



Vandalism Could Cause Howelsen Skate Park Closure

City Asking For Public's Assistance with Information on Recent Incidents

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-July 2, 2020-An area of fun for many at Howelsen Hill has recently seen an increase in vandalism and park officials are seriously considering closing the Howelsen Skate Park if incidents continue.

"The skate park is a great facility especially during a time when everyone is trying to participate in outdoor activities in a safe manner," commented Park Supervisor Ernie Jenkins. "I'm sure these incidents are the result of a few bad apples, but their actions could have consequences for all."

A rash of trash, broken glass and graffiti have been a recurring occurrence at the Howelsen Skate Park over the past few weeks. Several park features have been sprayed with graffiti including excessive profanity and trash including broken glass has been discarded across the venue.

"We're hoping that someone who uses the downtown skate park can help us," said Craig Robinson, Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager. "In the meantime, Steamboat Springs Police will conduct additional patrols including during off hours across the complex."

Due to the lack of sports activity which typically has the area illuminated during the evening, the skate park and adjacent area is seeing less traffic. Clean-up efforts have taken considerable time as staff addresses the best way to remove or cover the extensive amount of graffiti.

With increased usage of park facilities during COVID-19 and additional public health protocols, staff is working overtime to manage heightened responsibility levels. Facility damage and excessive litter only complicates these efforts and with resources stretched tight already, could lead to facility closures.

Located adjacent to the main parking lot at the ski area, the Howelsen Skate Park is roughly 2,000 square-feet and has six street ramps, a pyramid, fun box and a six-foot mini-ramp. Anyone with additional information concerning these incidents is encouraged to contact the Steamboat Springs Police at 970.879.1144

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Contact

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