



Perris News

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Perris Skate Park to Open March 18

Perris officials found themselves with an underused tennis court and an abundance of skateboarders.

So City administrators and recreation specialists enlisted the aid of teen-agers from a local school to help them design a skate board facility, where enthusiasts can Ollie, Mongo-foot, McTwist and heel-flip to their hearts content.

All for free, and in a safe environment that promises to one day boast one of Riverside County's best skateboard parks.

The Paragon Park Skate Park opens to the public March 18.

An opening ceremony featuring City officials and members of the City Council is scheduled for 2 p.m. that day at the park, located on Placentia Avenue between Perris Boulevard and Redlands Avenue.

"This is another example of how the City took a problem and used its creativity to find a solution," said Perris City Councilman Al Landers, a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. "We saw a great need for more entertainment for children to keep them busy and provide exercise. Instead of skating on sidewalks or shopping center parking lots, now we have a safe place for them go and have fun."

Landers said other cities have skateboard parks but Perris is committed to building a facility "second to none" for City residents.

Cost of the park totaled about \$67,000, said Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin. Construction took about a year. Plans call for a second phase once additional funding becomes available.

Madkin said the City turned to students from the Val Verde Student Success Academy, an alternative campus which includes several students with deep ties to skateboarding. They helped design the Paragon Park Skate Park course, which includes a couple of quarter pipes, stairs, ramps and rails.

Dave Bang Associates, a Tustin-based construction firm known its work on recreation projects, took the students' vision and turned it into reality.

"This gives kids who don't play basketball or football a place to skate that's convenient and fun," Madkin said. "There are hundreds of kids who skateboard and this location gives them a place to go."

Madkin said the skate park will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The public is invited to Wednesday's opening ceremony.



Deputy City Manager Darren Madkin talks about the new Perris skate park, which includes ramps, slides and quarter pipes.

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