

South Central RC&D

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White River Skateboard Park



A goal of the South Central RC&D Council is to work with youth groups and partners to develop recreation systems that can be integrated with the dimensions of rural community life to promote active and healthy living for kids and adults.

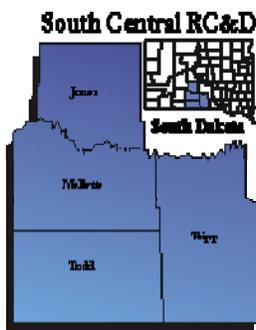
From a Dream to a Reality for the Youth in White River



A group of skateboarding enthusiasts breaking ground for the skateboard

The dream of a skateboard park for the youth in the White River area finally became a reality. A group of youth calling themselves “The Lords of Prairie Dogtown” began their dream in 2007 of finding a safe place to skateboard in White River. This group started making the public aware of their desire for a skateboard park by carrying their skateboards and signs through a local parade. The signs read “We need a skate park” and “Help us get a safe place to skate”. They gathered over 200 signatures from the local citizens in support for their project. The group began their fundraising efforts by setting out donation jars, holding hip-hop concerts, hosted a Halloween haunted house, held rummage sales and set up concession stands at local events. In February 2008, the group partnered with the South Central RC&D council who provided technical assistance in applying for several grants. As funds became available, work began on the skate

park. On August 14, 2009 a ground breaking was held and a cement slab was poured soon after that. The push to complete the skate board park became more essential when in March 2010 the White River City Council passed a city ordinance making it unlawful to operate skateboards, roller skates, rollerblades or similar devices on any highway, street, alley and sidewalk. Up until this point the only place the youth had to skateboard was in the streets where they were viewed by the residents as a nuisance. The project was successful because of the collaboration of entities such as the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Tony Hawk Foundation, City of White River, American Ramp Company, O’Bryan Construction, South Central RC&D, local residents and tribal youth. Installation of the skateboard ramps was completed in August 2010. The Lords of Prairie Dogtown won the 2010 South Dakota RC&D Outstanding Sponsor award.



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