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## **PONTIAC, SKATE ENTHUSIASTS BREAK GROUND ON HIGHLY ANTICIPATED PUBLIC SKATEPARK**

*City of Pontiac & Pontiac Skate Activists secure \$550K for  
new construction in Oakland Park*

**PONTIAC, MI** (May 12, 2023) Outdoor fun was front and center today when officials, residents and skate enthusiasts attended a groundbreaking ceremony for Pontiac Skatepark in Oakland Park. The afternoon event marked an enthusiastic collaboration between Pontiac City officials, the Pontiac Skatepark Project, skate enthusiasts, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Oakland County Commission, McClaren Health, and The Skatepark Project.

*"We are thrilled to move forward with this state-of-the-art enhancement to our city's recreational facilities. It was made possible by collaboration with many partners including neighborhood leaders, private donors, and county government," said Mayor Tim Greimel.*

The Pontiac Skatepark Project was awarded \$250,000 in matching funds from "**The Skatepark Project**" to build a public skatepark that would be free of charge to the public. The organization also received \$50,000 to fund project design costs that will *lessen* the environmental impact of the skatepark. This opportunity was made possible by a grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation Built to Play Program which required the group to raise a minimum of \$50,000 to be eligible for the dollar-to-dollar match. Pontiac Skatepark Project independently raised \$70,000 towards the \$250,000 match which included generous donations from McLaren Oakland Hospital and the Girls' Friendly Society, among many others.

*"The Pontiac Skatepark is an important project for not only the City of Pontiac, but for Southeast Michigan overall. The addition of this Built to Play Skatepark is an important part of getting young people physically active through free recreational opportunities. The Skatepark Project could not be prouder to have helped make the Pontiac Skatepark a reality," Benjamin Bashein, Executive Director, The Skatepark Project.*

*"All of the hard work we've put into this project will literally be concrete in a matter of months and we couldn't be more excited," said Marijayne Renny, The Pontiac Skatepark Project.*

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The Oakland County Commission committed \$125,000 – half of the matching requirement to city officials – and the remaining \$55,000 was committed by the city to support the matching grant.

*“This skatepark sets a benchmark for success as we progressively provide a safe space for Pontiac kids and young adults,” said **Community Relations Specialist Angela Powell.***

*“We’re extremely grateful for the efforts of Pontiac Skatepark Project, the County, and most importantly, the donors for their generous contributions.”*

This upcoming project is great news for Pontiac. Attendees to today’s event had a chance view the final designs for the new skatepark and other plans to accentuate the development. Residents were ecstatic and openly expressed why this family-friendly gathering spot is vital to the community.

*“I want to thank each one of the sponsors for making this new community gem a part of the city of Pontiac,” said **City Council President Pro Tem William Carrington.***

*“Skateparks are important because they build and sustain healthy communities. As a gathering place for dedicated, athletic youth, the skatepark will provide a forum for visitors young and old, beginners and skilled, to meet and share experiences.”*

The new skatepark is expected to be completed in Summer 2023. For more information, please visit <https://www.pontiac.mi.us/>

### **Pontiac Skatepark Project**

*Pontiac Skatepark Project is a ragtag group of different skaters and community members that want a skate park in the City of Pontiac. The organization exists as a committee to create a functional and safe space for skating. The members are committed to making a positive impact through engagement and grassroot efforts to reach their goals.*

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