



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla &
Morrow Counties*

News Release:

March 13, 2006

Irrigon Skate Park Project Draws Support From Rep Smith

(Heppner) State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) is announcing his support for a campaign in Irrigon to create a Community Skate Park. "This is truly a community effort. One that will help our children get exercise and give them another outlet to help them avoid high-risk activities that often send kids down the wrong path," said Smith.

A Town Hall meeting on the Skate Park is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th in Irrigon at the Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 West Opal Place, starting at 7 PM.

Pastor Rick Yardly from the Columbia View Community Church is helping to organize the meeting. "This idea when some local youngsters asked Mayor Don Baxter about building a park and he started the ball rolling. Many people are involved in the project and are doing great work for the sake of the kids in our community," said Pastor Yardly.

The Skate Park is expected to cover 8,000 square feet, a large portion of which would be in a specially designed bowl. Total cost may run up to \$366,000. Pastor Yardly added, "this will be awesome for not only the kid's of Irrigon but those from our whole area! We want the kids to know this is their Skate Park. They can take ownership of this park."

"This is a big undertaking, but I am confident we can work together in a public, private partnership to get the job done," said Representative Smith. Applications have been submitted to several agencies and foundations including the [National Park Service](#), the [Oregon State Parks Department](#), the [Oregon Lottery](#), [Morrow County](#), Good Shepherd Foundation, NIKE Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Several businesses in and around town have pledged support in terms of money, labor or equipment. These companies include RDO Farms, Wal-Mart, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Columbia River Monuments, and many more. Morrow County Sheriff Kenneth Matlack and several school leaders are also backing the project.

Smith pointed out, "I have five very active children in my family and I know the importance of providing places for young people to play." There are an estimated 2,000 skate parks around the United States including La Grande, Milton-Freewater and John Day. "Let's put Irrigon on the map as the next location for a Community Skate Park," said Smith.

#####

900 Court Street NE H-280 Salem, OR 97301 ~ www.leg.state.or.us/smithg

Rep.gregsmith@state.or.us ~ 503.986.1457

PO Box 219, Heppner, OR, 97836 ~ 541-676-5154