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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tony Hawk Foundation awards city \$5,000 grant for skate park**

HUNTINGTON – One of the most well-known organizations in the skating industry has awarded the City of Huntington funding for a skate park.

City officials were notified Tuesday that the Tony Hawk Foundation has approved a \$5,000 grant application that was submitted in December. The grant, which requires a local funding match, will go toward Phase II of construction of the skate park at Harris Riverfront Park.

The skate park will be built in three phases on the western end of Harris Riverfront Park and provide features for skaters of all skill levels. It was designed by Team Pain, a company specializing in the construction of skate parks, and AECOM of Roanoke, Va.

The city has raised \$117,000 through state and federal grants to construct Phase I of the skate park. Construction is expected to begin late spring or early summer.

Mayor Steve Williams said the Tony Hawk Foundation grant will raise the profile of the skate park because it encourages a funding match from the community.

“A project of this nature needs full support from our skating community and from the general public,” Williams said. “Encouraging a community match cultivates buy-in and ownership of the skate park.”

Foundation for Tri-State Community is accepting contributions that will go toward the community match for the grant. Checks should be made out to “FTSC, Inc.” with “Huntington Skate Park” written in the memo line and mailed to P.O. Box 2096, Ashland, KY 41105-2096.