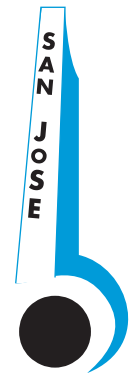


SAVE OUR SKATE PARK



Due to City Budget Cuts and the possibility of staff elimination at Lake Cunningham Regional Skate Park, a **Save Our Skatepark campaign** has started and donations can be sent to **San Jose Parks Foundation**. For more information, please visit their webpage at www.sanjoseparks.org or their Facebook page at sanjoseparksfoundation on how to make a donation.

Please see the following Skate Park Budget FAQ's and a parent's letter to Councilmember Herrera, to better understand concerns of an unstaffed skatepark.

You can also help by signing the petition to support continued staffing at Lake Cunningham Regional Skate Park.

We appreciate all the help and support! - **LCRSP staff**

May 11, 2011

City of San Jose Councilmember Rose Herrera

Dear Councilmember Herrera:

The City Manager has proposed eliminating all staff at Lake Cunningham Skate Park. Please consider proposing the following amendment to the City Manager's Proposed FY 2011-12 Budget:

Maintain the current staffing level of the Lake Cunningham Skate Park for six months, pending an analysis of alternatives to eliminating the staffing of the park. The analysis should include the following and be presented to the City Council at mid-year:

- *Reduced rather than complete elimination of staffing to match volume of use at the park*
- *Sponsorship of the skate park by Skateboard, BMX or helmet companies*
- *Grant funds from Foundations that support community skate parks (Tony Hawk Foundation, for example)*
- *Engagement with the user community of the skate park to identify other revenues and cost saving ideas*
- *Parent Volunteer Program to support reduced staffing model at the park*
- *Increased fees and enhanced membership options at park (Lockers, etc.)*
- *Collaboration with the San Jose Police Athletic League (PAL) to staff skate park*
- *Collaboration with Raging Waters to staff skate park*

The City of San Jose identified the value of community skate parks when it approved the Skate Park Masterplan years ago. The variety of skate parks in the city have provided a safe alternative for skateboarders to riding in the streets, and San Jose's premier skate park, Lake Cunningham, has become a national destination for skateboarders. The park is used regularly by individuals and families who enjoy the secure, nurturing environment that the staff create and maintain. Skateboarding has become a mainstream recreational and competitive sport, and it is my son's true passion in life.

The proposal to completely eliminate the staffing at the park will have certain adverse impacts which many users of the park believe will exceed the annual savings estimated by eliminating the staff. In addition to the effects listed by staff, "the condition of the park may be adversely impacted by the absence of fixed-post staffing and possible increases in graffiti and vandalism," Council members should be aware of the following:

- Many children will not be allowed to skateboard, as Lake Cunningham is the only park their parents allow them to use.
- The park will be used by bikers and skaters at the same time, resulting in injuries. Currently, staff maintains a schedule for skaters and bikers to use the park at different times.
- The investment the city has made in the skate park, the associated buildings, the lighting system and the surrounding park area may be lost due to the graffiti and vandalism staff expects to occur.
- San Jose Police Department staff will be pulled from their patrol areas to respond to incidents and injuries within the skate park.
- The City will lose tax and TOT revenue as out of town visitors will not be as likely to travel to San Jose to use the park if it is not staffed.
- Injured children may go untreated after a skateboarding or BMX injury for some time because staff is not available to contact paramedics.
- The City will lose \$80,000 in direct budgeted revenue.

As a parent of two children who regularly use the Lake Cunningham skate park, I can attest to the fact that the skate park community was not engaged by city staff about this proposal, nor were we asked to provide input about alternatives to the elimination of the staff prior to it being submitted to the City Manager. My older son skates at multiple parks, including Roosevelt Park, an unstaffed skate park in San Jose. We work to maintain the park and pick up litter at Roosevelt, and my son does enjoy skating at both parks, but there is a significant difference between Lake Cunningham and any of the other skate parks in the City of San Jose.

Lake Cunningham is a very large facility (40,000 square feet) with multiple obstacles and many, many blind spots. These spots are monitored via camera by the staff at the park. It has a lighting system so that adults can skate there at night after work and everyone can skate in the evenings during the summer when it is hot outside during the day. The wearing of helmets and pads is enforced, as is appropriate behavior and respect for the park and its participants. Therefore, it truly is a "family skate park" where small children (as young as three or four) come to learn to skateboard in a safe environment. Skateboarding and BMX riding are excellent ways for members of the community to stay active and fit.

My sons have developed strong friendships with children from around the City at Lake Cunningham, they have been mentored in their skating by adults who remind them to keep their grades up and be respectful to adults (such as Steve Caballero), and they have developed the relationships with the skateboard park staff that the City hopes occurs between park staff and its users. The line staff of the park is a group of hard-working, friendly young people who do an excellent job.

The deficit of the City has brought the Council to an unfortunate set of choices. I think the elimination of the staffing at the skate park is an example of a choice that would ultimately be more costly than the budgeted reduction to the City both in terms of actual cost to the facility and in the less tangible cost to the City's children and the greater community.

I am available to participate in the Parks Department's efforts to explore the alternatives listed in this letter should the Council chose to support the amendment as stated.

Sincerely,



Paul Murphy
613 Orvis Avenue
San Jose, CA 95112

(If you receive this letter and are not available to sign the version to be submitted to Councilmember Herrera, please contact her office 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113 tel. (408) 535-4908 fax (408) 292-6469 and email district8@sanjoseca.gov to voice your support. Lake Cunningham Skate Park is in Councilmember Herrera's district.

I have read the letter from Paul Murphy asking the City of San Jose to defer the elimination of staff at Lake Cunningham Skate Park for six months. I agree with the recommendation and support the idea of studying other options before eliminating the staffing at our park.

FULL NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL
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Lake Cunningham Regional Skate Park (LCRSP) BUDGET FAQ's

How has LCRSP been affected by Budget Cuts

As a means to help close the City's \$115million deficit; the staffing at LCRSP has been eliminated. Through community support staffing has been funded through September 30, 2011.

Will the park be closing?

LCRSP will not be closing; however the park will become unstaffed.

Does PRNS, City Council, and the Mayor know what will happen if the park is left unstaffed?

Yes, the Mayor and Council have all have been informed of the concerns of about safety of participants, increased vandalism, and litter. We have also forwarded the concerns of parents and participants about the potential the change in atmosphere around the park.

Will there still be Skate the Lake and competitions?

If staffing is cut at LCRSP, there may no longer be City sponsored events at the park. Competitions by third parties such as the Tim Brauch Contest may continue through the Special Park Use Permit Office.

Will there still be night sessions?

The evening sessions will be canceled until staffing sources or another service provider are identified to staff the park.

How much money is needed to keep the park staffed?

The current revenue target to keep the park staffed is \$200,000. This can be reached through admission, retail sales, advertisement, donations, and sponsorships.

I like LCRSP the way it is, how do I help keep it the same? What can I do to help?

The Department of Park, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services and Councilmember Rose Herrera is currently exploring ways to keep the park funded through the year. A Save Our Skatepark Campaign has also started and donations can be sent to The San Jose Parks Foundation. Please check their webpage at sanjoseparks.org or their Facebook page at sanjoseparksfoundation on how to make a donation.

Community members and parents are encouraged to volunteer at LCRSP to keep expenses down as well.

If I have an annual pass what happens to it?

Annual passes will be converted to parking passes.

You can, of course, contact your Council Member and tell them how you feel. Contact your Council Member @:

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