

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council secures grant for basketball court

Council has secured grant funding from the Department of State Growth's Community Infrastructure Fund to construct a half-sized basketball court and playground next to the Huonville Skate Park.

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor says there are currently no publicly accessible outdoor basketball courts in the entire Huon Valley.

"The Huonville Recreation Ground is the ideal locality for a half-size basketball court, and locating the court next to the popular Huonville Skate Park will complement the site.

"The area has proven to be an important space for young people to have fun and test their skills whilst interacting with their peers in a place where they feel a sense of belonging. The area now acts as a "hot spot" for Council's Youth Services Staff to connect with young people and helps with identifying their needs and issues. Local Police also use the venue as a means to engage with young people, working in close consultation with Council staff," Commissioner Taylor said.

Council completed a major upgrade of the Huonville Skate Park in August 2016 (using its own asset renewal funds), transforming the space from a featureless area containing several safety issues to a vibrant challenging skate park, which has become a hive of activity.

Commissioner Taylor says there are so many benefits from facilities such as these.

"Basketball is a tremendous team sport which incorporates many key developmental skills including running, agility, balance, coordination, jumping, catching and throwing skills. By establishing the fundamental movement and motor skills, children are setting a good foundation for being active for life. Taking steps to support young people to be healthy and active is critical for the prevention of health problems later in adulthood. The health and wellbeing of young people is critical to their futures and to the vitality of the Tasmanian community," Commissioner Taylor said.

Work will begin on the court in the coming months.

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