



Skateparks by Rampage are unique skating environments custom designed and manufactured to suit the community's needs and it's skater's desires. Our skateparks can be found in municipalities, military bases, private organizations, and backyards throughout the country and around the world. Our skatepark equipment has been proven to stand the tests of both skaters and time.

SKATEPARKS: *THE THRILL IS GONE*

Landscape Architect, 2004

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Skateparks have become a familiar sight in municipal parks, YMCAs and in privately owned facilities across the country and around the world. Skateboarding, inline skating and BMX (bicycles), unlike traditional sports, challenge an individual's ability to master maneuvers over a terrain of contours, ledges and obstacles. The skate culture rejects many of the conventions of team and competitive sports that often strip these kids self accomplishment. The result fosters the development of self-responsibility, self-esteem and individualism. These athletes will often practice their sport for endless hours at home, on the streets and at skateparks where available.

Skateparks should be as unique and challenging for the sports of aggressive skateboarding and inline skating as are golf courses to all levels of club swingers. The dark days of the pre-manufactured "cookie cutter" parks are here with limited modular shapes that neatly fit together forming non-challenging so-called skateparks. Known as "Fisher-Price" parks, skating through them is like playing the same par three hole eighteen times. In addition to the absence of challenge, the geometry and quality of fit is lacking. One of these modular company's catalogues shows many different obstacles. However, upon close inspection the pieces are the same. The curved ramp section used as a quarterpipe is in fact used for the halfpipe, spine and flybox. Correctly built,



In so-called "Fisher-Price" parks—those constructed from modular, pre-fabricated sections—the geometry and quality of fit are often lacking.



Thresholds that are separated and lifted off the ground present a danger to users of improperly constructed skateparks.



Often, the sections of modular parks do not sit flush or line up correctly, causing an extreme skating hazard.

these ramps should have a geometry unique to the obstacle, and the flybox should not have a pipe coping as do the quarterpipes and spines. I visited and skated one of these modular parks in Naugatuck, CT. and found it to be boring and dangerous. The layout was difficult to skate, thresholds were separated and lifted off the ground, and the halfpipe seams in the 4' x 4' sections did not sit flush or line up causing an extreme skating hazard. This park was only one month old when I was there. Great skateparks are created with input from local skaters, a professional design team of skaters and builders, the site and its environment, and the support of local government.

The extreme sports industry is not without national and global representation. The Skatepark Association of the United States of America, (SPAUSA) has taken a bold stance against the proliferation of these non-skateparks along with Skateboarding Magazine in a November 2003 article, Modular Skateparks Are Evil written by Dave Carnie. Dave visited, skated and interviewed skaters at these modular parks and labeled them as "a rip-off" of skaters and community funds. The web site www.skatepark.org offers a wealth of information about building skateparks, including a listing of manufactures. These companies are rated online with comments from park operators and skaters. The comments are less than positive for the modular equipment companies.

Free formed concrete offers some of the best terrain for extreme skating. However, many communities with limited budgets are opting for above-ground equipment that is free standing and in some cases movable. Wood framed ramps are not an option due to the nature of the material, which leaves steel as a material of choice for the framing and structure. These structures should be hot-dipped galvanized after milling and

welding, affording a maintenance free rust proof structure. Steel as a skating surface with any of the coatings presently being used is not ideal. It is noisy, hot and unforgiving to the skaters. The standard in the industry for a skating surface is a phenolic laminate such as SkateLite Pro. These surfaces are used on the ramps for the X Games and most of the major competitions around the world.

I have been skating for seventeen years and building skateparks since the early nineties. My company, Rampage is a skater owned and skater operated business that designs, manufactures and constructs steel framed custom skateparks. We have constructed parks from coast to coast and around the world without a bad review. These are claims that can't be made by the hundreds of playground distributors representing the playground manufactures that are building these non-skateparks. There is not one skater in their organizations, and these people are designing skateparks. What is next? Are the playground companies going to start building golf courses?

Landscape Architect Magazine, 2004

Rampage, LLC web site: www.skateparkramps.com