



## Metalworks Skatepark (City of Ferndale Washington)

Funding Request: \$200,000 (\$150k grant, \$50k loan)

**Request:** The City of Ferndale requests \$200,000 to complete construction of the proposed Metalworks Skatepark, to be built in 2023.

**Issue:** There are few opportunities for informal recreation, especially for teenagers, in the City of Ferndale. Skateparks have been shown to be an excellent draw for informal youth recreation, and a series of studies have demonstrated that skateparks, and skateboarding, play an increasingly important role in the physical and mental well-being of younger people, particularly those who might be at risk. Skateboarding is empowering, is one of the fastest-growing recreation activities among younger generations, and in Ferndale will be placed in a well-used area that is visible to the public. Well-designed skateparks are also a significant draw, and are a major driver in regional tourism and economic development – two factors that will benefit Downtown Ferndale. In 2021 the City secured \$480,000 in funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for a 10,000 square foot skatepark. The City has committed up to an additional \$520,000 to complete construction. However, the rising costs of inflation risk the City exceeding this budget, and could result in a diminishment of the park or the area around it.

**Solution:** The City of Ferndale has embarked on a private fundraising campaign to support the skatepark. As the skatepark will provide a regional draw throughout Whatcom County (similar to the regional draw of the Star Park playground), the City is requesting \$200,000 through the EDI program.

**EDI Eligibility:** The project is listed in the City's Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, which is adopted by reference into the City's Capital Facilities Plan. The City has reviewed EDI eligibility opinions issued by the Washington State Attorney General and believes that this project meets the requirements of the EDI program, and the AG opinion.

FUTURE SKATEPARK LOCATION



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

