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Skaters flock to newly opened Lone skatepark

Friday, December 16, 2005

By [Ray Estrada](#)

Skateboarding is not a crime, at least in one part of Lone.

The long-awaited skate facility at Howard Park in Lone is "good to go," according to its designer Zachary Wormhoudt who said he walked through the facility last week.

Lone Public Works Manager Don Myshrral said Wednesday the skatepark is unofficially open, but his crews plan to put up a sign today on the southeast side of the recreational area off Highway 124.

"We hope to officially open the park on Saturday, but there won't be a dedication ceremony until later," Myshrral said.

Santa Cruz-based Worm-houdt, who has designed dozens of skateparks in North America, said Wednesday he had not heard from Lone officials about when a dedication ceremony might be held. "It looked good to go," Wormhoudt said.

Since Wormhoudt toured the facility, some parents reportedly have been taking their youngsters to the park where they hopped a fence and took a few runs on their skateboards.

It took all of two hours for the county's skaters to make it to the park on Wednesday after the fence was taken down. By 4 p.m. about 15 skaters were sessioning the park.

"It's great," said Pioneer's Ron Decker after landing a couple of backside airs off one of the park's quarterpipe features. "It's nice to have a local park so we don't have to drive an hour to skate in a park. And we don't have to worry about the cops hassling us now."

Skatepark construction began in the spring,



About 15 skaters descended onto the newly opened Lone skatepark Wednesday, within just two hours of the park's fence being taken down.

Photo by: [Sean Rabé](#)



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but some officials said then they expected the project to be completed by late summer of this year.

Ron Decker catches about 3 feet of air off one of the park's ramp features. All skaters agreed the park is a great facility.

Photo by: [Sean Rabé](#)

Construction of the skatepark has been delayed several times. The contract awarded earlier this year marked the culmination of almost four years of effort by lone residents and city officials. The Lone City Council voted unanimously in March to award a nearly \$300,000 contract to A.J. Vasconi to build the skatepark.

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Yes, Merry Christmas is offensive

No, Merry Christmas is not offensive

Neither is offensive

I don't know

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Andy Vasconi, who owns Concord-based A.J. Vasconi General Engineering, said the most recent delay was caused in part by Hurricane Katrina, which slowed many deliveries of steel products through Louisiana. Vasconi's crews were waiting for a steel coping rail that skate boarders like to ride on. That part - needed to complete the skatepark - arrived in late October.

The city obtained a \$232,000 state park and recreation grant to build the skatepark, but more funds needed to be raised. The park was downsized a bit so the grant covered most of the costs. The Jackson Rancheria Casino donated \$50,000 and other supporters kicked in the balance.

HOMETOWN RADIO



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In July 2001 a group rallied around the theme "Park Our Skaters," and presented their plans in a detailed presentation to the council. In October 2001, the group secured the grant from the state. Because of discrepancies in the bids and misinterpretations of the bid packet, the council decided to dump all bids and start the process anew in November 2004.

Ray Estrada

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