

Press Release

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City of Hailey Issues Warning to Skate Park Abusers

Since 2002 the development and use of our world renowned Hailey Skate Park has been a pride and joy to many Hailey citizens. Volunteer fund raising and labor efforts created this top-of-the-line skate park which provides the City's youth a recreational place to enjoy at no cost to them. With its inclusion of a full radius concrete pipe 16 feet in diameter and a 16 foot roll-in with handrails, this park stands as a satisfying return for our community's dedicated hard work. The park has generated international attention in the form of multiple skateboarding videos, top class athletes including Tony Hawk, Danny Way, Mark Gonzales, and Julian Stranger.



Recent vandalism and misuses within the park have led city leaders to discuss whether closing the park should be considered. Since the fall of 2007 there has been regular abuse of park rules. The trash cans have been used as jumps, damaging the cans in the process and leaving garbage strewn on the grounds. A picnic bench valued at \$700 was crushed. The Skate Park Rules sign was first painted over, then stolen. Most recently in the early morning hours of April 2, 2009 the port-a-potty was pushed and spilled onto the parking area.



Hailey Police responded to a disturbance call at the skate park on April 6, during which they confiscated a B.B. gun. Police surveillance of the park has been increased due to reports of illegal tobacco use and bullying behavior by older youth toward young park users. Hailey Police officers will identify park

abusers, remove them from the park, and issue them a warning to discontinue use of the park. Violation of that no-trespass order may result in the arrest of the trespasser.

Mayor Davis, at the request of the Hailey Parks and Lands Board, has scheduled a city council discussion of Hailey Skate Park issues on April 27, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to participate in this discussion with the Hailey City Council; public comment will be invited during the meeting or in writing prior to the meeting.