

Student works to change campus skateboarding policy

Cheap form of transportation violation of city ordinance

A student's quest to allow skateboards and longboards on campus extends far and wide. Skateboards are currently prohibited in certain places, including campus.

Casey Millstein is tired of being pulled over by campus police and she's out to change an ordinance that makes it illegal to skateboard on campus.

Millstein, Baldwin senior, is a longboarder and has been riding her longboard on campus since her freshman year.

"Gas is expensive and I'm just using it as a mode of transportation," said Millstein. "And yet the cops keep pulling me over."

____ Since August 1987, with the most recent amendment in July 1996, the city of Lawrence has prohibited skateboards from certain public areas including the University of Kansas campus along Jayhawk Boulevard. The restricted area stretches from West Campus Road to 13th Street and includes 1,000 feet on either side of the street.

In the past two years, Millstein said she was stopped seven times by police for ignoring the signs saying "NO SKATEBOARDING."

"They've threatened to take our boards away," said Millstein, as she and her two friends and fellow boarders Eric Dobbins and Ashley Rinella skated Monday morning along Jayhawk Boulevard. "They treat us like we're 13-year-old punks." But Millstein is frustrated because the longboard she chooses to ride is not a skateboard in her opinion.

According to urbandictionary.com, a longboard is different from a regular skateboard because it can be designed for speedboarding, transportation, slalom, carving, sliding, boardwalking and racing of any other kind.

Eric Dobbins, Lawrence senior, said that longboards were not intended for the type of tricks that caused property damage or injury.

"You can't jump or do many tricks on a longboard, they're too heavy," Dobbins said. This is because of the boards larger wheels and the elevated trucks, which are the axil-like structures that attach the wheels to the board, he said.

Capt. Schuyler Bailey of the KU Public Safety Office said the current ordinance did not exempt longboards from the skateboarding ban. He said that any person on a skateboard or similar equipment could be stopped and given a citation.

"It is a violation of city ordinance," said Bailey. "Based on the history, there has been damage and we've had people who have been injured."

Millstein said she talked with Casey Topol, student senator and Mamaroneck,

N.Y., senior, about the issue. Topol said that because the skateboard ban was a city ordinance the issue couldn't be directly solved by Student Senate.

"If students wish to file a petition with the city council, Student Senate would be willing to support it," Topol said.

Millstein and her friends remain undeterred and said they would continue working to raise awareness of the issue and to make longboarding as acceptable on campus as it is at other universities in California and Montana.

"All I want to be able to do is cruise down Jayhawk Boulevard on a beautiful Sunday morning," said Millstein.

Dobbins said that his longboard helped him get to class on time and that it was much easier than riding a bicycle, which he said he had never learned to ride.

"I'd do it topless," Dobbins said. "I've got nothing to loose except my board."

Kansan staff writer Ben Smith can be contacted at bsmith@kansan.com.

— Edited by Nicole Kelley

Editorial: Make longboarding legal

The editorial board backs students attempts, but urges for more

The University of Colorado at Boulder should pose as a model for what the University of Kansas could adopt. If done, skateboarders and longboarders could skate on campus legally.

We support the efforts of the students who want to make longboarding legal on campus, but we would go further: Allow skateboarding and longboarding with some limitations.

The city of Lawrence has prohibited skateboarding in some public areas since August 1987, with the most recent revision of the ordinance being made in July 1996. At the University of Kansas, the restricted area spans from West Campus Road to 13th Street and 1,000 feet from either side of Jayhawk Boulevard.

The interests of both skateboarders and people who use the sidewalks must be weighed and a compromise reached.

Many students rely on skateboards for transportation and skateboarding generally poses no more of a threat than does driving an automobile or riding a bicycle or motorcycle.

However, some skateboarders may lack the same control drivers and bicyclists have and others might damage property by grinding ledges and handrails. We suggest that the city commissioners consider the policy of the University of Colorado at Boulder for guidance.

The university allows skateboarding on campus, but the skateboard's wheels must not leave the pavement while the rider skates. This rule prevents airborne skateboards from injuring pedestrians and damaging property. It's also not allowed on certain campus sidewalks during times of heavy pedestrian traffic.

Lt. Tim McGraw of the University of Colorado Police Department says that he hasn't seen an increase in skateboard-related injuries since the policy was implemented.

Riding a skateboard proficiently takes time and practice, so unskilled skateboarders should stay off their boards if they think they might pose a danger to themselves or others.

If Lawrence wants to accommodate all of its citizens, the city should rework its unfair blanket ban on skateboarding on campus.

Steve Lynn for the editorial board

Kansas State University

Skating With Knowledge

Whether on roller skates, in-line skates, roller blades, or skateboards, skating across the Kansas State University campus can be a great way to get around from class, to class or to your office. However, we must remember that as skaters, we share the campus with thousands of others. It is very important that we use safety, courtesy and caution, not only for our protection, but for the other members of our community. The University Police Department hopes this page will help make everyone's skating safe, fun and convenient while on the k-State campus

Skating: Guidelines and Rules

These guidelines were created for increased awareness and safety for our campus skaters and skateboarders. On the K-State campus, the use of in-line skates and skateboards is permitted on university pathways designed for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Skateboarding is permitted for individual transportation in university bike lanes. Skating and skateboards will NOT be permitted on buildings, rails, steps, retaining or landscape walls, benches, handrails, etc. All skaters and skateboarders must follow the safety rules. All skaters and skateboarders must yield the right of way to pedestrian and vehicular traffic at all times. Only cautious use of skates and skateboards will be permitted on campus. Skating and skateboarding will NOT be permitted in any university building.

Fort Hays State University

Policy on Skateboards, Skates, and Bicycles

Skateboards, skates of all types, bicycles and other forms of related transportation may be used on campus sidewalks for transportation purposes only. Users may not ride or use these forms of transportation on stairways, patios, dock areas, benches, picnic tables, railings, and any and all other irregular surfaces or in places that may be marked as off limits to skateboards, skates and/or bicycles. Skateboards, skates and bicycles shall not be used in any campus building.

Users of these forms of transportation are expected to use them in a safe, responsible manner. Campus pedestrians have the right of way at all times. Excessive speed, stunt riding, racing, or any and all other uses of skates, skateboards and bicycles that may cause property damage, endanger the user or others is prohibited.

All violations should be reported to the University Police department. Violators may be subject to ticketing, disciplinary proceedings or other appropriate action, depending on the violators status as University or non- University related person. Non-University related persons who violate this policy will be required to leave the campus and may be subject to restrictions to subsequent campus access.

University Of Arizona

SKATEBOARDS AND ROLLER SKATES/BLADES

The use of non-pedestrian devices such as skateboards, roller skates and in-line skates IN any university building or on university roadways is prohibited unless the area is specifically designated otherwise, nor are they to be used on or near building entrances, the exterior of buildings, benches, or other university structures. Those utilizing skateboards, roller skates and in-line skates must yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians and/or motorized vehicles. Skateboard, roller skate and in-line skate operators will be responsible for restitution of any damage caused.

Skateboarding: A crime not to ride (from university newspaper)

For students who don't have or want to ride bicycles, skateboards are another option.

Rather than skateboarding as just a hobby, Erik Acuña, an undeclared freshman, now uses his skateboard to get from class to class quickly.

"I used to be into skateboarding a lot, but now I just ride a skateboard to get around campus," he said. "So I'm just getting back into it."

When he used his skateboard, Acuña said it took him a minute to get from the parking garage on Tyndall Avenue to the Family Consumer Science building, a five-block trip.

"It's a lot faster," he said. "I was late to class one day so I used my skateboard and I got there really fast."

Acuña also believes it is safer to use a skateboard to get around campus than to use a bicycle.

"I bought a skateboard because I can just take it into class and not worry about it getting stolen," he said.

UCLA

Skateboards, Rollerskates, and In-line Skates Safety Tips

- Skate boarders, roller skaters, and in-line skaters shall be considered pedestrians, and should not ride on roadways and bikeways.
- Do not skateboard, in-line skate, or roller skate at a speed greater than is reasonable, having due regard for the flow of existing pedestrian traffic, weather, visibility, and the surface and width of the walkway.
- Do not skateboard, in-line skate, or roller skate in areas which are prohibited by signs or surface markings (i.e. pedestrian crossings.)
- Skateboarding or skating is prohibited on covered walks, bikeways, roads, curbs, parking lots & structures, underpasses, interior courtyards, inside buildings, stairs, railings, exterior balconies, and handicap ramps.
- Avoid "extreme" tricks, stunts, and other hazardous in-line skating, rollerskating, or skateboarding activities. They can cause serious injury to yourself or others.
- Do not wear any headset covering, or earplugs in both ears, while skateboarding, in-line skating, or roller skating.

U of California, Riverside

Rules

The campus thereby enacts the following rules and regulations regarding the use of skates (including “in-line” type skating equipment) and skateboards on campus.

1. Use of skates and skateboards is only permitted on campus sidewalks and walkways.
2. Use of skates and skateboards is only permitted for transportation and/ or exercise use.
3. All forms of recreational skates or skateboard use that may endanger human safety or possibly result in any property damage is strictly prohibited. Any person engaged in activities which endanger people or property are subject to detention, citation and/or arrest. People engaged in less serious violations of this policy are subject to the listed sanctions.
4. Whenever UCPD contacts any person for a violation of this policy, all necessary and appropriate forms and reports (e.g., Field Interview cards, crime and/or property reports, etc.) shall be completed, and all persons contacted shall be provided with a copy of this campus policy.

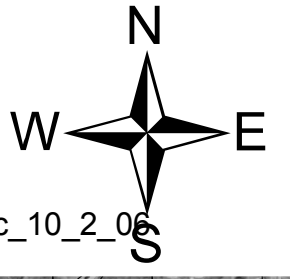
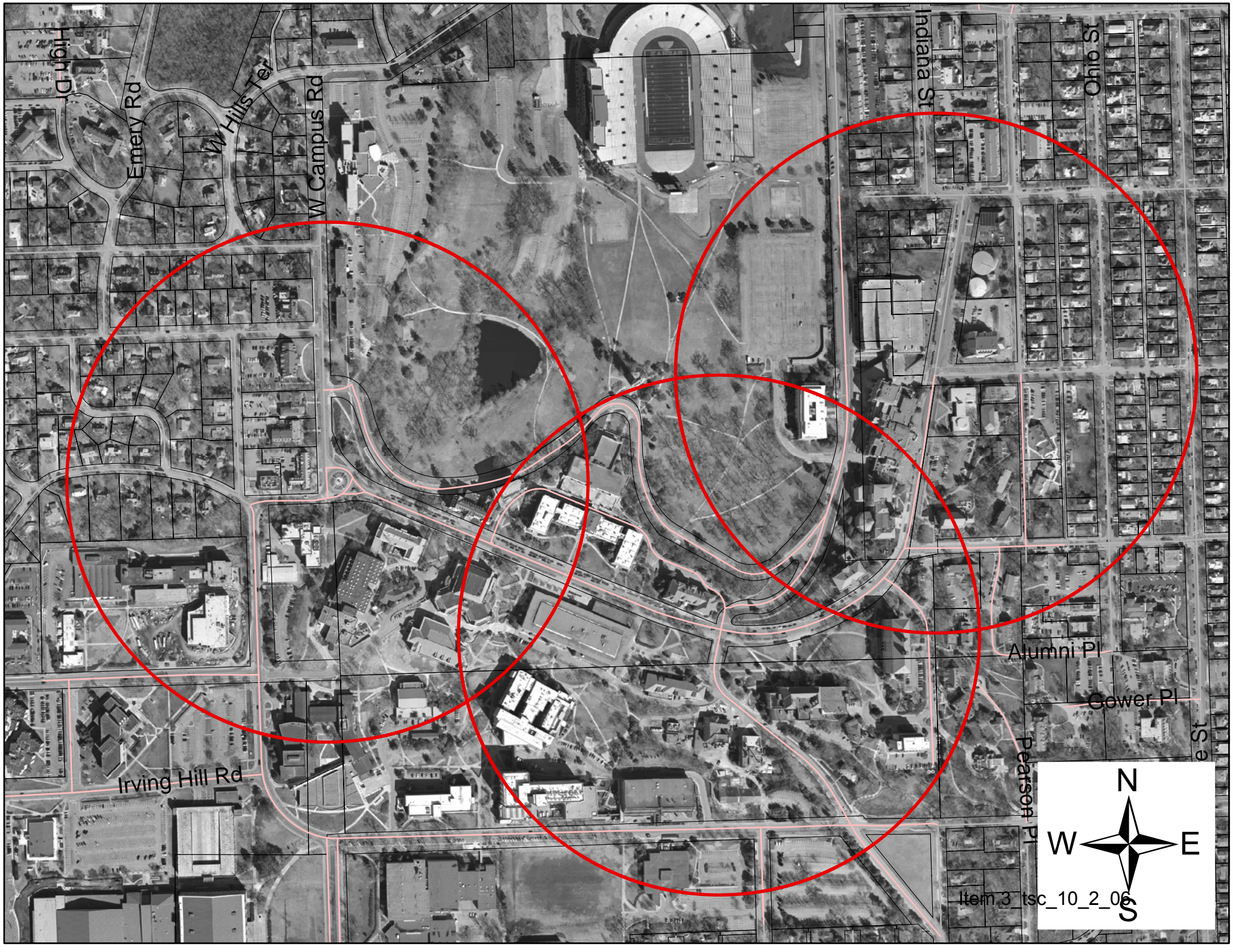
University Of Oregon

Skateboard and Skate Regulations

- (1) Skateboard and skate use is prohibited on property owned or controlled by Oregon State University except use as specified in this rule by University students, faculty, and staff.
- (2) "Skates" means in-line skates, rollerskates, or similar devices.
- (3) University students, faculty, and staff may use skateboards and skates in the area in McAlexander Field House designated for their use. All other use of skateboards and skates is prohibited in University buildings.
- (4) University students, faculty, and staff may use or operate skateboards or skates on the University paved roadways that are designed for vehicular travel.
- (5) University students, faculty, and staff may use skates on paths, walkways, and sidewalks at no more than walk speed while traveling to and from classes, meals and University facilities.
- (6) Skateboard and skate users shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, motorized vehicles and bicycles while in the roadway, and to emergency vehicles in all circumstances.
- (7) Skateboard users shall obey all stop and yield signs.
- (8) Skateboards shall not be used on that portion of Jefferson Street commonly known as Library Hill (immediately south of Valley Library).
- (9) Skateboard and skate users shall not perform acrobatics or other stunts when using skateboards or while wearing skates.
- (10) All persons using skateboards or skates as authorized by this rule shall use them in a reasonable and prudent manner, having due regard to traffic, pedestrians' rights, surface of the roadway, the hazard at intersections, and any other condition then existing.
- (11) Any person who violates this rule is subject to:
 - (a) Issuance of a University Citation and a fine of \$50.00;
 - (b) Institutional disciplinary proceedings, if a student or employee;
 - (c) An order to leave the immediate premises or property owned or controlled by the University by a person in charge of University property.
- (12) Persons failing to comply with an order by a person in charge to leave or to remain off the immediate premises or property owned or controlled by the University are subject to arrest for criminal trespass.

(13) Parents and guardians of juvenile operators and adult operators, including students, staff and faculty are responsible for damage to University buildings or property by their skateboards or skates and for payment of any fines.

(14) The Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Security Services Manager, Manager of Environmental and Public Safety, Director of Facilities Services, Director of Student Housing and Residence Programs, Director of Conferences and Special Events, the Director of the Memorial Union and Educational Activities, and their designees are included among those "persons in charge" of University property for purposes of ORS 164.205(5) and this rule.



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