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TO: Community Services Committee

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FILE NUMBER: ACS2026-RCF-GEN-0002

SUBJECT: **Skateboard and Roller Sports Strategy**

OBJET : **Stratégie pour la planche et les sports à roulettes**

PURPOSE

This information report provides Council an update on the development, scope, and upcoming implementation steps for the Skateboard and Roller Sports Strategy, which

expands upon the City's 2012 interim strategy and integrates updated planning and design.

The Skateboard and Roller Sports Strategy is designed to provide a city-wide framework for the planning, design, and long-term development of skateboard and roller sport parks, and advances four major components:

1. Consultation for future parks
2. Creating an interconnected skateboard park system
3. Design element considerations
4. Maintenance

Together, these components position the City to plan and renew facilities in a coordinated, consistent, and forward-looking manner, supporting the continued growth and diversity of the skateboarding and roller sports community.

BACKGROUND

The 2012 Skateboard Strategy was intended as an interim approach, with a comprehensive update to follow the completion of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan in 2021. Since the 2012 Interim Skateboard Strategy, 11 facilities have been built, increasing the city-wide inventory to 24 skateboard and roller sport parks. The revised Skateboard and Roller Sports Strategy (the Strategy) is a reflection of the expanded participation across wheeled sports to include skateboarding, scooters, rollerblading/roller skating, BMX, and adaptive riding. It also provides direction and guidance for location distribution, varied terrain types, and consultation considerations. It aligns with the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (PRFMP), Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards (RFIS), and Maintenance Quality Standards (MQS).

DISCUSSION

Engagement summary

Public engagement consisted of an [Engage Ottawa](#) page with a survey and pop-up events at skateboard and BMX parks, this series ran from August to October 2025, generating approximately 440 survey responses and more than 250 interactions at 13 pop-up events at skateboard parks, with broad participation across ages and user groups. Respondents highlighted the value of well-designed parks, diverse features, amenities that support longer visits, and locations accessible by transit and active transportation. The [What We Learned Report](#) compiles detailed findings that inform site location and design priorities.

Strategy development and methodology

The Strategy was developed collaboratively with input from Infrastructure and Water Services Department and Public Works Department. It incorporates best practices in facility planning, asset management, and environmental sustainability. Emphasis was placed on aligning design and lifecycle practices with RFIS, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles, forestry and shade requirements.

The Strategy features:

1. Consultation for future park designs

To ensure future skateboard and roller sport parks reflect the diverse needs of the community, early and ongoing consultation with user groups, youth, underrepresented communities, and community associations has been highlighted as a key part of the Strategy. Engagement will use established City processes to gather practical input that inform design decisions to create inclusive, balanced, and well-used parks.

2. Interconnected skateboard park system and facility types

The Strategy establishes a city-wide system of skateboard and roller sport parks, organized into district-level destinations and neighbourhood parks; this will allow for a larger variety of styles and better skill progression for users. Distribution considers transit access, active transportation connectivity, and equity-based service gaps. Facility types include street plazas, bowl/transition parks, hybrid parks, and integrated multi-use sites combining skate and BMX elements.

3. Design principles and technical considerations

Design considerations are guided by the Parks Planning Guide, RFIS and the PRFMP, which emphasize progression-based terrain, varied features, and inclusive access for all wheeled sports. Key design elements include freestyle areas, slalom/snake runs, bowls and pools, half-pipes and full-pipes, hips, ledges, rails, manual pads, and changes in elevation. Materials are selected based on intended use: poured-in-place concrete for durability and consistent performance; asphalt for pump tracks; and specialty finishes (granite, brick, steel) for novelty features. Shade structures, seating, potable water access, and lighting are recommended where feasible.

4. Maintenance and lifecycle

Finally, the Strategy confirms the approach to maintenance and lifecycle of these types of assets. Maintenance practices will continue to follow the City's existing MQS, including routine visual inspections, and lifecycle renewal will follow existing Asset

Management lifecycle policies for monitoring, rehabilitation and reinvestment of skateboard parks.

CONCLUSION

The Strategy establishes a comprehensive, forward-looking framework for a city-wide network of skateboard and roller sport parks that will support collaborative and comprehensive planning and position the City to better support the growing and diverse community of users.

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CC: SLT

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

City of Ottawa (2026). [Skateboard and Roller Sports Strategy](#)