

# ANTLERS SKATE PARK PROJECT

*In partnership with*  
Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition

## Project Goal/Objectives:

- Host a public (health) expo event to promote public awareness on health, nutrition and physical activity to educate the community.
- To construct and implement multi-use outdoor recreational facility to provide a free, safe, structured, and accessible place to enhance opportunities for physical activity for community members of all ages.

## Project Scope/Narrative:

Almost everywhere you look you can find a kid catching "big air", going 'vert' or attempting to land an intricate '360'. To the millions of skateboard enthusiasts across the country, every inch of cement is their court and every obstacle is their hoop. Chances are you have see these kids around town. So what's a skateboarder to do? In Pushmataha County, a number of concerned citizens, local organizations and parents are addressing this problem head on. Through a collaborated effort between the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition and the Antlers Skate Park Committee, partners were engaged to provide a community skate park where people of all ages could skate safely and legally. The committee, along with a spirited group of local youth are working to design their own park, solicit donations and equipment, materials and supplies, and build the Antlers Community Skate Park.

A skate park can provide a safe social environment to burn off the exuberance of youth in a healthy manner, treating the cause rather than the symptom of delinquent behavior ~ saving police, vandalism, and health costs. Positive recreational opportunities can also provide meaning, satisfaction, a sense of belonging, help develop social skills, self esteem, relieve stress anxiety, aggression, and generally promote both the physical and mental well-being of today's youth.



## Target Audience:

- Pushmataha County residents ~ e.i. parents, children, youth, civic leaders, health professionals, educators, media representatives, volunteers, faith based leaders, and businesses community.
- All community members – with special emphasis toward tweens (10-12 yrs) and adolescent youth.



## Participating Partners:

Pushmataha County Health Department  
Antlers Skate Park Committee  
City of Antlers ~ Antlers Masonic Lodge  
Antlers Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA)



## Project Outcomes:

On August 20, 2006, the Pushmataha County Turning Point Coalition's and the Antlers Skate Park Committee hosted the Antlers Community Skate Park Expo sponsored by the American Ramp Company. Over 200 skaters and supporters enjoyed the fun filled event held at the Antlers Depot. Youngster of all ages beat the temperatures of over 104 degrees to show off their skills and talents on skate boards, bicycles and roller blades. Although the weather was hot, youth skated for over four hours. Participants competed in the following competitions: Best Rail Ride, Best Trick and Highest completed Aullie. One fifteen year old was the proud winner of a complete skateboard and over 40 additional door prizes were given away to lucky skaters. Safety Features for skating/blading were observed and encouraged. All skaters wore helmets and there were no injuries. The Community Skate Park Expo gave locals an opportunity to visualize the future goal of the their own skate park and allow locals to show their support for our youth. Funds have been utilized to pour the foundation for the park located next to the local sports complex in the Antlers City Park that will be accessible to all citizens. Signage, identifying safety procedures, rules, and policies has been displayed at the outdoor facility that include the following:

- skateboarding equipment
  - basketball courts
  - walking trail
- Community partners have provided addition funding for the completion of the project that will be open to the public in Fall, 06.

**THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY THE OSDH WIC/TURNING POINT GRANT**