

West Allis Skate Park Selection Process

The initial, internal planning stages for the West Allis Skate Park determined a series of criteria for selecting a preferred location. Based on density and potential users, the park was identified to be an east-side improvement, so space (7,000 – 10,000 sq. ft.) east of S. 84th St. was preferred. At least 16 sites were reviewed for further consideration. Since the park was to be funded partly with federal CDBG funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the project had to take place within an existing CDBG Project area, serving a primarily low-to-moderate income area of the City. Existing city-owned land was also preferred, since money for acquisition and/or time for negotiating was not available. (These requirements eliminated McCarty Park and school-owned properties.) Based on this initial narrowing process, Liberty Heights, Veteran's Park, Radtke Park, Klentz Park and Kopperud Park were identified as potential sites.

After reaching out to several national skate park consultants, additional criteria for selecting a site between these locations was determined. Consultants emphasized that visibility (for attractivity and monitoring), and minimizing conflicts both within the park and the neighborhood were key components to successful skate parks. Since children, teenagers and young adults are most likely the primary users, pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit accessibility was preferred. Lastly, it was also hoped that the park could be located centrally within West Allis to give West Allis residents the best opportunity to claim this unique amenity.

Klentz Park

While Klentz Park had the appropriate size for a skate park, its location within a strictly residential neighborhood posed potential conflicts. It was also not very visible nor accessible directly via bike or mass transit routes.

Kopperud Park

Kopperud Park is accessible, visible and had the appropriate amount of space for the skate park. However, it is located adjacent to residential properties, which might have caused conflict. One of the primary detriments to Kopperud Park was its location on the edge of West Allis. It was felt that since the City was involved with funding the improvement, it should have greatest impact on the City and being located on the periphery was not preferred.

Liberty Heights

Liberty Heights is nearby well-traveled roads with pedestrian, bike and transit access; however, it is ultimately tucked within residential area. The park is highly active and has little remaining space of un-programmed land. Ultimately, Liberty Heights made the short list of potential spaces, but there was hesitation to add more features within the park and stretch the tolerance of park users and the residential neighborhood.

Radtke Park

Radtke Park is located at a highly visible and accessible intersection. The park is currently un-programmed and underutilized for much of the year. Residential conflicts were felt to be minimal. It is also very centrally located within the City.

Veteran's Park

Veteran's Park had prime visibility and access. It also had minimal conflict with residential users. However, the proximity to the veteran's memorial and limited park space cautioned further thoughts on developing a skate park within the available space. The open green space in the middle of the park is used for concerts and events and was not available for the skate park. It would've needed to be squeezed on the very southern edge of the park and require the removal of all existing trees and signage.

Based on the above process and reasoning, and in-person consultation with the City's Skate Park designer, Radtke Park was ultimately chosen for moving forward with preliminary designs for public review. Those designs are currently being drafted for public review/comment.



Potential Skate Plaza Locations

1. Kopperud Park (west)
2. Kopperud Park (east)
3. 72nd and Walker (baseball field)
4. McKinley Park (north)
5. McKinley Park (south)
6. Roosevelt School
7. Liberty Heights
8. 6737 W. National Ave. (former Perfect Screw)
9. Veteran's Park
10. Radtke Park
11. 82nd and National
12. 76th and Hicks
13. McCarty Park
14. Klentz Park
15. Lincoln School
16. Jefferson School

CDBG Project Area Map

