



TEMPORARY AMHERSTBURG SKATEBOARD PARK SITE

Assessment of Public Safety & Security Concerns

Prepared by: **Barry Horrobin**, B.A., M.A., CLEP, CMM-III
Director of Planning & Physical Resources
WINDSOR POLICE SERVICE

The following assessment is in response to a growing amount of concern over unsafe and unlawful activity occurring at the temporary location of the Amherstburg skateboard park. The observations and recommendations presented here are based on previous experience and proven applications built on the universally recognized principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).



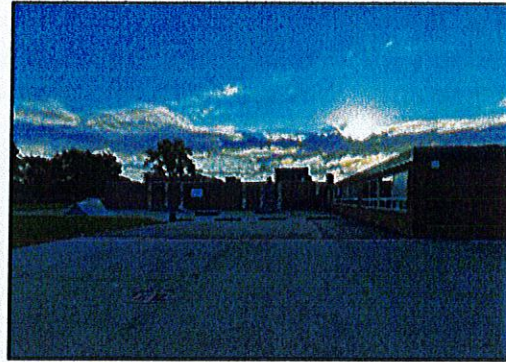
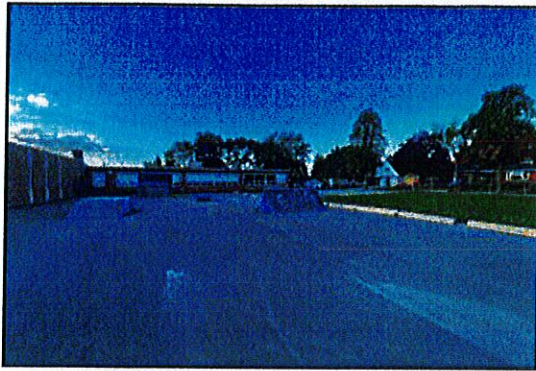
Current location of the temporary skateboard on the 320 Richmond Street property

Key Issue

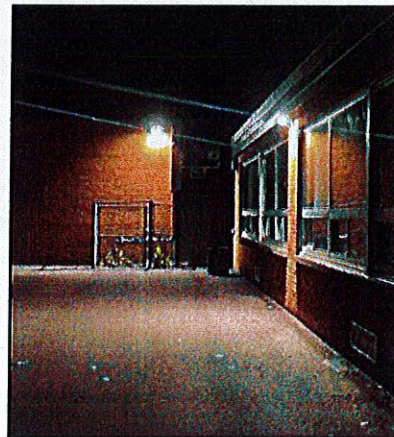
- The functioning of the current temporary skateboard park site has created ongoing safety and security challenges for users of the building, as well as the surrounding neighbourhood. The end result is a loss of comfort and enjoyment by many users, including more vulnerable users such as seniors and younger youth. Remedial action is needed to restore safe and functional use of the property for the community.

Site Variables That Influence Public Safety

- *Principally speaking*, this site offers *generally* good natural surveillance capability such that ongoing observation can be obtained from Victoria Street, most notably by residents living on the opposite side of the street, plus from passing pedestrians, vehicles, and cyclists.
- Challenges exist however in that skateboard park features (such as ramps and jumps) are somewhat "nested" within the inner courtyard space created by the "L" shaped building, which greatly limits the overall observation capacity potential. This creates pockets of visually discreet space, allowing undesirable behavior to establish and continue without easy detection (and thus intervention). Problems are exacerbated after hours when less witnesses are available to observe and report problematic activity.
- Based on site inspection/observation and photos taken, the location appears to have very good lighting already in place. Unfortunately, this is static style lighting that stays on. Instead of deterring problematic activity after hours, this form of lighting has actually enabled use beyond the hours the skateboard park should reasonably be in operation, considering it lies within an established residential neighbourhood. This facilitates increased risk for conflict.
- We have received reports of building users being intimidated by some skateboard park users, to the point they feel uncomfortable attending on the property in order to avoid having to come into contact with users who do not respect the proper use of the site. There is also considerable evidence of unlawful behavior in the form of graffiti, and extensive amounts of litter and refuse being wantonly left throughout the confines of the skateboard park and beyond on an ongoing basis.
- The inner corner of the building (at the bend of the "L" shape) has been the source of some individuals climbing the fenced in utility pipes to unlawfully gain access onto the roof of the building.



Temporary skateboard park is "nested" within the inner "L-shaped" alcove of the building, limiting overall observation capacity and elevating risk for undesirable behaviour



Existing lighting is strong but stays on too long and may actually be encouraging usage beyond reasonable times of the day

Recommended Actions to be Considered:

1. This site's ongoing observation capacity and a reduction in conflict between skateboarders and other site users would be improved if the ramps & jumps were relocated to an existing paved area on the south side of the property closely and directly fronting Richmond Street. This location offers far better "visual accountability", which will help mitigate problematic behavior. Ideally, this should be done as soon as practicable – complete with motion lights and CCTV recording.
2. Existing lights should not remain on all night, other than a couple that will strategically maintain observability by outside witnesses. Other fixture locations should be converted to motion-activated floodlights that will come on only when trespassing within the space occurs after hours. Such lighting has the dual benefit of startling trespassers, plus also alerting nearby witnesses.

3. A couple of high resolution, colour, multi-angle CCTV cameras that record activity within the space, wherever it ends up being located, will allow for more effective follow up by Windsor Police whenever incidents are reported to us.



Relocating the temporary skateboard park to the more visually accountable and less conflicting (with other users) side of the property is anticipated to reduce problems

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

It is important to retain use of this valued community asset in a manner that ensures safe and respectful usage for all. The approach to addressing the concerns raised here is consistent with good crime prevention practices and is congruent with the intent of the Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan that will come into effect in January 2022. Improvements made to correct the problematic behavior that is occurring will offer proactive risk management and ensure the facility retains its value to the community.

