

Calling all skaters: Help design Saginaw's new skate park

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Planners for Saginaw's new-look Andersen Water Park hope an effort to solicit ideas for a skateboard park catches some air with area skaters.

"It's up to the skateboard community to build this park," said Jeffrey Klopccic, Saginaw's Geographic Information System administrator and coordinator of the park plans.

The city will solicit ideas for the ramp's design at a meeting from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the YMCA of Saginaw, 1915 Fordney.

Representatives from Wormhoudt Inc., a professional skate park design agency from Santa Cruz, Calif., will attend. Klopccic said the delegates plan to take notes, return to California to sketch a rendering and travel back to Saginaw to go over the blueprints with the community at a second gathering sometime this summer.

"Then we'll be ready to start building in the fall," Klopccic said. "We're trying to move on all these features this year."

The park will join Great Lakes Bay Region boarding and blading hotspots Infinity Skate Park in Defoe Park in Bay City and Trilogy Skate Park near Midland's Tridge.

Saginaw officials hope to reopen Andersen Water Park, the wave pool and waterslide attraction it had to close in 2002 because the city no longer could afford to subsidize it, next spring. Along with the skate park, the \$1.58 million makeover also will feature a splash park, pavilion area and boardwalk along Lake Linton.

The site, which opened in 1988, once drew up to 67,000 paying visitors during a 100-day summer schedule.