. Mostly, it's so good. Sometimes, it's not. And that's OK. It is life.

I do, however, think there needs to be some fine-tuning. So when a guest shows up, they know the expectation.

And those that they ask, (Mom sitting on a bench) know it too.

This spring, there's been a current of younger kids in the mornings, followed by older demographic later in the day.

Mostly no fuss, no muss. That seems to be the flow.

There have been scooters and an occasional bike. I have known the kids on bikes and just remind them it's a big piece of metal that could take a skateboarder out. I have become more open to scooters, who seem to be friends with the others. They are mostly the kids who are less apt at skateboarding or who do both. Riding a scooter is easier (IE that would be my choice). Although their piece of metal, when flipping around, could cause harm too, it makes me less nervous than the bikes. And

obviously the bikes have other places (dirt, pump parks, etc) to ride. It's all about giving each other space.

I respect the "old school" ways of the skateboarders. Although I seriously don't understand why everyone does not wear a helmet. So, I am not writing you to re-write the rules. I just think they need to be visited and become more visible.

Otherwise, unfortunately, you are opening yourself up to tensions, which don't need to exist. I mentioned last summer to a dad that scooters were not allowed at the park (and it was a really busy day) and he about bit my head off. That was the last time, I tried to play skate-cop. That's not my job. And it took all the fun out of it.

But I will not feel good if someone gets hurt out there, especially if they are not allowed there in the first place.  
That's when the "mom-alarm" goes off.

I'm happy to help in any way I can. The skate-park is such an asset to our community.

Sincerely,  
Nicky Elsbree