

# Update on the VernoniaSK8 Park

By Jeremy Simmons

As one of the elements of Spencer Park, the VernoniaSK8 Park will be located directly across from the mini mart encompassing the area between the sidewalk to the end of the cement platform. A large poster board was erected by volunteers in Vernonia at the SK8 Park site and includes a thermometer showing the level of donations needed and received.

An Oregon State Park Grant has been applied for with monies to be

awarded in October. The funding for the grant comes from lottery dollars, not tax payer dollars. As part of the grant's funding mandate, they give out 80% of the requested dollars with the other 20% coming from the project applicant. This committee is working hard towards fundraising for the 20% that is needed - approximately \$60,000.

The VernoniaSK8 Park will be inclusive of skate boarders, BMX bikes, scooters, and inline skaters. It will have a section for beginners and a section for pros that will include both a concrete

bowl and street skate elements. We are still in the planning phase and will include the youth in specific architectural aspects of the skate park itself.

Part of the planning phase is to keep the large tree and have several tables with umbrellas underneath for families to have picnics and watch the fun at the SK8 Park. Our committee plans on having donated picnic tables that are dedicated to whomever purchases them. We also plan on having a cool covering for the park and are looking at a type of sails rather than a huge covered roof. And yes, the SK8 Park will have drainage.

As part of our fundraising activities, we are planning a big BBQ at Hawkins Park on a Saturday soon after the Nehalem River is dammed up (date tbd). We hope to have a raffle, sell SK8 T-shirts and raise a few more dollars from your purchases of food and drink. On July 7 we will be at Vernonia Springs for the Vernonia Music Festival selling T-shirts and hoodies, as well as holding a really cool raffle. We are also planning a BIG day during Jamboree on August 4. We are in discussions with a live band for the evening specifically for the youth. During the day we hope to have several SK8 shows to promote the healthy benefits of skating and the cool stuff skaters can do. We have other things being planned for the day, such as bouncy house, snow cones, and more. And then in the fall, just before school starts, we will have another fundraiser with a water slip-n-slide at Anderson Park and a BBQ. We are also working

on having a spaghetti feed and/or chili cook-off contest with the youth doing the cooking!

We have been interviewed by KATU TV about Vernonia's own skate park, posted on January 24, 2018; we have recently been contacted by a production company that is interested in doing a documentary on how the committee was formed and background on working with the City to fund a skate park for the youth of Vernonia. We are also in close discussions with the Tony Hawk Foundation who has been helping our committee from the start and will have a grant available for us to apply for in January. We have three skate park builders excited to bid to build it here, in our town, Vernonia's very own skate park!

We need your help! It does take a village to make all this happen. This is about gifting our youth a healthy activity! It's about getting them off the couch, making friends, learning a new activity, and having a place to go! This will also give them a sense of pride in the VernoniaSK8 Park because they will be involved in its creation and maintenance. We have discussed with the School Principal the option of including the skate park maintenance as part of the senior's community service and/or senior project. We truly hope to break ground spring 2019 with your help. We need cool stuff to raffle, too. Right now we are at \$12,000 in donations. Our committee has VernoniaSK8 Park T-Shirts always available for sale at the Bridge Street Mini-Mart; please stop by and get one! We also have several ways to donate money:

- Wauna Credit Union - The Vernonia Booster Club is our fiscal sponsor. All donations will go thru their account. Please be sure your check is made out to "Boosters/SK8 Park." You can also ask the Wauna teller how you can help the VernoniaSK8 Park movement.
  - Boosters - Send check made out to "Boosters/SK8 Park" to: Vernonia Boosters Club, PO Box 62, Vernonia, OR 97064
  - Facebook - easy donation form on our Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/groups/vernoniask8](http://www.facebook.com/groups/vernoniask8)
  - Benevity Corporate Giving Tool: <https://intel.benevity.org/cause/840-930814021/project/3MQ5DB9FUT>
- Any questions or comments; please email the VernoniaSK8 Park Committee: [VernoniaSK8@gmail.com](mailto:VernoniaSK8@gmail.com).

## What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

**Summer Reading 2018: Libraries Rock!**  
Sign-up between June 11 and July 14. For children, birth through age 14. Receive a free book, book bag, and Oregon State Fair tickets. Return your time log between July 23 and August 11 to enter prize drawings and earn a free Oregon Zoo ticket.

**Family Movie Night**  
Thursday, June 28, 6 pm  
Relax and enjoy a free movie and popcorn. Featuring *Flushed Away* (PG) 85 min.

**Ongoing Programs**

**Writers Workshop**  
Thursday, June 21, 6 - 7:30 pm  
Third Thursday of every month. For writers with all experience levels.

**Book Discussion Group**  
Monday, June 25, 5:30 pm  
Selection for June 25: *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Katarina Bivald.

**Storytimes**

**Summer Family Storytime**  
Wednesdays, 11 am  
June 20 - August 22  
Snack served at 10:45 am, provided by the Summer Meals program, followed by stories, activities, and a craft.

**Flip Book Animation Workshop**  
Thursday, June 21, 1 - 3 pm  
Learn the art of Flip Book animation with Crystal Tabaldo of Laika Studios. For children going into 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up. Reserve a spot by contacting the Library. Sponsored by the Columbia County Cultural Coalition.

**Summer Meals Book Giveaway**  
Friday, June 22, 11:30 am - 1 pm at the Summer Meals site. Go to Summer Meals for lunch and pick out a free book. For children, 0-18. Sponsored by All Together Now.

**Red Yarn: Folk Music and Puppetry**  
Tuesday, June 26, 6:30 pm  
Andy Ferguson "Red Yarn" puts on a great show! For all ages. Red Yarn has five musical albums, with a new release "Red Yarn's Old Barn." Sponsored by the Ready to Read Grant.

**Library Closures**  
Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day

**Library Hours & Contact**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 - 5  
Tuesday, Thursday: 1 - 7  
Saturday: 10 - 4  
Closed Sundays

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