



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.





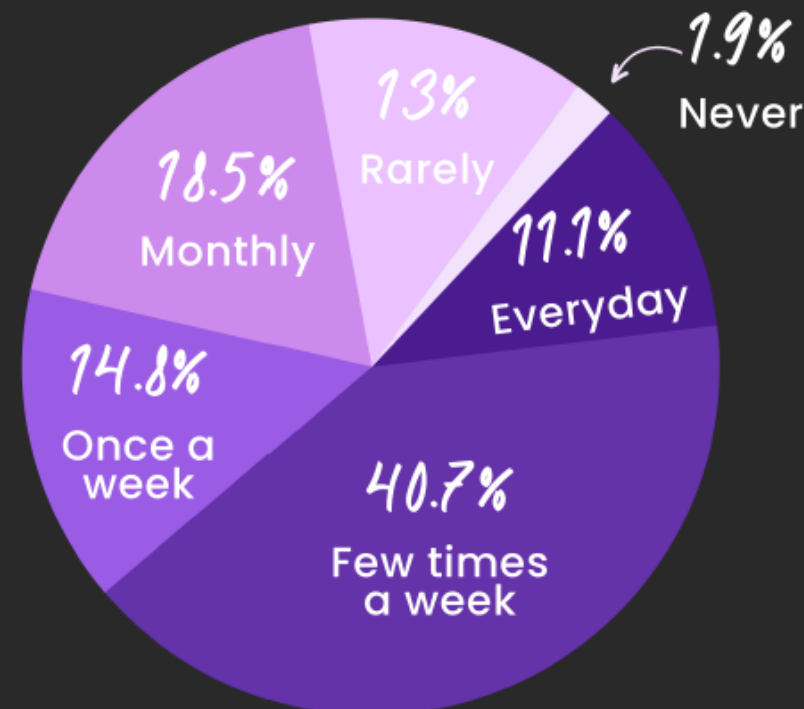


# Survey Results Highlights

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Additionally, survey users mentioned the lack of shade, lack of lights, need for better flow & outdated design.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

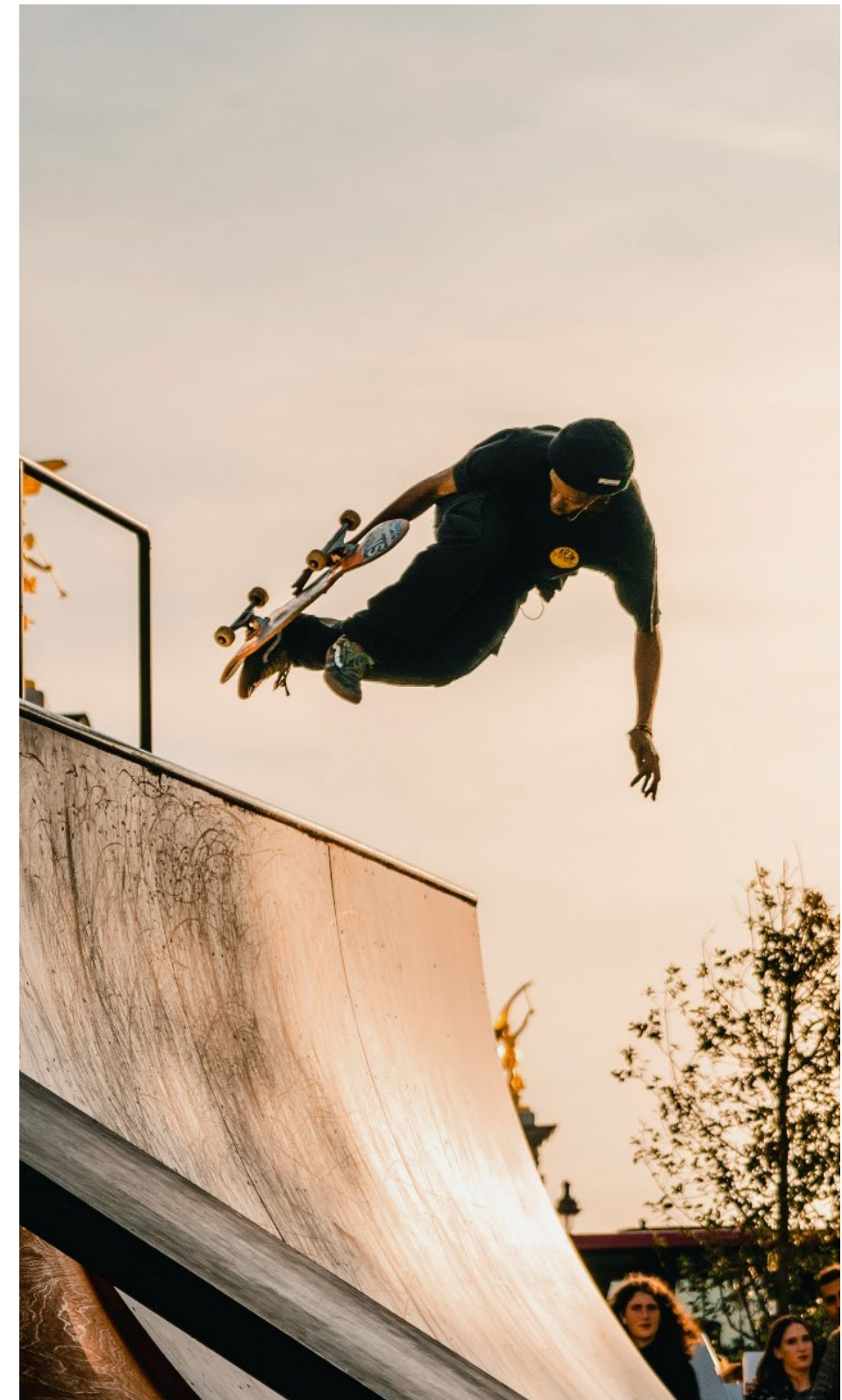
- Features for beginners, intermediate, and advanced skaters
- Separate areas for different skill levels to ensure safety
- Accessible design for adaptive skateboarding (wider ramps, smooth transitions)

## 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
- Easy maintenance for future repairs







# Medium Design Criteria

## Diverse Structures + Elements

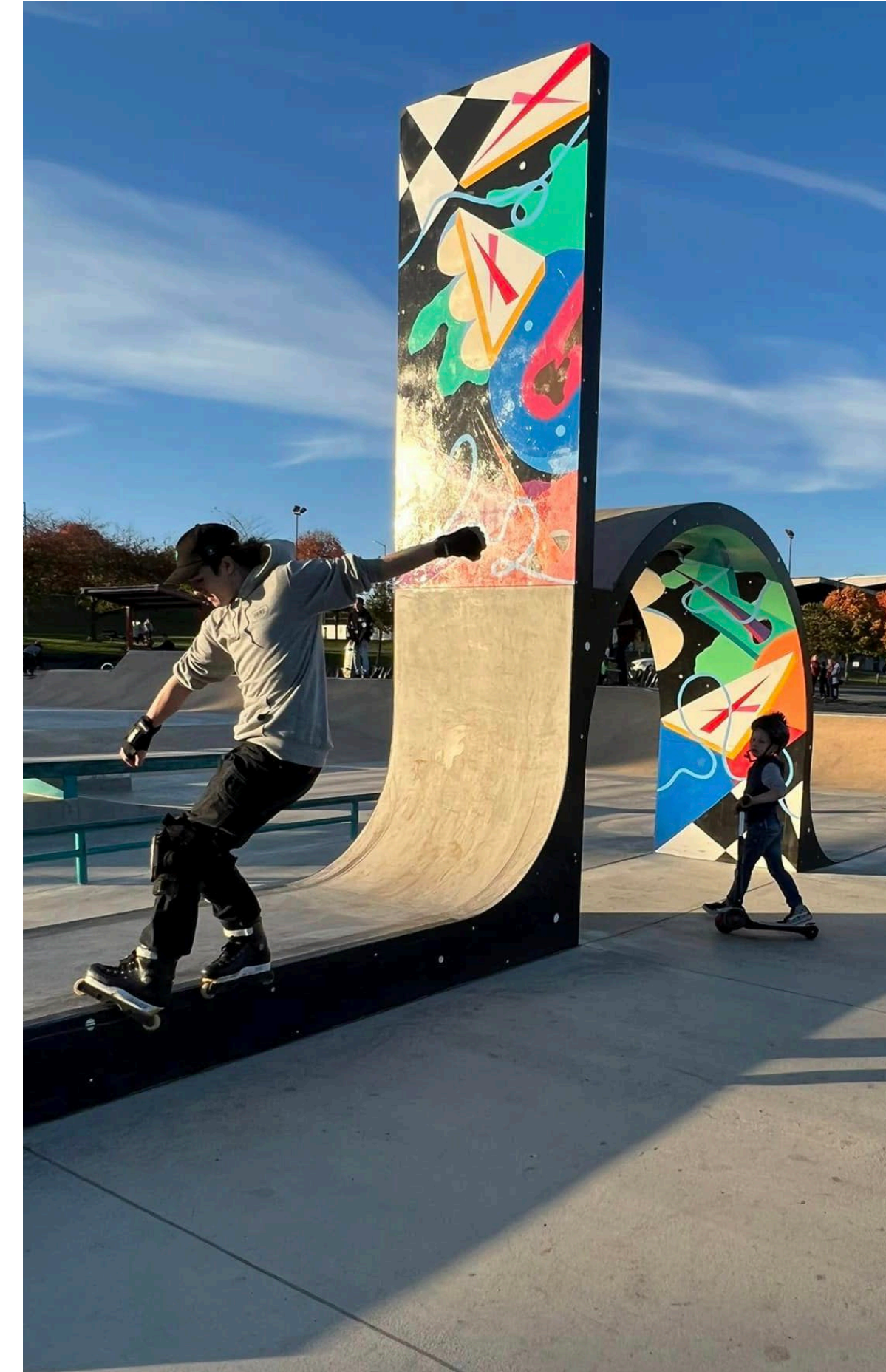
- Street Section: Rails, ledges, stair sets, hubbas, manual pads
- Transition Section: halfpipes, quarterpipes, vertical walls

## 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/schuyler-hj-park-improvements>

Jose C. Ayala, BSP, CNUa  
Principal Planner  
[Jose.Ayala@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Jose.Ayala@alexandriava.gov)  
Phone: 703.746.5491

