

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palouse Skate Park Committee

530 E Alder

Palouse, WA 99161

<http://www.palouseskatepark.com>

Contact: Aaron Flansburg (509)595-1179

aaronflansburg@gmail.com

PALOUSE SKATE PARK IS ON A ROLL!

Palouse, Wash.-- Much has happened at the Whitman Street site where volunteers have been working to prepare and begin building the Palouse Skate Park. Debris continues to be unearthed, trees have been relocated, weeds continue to be removed, site leveling and gravel compacting continues, and the very first pouring of tinted concrete has taken place. Presently, forms are being installed for the top step of the skate-able amphitheater and soon for the raised manual pad facing those 3 curved steps, and work has begun on the skate bowl sooner than expected, and it's nearing completion.

The Palouse Skate Park Board of Directors is thrilled to have professional assistance with the most technical aspect of the park, the skate bowl. Skate park specialists who have worked to build parks all over the world, including Europe, Southeast Asia and Israel, have come to Palouse to assist with this build! The skate bowl is a flowing pool-like structure with sections of steel and pool coping. The tall wall facing Main Street that is retaining the structure will soon be receiving a smooth skimming top layer of concrete to serve as a blank canvas for artists to paint approved murals onto, with collaboration from the Palouse Arts Council. Sage Bolyard of Portland, OR is the foreman for the crew assisting Palouse Skatepark, Inc., and he really likes being in Palouse. "(I am) Real happy with the town's positive, warm, open-armed vibe," he says. "I'm happy that the bar opened up before I got here," he jokes. Sage then added, "I wanna thank Flansburg Farms for allowing us to free range on their property. I promise to fix those sprinkler heads!" Sage is referring to the constant battle the property has in repairing the old underground sprinkler system at the homestead place, as he has been mowing and keeping up the property since his arrival. "This is the best project I have worked on in over a year," Sage says. A recent arrival on the crew, Tavita from Lincoln City, OR, laughed, while saying, "this is definitely my second-favorite project I've worked on in well over a year. It's a 'sick' crew! Thanks for letting us show our true faces as clowns, that was an epic day!" He referred to the Palouse Days parade where 5 workers wore clown costumes and skated alongside the Palouse Skatepark banner and local skateboarders this past weekend.

Once Phase 1 is completed and the orange fencing comes down, signage for rules and usage will go up. Users and visitors can feel safe because the park is located next door to the Palouse Police Department

and is visible from parts of Main Street. This location also lends itself to easy access to downtown businesses. Vehicles may park in front of the Palouse Skate Park in the Whitman Street parking lot, and bicycle racks are planned to be available at both the upper and lower areas of the property for guests of this open-to-the-public project.

The private project funded by donations and grassroots fundraising during the past 13.5 years has gained momentum since the official first work day in early Summer, and there is much more to come from this group with many welcoming aspects for community members and visitors alike. There is a large upper plateau area that is roughly 17,000 square feet in the land gifted to the Palouse Skate Park, Inc. that will be primarily a garden space. Some Preliminary ideas include an area for a nature observation blind, a book lending station, picnic areas, beautiful plantings, and other elements that the garden committee, which is increasing in members daily, will entertain. Native birdseed packets with garden-specific project information was handed out by volunteers during the Palouse Days parade. Cleanup at this upper plateau area of the project site will commence this Fall.

The Palouse Skate Park Committee sees this large, multi-dimensional project as a fantastic opportunity to enrich and engage the community and it's members. Over 116 hours were pledged during the March 2015 fundraiser "An Evening for the Skate Park." The most recent boost to the project came as a check for \$3,000 from Pepsi/Idaho Beverages, Inc. Donations to this project are tax deductible as Palouse Skate Park, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) 3 Charitable Organization, and are very appreciated! Anyone who is willing to contribute financially, to assist with the build, and to join a committee is welcome to do so and can learn more at www.palouseskatepark.com.

In addition, Palouse Skate Park Committee leads the planning aspects for one of the haunted houses during Haunted Palouse, and will need volunteers to fill the shifts necessary to do the job well. There will be more to come on this and other future fundraisers, but volunteer participation is vital to the success of this major project, and the committee is grateful for any hours or dollars that folks are able to contribute.

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