

Grant comes through for Unity Skate Park, Greenfield dog park, Northfield recreation

Recorder Staff

The suspense is over for local skaters and their supporters, with two decades of effort toward a permanent skate park gratified Monday as officials announced a \$272,000 skate park grant, as well as money for a dog park in Greenfield and recreation development of a Northfield forest parcel.

Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Maeve Valley Bartlett visited Unity Park in Turners Falls, future home of the Unity Skate Park, to make the announcement among \$2.6 million in grants for parks, open space and rec-

reation improvements in nine western Massachusetts communities.

Montague applied for a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant after a Town Meeting vote this spring authorized spending of up to \$400,000 to construct the park, contingent on the grant — which equates to 68 percent reimbursement of the project. The fundraising activities of the volunteer Skate Park Committee have taken at least another \$30,000 out of the sum to come from local taxes.

Greenfield applied for a grant to pay for improvements to Green River Park on Petty Plain Road, changes to include an enclosed dog park as well



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as the construction of a pavilion, improved drainage to the parking lot, Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, a new playground, and basketball courts. Officials hoped

for up to \$400,000, and that is the sum awarded.

The Northfield grant is \$135,000,

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destined to create the Beers Mountain Recreation Area out of a large forest parcel, according to the grant list.

“The Administration is committed to improving our parks and open spaces across the

Commonwealth,” Bartlett said in a statement. “In addition to preserving open space, improving recreational opportunities and protecting the commonwealth’s natural resources, these investments will create economic growth across the region.”