

**NEWS RELEASE**

**March 3, 2009**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> ST  
SHELTON, WA 98584**

**TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN, TACOMA MORNING NEWS TRIBUNE, NORTH MASON LIFE.**

**RE: Mason County Parks and Trails Department announces a donation from the Squaxin Island Tribe to keep the Mason County Skateboard facility open in 2009.**

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Mason County Parks and Trails Department would like to announce that the department has received a donation in the amount of \$7,000 from the Squaxin Island Tribe. The donation was made with the expressed interest that the funds be used for the purpose of "operation and maintenance expenses for the Mason County Skateboard Facility." The skateboard facility is located at 110 Wallace Kneeland Park – next to the Shelton Wal-Mart store.

With the county budget reductions for 2009, the skateboard facility had been targeted for closure due to lack of operating and maintenance funds. When the Squaxin Island Tribe learned of this possible facility closure, the tribe expressed an interest in helping the County because the skateboard facility is fulfilling an important need for the youth within the community.

Island Enterprises Inc., the economic development company of the Squaxin Island Tribe, was responsible for reviewing the situation concerning the Skateboard facility and then reporting back to the Squaxin Island Tribal Council with a recommendation.

Once the Tribal Council heard that there was a real possibility of the skateboard facility closing, they unanimously voted to support the effort of funding the annual operational costs of \$7000 in order to keep the skate park open for 2009.

It's the tribe's desire to pick up this cost with the hope that other community organizations and businesses will step forward and donate additional dollars in the future so not just the basic operational costs are covered, but to hopefully also encourage providing other events and activities at the skate park.

The Squaxin Island Tribe has a strong sense of community and is happy to be able to step in and provide assistance and support during these challenging economic times.

If anyone has any questions about the Skateboard facility donation or operations, please contact John Keates at Mason County Parks, 427-9670, ext. 669 or by e-mail, [johnk@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:johnk@co.mason.wa.us)

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