



Sandel Park INTEGRATED SKATEDOT

What is a Skatedot?

According to Seattle's Citywide Skatepark Plan, a **skatedot** is a piece of "integrated skateable terrain" designed to blend seamlessly into small neighborhood parks. Unlike a large skatepark, these features may not exceed 1500 square feet, should complement or enhance adjacent landscaping, and may support other types of uses beyond skateboarding.

By including skatedots in its small parks, Seattle will create networks of safe, accessible "skate trails" throughout the city. This will help attract existing skateboarding activity into appropriate areas and build an inclusive environment for practitioners of this popular active sport.

In Northwest Seattle, a growing network of complementary skatedots is already emerging:



The new Ballard Corners Park features this small section of raised curbing reinforced with a metal edge.

When complete, the new 9th Ave Park will feature an integrated skateable bench, similar to this popular skatedot in Magnolia's Ella Bailey Park.

These nearby features will be complementary with the "miniramp" proposed for Sandel Park.



"The skate dot at Ballard Corners Park is a wonderful addition. I think there should be more opportunities for skaters in Seattle's neighborhood parks. The skate dot was the idea of our park designer, landscape architect John Barker. The neighbors supported the idea. I've been fortunate to see skaters use it and judging by the marks left behind, it appears to be getting a lot of use. I support giving skaters more opportunities in other parks."

-David Folweiler, co-chair, Friends of Ballard Corners Park

What is a Miniramp?

The Sandel Park Miniramp would be a permanent concrete structure measuring approximately 24 feet wide, 32 feet long, and 5 feet tall.

This diagram shows what a "generic" miniramp might look like as a standalone park feature next to a swing set, picnic tables, pathway, lawn area and trees.

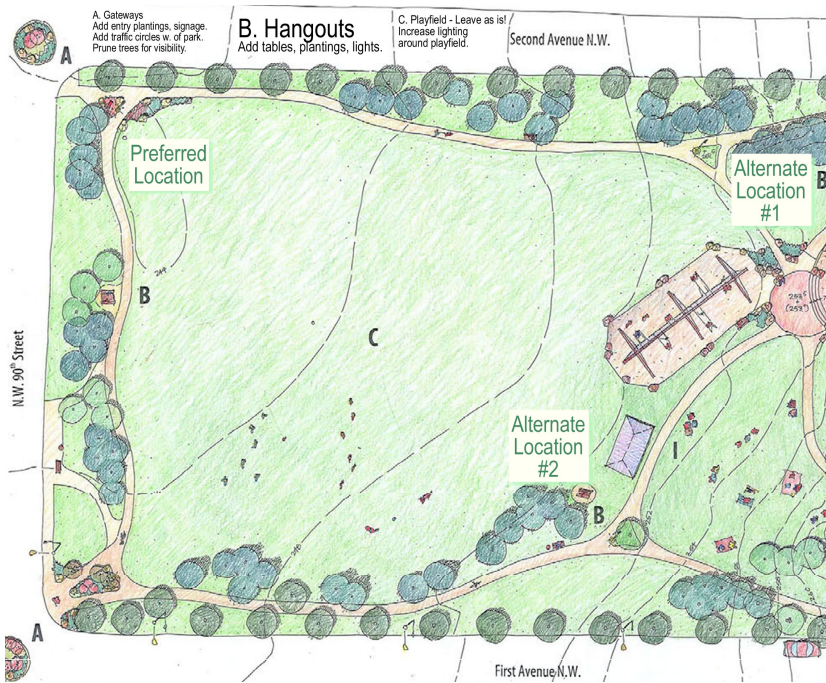
A miniramp such as this is great for beginner skateboarders and is commonly built by families in their backyards to support their children's athletic interest.

Built to accommodate a small "session" of five to ten skaters, this type of structure contains the skating activity within one section of the park, perhaps next to other active uses.

This structure would support only one skater riding at a time, with room for several other skaters to stand waiting for their turns.

Although not shown in this diagram, each platform will be supported by a raised earth berm. This will provide easy access to the top of the ramp and also eliminate the risk of a user falling off the back of the structure.





Where will it go?

On the left, three possible locations for a miniramp are shown on the Sandel Park Play Area Renovation Plan.

In keeping with the vision set forth in the plan, this miniramp would be integrated with the surrounding landscape, creating a distinctive "hangout" as the centerpiece of a unique community gathering space.

The preferred locations for hangouts are marked with the letter B in the diagram.

The limited size of this skateboarding feature will also limit the number of visitors who will travel to Sandel Park to use it. No additional parking or other infrastructure should be required to support the users of this miniramp.

Will this crazy thing actually work?

Yes! On the right, the Patterson Park Miniramp in Austin, Texas was designed and built by Ideal Skateparks in early 2007 in order to demonstrate the benefits of the skatedot model.

Because skatedots have a much smaller scale than skateparks, they can be sprinkled throughout a city as part of an overall master skatepark plan like Seattle's.

This smaller scale also enables construction of skatedots where a larger budget or land is unavailable for building a skatepark.

The best skatedots are integrated into the surrounding landscape so that non-skaters can easily view and experience the excitement of skateboarding in a neutral environment.



"The city of Austin just got a great addition to its park system for approximately 1/38th the cost of the Mabel Davis skatepark. Hopefully, this will serve as a model for future modest scale/budget skatespots around Austin and across the nation."

-Cary Jackson, Ideal Skateparks

What will it cost?

Austin, TX

	Total Cost	Square Feet	Cost per Sq ft
Mabel Davis	\$375,000	12,000	\$31.25
Patterson Park*	\$8,000	768	\$10.41

* Volunteer labor and material donations



A skater on 10 square feet of space

Seattle, WA

	Cost	Square Feet	Cost per Sq ft
Lower Woodland	\$1,050,000	17,000	\$61.76
Sandel Park	\$35,000	768	\$45.57

Seattle Center	\$800,000	10,000	\$80.00
Dahl Playfield	\$200,000	4,000	\$50.00
Ballard Bowl	\$250,000	4,500	\$55.55

For more information about this project, please contact Scott Shinn (909-0390) or Kate Martin (579-3703)