



Feature Story

For Immediate Release:

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Living in a Skaters Paradise

Local St. Louis Area Do-It-Yourself Skate Park

ST. LOUIS - As a skateboarder, there is truly nothing better than a successful day of just honest and raw skating; landing all those new tricks that you have been working on, filming some video parts with friends or sometimes simply practicing your kickflips in the driveway. A day with no unnecessary altercations with police officers, feelings of being unwanted, disrespected or hated by your local community, but simply a day of you doing what you love to do and not be chastised for it.

Unfortunately for many skaters in the St. Louis, Mo. Area, not only have they never experienced a day like that, but on most days that is a day that seems unreachable at best. So are these kids giving up? Are they throwing in the towel and quitting on their passion? Well, of course not! If all it took were some dirty looks and a few unreasonable tickets to kill skateboarding, it would have stopped dead in its track in the 1980s, but it didn't.

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STL Do-It-Yourself Skatepark/2

Then what are the cities's finest, forgotten misfits doing to save their sport? As a measure of last resort the skaters of St. Louis have decided if they can't skate what the city has provided them, then they will simply have to build their own. The cities most recognizable source of Do-It-Yourself skateboarding is found under the Kingshighway Bridge. There lies a section of concrete now filled to the brim with skater created obstacles made completely from scratch. The skate spot is appropriately named "Kingshighway". The park was originally funded by a mere select few, donating out of their own pockets to get the wheels in motion, but after two successful fundraisers the park has now raised over \$4,000 in donations, furthering its expansion. No one person or group claims ownership of the park. It doesn't matter who laid the first brick or frequents the park the most, the Kingshighway skate spot belongs to and is welcome to anyone who rides a skateboard.

Like most places, Kingshighway does enforce a few simple rules. The city has approved the construction and existence of the park as long as any and all existing graffiti is painted over as well as all trash remains picked up, thus keeping the property clean. To meet these requirements the park users are expected to pick up after themselves and are discouraged to participate in any non-skating activity underneath the bridge. The city and skaters of St. Louis invite all to be a part of one of the only remaining free, safe and completely pure hearted places the streets have left to offer.

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