

Skate park roll call: Where they are

Beech Acres Wheels Park, Beech Acres Park, 6910 Salem Ave., Anderson Township. (513) 474-0003, www.andersonparks.com: 12,000-square-foot concrete park includes an 8-foot-deep bowl that transitions from a 5-foot half-pipe, ramps, stairs and edges.

Open to: Skateboards, bikes and in-line skates.

Cost: Free.

Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Safety equipment: Strongly encouraged.

Supervision: None. Children under 10 must have adult supervision.

Coming soon: A committee of citizens is raising funds to expand the Wheels Park by an additional 12,000 square feet.

Baker Bowl Skate Park, Smith Park, Tytus and Verity Parkway, Middletown. (513) 425-7842, www.ci.middletown.oh.us: 22,000-square-foot concrete park with beginner, intermediate and advanced areas. Includes bowls 2 to 8 feet deep, benches, curbs, banks, rails, steps, ramps and quarter pipes.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates.

Cost: Free.

Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Safety equipment: Recommended.

Supervision: None.

Fairfield/Hamilton Skate Park, Joyce Park, Forest Lake Lane, Hamilton. (513) 785-7060, www.hamilton-city.org: 10,000-square-foot concrete park with 6-foot bowl area, 4- and 6-foot launch ramps, a 3-foot mini ramp, rails and steps.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates. Bikes allowed Tuesdays and Thursdays. Skaters have right-of-way over bikers.

Cost: Free.

Hours: 8 a.m. to dusk.

Safety equipment: Strongly recommended.

Supervision: None. Adult supervision encouraged for children under 12.

Florence/Boone County Skate Park, Ky. 18 and Ewing Boulevard, Florence. (859) 647-5439, www.cityofflorenceky.com: 20,000-square-foot concrete park with beginner, intermediate and advanced areas including a 4-foot bowl area, ramps, handrails, fun boxes and a quarter-pipe.

Open to: Skateboards, in-line skates and bikes.

Cost: Free.

Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Safety equipment: Helmets and pads recommended.

Supervision: None. Adult supervision encouraged for children under 12.

Extras: Shelter.

Miami Meadows Skate Park, 1546 State Route 131, Milford. (513) 248-3728, www.miamitownshipoh.gov: 11,000-square-foot wooden skate park with half-pipes, rails, ramps, grind boxes and launch boxes.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates.

Cost: Free.

Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Safety equipment: Recommended.

Supervision: None.

Ollie's Skate Park, 8171 Dixie Highway, Florence. (859) 525-9505, www.skateollies.com: 48,000-square-foot indoor park includes large and small street sections that include stairs, rails, banks and half-bowls. Other features: mini ramps, vert ramp and fun boxes.

Open to: Skateboards, in-line skates and bikes.

Cost: Non-members, \$7 per two-hour session or \$18 all day. Memberships, \$75 per month or \$500 per year. Skateboard rentals: \$10 per session, \$6 for helmet, elbow and knee pads or \$2 for each helmet or pads.

Hours (through Labor Day): Noon-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-midnight Friday, 11 a.m.-midnight Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday.

Safety equipment: Helmet required for children under 18. Everyone must sign liability waivers.

Supervision: Staffed, two observation decks for spectators, video cameras throughout.

Lessons: Group skateboard lessons 9-11 a.m. Saturday; \$20 cost includes free two-hour session. Call in advance for bike or in-line skate lessons.

Oxford Skate Park, 6025 Fairfield Road, Oxford. (513) 523-6314, www.cityofoxford.org: 11,000-square-foot, fenced-in, wooden park with areas for beginner and intermediate skaters and including quarter pipes, fun boxes, ramps and a pyramid.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates.

Cost: Free.

Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. May-September; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. October-April.

Safety equipment: Highly recommended.

Supervision: None.

The Rock, 8855 Blue Ash Road, Blue Ash. (513) 794-9009, www.therock3.com: 12,000-square-foot wood and concrete indoor park includes 9-foot half-pipe, mini and spine ramps, vert wall and launch box.

Open to: Skateboards, in-line skates and bikes.

Cost: Non-members: \$7 for two-hour session, \$10 for four-hour session. Members: \$6 for two-hour session, \$7 for four-hour session.

Hours: 5-9 p.m. Monday (bikes), closed Tuesday,

5-9 p.m. Wednesday (skateboards and skates), 5-9 p.m. Thursday (bikes), 5-9 p.m. Friday (skateboards and skates), 1-5 p.m. Saturday (skateboards and skates), 5-9 p.m. Saturday (bikes), 1-5 p.m. Sunday (skateboards and skates).

Safety equipment: Helmets required. Liability waivers must be signed.

Supervision: Staffed.

Sessions Skate Park, 32 West Crescentville Road, Springdale. (513) 671-7433, www.sessionsskatepark.com: 8,000-square-foot plywood and metal indoor park with 5- and 6-foot quarter pipes, handrails, ledges and a vert wall.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates.

Cost: Members, \$4 for two-hour session with \$40 annual membership; non-members, \$6 for two-hour session.

Hours: Noon-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Beginner sessions are 10 a.m.-noon Saturday and Sunday.

Safety equipment: Helmets required for children under 18; can be rented for \$2. Liability waivers must be signed.

Supervision: Staffed.

Lessons: Private skateboarding lessons \$25 an hour; (513) 671-7433.

St. Bernard Skate Park, Ross Avenue Park off Ross Avenue, St. Bernard. (513) 242-7770: About 1,200-square-foot concrete park with a bowl, ramps and rails.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates; St. Bernard residents only.

Cost: Free.

Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Supervision: None.

Wyoming Skate Park, Oak Park, 900 block of Oak Avenue, Wyoming. (513) 821-5200: 7,000-square-foot concrete park with bowl, grinding rails, pyramids, a fun box, a hubba and ledges.

Open to: Skateboards and in-line skates Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday for bikes.

Cost: Free.

Hours: Dawn to dusk.

Supervision: None. Adult supervision recommended for children under 12.

Safety equipment: Helmets required; pads recommended.

Zoo Skate Park, Ralph J. Stolle Countryside YMCA, 1699 Deerfield Road, Lebanon. (513) 932-1424, www.countrysideymca.org: 21,000-square-foot wooden park with a street course, mini ramps, vert ramp and rails.

Open to: Skateboards, in-line skates and bikes.

Cost: Free for YMCA members, \$5 per visit for non-members.

Hours: 4-8 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 3-8 p.m. Saturdays (bikes); 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays (skateboards and in-line skates).

Supervision: Provided.

Safety equipment: Required; can be borrowed free of charge. Liability waiver must be signed.

Lauren Bishop

SKATE PARK TERMS

Bank: An elevated surface.

Bank ramp: Any sloped area under 90 degrees.

Boardslide: Lifting the front truck over a rail or other obstacle.

Carve: To turn with all four wheels on a surface.

Concave: An inward U-shaped turn.

Deck: The surface of a skateboard.

Drop in: To enter the ramp or obstacle from the top.

Fakie: Riding backward.

Fun box: A square structure with ramps on the sides and sometimes handrails.

Gap: The area between two riding surfaces over which skaters ollie.

Goofy foot: A riding stance in which a skater puts the right foot forward instead of the left ("regular") foot.

Grind: To ride on an object such as a ledge or handrail with just the trucks making contact.

Half-pipe: A U-shaped ramp used for vertical skating.

Hubba: A handrail that runs over a fun box.

Handrail: Found on staircases, skaters jump over, slide or grind on it.

Launch ramp: A ramp used to give skaters air to perform tricks.

Lip: Edge of any obstacle that a skateboarder rides.

Quarter-pipe: A half-pipe with one wall.

Spine ramp: Two ramps placed back to back with no platform at the point of connection.

Tail: The back section of a skateboard.

Trucks: The two parts of the skateboard connecting the deck with the wheels.

Transition: The curved part of an obstacle between 0 and 90 degrees.

Vert: Part of an inclined surface that is vertical in gradient.

Vertical or vert ramp: A half-pipe where the steepest section of the ramp is straight down and is usually more than 8 feet in height.

Sources: www.sk8parks.com, www.adrenalinepages.com, www.about.com

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