

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman  
March 13, 2010  
Buckwalter Skate Park Ribbon Cutting

Ladies and Gentlemen, moms and dads, and skateboarder, thank you for showing up at this early hour to cut the ribbon on the Buckwalter Skate Park. I'm Weston Newton, Chairman of Beaufort County Council. I'm pleased to introduce Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka and PALS Chairman Arthur Middleton. Now, I'm happy to welcome the Reverend Chris Royer with The Church of the Cross, here in Bluffton, who will lead us in the invocation. Father, please join me at the lectern.

(INVOCATION)

Thank you Father. There is a flag on the recreation center across the parking lot. Let's all turn and face it and join together for the pledge of allegiance.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

The new Buckwalter Skate Park is not something your County Council initially had in mind for this new recreational campus. It was your idea. We went to the citizens of Beaufort County and Bluffton and asked them what they wanted and this is it! It would not have occurred to most of us on County Council to build a skate park. That was not part of the general childhood experience in our day. But, I have learned from my 7-year old son, William, that skate boarding is really fun and cool and William is quite excited about the prospect of honing his skills here at this new facility.

The Buckwalter Skate Park contains approximately 11,000 square feet of skate area. It offers street originated skating areas for beginning, intermediate, advanced skaters and bikes. Skate features include benches, stairs, handrails, ramps, bowls, and walls with flat surfaces in-between. Also included is a crescent-shaped skate pavilion with a sloped metal roof, benches, and a drinking fountain. The skate park is constructed of concrete to reduce maintenance, extend the usable life of the facility, and allow use of BMX bikes.

The roughly \$600,000 facility was funded largely from impact fees from new development in greater Bluffton. The cost was kept in check because the Town generously donated the land for this entire campus. County engineers sought public input on this park and the design was developed from citizen recommendations. This specific location was selected to allow shared use of the recreation center parking lot and restrooms.

I would like to thank the contractor, Mashburn Construction of Charleston, for completing this beautiful project. We also appreciate the work of the architects from Clancy Wells and Wood and Partners of Charleston and Pillar Design Studios of Tempe, Arizona. They developed a fabulous layout and design based on the wishes of our residents. It is my hope that our local skateboarders will have hours and hours of healthy fun using this facility. Thank you.

Please join me in welcoming our PALS Chairman Arthur Middleton who will be followed by Mayor Lisa Sulka.

(MR. MIDDLETON, MAYOR SULKA SPEAK)

Now I would like for Mayor Sulka and Mr. Middleton to join William and me in cutting the ribbon. After that, there will be a skateboard demonstration by Shane Gould and members of his Fuel Team of riders.

When they have finished wowing the crowd, I invite skate rats and riders of all skill levels to let it roll and let it flow! Thank you.