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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CITY OF PONTIAC ANNOUNCES OPENING OF NEW SKATEPARK IN OAKLAND PARK

Pontiac Skatepark Project secured \$568K for construction project.

PONTIAC, MI (November 29, 2023) – The highly anticipated new skatepark in Oakland Park is open and skate enthusiasts have already put it to the test! This amazing new facility was borne of a collaboration between the City of Pontiac, Pontiac Skatepark Project, local activists and skate enthusiasts, the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Oakland County Commission, and The Skatepark Project (formerly known as the Tony Hawk Foundation).

Pontiac’s newly constructed skatepark is an estimated 10,000 square-foot and features several ramps of various sizes, handrails, flat rails, ledges, and many other amenities to accommodate skaters of all skill levels. Also important to the skatepark’s design is a rain garden providing a green solution to assist with water drainage, landscaping with native plants and new sidewalks leading to the skatepark.

*“We have been looking forward to opening this state-of-the-art amenity since we broke ground on it in May, and we are thrilled about this latest addition to the City’s recreational facilities,” said **Pontiac Mayor Tim Greimel**. “This project was made possible by the collaborative efforts of community leaders, private donors, young people, and Oakland County, and it is yet another example of how collaboration improves the quality of life for all of our residents.”*

The **Pontiac Skatepark Project** was awarded \$250,000 in matching funds from ‘**The Skatepark Project**’ for construction. An additional \$50,000 funded the project design costs that reduced the environmental impact of the skatepark. The project was made possible through the generosity of **the Skatepark Project & the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation Built to Play Program**. The grant required that the group raise a minimum of \$50,000 to be eligible for the dollar-to-dollar match. The Pontiac Skatepark Project independently raised \$70,000 towards the \$250,000 match and included generous donations from **McLaren Oakland Hospital** and the **Girls’ Friendly Society**.

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The **Oakland County Commission** committed half of the matching requirement to the city of Pontiac in the amount of \$125,000, and the remaining \$55,000 was committed by the City of Pontiac in support of this matching grant. Following these commitments, the Pontiac Skatepark Project continued to receive contributions which resulted in an additional \$18,000 after the match was secured. Through this collaborative funding partnership, \$568,000 was established in support of this project.

“This skatepark is a dream come true for The Pontiac Skatepark Project. Our collective delusional optimism and absolute determination by this community, turned a dream into reality.” said Marijayne Renny of The Pontiac Skatepark Project.

Everyone is welcome to use the park for skating, weather permitting. For safety, the City of Pontiac’s conditions are as follows:

- No motorized or electric vehicles on the skatepark.
- Wear protective equipment.
- Do not skate during inclement weather (snow, rain, fog).
- Respect local neighbors and residents.
- Keep park clean and free of debris.
- Skate during daylight hours only.

Skatepark hours are:

Winter hours

- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., November 16, 2023 to March 14, 2024.

Summer hours

- 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., March 15, 2024 to November 14, 2024.

“The rebuilding of the city of Pontiac starts with our youth who are the future. This is why the new skatepark project in Oakland Park is so important to building a sustainable healthy community,” said President Pro-Tem William A. Carrington. “This partnership was a collective effort of skateboard enthusiasts, local government, local and national civic organizations, and our youth. Skateparks assist in building healthy communities, by creating a gathering place for our athletic youth, having a positive effect on mental health, promoting healthy and active lifestyles, and reducing criminal behavior.”

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Safety Recommendations & Conditions of Use

Welcome to the Pontiac Skatepark! Please review the safety recommendations and conditions of use listed below. Please remember this is an unsupervised facility. **Use at your risk.**

The City of Pontiac does not assume responsibility for any injury. Skateboarding, biking, scootering & in-line skating at this facility are hazardous recreational activities. Use of this facility may expose the user to serious injury.



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Always skate safely, within your skill level, and show consideration for others. Glass or alcohol are not to be permitted at the Skatepark and surrounds. Dial 911 for emergency assistance.

NO MOTORIZED/ ELECTRIC VEHICLES	PLEASE WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	SKATE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY
DO NOT SKATE DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER	RESPECT OUR NEIGHBORS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS	KEEP THE PARK CLEAN AND FREE OF DEBRIS

