

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES OF A SKATEPARK

For a detailed discussion of the experiences of jurisdictions with skateparks, see the next section entitled “**Other Jurisdictions - Summary of Findings.**” Following is a brief summary of the advantages and disadvantages of skatepark facilities.

ADVANTAGES

1. Skateparks are no longer new. They exist successfully in many locations. Albuquerque can build and improve on other jurisdictions’ experience. Ten communities were researched for this report. Research on 6 more was provided by Temecula, California. Many more skateparks, in the western states alone, are listed on the Internet.
2. Exposure to liability litigation seems to be less than has been feared.
3. Demand is high, probably significantly higher than we know, and it is growing.
4. Facilities can be built at a reasonable cost.
5. Many (not all) skaters are tempted away from public areas by the existence of a dedicated skatepark. Some jurisdictions have found that it is much easier to enforce existing ordinances prohibiting skating in public areas. Some have toughened their ordinances as a result.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Skateparks tend to attract graffiti, though the consensus is that it is not the skaters who tag the facilities.
2. Skateparks **require regular and frequent maintenance** to ensure the safety of equipment, particularly half and quarter-pipes, and the cleanliness of the surrounding area.
3. Skateparks need a fairly isolated location. They need to be located away from residential areas, high volume commercial areas that generate foot traffic, and other potentially incompatible athletic uses.