

JTNY Power House Skatepark

Jamestown, NY

SETTING



Urban

COST



\$1,000,000

SIZE



0.5 acres

OPEN SINCE

October
2022

GRANTEE

Municipality

A new home for a thriving skating community

Project Overview

JTNY Power House skatepark was built on a strong foundation of skating culture and community. Already a popular area for street skating due to its hilly landscape, Jamestown has a private indoor skate complex run by local skating advocate and skateshop owner Pete Scheira and an outdated outdoor skateshop.

The Built to Play grant — secured by Scheira in partnership with local skating advocates SK8JTNY, youth skaters, and the City of Jamestown — supported the development of a flagship, regional destination skatepark. Opened in October 2023, the project invites experienced and rookie skaters alike — from a young girl trying on rollerblades for the first time to a father joining his kids for their after-school BMX session.



Sometimes I see kids who got there at 7 am on a Saturday morning, and they're still there by the time night comes.

PETE SCHEIRA
Local Skatepark Advocate, Owner of Jamestown Skate Products & Project Lead



↑ The crescent wrench feature and the name of the skatepark pay homage to Jamestown's industrial heritage — and specifically, the site's history as a trolley power station.



↑ The skatepark is sited as an extension of the Jamestown Riverwalk, allowing people to stumble upon the space while using the trail system and build in active mobility as they get to, from, and around the site.



↑ The first section of the skatepark is more beginner-friendly, inviting people of all levels to skate, bike, scoot, or roll. The next sections invite more advanced skaters.

Origin story

THE SPARK – RESPONDING TO LOCAL DEMAND

The idea of bringing an outdoor skatepark to Jamestown, a town with a vibrant skating culture, had been in the works for over a decade. The project gained momentum when project lead, Pete Scheira, learned about the grant opportunity on social media.



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION – WORKING ACROSS SECTORS AND SILOS

Designed as a home for the town's growing skating culture, the skatepark has different areas for different skill levels. The construction process involved close collaboration between skating advocates and multiple city departments, such as planning, parks, and public works.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION – SUSTAINING A GRASSROOTS EFFORT

Sheperded by a core group of skaters and parents –including a local 11-year-old skater – local advocates leveraged the matching grant model in its grassroots fundraising campaign, working in partnership with the City of Jamestown.



ALL PHOTOS: SK8 JTNYPAGEBOOK PAGE



Lessons learned

1

OUTCOME

A CRITICAL MASS OF SKATERS PROPELLED THE PROJECT FORWARD.



We have a youth ambassador, Cash Burbank, who was 11 years old when we started. **He and his parents were a driving force** of getting other skate parents on board.”

– Pete Scheira

LESSON

Build upon organizers and advocates’ efforts.

Identify people – from youth to skaters to community leaders – whose time and energy can accelerate fundraising, design, and engagement processes.

2

OUTCOME

THE SITING AND DESIGN OF THE SKATEPARK CELEBRATE LOCAL HISTORY.



“**Every wall has a relic of the retaining wall** from the trolley power station.”

– Pete Scheira

LESSON

Embrace and incorporate a place’s history to create a sense of place.

Seize opportunities for adaptive reuse and integration of local culture – from art to architecture to signage to naming.

3

OUTCOME

RIVER TRAIL CONNECTIONS FOSTER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND FOOT TRAFFIC.



“I love the freedom, space to move, and the outdoors; **you can see beyond the park.**”

– Skater at Jamestown Skatepark

LESSON

Find ways to get non-skaters active, too.

Consider edges that invite activity and connect to other recreational opportunities. As one grandfather who brings his granddaughter to the site each day says, “It’s great, because while she skates, I do my walk around the riverwalk loop.”