



GOING BIG AT PIER PARK

# READY TO ROLL

PORTLAND-AREA SKATE PARKS PIONEER A FAST-GROWING SPORT.

By Deston S. Nokes

Oregon has long been gripped with skate fever. Which is probably why it came as no surprise when, in 2002, Portland voters approved a plan for the construction of 19 skate parks.

"This state has been heralded globally for having the best concrete parks," says Sam Beebe, founder of Skateoregon.com. "Not only are they well built, but they're pushing the envelope with unbelievable design."

To sample a few of the area's best offerings, take a spin at these sick skate parks. And we mean *sick* in a good way.

## BURNSIDE SKATEPARK

Located under the east end of Portland's Burnside Bridge, this is a granddaddy of the skate-park scene. Despite its guerrilla beginnings — it was built without permission in 1990 and later sanctioned by the city — Burnside is 10,000 square feet of ever-evolving terrain. Skate god Tony Hawk lists it among his five favorite parks, and included it in one of his video games. (Under the Burnside Bridge on Southeast Second Avenue, Portland; no set hours)

## PIER PARK

Built with big-bowl lovers in mind, this park has a 20-foot (6-meter) full pipe that connects an 11.5-foot (3.5-meter) bowl with a 9.5-foot (2.9-meter) bowl. Its street course also has all the obstacles you'll ever need to perfect your grind. (North Hudson Street at Bruce Avenue, Portland; 5 a.m.-midnight)

## CHEHALEM SKATE PARK

This gem, located just an hour from downtown Portland, is being called the best skate park in the world. And with 29,000 square feet (2,694 square meters) of skateable surface, who's gonna argue? A dragon rail and spinning-top volcano are just two of the park's hellacious features. (1201 S. Blaine St., Newberg; dawn to dusk)

## JIM GRIFFITH MEMORIAL SKATE PARK

Skateboarders can really roar at this new, 15,000-square-foot (1,394-square-meter) park, located just outside Portland. It sports a vicious-looking concrete dinosaur in the middle and includes street skating and freestyle elements such as rails and ramps. (13125 S.W. Hall Blvd., Tigard; dawn to dusk)

# EVERYTHING OLD IS COOL AGAIN

Oregonians hate to throw out anything that could be recycled — even history. This compulsion to conserve recently earned Portland a coveted spot on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 list of "Dozen Distinctive Destinations." Among the elements that elevated Portland to the list were its urban growth boundary legislation, which restricts city sprawl; its repurposing of land in the Pearl District, which transformed a warehouse area into a chic neighborhood; its development of the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, which replaced a parking lot; and its preservation of one of the country's largest collections of historic cast-iron buildings.

The National Trust announced the honor in February during a ceremony at the Gerding Theater at the Armory. The theater, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is open to the public, as are fellow landmarks like Pittock Mansion, the Portland Art Museum, the C.W. Parker Carousel at Jantzen Beach and the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. In all, 108 Distinctive Destinations have been honored to date. Visit [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org) to see the full list. — Deborah Wakefield

