



Date of Council Work Session: June 8, 2015

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Subject: Skatepark – Joint committee meeting with Board of Supervisors and School Board

Staff Contact: Keith Markel, Deputy Town Manager
Rich Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation

Council Action Requested: A decision as to whether relocating the Catoctin Skatepark to the Douglass School site is a viable alternative based on information received during the joint committee meeting with Board of Supervisors and School Board

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the Council provide direction as to a finalized location for the skatepark. If Council's direction is to build the new facility using the currently approved timeframe then the Skatepark needs to remain at the Catoctin site. Staff also recommends that the Town engage in conversations for future partnerships with the County and School Board on this issue.

Commission Recommendation: The Parks and Recreation Commission has not been formally consulted regarding a potential relocation of the skatepark to the Douglass School site.

Fiscal Impact: A detailed fiscal impact analysis has not been conducted for the Skatepark relocation to the Douglass School site.

Work Plan Impact: Pending Council direction.

Executive Summary: Council representatives attended a meeting on June 4, 2015 with representatives from the County Board of Supervisors, and County School Board to discuss the possible relocation of the Skatepark to the Douglass School site. During the meeting, it was indicated that any decision to host the skatepark at the Douglass site was that of the School Board while any potential development/operational partnership would be made by the Board of Supervisors.

Meeting Summary: School Board representatives indicated they have not performed any formal planning regarding future uses of the Douglass School site. They did not appear to be adverse to a potential future partnership, however, it was not felt that the Town's desired development timeline could be met. It was estimated that it would be at least 9 – 10 years before the school site property would be available as surplus to the County. It

was mentioned that one possibility might be to rebuild the skatepark at the current Catoctin site with the idea that a future partnership between the Town and the County be developed to allow for the possible co-location of the skatepark at the Douglass site in another 10 to 15 years once the redeveloped skatepark at Catoctin has reached the end of its lifespan.

It was determined that should the skatepark be relocated to the Douglass School site, additional discussions would need to be held with the Board of Supervisors to determine specifics of a partnership for the facility including: County development contribution levels, County maintenance involvement, and operational responsibilities.

A School Board member stated that it was his opinion that locating the skatepark at the Douglass site would allow visitors to the site to take advantage of all the recreational amenities of the site. He cited the current Catoctin location only served the skatepark users.

The School Board will now decide if they will place this discussion topic on an upcoming meeting agenda to allow for a more in-depth discussion on this possible relocation. Town staff will stay in close contact with School Board and County staff to stay updated on the County's interest in this project.

Background: The existing Catoctin Skatepark, located at 141 Catoctin Circle, is a 12,000 square foot lighted skating facility that consists of wooden ramp features set atop an asphalt skating surface. The park is located within a 2.9 acre parcel of land consisting of the Skatepark and an adjacent gravel lot that is currently being used as overflow parking. The facility was developed in 1998 through a collaborative effort of a non-profit group consisting of local skaters and the Town of Leesburg.

Due to the current condition of the original asphalt and wooden ramp features, redevelopment of the park was planned for Fiscal Year 2019 as part of the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2019 Capital Improvements Program. As part of the approved Fiscal Year 2016 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program, the \$544,000 redevelopment project at its current location was accelerated to Fiscal Year 2016.

The Douglass School, located at 407 East Market Street, currently serves as the alternative high school for the Loudoun County Public School System. The site is also improved with various recreational amenities that are operated by the Loudoun County Parks Recreation and Community Services Department. If improvements to other county facilities take place in the future, the alternative high school students may be relocated to the renovated Monroe School and the Douglass School site would be re-designated as surplus property by the School Board. The land would then transfer to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. At that time the County would most likely undergo a master planning process for the site to determine future uses for the site. Current School Board Plans have the Douglass site being used until 2020.

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The existing 2.9 acre Catoctin Skatepark site is listed on County tax records as having a value of \$2,900,000. If the Skatepark is re-located to the Douglas School site or any other location it is estimated that the project costs will escalate in excess of \$770,000 due to storm water engineering, the re-location of utilities, and general infrastructure development. It has been discussed that the increased development costs could be offset through the sale of the current site. The Town Council would need to reach consensus on the willingness to sell the current site.

Council representatives attended a meeting on June 4, 2015 with representatives from the County Board of Supervisors, and County School Board to discuss the possible relocation of the Skatepark to the Douglass School site.

Attachments: Presentation given to Joint meeting of School Board and Board of Supervisors.



Town of Leesburg Catoctin Skate Park

*Discussion on Possible Partnership with
Loudoun County and Loudoun County Public Schools*

Current Park

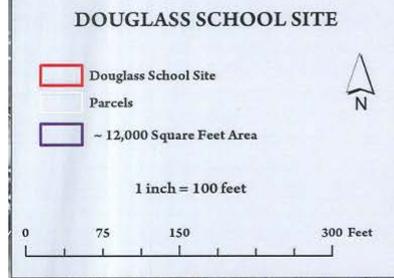
- 141 Catoctin Circle
- Constructed in 1998
- 12,000 square feet
- No charge for use
- One of two public skate parks in Loudoun County
- Used by skaters throughout the region
- Attendant on site when park is open
- At the end of its useful life
- Town Council voted to appropriate \$544,000 in FY 16 to rebuild the park



Catoctin Site



Douglass Site



Represents 12,000 sq. ft.
(not the proposed location
of the facility)

Douglass Site

- Currently houses:
 - Alternative High School
 - Community Center
 - Various recreational amenities (ball field, playground, basketball court, sand volleyball, pavilion, in-line skate rink)



Douglass Site



Douglass Site



DOUGLASS SCHOOL SITE

Douglass School Site

Parcels

~ 12,000 Square Feet Area



1 inch = 150 feet

0 75 150 300 Feet



Current
Skate
Park

New Park Design Concepts



New Park Design Concepts



New Park Design Concepts



Relocation to Douglass?

- Douglass may become surplus property
- Board of Supervisor member approached Town Council members about a possible partnership
- Town Council wants to explore the viability of relocating the skate park to Douglass

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Is there interest in relocating the skate park to Douglass?
- Timing for construction
- Funding for Construction
- Operation of the Facility