

Addressee: Nambucca Guardian News
Date Submitted: 30th December 2006
Date Published: 4th January 2007

Don't Wreck Gordon Park

An ill-conceived suggestion has been put forward that Gordon Park would be a good site for the skate board park.

Gordon Park presently has a good balance between facilities including barbecues, picnic tables, swings, climbing gym, tennis courts and a boat ramp. There's a small open space for touch football, family cricket, kite flying or just running around and using up some energy.

Considering the pocket handkerchief size of the site, the inclusion of a skateboard park could only be a cramming exercise to the detriment of the present users of the park.

However there are other factors that make Gordon Park totally unsuitable site for a skate board facility. Any flat land in the park that is out of the way of the town's storm water flood path is near the river. Any concrete structure there would block the view line to the river that has just been specified in Council's Place Based Study for retention for the enjoyment of all the townspeople as well as the town's visitors. It would also be an ugly eyesore in front of the river view that we all espouse as this town's trump card.

The Shirewide Structure Plan emphasises the importance of tourism to Nambucca Heads in particular and has the Gordon Park precinct as an important accommodation adjunct in that plan. Any approval of a skateboard park within a few metres of prime tourist accommodation (Oceanview Apartments, Blue Dolphin Motel, Riverview Lodge and Quayside Apartments for example), with all the associated noise and soon to be realised graffiti, would be an unconscionable step by Council and seriously counterproductive to the promotion of tourism in our town.

From the perspective of the residents of the Gordon Park neighbourhood, those of us here all year round, a skate park is a "no go" for Gordon Park for the above reasons but particularly because of the noise factor. Gordon Park is a natural amphitheatre. All sound from the park is both projected and amplified. We already cope with the late night screams of the drunk and disorderly and are totally opposed to supplementing this noise with that which a skateboard park would bring to our neighbourhood every day AND every night!

Some of us feel it is embarrassingly long overdue that a site for the skate board park be found but let's not wreck Gordon Park in the process. The skate board park needs plenty of space, flat land with toilet facilities, no blocking of the town's water views, close enough but not too close to residences. E.J Biffen Playing Fields would have to be the strongest candidate site wouldn't it? Are there others?

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