

WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL



SKATEBOARD AND ROLLERBLADE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1998

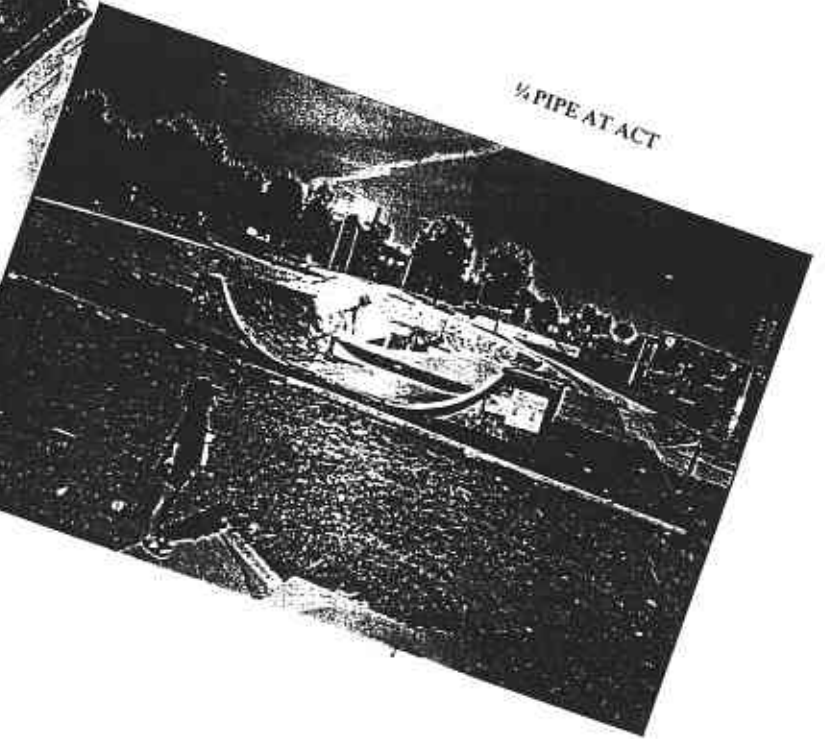
TYPES OF SKATEBOARD

& ROLLERBLADE FACILITIES

VARIOUS JUMPS AND OBSTACLES



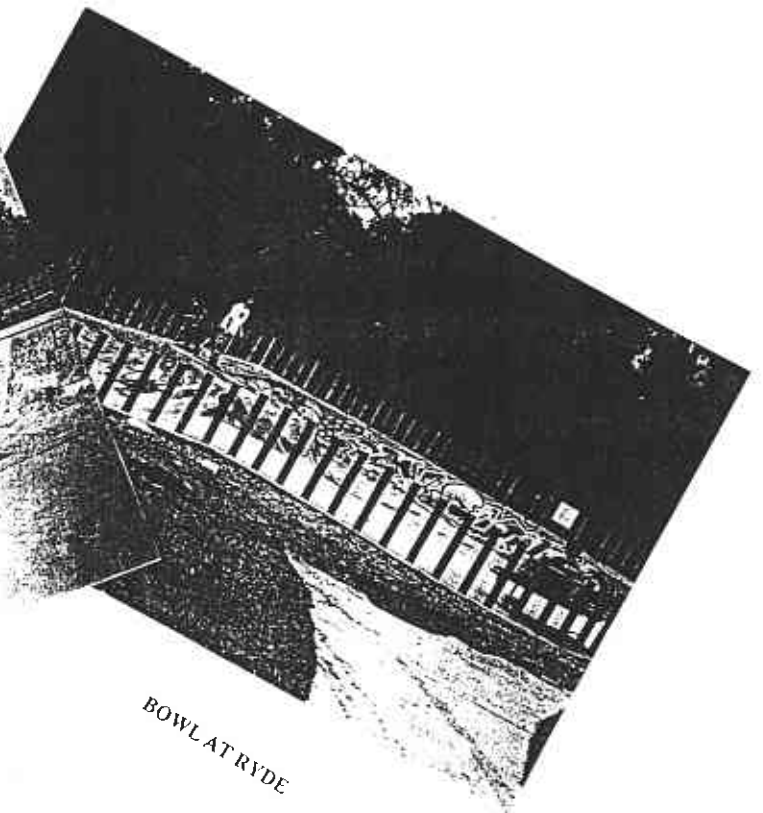
1/4 PIPE AT ACT



BOWL AT ACT



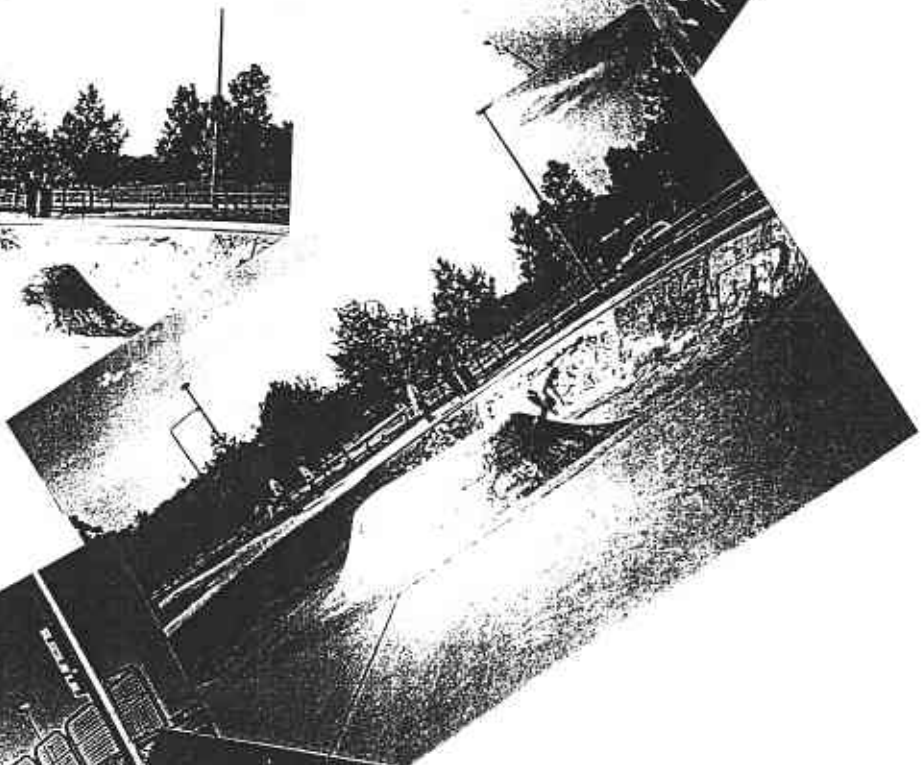
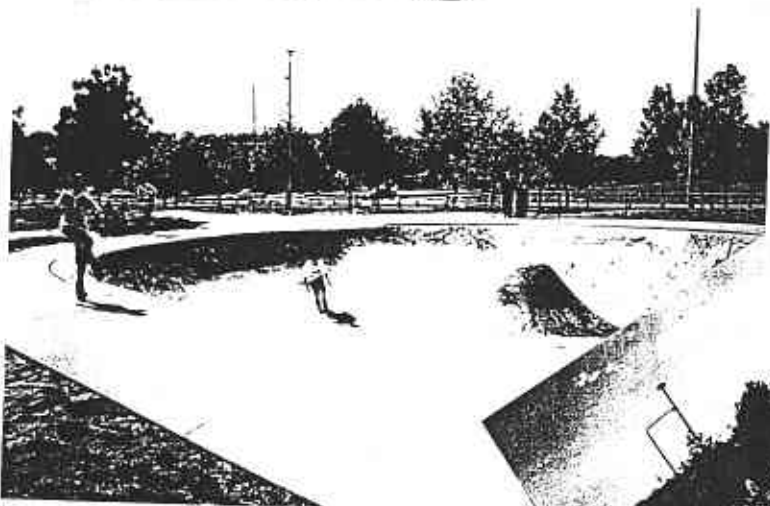
BOWL AT RYDE



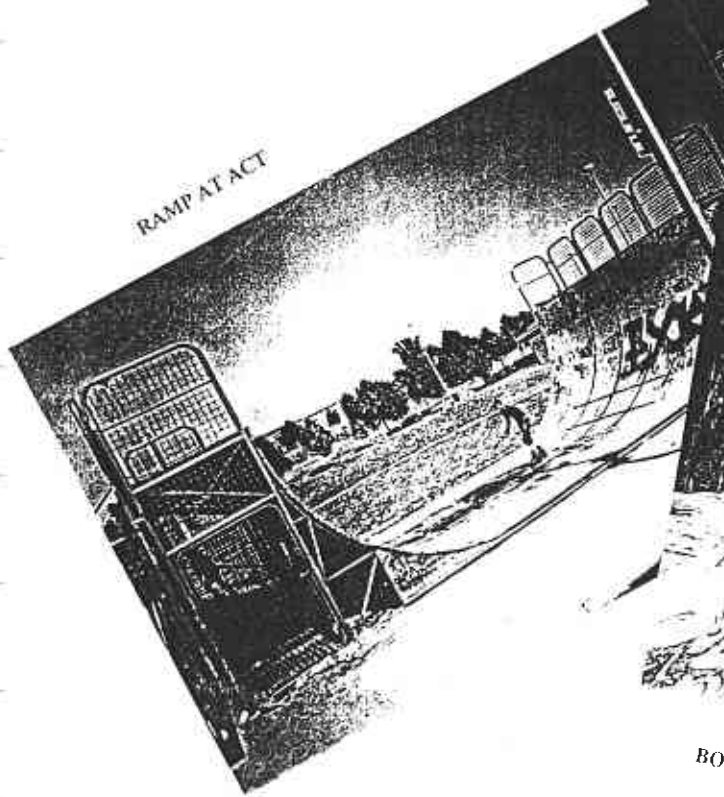
BOWL AT ACT



VARIOUS JUMPS AND OBSTACLES



RAMP AT ACT



BOWL AT RYDE



SKATEBOARD & ROLLERBLADE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE OF PLAN

To provide Council with a strategy to develop skateboard facilities in Willoughby. A strategy is needed to provide clear directions on suitable locations, type of facilities needed, and the staging of works.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The need for skateboard facilities in Willoughby has been discussed for more than ten years. During this time several sites have been nominated as suitable for the development of a facility, however due to one consideration or another, no skateboard facility has been constructed to date.

More recently two reports have been put to Council discussing suitable locations with the main support for Artarmon Reserve. A skateboard facility has been included in the 1997/98 Capital Works Programme, subject to the Plan of Management for Artarmon Reserve being adopted.

3.0 ESTABLISHED NEED

Council's Recreation Plan (1993 and summary 1995) identified children in the 0-14 year age group as being the highest users (34%) of Council's parks. Skateboard facilities were a priority for this group as well as for young people in the 15-19 year age group.

A six month trial of skateboarding in the car park behind the Chatswood Youth Centre was completed in July. The trial was conducted on a monthly basis on a Friday evening and has proved a great success with more than forty young people attending each time. Details of the trial and a proposed extension were contained in a report to Council on 22 June 1998. The trial has been extended until a DA is completed.

4.0 GUIDELINES

The NSW Department of Planning's Guidelines for Skateboard Facilities (1989) state that the locational requirements for skateboard facilities be:

- Well served by public transport or accessible by foot or bicycle paths;
- Located near population concentrations where demand is high;
- Separated or buffered from nearby residences to avoid noise nuisance and possible aesthetic degradation of the surroundings.
- Located on ground that allows ramps, bowls and tracks to be constructed.
- Served by amenities such as a toilet block, water bubblers, seating and shaded areas.

SKATEBOARD & ROLLERBLADE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

5.0 CONSULTATION

Council's Recreation Development Officer, Youth Services Development Co-ordinator and Open Space Manager have together worked on this plan.

Council's Youth Services Development Officer has also conducted meetings with young people on four occasions held at the Chatswood Youth Centre. In additional discussions were held with participants attending the Youth Centre trial over the last six months.

The facilities proposed have been a direct result of this consultation and further input will be sought to ensure the satisfaction of all potential users.

Further input will result from the DA process.

6.0 POTENTIAL SITES

The following site locations have been determined by using a criteria which includes:

- Guidelines proposed by NSW Department of Planning (1989)
- Existing infrastructure such as water, shade, and seating
- Areas which may be isolated due to major roads or other physical barriers
- Number of children and young people residing in these areas.

The designs have taken into account:

- Physical features within the reserve
- The topography of the reserve
- Capacity for future development
- Input from children and young people.

Attachment 3 shows each site location.

6.1 Sites on Public Open Space

6.1.1. Artarmon Reserve - Burra Road, Artarmon

The park is located at the end of Burra Road, Artarmon, and contains significant areas of bushland, a children's playground, two playing fields, an amenities block and carparking. It is close to Artarmon Railway Station and is serviced by bicycle paths and footpaths. The specific site considered is adjacent to the lower carpark and railway line. The park is serviced by public toilets, has accessible water, seating, carparking and shade.

It is proposed to develop a 1/4 pipe and some small jumps along side the existing carpark (see Attachment 2).

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Factors to be considered

- The Census data shows that the surrounding population of Artarmon Reserve has 150-187 children aged 5-14 years which is considered very high, and 40-60 youth aged 15-18 years, also considered very high (see Attachment 1)
- Located adjacent to the freeway and train line, so noise will not be a problem
- Accessible by train, car, bus, walking or cycling
- Has toilets, parking, seating and bubblers
- Links into other recreation facilities
- Good visibility from across the reserve
- No access to a telephone in case of an emergency
- A skateboard facility has been included in the Draft Plan of Management.

6.1.2. Beauchamp Park - Nicholson Street, Chatswood

Located on Nicholson Street, Chatswood, Beauchamp Park has a sports field, amenities building, car park, basketball court, children's playground and extensive gardens. Being close to the CBD where there is a high concentration of children and youth, it is an ideal location for a skateboard facility. The specific location considered is adjacent to the basketball court.

It is proposed to develop the existing bank adjacent to the basketball court as a wedge ramp (see Attachment 2).

Factors to be considered

- The Census data shows that the surrounding population of Beauchamp Park has 50-100 children aged 5-14 years which is considered medium, and 25-40 youth aged 15-18 years, which is considered high (see Attachment 1)
- Located close to Chatswood CBD
- Has toilets, water, a car park, basketball court and playground for younger children
- Close to public transport
- Good visibility from residential housing and road
- Possibility that noise may affect neighbours
- A skateboard facility has been included in the Plan of Management.

6.1.3 Bicentennial Park - Small Street, Willoughby

Bicentennial Park is a regional park which contains the Willoughby Leisure Centre; the Burley Griffin incinerator; a baseball diamond, and 17 netball courts. Future plans for the area include developing a children's playground and cycle track. The entire reserve is well used by the community and is located within close proximity to public transport along Willoughby Road.

Skateboard and rollerblade workshops have previously operated during the school holidays from the Willoughby Leisure Centre, who have expressed an interest in having a permanent facility located there. It is proposed to construct a 1/4 pipe ramp (see Attachment 2) adjacent to the netball courts.

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Factors to be considered

- The Census data shows that the surrounding population of Bicentennial Reserve has 150-187 children aged 5-14 which is considered very high, and 40-60 youth aged 15-18 years, also considered very high (see Attachment 1)
- Regional reserve used by a number of groups and individuals
- Serviced by public transport (bus route)
- Has water, seating, shade, and links into other recreation facilities within the reserve
- A skateboard facility has not been included in the Plan of Management, but is consistent with the reserve's objectives.

6.1.4 Chatswood Park - Albert Avenue, Chatswood

The park is adjacent to Chatswood Oval and contains a small children's playground, tree planting and a small carpark. It is adjacent to Chatswood Railway Station and is accessible by footpaths. It is within the Central Business District where there are high concentrations of young adults and children. It is adjacent to the railway line and a busy roadway which will absorb any noise generated by the facility. There is a public toilet block adjacent with access to water and the park contains shade trees and seating. It is located one block from Council's Youth Centre and roof top basketball court.

It is proposed to develop a skateboard bowl (see Attachment 2) where the existing playground is currently located and to relocate the playground closer to Trumper Pavilion. The Director, Trumper After School Care has been consulted and supports the proposal.

Factors to be considered

- The Census data shows that the surrounding population of Chatswood Oval has 50-100 children aged 5-14 years which is considered medium, and 25-40 youth aged 15-18 years, which is considered high (see Attachment 1)
- Close to Chatswood CBD and the Youth Centre
- Serviced by public transport
- Has toilets, drinking water, carpark, seating and shade
- Good visibility from the streets
- A skateboard facility has been included in the Plan of Management.

6.1.5 Gore Hill Oval - Pacific Highway, St. Leonards

This park consists of an oval, basketball court, amenities block, public toilets and car park. Located adjacent to RNS Hospital, St. Leonards Railway Station and the Pacific Highway it is an ideal location for a skateboard facility. Presently an area of the car park near the basketball court is used by young people for skateboarding on a casual basis.

It is proposed to upgrade the surface of the basketball court and construct a 1/4 pipe and jumps (see Attachment 2) along side the basketball court.

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Factors to be considered

- The Census data shows that the surrounding population of Gore Hill Oval has 50-100 children aged 5-14 years which is considered medium, and 5-15 youth aged 15-18 years, which is considered low (see Attachment 1)
- Located close trains and buses
- Adjacent to the RNS Hospital
- Has toilets, water, and some shade
- Somewhat isolated from passing traffic
- A skateboard facility has been included in the Plan of Management.

6.1.6 Naremburn Park - Park Road, Naremburn

This reserve has two sports fields, two basketball/netball courts, change rooms, car park, drinking water and shelter. The area is presently experiencing a regrowth of young families and is lacking recreational facilities for young people. The need for additional recreation facilities to be provided at Naremburn Park is greater since the construction of the Gore Hill Freeway, which has isolated some nearby areas.

Presently the concrete roof of the amenities building (which is built into a hill), and the two basketball courts area are used extensively for skateboarding and rollerblading by young people. A 1/4 pipe and a series of small jumps (see Attachment 2) are proposed utilising the amenity rooftop.

Factors to be considered

- The Census data shows that the surrounding population of Naremburn Oval has 50-100 children aged 5-14 years which is considered medium, and 15-25 youth, also considered medium (see Attachment 1)
- Has toilets, shelter, seating and drinking water
- Established use by young people
- Utilises existing infrastructure
- Noise may affect sporting groups using amenities building when skaters are there
- A skateboard facility has not been included in the Plan of Management, but is consistent with the reserve's objectives.

6.1.7 Northbridge Park - Sailors Bay Northbridge

This reserve contains a sports field, an 18 hole golf course, an After School Care Centre, branch Library, an amenities building, car park, and water. Northbridge is also experiencing strong growth in families and has a high percentage of children and young people living in the area. The RSL Memorial site contains a hall and two tennis courts and the site is considered suitable for developing a skateboard facility. Both the golf club and the RSL have indicated that they are in favour of providing additional recreational facilities for children and youth in the area.

It is proposed that a small 1/4 pipe ramp (see Attachment 2) be constructed in the area adjacent to the tennis courts.

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6.2 Alternative Sites

The NSW Department of Planning Guidelines suggests a range of alternatives, which may be suitable for skateboarding and rollerblading. These include the use of car parks and school grounds, and mobile and relocatable ramps.

Chatswood has several car parks in the CBD area, however most are used seven days a week and are locked after hours. The most suitable car park for this type of activity is located behind the Chatswood Youth Centre. As reported to Council a successful trial was undertaken in July.

Mowbray Public School was thought to have been the most suitable school in Willoughby for the development of a skateboard facility. Due to a lack of suitable public reserves located west of the Pacific Highway, and a high density of children and young people living in the immediate area, it was an ideal site. Unfortunately the School Principal has advised Council staff that the school is not interested in the idea, and currently a ban on skateboards exists within the school grounds.

Another alternative which Council should consider is the use of relocatable skateboard facilities. North Sydney Council has recently purchased a mobile ramp and is offering nearby councils the opportunity to hire it. The use of this ramp would provide an immediate solution to the recreational needs of younger people. The lower car park of Artarmon Reserve can accommodate the ramp and the most suitable time to trial its use would be during the break between the winter and summer sporting season. Although the ramp would not be supervised appropriate signage would be posted advising users of the conditions of use.

6.3 Commercial Venues

The development of a skateboard facility at Bicentennial Park raises the possibility of the Willoughby Leisure Centre having some control over booking the facility, hiring safety equipment, operating training courses, holiday programs and events. Other possibilities could include developing a skateboard facility within a multi purpose recreation centre such as the Cove Sporting Club, where a wide range of supervised activities are offered to all ages. These ventures should be encouraged and would compliment those proposed in this plan.

7.0 PUBLIC LIABILITY ISSUES

Council's insurance broker has indicated that we would be able to obtain public liability cover under Council's existing liability arrangements, and this would be subject to Council supplying full details of any facility that was constructed on public land. The major issues that need to be considered both during the design and construction phases and then during normal usage would be:

- The actual design and construction
- Fencing of appropriate dimensions with a childproof gate
- Have signs warning of potential risks
- Regular inspections and prompt repairs undertaken
- Maintained in a clean and fit state for usage
- Monitor usage to ensure that the facility was not abused in any way
- Supervised activities must be operated under strict guidelines.

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8.0 RELATED ISSUES

8.1 Lighting

It is not intended to provide lighting in the area of these facilities.

8.2 Rubbish

Appropriate garbage bins will be installed in the immediate areas of all skateboard facilities.

8.3 Community Education

Community education is an important component of this plan. A management strategy will be developed between Council's Recreation Officer, Youth Services Officer, the National Skateboarders Association of Australia, together with young people which will address the use of skateboard facilities in Willoughby City. This strategy will include a series of workshops to be held at the Chatswood Youth Centre which will address issues such as appropriate behaviour, gender equity, safety, and the skills of skateboarding and rollerblading. These workshops will play an integral part of the success of these facilities and in gaining wider community support.

9.0 PROPOSED WORKS PRIORITISATION

Name	Type of Facility	Priority	Est. Cost	Plan of Mgt
Artarmon Reserve	1/4 Pipe & jumps	High	\$90,000	Yes
Beauchamp Park	Wedge Ramp	High	\$15,000	Yes
Bicentennial Reserve	1/4 Pipe	High	\$25,000	No
Chatswood Oval	Bowl	High	\$90,000	Yes
Gore Hill Oval	1/4 Pipe & jumps	Medium	\$25,000	Yes
Naremburn Park	1/4 Pipe & jumps	Medium	\$25,000	No
Northbridge Park	1/4 Pipe	Low	\$20,000	Yes
Willoughby Park	Bowl	High	\$90,000	Yes

Artarmon Reserve	Mobile Ramp	High	\$2,000	Yes
Youth Centre	Mobile Ramps & jumps	High	\$2,000	N/A

10.0 CONCLUSION

The need for skateboard facilities in Willoughby is a high priority for children and young people. The need can be met by providing a variety of permanent and relocatable facilities that will provide experiences for skateboard users, including young beginner children and the more experienced adolescents.

The trial at the Youth Centre including the hire of mobile ramps have been a great success and it is recommended that the mobile ramp offered by North Sydney Council be hired on a short term basis and located at Artarmon Reserve to alleviate some the immediate skateboarding needs of children and adolescents in the area.

SKATEBOARD & ROLLERBLADE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sites suitable for the development of permanent skateboard facilities in Willoughby include Artarmon Reserve, Beauchamp Park, Bicentennial Reserve, Chatswood Oval, Gore Hill Oval, Naremburn Park, Northbridge Park, and Willoughby Park. Each site location has taken into consideration the needs of children and youth, their population in that area, and the facilities proposed have made use of the existing infrastructure where possible. All sites but Bicentennial Reserve and Naremburn Oval have a Plan of Management, which includes a skateboard facility, and each will require a Development Application.

Council's insurers Statewide Mutual P/L have indicated they have no objection to covering such skateboarding facilities provided they are well planned and constructed and include appropriate safeguards.

As the interests of skateboarders and rollerbladers change over time aspects of these facilities will need to change accordingly, and where appropriate, some sites may eventually have multiple elements. Input from children and young people will be a vital aspect of their success.

11.0 REFERENCES

Willoughby City Council, Recreation Plan, 1993

Willoughby City Council, Summary of the 1993 Recreation Plan, 1995

Willoughby City Council, Summary of Outstanding Strategies
from the 1993 Willoughby City Recreation Plan, 1997

Willoughby City Council, Plan of Management: Willoughby Park, Naremburn Park, Bales Park, O. H. Reid Reserve, Greville Street Reserve, 1995. Manidis Roberts Consultants

Willoughby City Council, Plan of Management: Chatswood central Business District and Parks, 1997

1996 Census Collection District Boundaries, Willoughby Local Government Area, Number of Children Aged 5-14 and 15-18 Years.

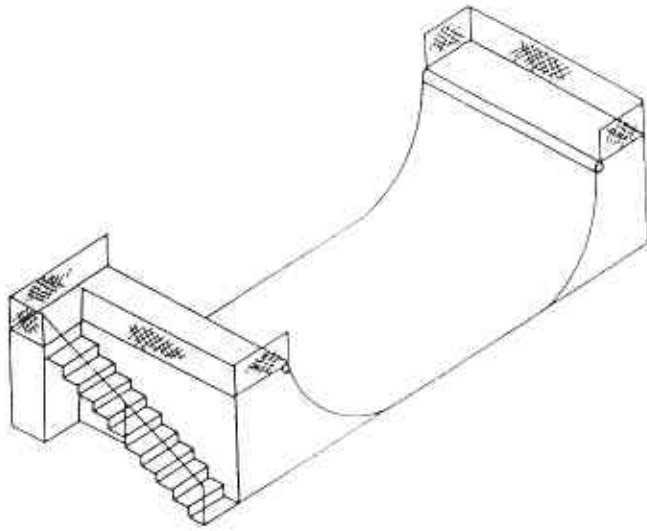
SKATEBOARD & ROLLERBLADE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

ATTACHMENT 1. No. of Children 5-14 and Youth 15-18 in Surrounding Areas.

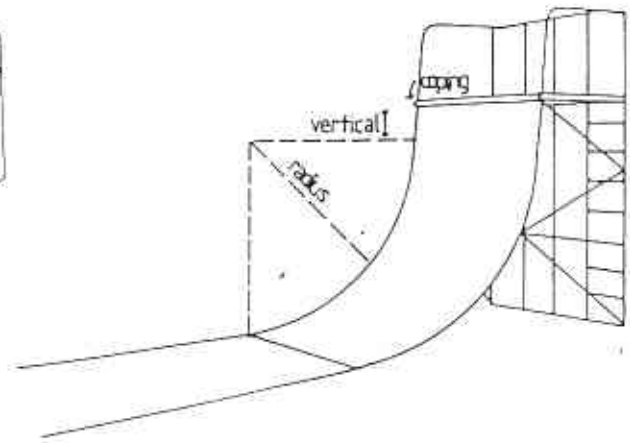
Park Name	Age 5-14 yrs	Age 15-18 yrs
Artarmon Reserve	150-187	40-60
Beauchamp Park	50-100	25-40
Bicentennial Reserve	150-187	40-60
Chatswood Oval	50-100	25-40
Gore Hill Oval	50-100	5-15
Naremburn Park	50-100	15-25
Northbridge Park	100-150	25-40
Willoughby Park	150-187	15-25

Source: 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

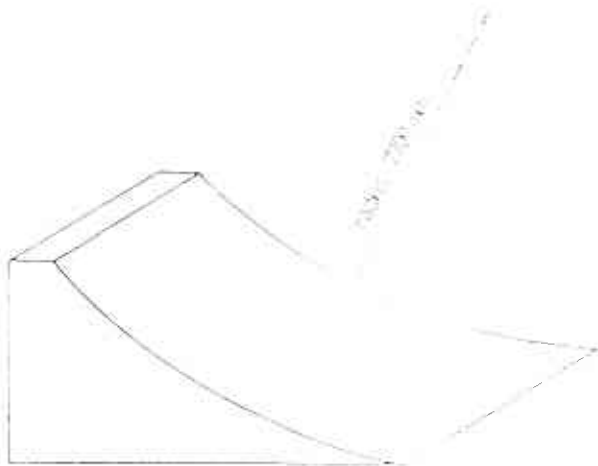
ATTACHMENT 2. TYPES OF SKATEBOARD FACILITIES



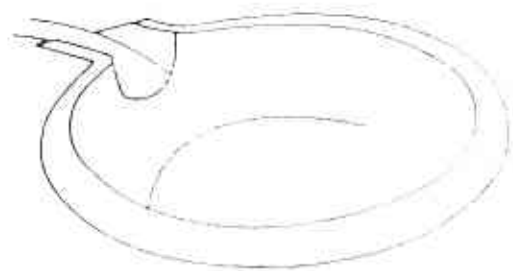
Vertical Half Pipe



1/4 Pipe

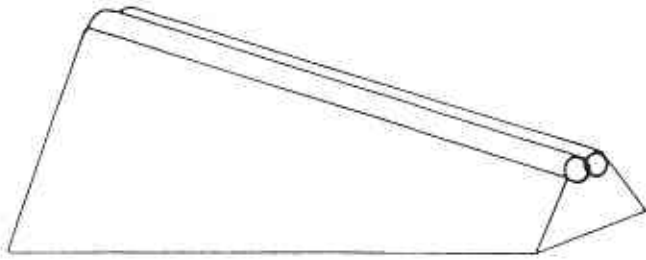


Jump Ramp



Bowl

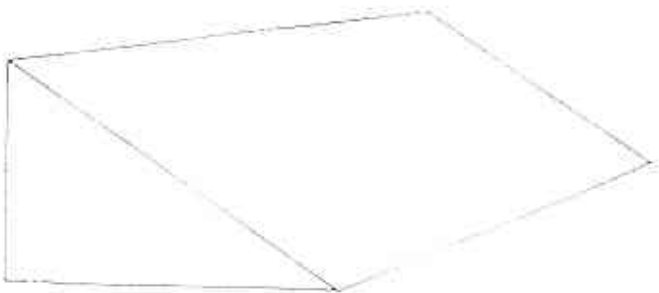
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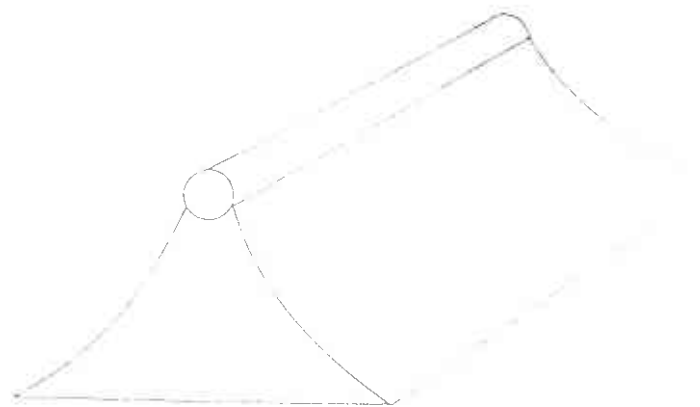
Boardslide



Flat Boardslide



Wedge Ramp

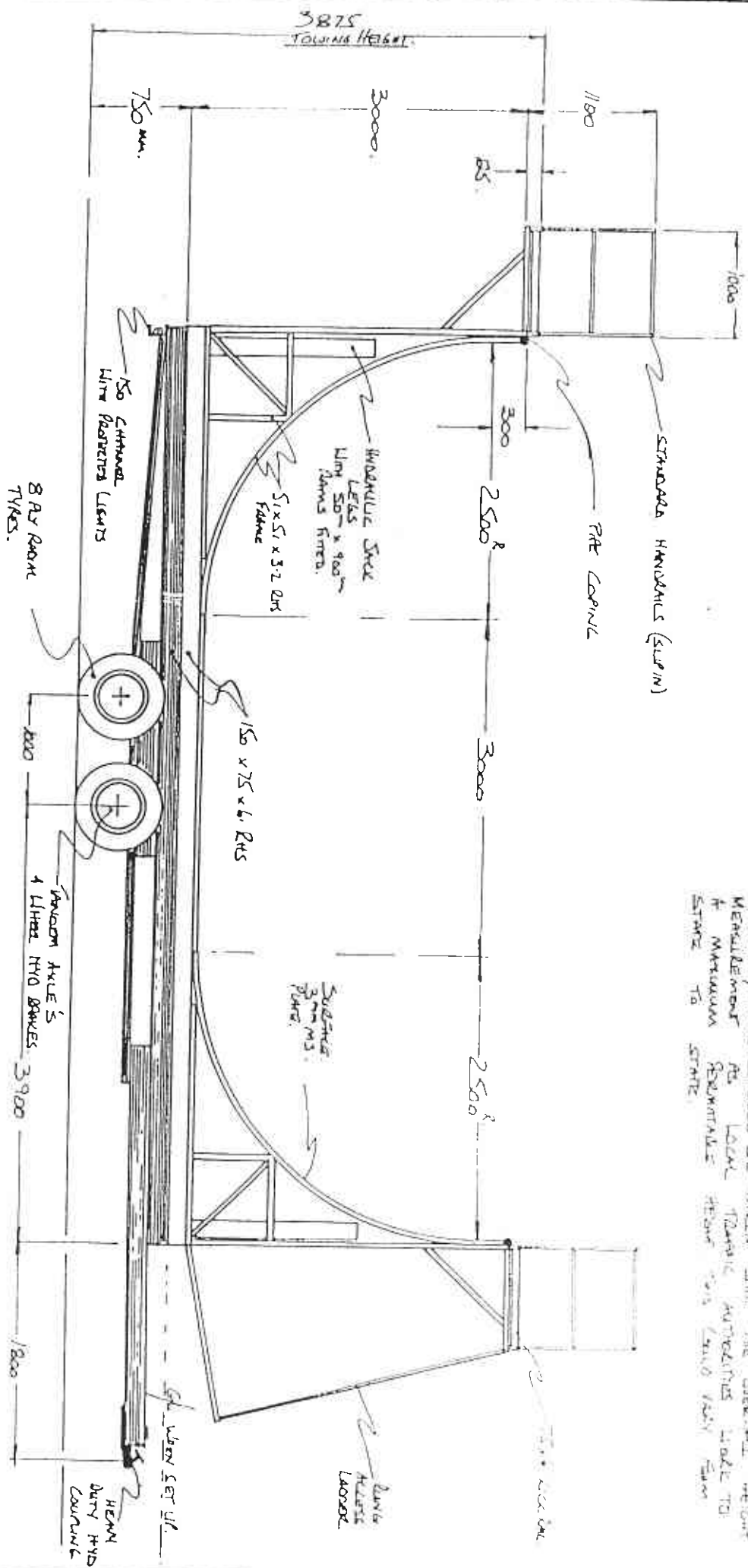


Back to Back 1/4 Pipe

Mobile Skateboard Ramp Design

FINNSKO 6A. /03/ 8-3-11

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Above: THE PHYSICAL SIZES OF THE RAMP, THE RADIUS AND RAMP SECTION, CAN BE ADJUSTED TO SUIT MASS SIZE RAMPERS. HOWEVER, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE OVERALL HEIGHT MEASUREMENT AS LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITIES TEND TO BE AT MATTERMAN REQUIREMENTS ABOVE ORS (AND VERY RARE) STAYS TO STATE.