

PROPOSED PUBLIC SKATEPARK FOR THE CITY OF MILES CITY



Custer County Recreation (CC-Rec)

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“Custer County Recreation CC-Rec Miles City Skatepark Project” on Facebook

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Organizational Background

MISSION STATEMENT:

Custer County Recreation’s (CC-Rec) mission is to create and improve recreational spaces for all ages and skill levels that provide athletic outlets for local youth and adults and encourage active endeavors that support better health, social skills, and community connection.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT:

CC-Rec is a 501c(3) nonprofit established in late 2024 by 10 dedicated residents of Miles City, MT. CC-Rec was founded in response to a growing need for safe and meaningful recreational opportunities for youth and families in Custer County. Though newly established, the organization has made strong early progress, including forming a committed board of directors and fundraising team, conducting community outreach, securing early partnerships with local businesses and regional nonprofits, and raising over \$80,000 in its first year. CC-Rec is actively pursuing funding and professional guidance to ensure this project meets high standards and becomes a long-term asset for the community.

Project Description

CC-Rec is proposing the construction of a professionally designed, permanent concrete skatepark in Miles City, MT, to provide a safe, inclusive, and health-promoting recreational space for all community members and surrounding Eastern Montana counties.

Statement of Community Need

Informed by community input, the skatepark will fill a critical gap in local recreational infrastructure. Youth in the community frequently resort to skating in parking lots, streets, and other non-designated areas, which creates safety concerns and conflicts with surrounding uses.

The proposed skatepark will serve:

- Youth and teens
- Adults and families
- Beginners through advanced users
- Residents of Miles City and surrounding Eastern Montana communities

DEMAND

- According to a Custer County Community Needs Assessment prepared by the local nonprofit Miles Above 4 Youth, a skatepark ranked as the community’s second highest “wish-list” item. This demonstrates clear local demand and support for the project.
- Skateboarding is the third most commonly reported interest for high school students (24% of girls, and 17% of boys.) [1]

- There are 8.8 million skateboarders in the US, up 34% from 2019. This does not account for the many other skatepark users: BMX riders, roller/quad skaters, inline skaters, Wheelchair Motocross riders (WCMX), scooter riders and more. [2]
 - The Skatepark Project has seen a 700% increase in skatepark project support requests from advocates and municipalities since the inclusion of Skateboarding and freestyle BMX in the Olympic Games. [3]
 - Skateparks are the fourth most used recreation space in terms of total weekly use hours. They were found to be more popular than sports fields, play areas, fitness zones and dog parks when comparing the total weekly use hours. [4]
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Project Impact

We believe that investing in recreation is one of the most effective strategies for promoting public health, encouraging youth engagement, and cultivating a strong, connected community. According to the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment Executive Summary, conducted by Holy Rosary Healthcare and One Health in cooperation with the Montana Office of Rural Health, three areas of need were identified as priorities for Custer County: Access to Healthcare, Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use), and Chronic Disease. This skatepark will directly address two of these needs, chronic disease and behavioral health. Currently, options for youth-friendly public gathering places in Custer County are limited, particularly those that are low-cost, unsupervised yet safe, and welcoming to a wide range of ages and abilities.

The physical health benefits of skateboarding, rollerblading, scootering, and BMX riding are well established. These dynamic, cardiovascular activities support balance, coordination, strength, and endurance. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, youth should get 60 minutes of physical activity daily to reduce the risk of chronic illness. Custer County lacks diverse facilities to help meet this benchmark. A 2018 study in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* found that skatepark users regularly reach moderate-to-vigorous intensity, showing meaningful aerobic benefit even in brief sessions. As a free, accessible space, the skatepark removes economic barriers to movement, enabling consistent physical activity for all ages.

Mental and behavioral health outcomes are also central to this project. Skateparks promote peer mentoring, leadership, and purpose, especially among teens at risk of disengagement. These spaces foster inclusion, belonging, and identity development, which are protective factors against depression and anxiety. They also inspire civic pride by showing young people that their community values them. By offering a positive alternative to risky or isolating behaviors, the skatepark will serve as a powerful prevention tool. This is especially urgent in eastern Montana, where youth activities are limited, substance use is widespread, and mental health resources are stretched thin.

The project is also a long-term investment in the economic and social vitality of Miles City. Skateparks often become regional hubs, attracting visitors from nearby towns and counties, especially when designed for all skill levels. This brings steady traffic to local businesses, restaurants, gas stations, and hotels. Hosting community events, competitions, and demonstrations will boost visibility and civic pride. Many rural Montana communities are seeing younger generations leave in search of better opportunities and quality of life. Recreational

infrastructure plays a key role in reversing this trend. A well-designed skatepark can help shape the future of Miles City by making it more attractive to young families and professionals. During our fundraising events, we have had countless young residents approach us and ask with hope, "Is this really happening?" and we want to be able to proudly and confidently say, "Yes!" When young people see that their hometown invests in their interests and wellbeing, they are more likely to stay, contribute, and build a life here.

Risk Management & Liability

"If your town doesn't have a skatepark, it is a skatepark."

RISKS OF NOT HAVING A SKATEPARK (A SAFE AND LEGAL PLACE TO SKATE) [5]

- Danger riding on the road - the vast majority of serious skateboarding injuries involve motor vehicles
- Unnecessary law enforcement interaction and criminal records for trespassing/skating in non-sanctioned spaces.
- Kids and young athletes verbally (sometimes physically) accosted on a daily basis for participating in their passion
- Individuals losing interest in a passion that can keep them healthy and connected to friendships

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Professionally designed skateparks are widely recognized as safe recreational amenities when constructed and used appropriately.
- Skateboarding is statistically safer than basketball and football. [7]
- Skatepark noise consistently falls well below ordinary recreational standards and is completely appropriate for residential areas. [3]
- 91% of officers surveyed in 2009 The Skatepark Project study reported no major issues, such as bad behavior or crime, at the skatepark. [3]

LIABILITY

- The City of Miles City currently participates in the Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority, (MMIA) program. The MMIA is a self-funded risk retention pool created by the cities and towns of Montana to manage their municipal risks with the appropriate liability insurance policy. Skateparks are initially excluded from coverage on MMIA policies, but can be added back in with an endorsement at no charge. [6]
- Skate-at-your-own-risk signage will be installed.

Proposed Site & Location Request

PRIMARY REQUESTED LOCATION:

Old tennis courts in the southwest section of Riverside Park. See Appendix for aerial photo.

RATIONALE FOR SITE SELECTION:

- Accessibility for youth and families
- Visibility and safety
- Compatibility with surrounding uses
- Long-term suitability for a permanent facility
- Improvement of existing land

LAND OWNERSHIP:

City-owned land, managed by the Parks and Recreation department preferred.

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN:

Conceptual drawings and final layouts will be developed following site confirmation. Preliminary estimates anticipate a footprint of 7,000-8,000 square feet, with consideration for parking access, seating, and potential lighting. See Appendix for examples of Evergreen Skatepark skateparks.



evergreenskateparks.com
 3604 Bridle Bit Lane
 Stevensville, MT 59870
evergreenskateparks@gmail.com
 (503) 807-0103

Miles City Skatepark Budget

SKATEPARK BUDGET: \$350,000	Unit Price	Cost
MOBILIZATION		
TRAVEL		\$7,000.00
HOUSING- 6-10 PEOPLE		\$26,000.00
HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTAL		
EXCAVATOR RENTAL - 2 MONTHS	\$5,625.00	\$11,250.00
SKIDSTEER RENTAL - 2 MONTHS	\$4,200.00	\$8,400.00
ROLLER RENTAL - 2 MONTHS	\$4,200.00	\$8,400.00
CONCRETE PUMPING - 1.6 MONTHS	\$5,000.00	\$7,600.00
FUEL		
DIESEL	\$4.25	\$6,000.00
PETROL	\$4.25	\$1,600.00
CONCRETE		
CONCRETE - 216 YARDS	\$225.00	\$48,375.00
GRAVEL / FILL		
GRAVEL / BASE MATERIAL- 236 YARDS	\$22.85	\$5,360.00
STEEL COPING PACKAGE- SCHEDULE 40 BENT & FABRICATED		\$5,025.00
REBAR		
8 BUNDLES #3 BAR	\$1,500.00	\$12,000.00
LUMBER PACKAGE		\$4,690.00
DRAINAGE & INSTALLATION (PRECAST DRY WELL)		\$16,750.00
TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION FENCING		\$3,600.00
DUMPSTER- 40 YARD		\$1,675.00
PORT-A-POTTY - 1.5 MONTH RENTAL	\$400.00	\$670.00
MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES (SCREWS, NAILS, CAULK, PAINT, ETC.)		\$13,386.00
LABOR / OVERHEAD		\$162,519.00
	Sub total:	\$350,000
	TOTAL	\$350,000

Funding Plan

CURRENT TOTALS:

Source	Funds
Business Sponsorships	\$20,825
Individual Donations	\$8,825
Fundraising Events	\$31,027
Community Investment Program Grant	\$25,000
Ag West Farm Credit Rural Community Grant	\$2,000
Mid-Rivers Communications Sponsorship	\$15,000
Montana Pool Service Matching Grant	\$100,000
Total:	\$202,677

CONFIRMED IN-KIND COMMITMENTS:

Item	Estimated Discount	Business
CONCRETE PUMPING - 1.5 MONTHS	\$5,500	Kenitzer Concrete Pumping (will do service for \$2,000)
CONCRETE - 215 YARDS	\$14,500	Doeden's Construction (30% discount off material)
GRAVEL / BASE MATERIAL- 235 YARDS	\$1,600	Doeden's Construction (30% discount).
PORT-A-POTTY - 1.5 MONTH RENTAL	\$670.00	Bear Buttz Septic
<i>Estimated Total Value:</i>	\$22,270	

GRANTS APPLIED/PENDING:

Payee/Donor	Request
MDU Resources Group Inc	\$25,000
Red Ants Pants Foundation	\$5,000
Stockman Bank Community Grant	\$20,000
Town Pump Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
Walleyes Unlimited Miles City	TBD

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

Payee/Donor	
AARP Community Challenge	LP and Teresa Anderson Endowment Fund
Ash Grove Charitable Foundation	Montana Skatepark Association
Billings Community Foundation	Nibs & Edna Allen Foundation
C & B John Deere Community Impact	O'Reilly Automotive Foundation, Inc
First Interstate Bank	The Skatepark Project

CITY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REQUESTED:

None at this time but willing to work with the Parks & Rec Department to secure additional grant funding once the Department is officially operating.

Project Timeline (Estimated)

Task	Dates	Notes
Continue local fundraising & applying for grants	Ongoing	
Finalize city and Parks & Rec commitments	Feb 2026	Finalize commitments for location and maintenance
Contact Evergreen Skateparks	Mar 2026	Solidify partnership/intent to hire
Three-quarters raised	July 2026	\$250,000 reached
Final fundraising stretch	Dec 2026	\$300,000 reached
Conceptual to final design	Dec 2026	Includes public review & revisions
Reach out to Montana Skatepark Association	Dec 2026	They have often offered the "final push" for funding
Major fundraising completed	Jan 2027	\$350,000 reached - continue raising funds anyway until groundbreaking
Funding finalization	Mar 2027	Confirm all funds, close out pledges
Skatepark Construction	Summer 2027	Dependent on Evergreen Skateparks' project schedule
Grand opening event & youth programming launch	Summer 2027	Ribbon-cutting, demos, celebration
Annual event & evaluation	Ongoing	Competitions, clean-up days, surveys

*Estimate based on fundraising and project partner availability & guidance

Project Results & Evaluation

Project success will be measured through:

- Regular usage tracking via periodic headcounts
- Annual surveys of youth, parents, and community members
- Tracking youth involvement in planning, volunteering, and events
- Monitoring incident reports in coordination with city police, county sheriff, healthcare facilities, and local schools
- Documentation of community events, competitions, and partnerships

These metrics will help assess safety outcomes and economic and social impact.

Operations & Maintenance Plan

CC-Rec will work collaboratively with the City and the future Parks & Recreation Department to define long-term ownership, maintenance responsibilities, and operational coordination. Security and stewardship will be supported through park visibility, community engagement, and positive use.

Per Evergreen Skateparks [8]:

One of the principal benefits of building a concrete skatepark is that it is built to last and once the park is completed the costs are generally very minimal. However, adhering to some basic principles of repairs and maintenance can prolong the integrity of the skatepark and keep it safe. Having a quality concrete skatepark built is a huge investment and one that is worth preserving. A little maintenance can really go a long way.

Sealing the park on an annual basis with a concrete sealer will protect the park and keep the surface smooth. We have a specific sealer that we use that is tried and true. It protects the finish without making it too slick for skating. Once the finish of the park is compromised, it can no longer be restored so it is very important that the concrete is sealed annually.

It is inevitable that pool coping will need maintenance as grout lines wear out and pool blocks sometimes come loose but that is something we can repair. We can also patch or fix any chips or holes in the concrete.

Evergreen Skateparks can be of service for any maintenance or repair needs for existing skateparks. As skatepark craftsmen we generally know the best tactics for repairing and restoring skateparks. Give us a call or email if your park is in need of repairs, maintenance or for an annual sealing.

Project Partner

Evergreen Skateparks
3604 Bridle Bit Ln
Stevensville, MT 59870
Office: (503) 807-0103
Email: evergreenskateparks@gmail.com

CC-Rec intends to hire Evergreen Skateparks, a nationally respected skatepark design and construction company with extensive experience throughout Montana and internationally. The skatepark will feature a range of elements suitable for all skill levels and ages. The facility will be designed to be durable, low-maintenance, and visually integrated with surrounding infrastructure.

Per Evergreen Skateparks [8]:

Evergreen Skateparks is committed to creating skateparks in an efficient, professional, and cost-effective manner that is catered to the needs and scope of the community that we are servicing. We enjoy working to form a cohesive partnership during the design phase and we see the construction process through from the day we break ground until the last day of clean up. Our skateparks are completely turn-key. We work on everything from the backyard bowl to large scale city skateparks and plazas.

SOME OF THE SERVICES WE OFFER:

- *Skate park construction from start to finish*
- *Design consultation/public design meetings*
- *Computer rendered designs*
- *Engineered construction documents*
- *Excavation of the jobsite*
- *Drainage and/or plumbing installation*
- *Steel fabrication & welding*
- *Grading & compaction*
- *Form setting*
- *Rebar installation & tying*
- *All concrete shaping & finishing of the entire park, including flat work*
- *Detail work: caulking, painting, sealing, clean up*
- *Skatepark repair & maintenance*

Evergreen Skateparks is licensed, bonded, and insured. Montana Contractors License #: 217280

CC-Rec Leadership

OFFICERS:

- Leanne Stewart, President
- Jared DeVault, Vice President
- Abigail Snider, Treasurer
- Christina Ostendorf, Secretary
- Allison DeVault, Grant Writer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- John Goff
- Spencer Haynes
- Tyler Kings
- Barrie Matthews
- Kate Stewart
- Blayne Watts

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS:

- David Kepford
- Logan Mosansky
- Jeff Williams

APPENDIX

APPROXIMATE PROPOSED LOCATION



EVERGREEN SKATEPARK EXAMPLES

Alberton, MT | Red Lodge, MT



Please visit their website for more photos of the 40+ Montana skateparks they have designed and constructed: <https://www.evergreenskateparks.com/skatepark-list>

REFERENCES

[1] Aspen Institute National Student Survey Analysis 2021

[2] Sports & Fitness Industry Association 2021 Single Sport Report on Skateboarding

[3] The Skatepark Project. www.skatepark.org

[4] The First National Study on Neighborhood Parks - Implications of Physical Activity

[5] A. Beck, *Skatepark Best Practices Guide*, Version 4.0. The Skatepark Project.

[6] MMIA Skatepark Addendum.

https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mmia-2024/Liability-Documents/liab_new_skate_park_application_2025.pdf

[7] Based on the annual U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (cpsc.gov) Electronic Injury Surveillance Survey (EISS) study of hospital emergency room visit

[8] Evergreen Skateparks. <https://www.evergreenskateparks.com/>