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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Officials Cut the Ribbon on Newark Skate Spot**

**NEWARK, DE** (September 13, 2013) – On Thursday, September 12, City of Newark officials were joined by the Newark Skate Spot Committee and members of the community to mark the much-anticipated opening of Newark’s skate spots. The skate spots are located in Handloff Park and Phillips Park and have been several years in the making. Funding from the City of Newark, Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund, a private donation and several other donors including the University of Delaware, Switch, and the Wilmington Skate Project enabled the city to build two skate spots with several features each.

The Handloff Park skate spot is a 2,800 square foot facility featuring two quarter pipes and a hubba ledge. It is constructed with poured in place concrete. The Handloff Park skate spot is currently open and ready to skate from dawn to dusk seven days a week.

The Phillips Park skate spot, currently under construction, is approximately 2,500 square feet and will feature a bowled quarter pipe, quarter pipe, stairs, as well as a hand rail and a grind rail made from a piece of the Pomeroy and Newark rail line dating back to 1925. Phillips Park skate spot is scheduled to be open and ready to skate in October.

“I’m so proud that Newark, with the help of other donors, stepped up to the plate and finally embraced the time proven sport of skateboarding,” says Newark City Manager Carol Houck. “We now have appropriate facilities to meet the long time demand.”

“The skate spot is a dream come true and much needed,” says Mayor Vance Funk. “It brings our youth back to our parks at a time when physical activity among young people needs to be increased nationwide.”

“I grew up in the City of Newark, and I regularly walk and bike the UD campus and downtown area,” says Newark skate spot committee member Jamie Magee. “I’ve seen a growing population of skateboarders that needs a safe, legal, and challenging place to practice their sport other than the public walkways. The Newark skate spots project seemed like a great way to repurpose underutilized park space to solve this problem. Serving on the Committee gave me the opportunity to help ensure the community’s objectives were met in a lasting way and of which the City can be proud.”

City officials noted that discussion of skate spots in Newark began in March 2010 when the City hosted community meetings about the master plan for the Curtis Mill Park project. There was interest in the community to build a skate park, but ultimately placing multiple, smaller skate spots closer to the City's trails and neighborhoods was determined to better meet the needs of the community and enable easier access. Constructing various skate spots also provides the skateboarding community with a greater variety of "stunts" and features to test their skills. Two public meetings were held in March 2012 and March 2013 in order to obtain feedback from the community and design ideas from local skateboarders.

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