



August 29, 2017

Skatepark Grant Announcement

The Zelienople Skatepark Committee is excited to announce that on July 26th the Zelienople Community Park was awarded a coveted \$10,000 grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation. Linda Gass, President of the Skatepark Committee stated this was all made possible due to the time and energy local skateboard/BMX enthusiasts Jared Leute, Morgan Pritchard, Jake Aiken & Ashley Hazlett put in to writing this grant. We are so excited to have these younger advocates of the skatepark helping our community make this Dream possible and encourage other young people to step up as well.

Founded in 2001 the Tony Hawk Foundation seeks to foster lasting improvements in society through the development of free, quality public skateparks throughout the US. They also support programming that uses skateboarding to reach and enrich the lives of youth in challenged regions throughout the world.

Domestically, it's not simply the creation of a skatepark that THF seeks. It's engaging youth in the process of developing the park. It's the skaters themselves who are typically the catalyst who articulate the need for a safe, sanctioned place to ride--off the street and away from pedestrians and traffic. And through the skatepark-development model outlined by THF staff, the skaters themselves are involved in and carry out much of the planning, community outreach, presentations to local leaders, fundraising, and design work. Once the skatepark is open and their dream of a place to ride safely and call their own becomes a reality, these youths are personally invested in the outcome, and are better stewards of the space from that day forward.

Today, most of the 5.6-million youth who ride skateboards have nowhere safe to skate and practice the sport they love. So, they find their own spaces, which often results in confrontations with property owners or law enforcement. The repetition of this process conditions these youths to avoid adults and seek more remote areas to ride. Please consider donating your time, resources or dollars to helping our community make this Dream possible.

For more detail information on the skatepark or anyone wanting to donate to the skatepark please visit the Zelienople Community Parks website at www.myzeliepark.org or follow us on FB at Zelienople Memorial Skate Park.

