



PRESS RELEASE

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Erie's Skate Park One Step Closer

Erie, Pa. (June 23, 2009) - Mayor Joseph E. Sinnott, along with Kim Berdis, President of the Skate Erie Association (SEA), and youth members of SEA broke ground this afternoon in Columbus Park, near 15th and Poplar Streets, in Erie's Historic Little Italy Neighborhood for Phase I of the City's long awaited skate park. The park will soon welcome skateboarders, in-line skater and scooter riders of all ages.

The neighborhood has been open to the idea of a skate park; vastly different than the reaction the notion of a skate park received in other areas of the City. Plans for Erie's skate park have even been included in the revitalization plan for Erie's Little Italy. Mayor Sinnott said, "We are pleased to present the notice to proceed this afternoon. These kids, the many SEA supporters, parents and the Erie community have come together in support of this project and we are happy to see Phase I progressing."

The City of Erie received grant monies for the project, and a portion was released by Erie City Council, to allow SEA to move forward with plans to hire Grindline Design of Seattle, WA to design an all-concrete skate park. Funding is available to complete Phase I, SEA continues to seek financial support to further fund this development. Kim Berdis added, "Clearly this will be a most triumphant dig, yet I remind all we are not finished. Fundraising still continues for Phase II, the transitional part of the park. Through continued support I'm positive we will see the total vision. Donations will still be graciously accepted and all interested parties my contact us through erieskatepark@yahoo.com."

The City of Erie would like to thank the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Erie Community Foundation, The Tony Hawk Foundation, United Way of Erie County, Kiwanis Foundation of Erie, Rohrer Trucking, TJ Kourier Trucking, Iron Workers Local 3, Kunco Landscape Design and Maintenance, Erie Sand and Gravel and the many other local supporters.

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