



Caldwell skate park a hit

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CALDWELL - Local skaters have a new place to show their stuff, and skaters from around the valley have found a new reason to visit Caldwell. And they agree - it's a blast.

Caldwell's new skate park, tentatively named Pipe Dream Park, officially opened its 20,000-square-foot plaza earlier this month, and word is spreading.

More than 30 people were using the park Tuesday afternoon, and both city officials and those skating said that's a regular turnout. Five skaters from around the Treasure Valley agreed the park is the best the area has to offer.

"People from Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Marsing, Kuna; they're coming from all over," 20-year-old Mike Hankins, of Caldwell, said.

Isaac Chaves, an 18-year-old Caldwell High grad, said the variety of features at the park allows skaters of all ability levels and styles to improve their skills and just have fun.

Chaves was a member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council skate park subcommittee, which worked with Caldwell officials to make the park a reality.

The group of young people helped raise funds for the park; researched parks in other areas and sought input from local skaters on what features would make it great; and organized design and construction.

Chaves said the park has generated quite a bit of buzz in the local skating community, and nobody has anything bad to say.

"Everything has been incredibly positive," Caldwell spokeswoman Maggie Colwell said.

The city has received a number of phone calls from kids and others, she said, and the common sentiment is: "Awesome."

Officials expect the Caldwell Park Department to complete landscaping at the park, including irrigated pipe, by early spring.

Phase II of the park project, which includes lighting, a shade shelter, water fountains and other features, has been postponed because of funding shortfalls.

Project Engineer Ken Frazee has encouraged the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council to seek donations to complete the project, "and knowing them, they'll find a way to move forward," Caldwell spokeswoman Maggie Colwell said in an e-mail.