

\$25M sports complex brings roller skating back to the Lowcountry, plus a lot more

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NORTH CHARLESTON — It's not too late to skate. The city rolled out an outdoor skating rink as part of its new [\\$25 million sports complex](#) at the site of the former Danny Jones Recreation Center.

Roller skating rinks are a distant memory for those living in the tri-county area — the disco ball hanging in the middle of a wooden rink, the combined smell of popcorn and musty skate rentals, the loud sing-along music. The last indoor skating rink in the region, Music in Motion in Summerville, closed its doors in 2022. Decades earlier, starting in the 1950s, Skateland operated for a spell at 1056 King St. in Charleston.

'This is the future': Park Circle's inclusive playground for kids of all abilities

The new outdoor skating rink in the Park Circle area offers a different experience than the nostalgic evenings at the roller rink. The main purpose of the venue is to support activities such as roller derby, hockey and dancing, and to promote outdoor exercise.

"To be able to skate outside in the sunshine is like music to my ears; it's gonna be so much fun," said Lisa Ray, a member of the roller derby team Lowcountry Highrollers.

Finding a flat, open space to skate has remained a challenge for members of the roller derby team. Some have resorted to going to skate parks in the Charleston area, but those can be unsafe or crowded. Plus, they don't offer the same experience as a rink.

"I'm so excited there's a dedicated place to skate," said Kelsea McGrogan, who has been on the Lowcountry Highrollers team for two years.

The former Danny Jones Recreation Center had an outdoor skating rink that was cracked, polluted and outdated, said Recreation Director TJ Rostin. The decision to construct a new one came out of public input during the planning process for the new complex.

"Places for them to do roller sports are few and far between," Rostin said. "We're happy that here in North Charleston we have a place to provide them with that."