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Skateboarders take their skills to Marshall Park

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LUNENBURG -- The town's skateboarders began perfecting their craft in a paved, obstacle-filled area in Marshall Park this week.

The recently completed skate park could be the skateboarders' home in Lunenburg for the next couple of years, according to Building Inspector Michael Sauvageau, who also served on the Skateboard Committee.

"It's better than where they had us at the teen center," skater John DeMapoli, 15, said of the new park. "We all love to skate, it's just nice to have a place."

DeMapoli and six of his friends were skating on the fresh asphalt Friday afternoon, jumping and grinding on the recently installed boxes and rails.

Sauvageau said the P.J. Keating Company paved the site early Monday morning after an extensive cleanup last week that saw help from some 20 skaters, Parks Commissioners and members of the Skateboard Committee.

Sauvageau said the youths had skated dangerously on busy streets such as Massachusetts Avenue, before being relegated to the Chester Mossman Teen Center's parking lot and the current site.

But those safety issues are no more, thanks to the new park, he said.

"It has cleaned up a very serious problem the town has had for a while," Sauvageau said.

The skaters can use the park until the snow falls, or they cause problems in the area, he said.

"I have all the confidence the kids will hold up their end of the bargain," Sauvageau said.

Sauvageau said Jim Dormon, Brian Slack and Jim Reger of P.J. Keating were all very helpful. He said Mike Albert of Mike's Rubbish Removal was instrumental in removing a large trailer and Fitchburg Parks Commission was generous in donating three quarter-pipe ramps.

Brian Culking, 16, was skating through the fallen leaves with DeMapoli Friday.

"It's pretty good," Culking said. "I'm gonna miss being able to skate around, though. There's only so much you can do with a parking lot."