



City of Gallatin

Mayor Paige Brown

## News Release

### **GALLATIN REPLACES SKATE PARK RAMPS AT THOMPSON PARK**

*CITY INVESTS THOUSANDS IN PARKS THROUGHOUT GALLATIN*

**GALLATIN, TN** – Jake Wooten is a professional skateboarder from Tennessee who started riding at six years old at Thompson Park in Gallatin. As a child living in an unstable home environment, Gallatin’s only skate park became an emotional retreat complete with a group of friends who shared a common interest in skateboarding.

“This was a great place where I could put all of my energy into skateboarding all the time. Before you knew it I started getting better and better at it.” Wooten’s skating career has since taken him all over the world competing in Paris, Brazil and China. During that same time, Wooten’s hometown park has suffered with age. With wood splitting due to exposure to the elements, Gallatin Parks and Recreation was forced to retire many of the ramps for safety reasons.

“We know the kids were upset with us when we’d pull one ramp or another, but the old wood ramps were beyond repair,” said Gallatin Parks and Recreation Director David Brown. “We’ve been waiting on replacements, but everything takes so much time to get shipped these days.”

Gallatin Parks and Recreation placed orders for new ramps a year ago totaling \$90,000. Due to the slowdown of production plaguing the nation, the equipment was delayed until last week when it was delivered from Joplin, Missouri. The new modular ramps are made of a composite material that has a longer life span than wood ramps. After a few days of unpacking and assembly by city workers, Parks and Rec Director David Brown, Mayor Paige Brown and a group of skaters, assembled for a short ceremony to announce the reopening of the Thompson Park skate park.

“Gallatin is fortunate to have the park assets that we do for a city of our size,” said Mayor Paige Brown. “In the last year we’ve learned a lot about what the community wants in our park system. While we’re making short-term improvements, we also have a vision for the future that will keep Gallatin on track with fun and engaging park activities.”

The city has almost finished a long-range Parks and Rec Master Plan that prioritizes improvements for existing parks and plans new park sites, which will better align park investments with the needs of the community.

In October, Gallatin Parks and Recreation also invested \$289,000 for new LED lights on the baseball field at Thompson Park. The lights have very low maintenance and use a fraction of the electricity of the former lights in the park. The new lights are also much more directional, causing less light to spill over into neighborhoods at night.

If you would like to know more about the Gallatin Parks and Recreation Master Plan or Thompson Park, contact the Civic Center at 615-451-5911 or view the first draft of the plan at

<https://www.gallatintn.gov/documentcenter/view/8228>

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