



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** December 12, 2007  
**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Establishing Permanent Youth Only Hours at Skater's Point

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission:

- A. Hear a report from staff evaluating the implementation of a pilot program that designated two hours on Saturdays for youth, 12 years of age and under; and
- B. Provide direction to staff regarding the future of this program.

**DISCUSSION:**

Background:

At the November 2005 meeting, the Commission recommended that staff implement a pilot program which would change the drop-in policy at Skater's Point to one which designates specific weekend hours that are only available to younger skaters. Starting February 2006, a pilot program was implemented, changing the Saturday hours to accommodate younger skaters during the hours of 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Since the implementation of the program, Staff has monitored youth participation numbers and solicited input from youth and parents about the program and the time scheduled. Feedback received from parents and youth regarding this program has been extremely positive and appreciative. Staff noted that participation numbers were low during the first hour of the program, and as a result, staff recommended to the Skater's Point Advisory Committee in June 2007 that the program hours be moved an hour later, 10:00am-12noon on a trial basis. The Advisory Committee supported the recommendation, and as a result, the program time was changed and youth participation numbers increased for the first hour of the program. In addition, the adult group that normally skates on Saturday mornings was pleased to be able to skate an hour longer.

Challenges:

During the two-hour youth only period, two to three staff, working as Skatepark Monitors, has been assigned to monitor the park. This level of staffing was necessary to ensure that older skaters refrained from entering the park and that younger skaters had the required safety gear including a helmet and elbow and knee pads. Despite the presence of these Skatepark

Monitors, there have been numerous instances when the Park Ranger and the Santa Barbara Police Department have been needed to enforce park rules. Staff will continue to monitor the youth only hours at this level to ensure a safe and fun program time for participating youth.

Skater's Point Advisory Committee Recommendation:

After much review and monitoring of this program over the last year, the members of the Skater's Point Advisory Committee voted unanimously at their September 2007 meeting to recommend to the Park and Recreation Commission that the youth hours on Saturday are established permanently from 10:00am-12noon.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the current program of designating Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., for youth under 12 years of age be continued on a permanent basis. Once approved, staff will install a permanent sign at Skaters Point designating these youth only hours.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Judith Cook, Recreation Programs Manager

**APPROVED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director