

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 5

Rhode Island City on the “Verge of Bankruptcy” Spends \$550,000 in Stimulus Money for a Skateboard Park

- Apparently the city of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, has been trying to “cobble together funds to pay for the skateboard park and [tennis and basketball] court upgrades” for several years now.
- On March 6, the city, which has a \$5.2 million school budget deficit and about a \$4.8 million municipal deficit and has eliminated about 40 city jobs so far this year, announced that they will spend \$550,000 in federal stimulus money to construct a skateboard park at a local school.
- When a local official was asked why a city on the verge of bankruptcy chose to spend stimulus money on this particular project, he replied that projects had to be “shovel-ready” to receive funding and that “this is the one we have that is shovel-ready.”

Sources:

<http://www.pawtuckettimes.com/content/view/72798/27/>

<http://www.abc6.com/news/40864457.html>

http://www.projo.com/news/content/PAWTUCKET_STIMULUS_SKATEPARK_03-17-09_VADM6E0_v119.36af019.html?npc