



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skateboard Park

Park and Recreation Commision | May 15, 2025





Agenda

1. Summary/Project Goals
2. Survey Results
3. Draft Design Criteria
4. March- Community Comments Received
5. Design Criteria Priorities
6. Funding
7. Next Steps
8. Q+A





Summary + Project Goals

- Opened in 2005, the Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skatepark is the City's first and only skatepark. It was developed with community support and shares a 4.3-acre lot with Luckett Field & Stadium.
- The skatepark spans 12,000 square feet and includes various modular equipment, such as jumps, pipes, rails, wedges, and boxes.
- The park is named in memory of Schuyler Hamilton Jones, known as Sky and Shaggy, a 16-year-old T.C. Williams High School student who passed away in 2003.
- Seeking community feedback to plan future improvements and present Final Design Criteria at the Park and Recreation Commission.



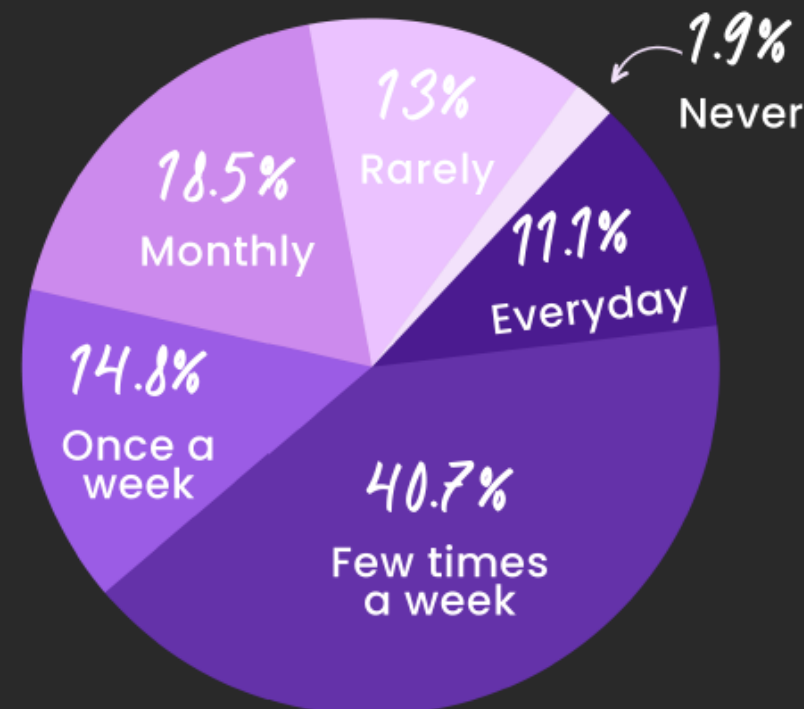


Survey Results Highlights

56
SURVEY
RESPONSES
FROM OCT 15-NOV 27, 2024



PARK USE **FREQUENCY**



Nearly 41% of
survey
respondents
reported using
the park a few
times a week.



Survey Results Highlights

* PREFERRED STYLE OF SKATING

STREET (rails, boxes, pads) 40.7%

STREET, VERT, FLAT
GROUND/FREESTYLE 44.4%

* SURVEY RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

85% lighting 64% seating
66% shade 45% water fountain

89% OF RESPONDENTS
FEEL SAFE AT THE PARK



Survey respondents *like* the parking/ability to get to the park (57%), skatepark elements (45%) & level of difficulty of the elements (32%).

Survey respondents do *not like* the layout of the elements (59%), surface materials (55%) & skatepark elements (37%).

Additionally, survey users mentioned the lack of shade, lack of lights, need for better flow & outdated design.

* from a multiple-choice option



Survey Results Highlights

Short Term - Solutions



REPAIR AND REPLACE DAMAGED EQUIPMENT

Users pointed out the need to fix or replace broken elements like the green rails, flat bars, and half-pipe.



LIGHTING

Multiple respondents emphasized the need for proper lighting, especially to extend use into the evening & make the park safer at night.



ADDING SHADE

Some users proposed adding shade to make the park more comfortable, especially in hot weather.



INCREASE BEGINNER-FRIENDLY FEATURES

Some respondents recommended adding smaller street features like ledges, rails, and curbs, or redesigning for novice-friendly layouts.



ENHANCE SAFETY

Concerns about cars entering the park led to calls for better safety measures like barriers and a sidewalk for pedestrians.



IMPROVING FLOW AND LAYOUT

There were several suggestions to improve the layout for better flow by moving ramps and obstacles around, optimizing space, and removing unusable equipment.



Draft Design Criteria – March 2025

Inclusive & Multi-Level Design

- Features for beginners, intermediate, and advanced skaters
- Separate areas for different skill levels to ensure safety
- Accessible design for adaptive skateboarding (wider ramps, smooth transitions)

Diverse Structures + Elements

- Street Section: Rails, ledges, stair sets, hubbas, manual pads
- Transition Section: halfpipes, quarterpipes, vertical walls

Good Flow & Connectivity

- Smooth transitions between different areas
- Avoid dead zones—keep the park dynamic and engaging
- Design for continuous movement

Safety Considerations

- Smooth edges on obstacles to minimize injuries
- Proper drainage to prevent puddles
- High-quality, smooth concrete to reduce friction and injuries
- Clearly marked areas for different skill levels

Aesthetic & Community Integration

- Permanent or temporary public art, seasonal arts programming, and local cultural influences
- Seating areas and shade for spectators and families
- Night lighting for extended hours
- Green spaces, trees, and eco-friendly design

Durability & Maintenance

- High-quality concrete for longevity and smoothness
- Easy maintenance for future repairs





Draft Design Criteria – March 2025

Skate-Friendly Surroundings

- Connection to bike paths or public transportation

Adaptability for Events

- Areas for spectators to view
- Electrical outlets
- Adequate signage

Learning & Social Spaces

- Beginner-friendly instructional areas
- Signage with trick names, tips, and skatepark etiquette
- Community boards for local skate events and meet-ups





Community Comments

Project Web Site/Pop - up

- Needs to be remodeled.
- Please get famous skateboarder Tony Hawk to help remodel the park.
- Overall, a great park for all different levels of riders with a variety of fun obstacles; however, it is slightly outdated and not as good as many of the new parks that are being built.





Key Priority Design Criteria

Inclusive & Multi-Level Design

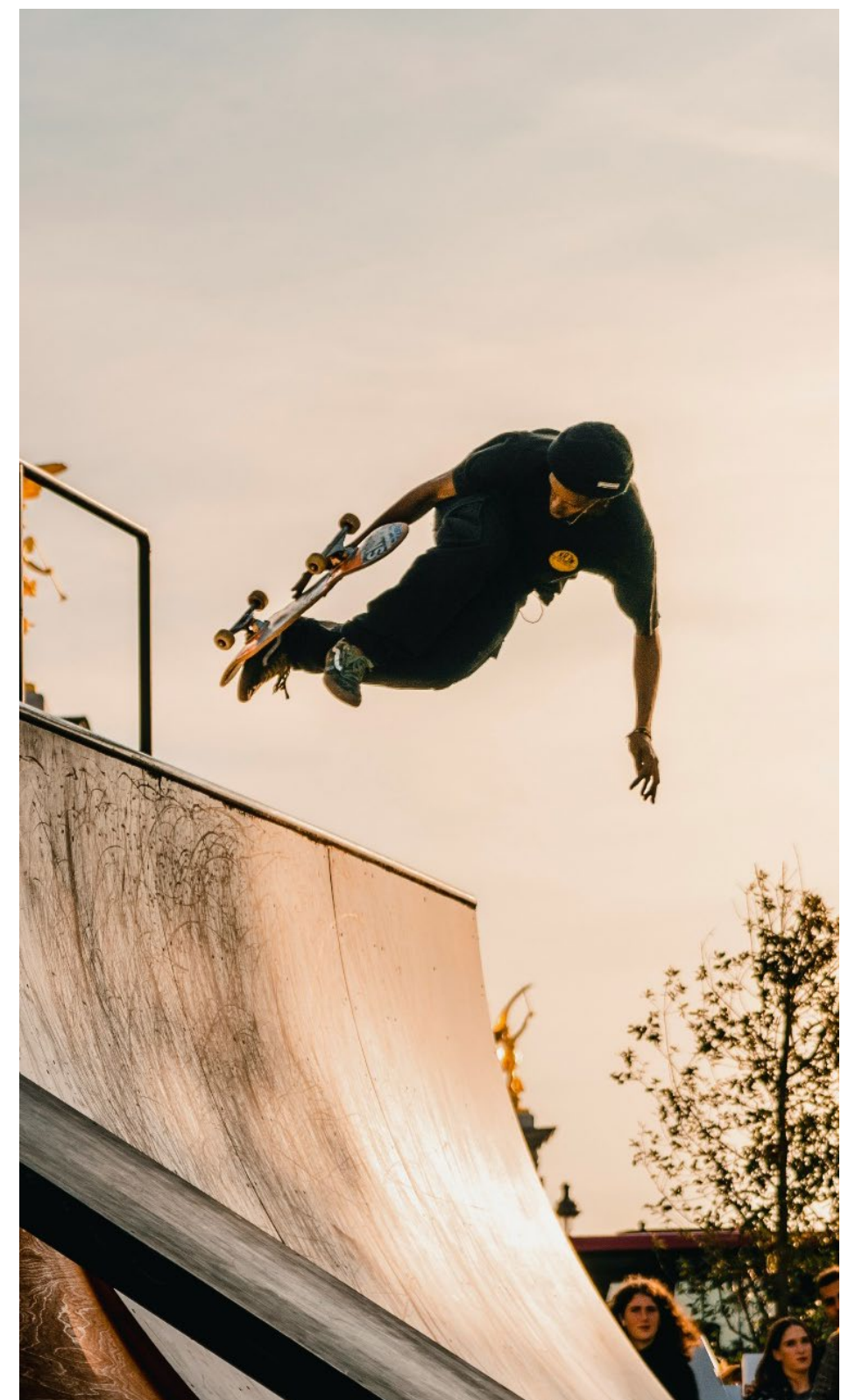
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Learning & Social Spaces

- Beginner-friendly instructional areas
- Signage with trick names, tips, and skatepark etiquette
- Community boards for local skate events and meet-ups

Durability & Maintenance

- High-quality concrete for longevity and smoothness
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Medium Design Criteria

Diverse Structures + Elements

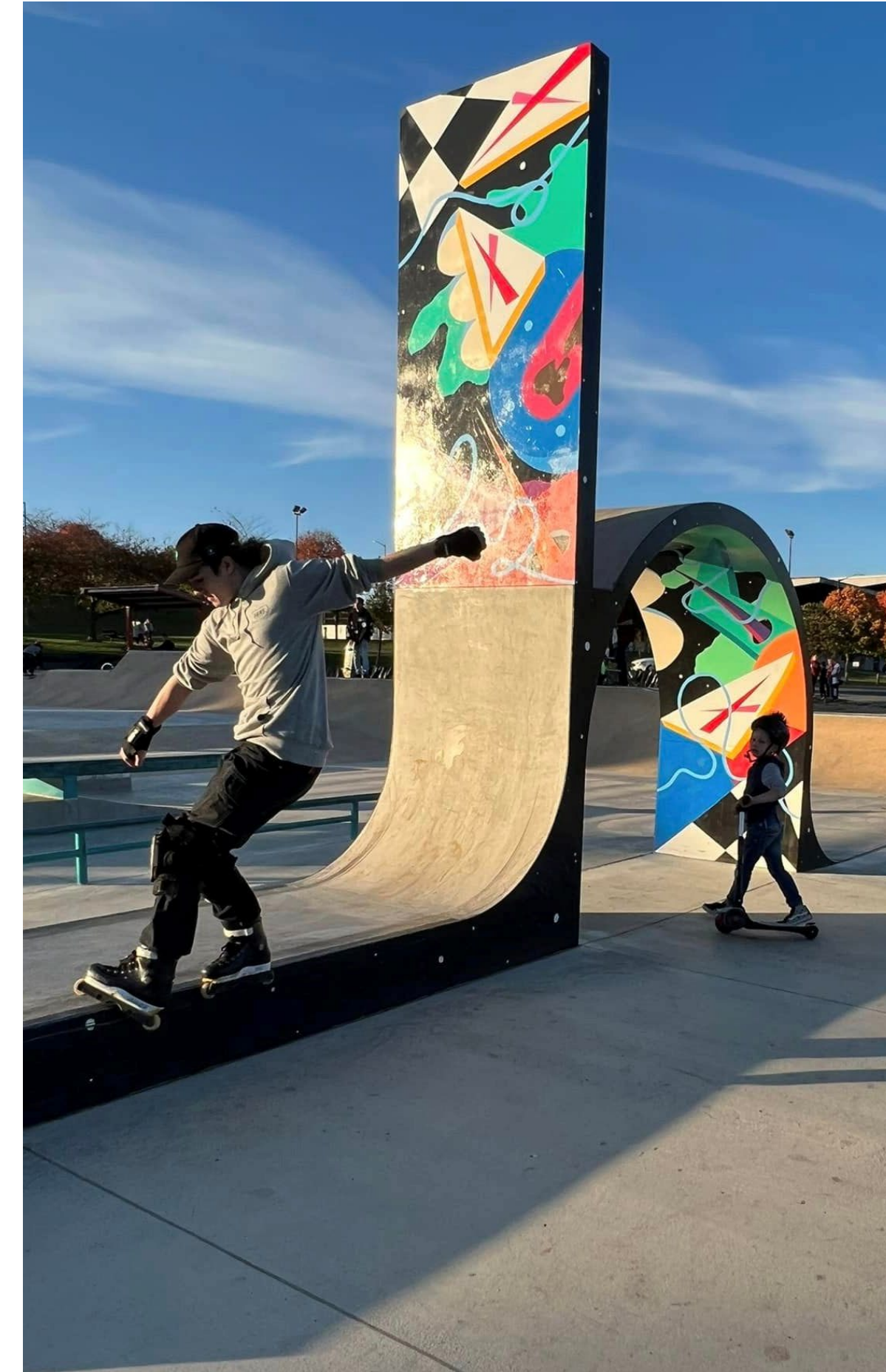
- Street Section: Rails, ledges, stair sets, hubbas, manual pads
- Transition Section: halfpipes, quarterpipes, vertical walls

Good Flow & Connectivity

- Smooth transitions between different areas
- Avoid dead zones—keep the park dynamic and engaging
- Design for continuous movement

Safety Considerations

- Smooth edges on obstacles to minimize injuries
- Proper drainage to prevent puddles
- High-quality, smooth concrete to reduce friction and injuries
- Clearly marked areas for different skill levels





Low Priority Design Criteria

Aesthetic & Community Integration

- Permanent or temporary public art, seasonal arts programming, and local cultural influences
- Seating areas and shade for spectators and families
- Night lighting for extended hours
- Green spaces, trees, and eco-friendly design

Skate-Friendly Surroundings

- Connection to bike paths or public transportation

Adaptability for Events

- Areas for spectators to view
- Electrical outlets
- Adequate signage





Project Funding

- FY 2026 – FY 2035 Capital Improvement Budget (CIP)
 - No approved funding
- Alternative Funding Options
 - Community Matching Fund
 - Public Private Partnerships
 - Grants



Next Steps

Proposed Amendment Overview

Staff is currently evaluating an amendment to Neighborhood Park Plan Recommendation 5 for Lockett Ballfield and Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skatepark, to:

- Align with the updated draft recommendations for the skatepark
- Replace the referenced image in the current plan.
- Replace and update the referenced cost estimate in the current plan.

MAY

Community Pop-Up Meeting

- Saturday, May 17 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Location: 3540-Wheeler Ave.

JULY

- Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing – Adoption of the Plan Amendment
 - Thursday, July 17, 2025
 - Location: TBD





CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Q+A

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/schuylcr-hj-park-improvements>

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