



Perris News

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Perris Skate Park Now Open

Perris' new skate park opened to the public amid great fanfare and a live demonstration from the skaters who helped design it.

More than 100 people attended the ribbon cutting Wednesday at Paragon Park, where an underused tennis court was converted into a skate park with a quarter pipe, ramps, stairs and rails.

"This is a great day for the City of Perris," Mayor Daryl Busch told the crowd, which included many skaters eager for the ceremony to conclude so they could take to the course. "I know this is going to get a lot of use. I'm real pleased with what is going on here." The Perris Rotary, Perris Optimist and Big 5 Sporting Goods teamed up to provide helmets, elbow and knee pads to those who could not afford them.

"We expect you to wear them," the Mayor said.

City Councilman Mark Yarbrough noted that the popularity of skateboarding has skyrocketed in recent years and international competitions feature world-class performers vying for big prizes and bigger fame.

"We are fortunate to be able to take this resource and make it available to the people who will use it," Yarbrough said. "It's going to be great."

City administrators conceived the skate park about a year ago, after several City Council members noticed children and teen-agers riding on streets, in shopping centers and business parking lots. The City worked with students from the Val Verde Student Success Academy, which includes several teen-age skating wizards. The students designed the course, which cost about \$67,000. A second phase featuring a half-pipe and other skating challenges will begin when funding becomes available.

The skaters who gathered for the ribbon cutting said they couldn't wait to hit the course. Before long they were grinding on the rails, jumping on the ramps and launching themselves from the quarter pipe. "I like it," said Jonathan Ragland, 17. "People of any size can have fun here. It's going to help keep kids off the streets. I think the course is pretty challenging. Thank you to the City for helping us build it." Skater Moses Morales said the park will prove to be a magnet for skaters throughout the Perris Valley. It's the first free skate park in Perris. Hours are daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"People will use it," he said.

Councilman Al Landers, who worked on the committee that brought the skate park to Perris, said the City remains committed to funding and building projects for young people.

"We listen to what the people tell us, and we act accordingly," Landers said.



City Council members, administrators and Val Verde Unified School District officials cut the ribbon at the new skate park.



A skater lands on the quarter pipe at the Perris' new skate park.



Skater Christian Diaz, 14, prepares to hit the course.