

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1198**

**TITLE: A Resolution Advocating for the Consideration of Reintroducing a UF Skatepark**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**WHEREAS**, prior to the Fall 2021 semester, there were increased outdoor recreational amenities under RecSports where the current Honors Village Residence Halls are located [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, some of the amenities included at the Broward Outdoor Recreation Complex from 2005-2021 were originally seven (2005) but later reduced to three (2021), outdoor basketball courts, two outdoor sand volleyball courts, an outdoor pool, 6 tennis/pickleball courts, rollerblading/hockey rink, & a skatepark [2][3][4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, a 2020 appraisal evaluating outdoor recreational facility usage at the University of Florida found that the “provision of recreation facilities continues to fall below peer benchmarking,” leading to the closure of the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center & Broward Pool September 26, 2021, in order to make way for the creation of Honors Village Residence Halls [3][4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the website for the Broward Outdoor Recreation Complex lists alternatives of where to find any alternative locations for Basketball (Southwest Recreation Center Student Recreation & Fitness Center), Tennis (Southwest Recreation Center), Pools (Graham Area Pool, *which is currently closed until March 2024*, Florida Pool, *which is also known as the Student Recreation & Fitness Center*, & O’Connell Center), Sand Volleyball (UVS Sand Volleyball Courts Lake Wauburg), Outdoor Skate Rink (Veterans Memorial Park), & Skate Park (City of Gainesville) [4][5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, excluding the skate rink & skate park, all of the other listed alternatives are either on campus locations or affiliated with RecSports (Lake Wauberg), which demonstrates that there is no designated space(s) at the University of Florida for such interest(s) to be fulfilled [4][5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, when given any possible alternatives for Skate Parks, the link provided on the Broward Outdoor Recreation Complex for any skate parks within the City of Gainesville prompts any viewer to the following messages: “Server Error in '/' Application,” “The resource cannot be found,” & “The resource you are looking for (or one of its dependencies) could have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable” [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to the website's lack of supplemental information regarding any alternative skate parks to the demolished Broward Outdoor Recreation Complex, students who wish to skate have no guidance on where they should go & where it is legal to do so; and,

**WHEREAS**, in regard to the prohibition of skating on campus, University of Florida Regulation 2.0162 (1) states that "no person shall use a skateboard, roller skates, inline skates or similar devices on the University campus, except as specified" [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in regard to the approved locations of skating on campus, University of Florida Regulation 2.0162 (2) states that "university students, faculty, & staff may use or operate skateboards, roller skates, inline skates or similar devices only on University sidewalks & while crossing streets at crosswalks" [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in regard to the prohibited locations of skating on campus, University of Florida Regulation 2.0162 (2) states that "the use of skateboards, roller skates, inline skates or similar devices is prohibited in all other areas of campus, including, but not limited to: Fine Arts Complex, Architecture Building, Turlington Hall, Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, Stephen C. O'Connell Center, Parking garages, Park & Ride lots, & J. Wayne Reitz Union" [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in regard to the consequences that student face when found violating skating regulations, University of Florida Regulation 2.0162 (6) states that "any student who violates this regulation is subject to a warning for the first offense & is subject to discipline under the Student Conduct Code for any additional offense(s)" [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the punishment of students for the use of skateboards, roller skates, inline skates or similar devices is unfounded especially when there is a severe lack of explicit & clear guidelines as to where these individuals are to pursue these activities; and,

**WHEREAS**, in regard to mental health, exercise's have been thoroughly studied & skating has been shown to produce very similar, if not the same, results; and,

**WHEREAS**, some specific findings that detail the benefits of skating include how it helps muscles affected by injuries heal faster with improved blood flow, aids individuals recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, promotes creative freedom, improves self-esteem & self-efficacy, increases metabolism, enhances mind-body coordination, provides stress relief, helps victims of traumatic injuries remove the fear of pain, [8][9][10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, a study on skating found that it can be used as a therapeutic intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) where "sufficient support may reduce activity limitations & functional impairments associated with children with ASD" & that it fosters community & social interaction [11]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the immense benefits of skating for students at the University of Florida is a recognizable testament to the need to create a designated space for such activities to prevail & not result in any form of disorderly conduct; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges that physical activity & exercise is to be promoted at the University of Florida; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate understands the tangible mental, physical, & social benefits of skating; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for greater leniency & reform regarding the punishments outlined in University of Florida Regulation 2.0162; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate identifies the lack of disclosed & designated skating spaces for students at the University of Florida following the closure of the Broward Outdoor Recreation Complex; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the consideration of reintroducing a designated space for the use of skateboards, roller skates, inline skates or similar devices would bring substantial benefits for students at the University of Florida.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Recreational Sports Senior Director Laura M. Hall, University of Florida Building Services Assistant Director David Garzon, University of Florida Recreational Sports Director For Facilities & Operations Marty Dempsey, University of Florida Recreational Sports Director For Programs Catherine Cramp, University of Florida Recreational Sports Director For Administrative & Business Services Gary Zetrouer, University of Florida Recreational Sports Administrative Specialist, Spohn Ranch Skateparks Founder & President Aaron Spohn, Spohn Ranch Skateparks Principal/VP of Skatepark Design Damon Spohn, Spohn Ranch Skateparks Principal/VP of Construction Mark Bradford, Gainesville Parks and Recreation Director Kate Mattison.*

[1] [https://facilities.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/plan/20202030/data/Recreation%20DandA%202030\\_R1.pdf](https://facilities.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/plan/20202030/data/Recreation%20DandA%202030_R1.pdf)

[2] [https://facilities.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/plan/20202030/data/Recreation%20DandA%202030\\_R1.pdf](https://facilities.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/plan/20202030/data/Recreation%20DandA%202030_R1.pdf)

[3] [https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/ear/EAR\\_recreation\\_2030.pdf](https://facilities.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/plan/2020-2030/ear/EAR_recreation_2030.pdf)

[4] <https://recsports.ufl.edu/locations/broward-outdoor-recreation-complex/>

[5] <https://recsports.ufl.edu/locations/pools/graham-pool/>

[6] <https://www.cityofgainesville.org/ParksRecreationCulturalAffairs/Sports,AquaticsFitness/SkateParks.aspx>

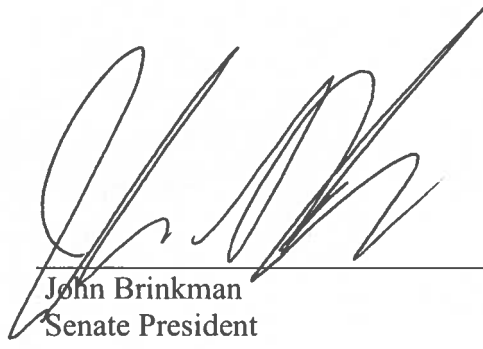
[7] <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/2-0162/>

[8] <https://healthyliferecovery.com/staying-active-in-recovery/skateboarding/>

[9] <https://www.redbull.com/us-en/benefits-skateboarding>

[10] <https://beyondtheboard.org/blog/thriving-beyond-the-board-the-surprising-health-benefits-of-skateboarding-and-longboarding>

[11] <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25822357/>



John Brinkman  
Senate President

3/1/2024  
Date