

# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### Parks & Recreation Department

DATE: March 10, 2010

TO: Dave Corliss, City Manager,  
Cynthia Wagner, Assistant City Manager  
Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager  
Ernie Shaw, Interim Director Parks & Recreation

FROM: Mark Hecker, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation

RE: Centennial Skatepark Condition – City Managers Report Item

As we have discussed, the condition of the Centennial Skate Park has deteriorated significantly over this past winter. As the weather begins to warm up and the skaters return to the park, they are noticing what we already knew, it is time to look at some significant repairs to the facility. We have been receiving a number of emails and phone calls from concerned park users, over the past two weeks, expressing the need for action on this issue.

#### **History**

The Skatepark at Centennial is now 12 years old and is starting to show its age. The park was built by installing concrete ramps in the middle of, and on the edges of an existing asphalt tennis court. Then a new lift of asphalt was installed to smooth the surface (2 inch maximum). The asphalt surface lasted for 8 or 9 years with no serious issues. But over the past 3 or 4 years the surface has experienced significant cracking in the top layer of the asphalt surfacing. These cracks start at the corners of the concrete ramps and extend 20 -30 feet in every direction. Some are as wide as 2-3 inches (this is exactly the same issue that we had for years at the Lawrence Tennis Center before it was torn out last year). The problem lies with the mix of construction materials used to construct these park facilities. The asphalt surface moves with temperature variations and the concrete structures tend to stay in place. This causes the asphalt to crack where the two meet (tennis nets, skate ramps, light poles, fence posts). In 2008 we contracted with a company to install crack filler and apply a new surface coating to the entire Skatepark floor in an attempt to seal and smooth the upper surface. This worked for the summer and fall months, but the cracks reappeared over the winter months as the asphalt moved due to freezing and thawing. The surface was repaired under warranty last spring, the surface was acceptable all summer and fall. However, the cracks are back again this spring.

#### **Future Plan**

Our plan going forward is to once again fill the cracks this spring, which will allow the park to be used in the short term. Then by this summer, we need to research, design and price a more permanent solution to this ongoing problem. While we are looking at these surfacing upgrades, we will probably also look at upgrading some of the ramps and features in the park since most of them are also 12 years old, and are showing some significant wear. At this point, the total cost or scope of this project is unknown, but as we have a better understanding of potential options, we will call a meeting of interested Skatepark patrons for input on the improvements.

The good news is that the Skatepark continues to be a very popular park attraction!







