



Blossburg Recreation Board  
Skate Park Presentation  
March 26, 2007



## Agenda

- Scale & Comparisons
- About Skateboarders
- Why Blossburg?
- Safety
- Maintenance
- Support
- Conclusion



## Scale & Comparisons

Proposed park is very small

- 90' x 40' – same as current basketball court
- Largest equipment is 3' tall
- Not poured concrete like Ithaca, Williamsport
- Montgomery – two tennis courts
- Lewisburg – three tennis courts
- Sunbury – 150' x 150'



## Scale & Comparisons

- Williamsport
  - Population 30,706\*
  - Poured concrete parks with large square footage
  - Shut down because concrete deteriorated\*

\* U.S. Census 2000

\*\* Conversation with Lycoming County Housing Authority 3/22/07



## Scale & Comparisons

- Lewisburg
  - Population 5,620\*
  - Size: three resurfaced tennis courts
  - Woodward Ramps & Rails system
  - “Very successful” \*\*
  - Fenced, no gate, lighted, unsupervised

\* U.S. Census 2000

\*\* Conversation with Debbie, recreation assistant, 3/23/07



## Scale & Comparisons

- Sunbury
  - Population 10,610\*
  - Size: 150' x 150'
  - Woodward Ramps & Rails system
  - “The kids love it” – always in use\*\*
  - No fence, no gate, lighted, unsupervised

\* U.S. Census 2000

\*\* Conversation with Mark Getts, recreation manager, 3/26/07



## Scale & Comparisons

- Other George Ely Associates/ Woodward Ramps & Rails skate parks
- Pen Argyl
  - Dairy Township
  - Kulpmont
  - Shamokin
  - St. Mary's



## About Skateboarders

### Attributes

- Self-motivated
- Disciplined
- Persistent
- Patient
- Independent
- Creativity

### Skills

- Balance
- Coordination
- Strength
- Suppleness
- Technical mastery



## About Skateboarders

- 12.3 million skateboarders in U.S.\*
  - 4.3% of the population
- Could have over 60 skateboarders in Blossburg alone

\* <http://www.skatersforpublicskateparks.org/process/vision.html>



## About Skateboarders

### Most Popular Sports (ages 12-17)\*

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| • Extreme Sports** | 79.3% |
| • NFL              | 78.5% |
| • NBA              | 76.8% |
| • MLB              | 61.2% |

\*CNBC broadcast, The Sports Poll, TNSSPORT

\*\* X Games



## Why Blossburg?

### Visioning Sessions, 2004:

- Strength: Island Park
- Weakness: Lack of activities for youth and adults
- Opportunity: Build on outdoor activities
- Threat: Losing youth



## Why Blossburg?

Football – lots of support

- Lights - 1997
- Bleachers – 2002
- Active Gridiron club, STYF

Basketball – lots of support

Individual sports – lack of support



## Safety

Journal of Trauma, October 2002\*:

Injuries per 1,000 participants

- Basketball: 21.2
- Skateboarding: 8.9
- Rollerblading: 3.9

\*53(4):686-690



## Safety

Journal of Trauma, October 2002:

“We found that skateboarding is a **comparatively safe sport**; however, increased rates of injury are occurring in adolescent and young adult skateboarders. The most common injuries are musculoskeletal; the more serious injuries resulting in hospitalization **typically involve a crash with a motor vehicle.**”



## Safety

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Percentage of participants injured (1999)

- Football 1.99%
- Baseball 1.61%
- Basketball 1.52%
- Soccer 1.00%
- Skateboarding 0.77%
- Rollerblading 0.34%



## Safety

George Ely & Associates\*:

- Over 20 municipal skate parks in PA, NJ
- None are supervised.

\* Conversation with Dave Ely, 3/23/07



## Safety

Supervision increases liability risk to borough\*

- Skateboarding is “inherently dangerous activity”
- Users assume the risk
- Must have posted rules & “At-your-own-risk”

- Conversation with Dave Ely, 3/23/07
- Conversation with Britton Helms Allen, J.D., 3/26/07



## Safety

Supervision increases liability risk to borough\*

- Proper maintenance is key to avoiding claims
- Rules sign also key

\*Conversation with Dave Ely, 3/23/07; conversation with Britton Helms Allen, J.D., 3/26/07



## Safety

No Pennsylvania laws about skateboarding or skate parks

No Pennsylvania cases about skateboarding or skate parks

- Conversation with Britton Helms Allen, J.D., 3/26/07



## Safety

### California:

Under the California Health and Safety Code, Senate Bill 994, specifically addresses the issue of liability for public skateboard parks, noting that signage posting helmet rules and **noting the absence of supervision releases municipalities from liability.**

12 claims filed – none has won

- \* <http://www.tehachapinews.com/home/ViewPost/20395>
- \*\* Conversation with Britton Helms Allen, J.D., 3/26/07



## Maintenance

- SkateLite surfaces have 5-year warranty (wood-like parts of the ramps)
- Metal parts have 15-year warranty
- Sunbury
  - installed 2001
  - replaced a few nuts & bolts, touched up paint\*

- \* Conversation with Mark Getts, 3/26/07



## Maintenance

Blossburg V.I.B.E. commits to adhering to recommended maintenance schedule



## Support

Donations as of March 26, 2007

- |                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Carol J. Tama                  | \$2,500 |
| • Ward Manufacturing             | \$2,500 |
| • Tioga County Housing Authority | \$1,000 |
| • Blossburg V.I.B.E.             | \$1,000 |
| • First Citizens National Bank   | \$500   |



## Support

Letters of support as of March 26, 2007

- Tioga County Commissioners
- Tioga County Development Corp.
- Jim Weaver, Tioga County Planner
- Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee
- Bloss Area Swimming Association
- Richmond Township
- Ward Township
- Hillside Rod & Gun Club



## Support

- U.S. Rep. John E. Peterson
- “Skate parks have become places where today’s youths and young adults can congregate in a safe and healthy atmosphere. I am sure that your skate park will be a positive addition to the borough’s beautiful Island Park sports and recreation complex.”



## Support

- Pa. Senator Joe Scarnati
- “...a place to be, a place to go, a place just to “hang out” in a socially acceptable manner where positive recreational opportunities are presented, is paramount.”



## Support

- Pa. Rep. Matthew E. Baker
- “I applaud your initiative in seeking to provide a facility for the young people of the area to socialize and exercise in a safe and healthy environment.”



## Support

- Borough of Mansfield
- “Many studies done by the various municipalities in rural Tioga County have identified recreational opportunities as a need and an essential goal.”



## Support

- Bill David, NPHS principal
- “There is a lack of positive places for the youth of our school district to get together and be involved in an activity they enjoy. We have a tendency to rely on the organized youth sport program to be that outlet. While these organizations are outstanding, they do not always meet the interests of all the youth. The proposal could possibly reach a population of children that is currently not active in any way.”



## Conclusion

- Need Recreation Board approval for 4/9 borough council meeting
- Application due 4/13 to DCNR
  - Doesn’t compete with pool’s DCNR application\*

\*Conversation with Wes Farringer 3/23/07