

THE  
GAINESVILLE ROLLER REBELS  
PRESENT

# ROLLER DERBY 101

- Intro to Modern Roller Derby
- Meet Your Rebels
- What We Need to Survive + Thrive in Our City





# ROLLER DERBY OF THE PAST

OR, WHAT MODERN  
ROLLER DERBY **ISN'T**



# ROLLER DERBY OF TODAY

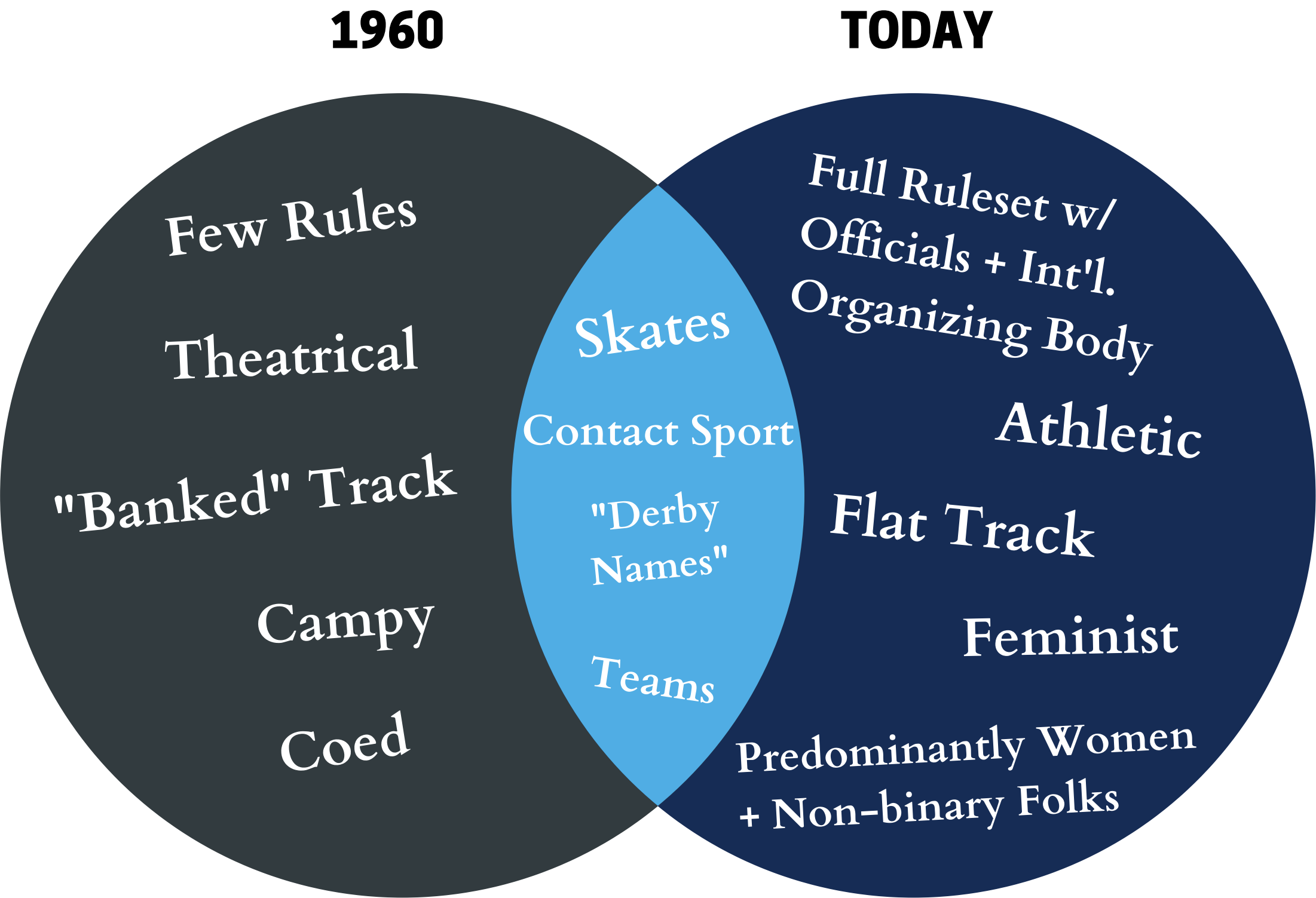
ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING  
SPORTS IN **THE WORLD**





# ROLLER DERBY HAS COME A LONG WAY

from its inception as an **endurance race** in 1935 to the theatrical, **violent games** of the 60s, to its feminist rebirth as a **team sport** in Austin in 2003 — to **today!**



## YOU COULD SAY

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROLLER DERBY IN THE 1960S AND TODAY IS SIMILAR TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING AND SPORT OR "AMATEUR" WRESTLING.



MODERN GAMEPLAY  
RULES IN <1 MIN!

# ROLLER DERBY IN 2020

- **MODERN ROLLER DERBY IS AN INTERNATIONAL SPORT.** MOST TEAMS ARE ALL-WOMEN TEAMS, BUT THERE IS A GROWING NUMBER OF MALE, UNISEX AND JUNIOR ROLLER DERBY TEAMS.
- **SINCE 2005, THE WOMEN'S FLAT TRACK DERBY ASSOCIATION (WFTDA) HAS GROWN TO INCLUDE 451 MEMBER LEAGUES IN 33 COUNTRIES.** THERE ARE NOW ROLLER DERBY LEAGUES ON EVERY CONTINENT EXCEPT ANTARCTICA.
- **ROLLER DERBY WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AS A ROLLER SPORT FOR THE 2020 SUMMER OLYMPICS.**
- **SINCE 2006, THE WFTDA HAS SPONSORED AN ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.** IN 2008, IT ADOPTED THE "BIG 5" FORMAT: FOUR REGIONAL **PLAYOFFS** AND A FINAL **CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.** THE WFTDA ALSO RECOGNIZES ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENTS HOSTED BY MEMBER LEAGUES.





# ROLLER DERBY IN FLORIDA

There are in 12 WFTDA roller derby leagues in Florida and additional, non-WFTDA teams across the state.

Jacksonville's team is ranked #14 in the world.

In Feb 2020, Team Florida competed in the states' roller derby tournament for the first time and won silver.



# ROLLER DERBY IN GAINESVILLE



ATHLETICISM. COMMUNITY. EMPOWERMENT.

The **Gainesville Roller Rebels** (GRR) is a Florida registered not-for-profit and has been active for **13 years**. Our team is part of the international governing body, the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). GRR is a fun and inclusive athletic organization.

We also strive to improve our local community **through service** and by providing family-friendly entertainment.

We have **~40 active members**, primarily women — including skaters, refs, rookie skaters and volunteers — of all ages (18+) and walks of life. We collect dues, hold elections and maintain a board + training committee.





Meet

the Rebels





- **~40 Members** (33 of whom who live within Gainesville city limits)
- **13 Years Active;** 12 years as part of the int'l governing body (WFTDA)
- **10** Number of local charities and non-profits we raise money for annually
- **~150** Number of fans who attend each bout
- **8-10** Number of bouts a year
- **214** Our international ranking (jumped more than 50 spots last season)
- **9,400** Number of fans on our combined social media platforms



*\*Not playing? Watch on [YouTube](#)*

## OUR TEAMS



**GRR All-Stars**  
(Away Team)



**Swamp City Sirens**  
(Home Team)



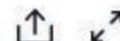
## GAMES

- Our home games are **family-friendly** and attract approx. **150 attendees**.
- Our home games are currently held on Saturdays at the **MLK Center**.
- For a majority of bouts, we have a food truck(s) and **half-time entertainment**, provided by local groups, or an interactive activity for kids.
- We sell raffle tickets for merch and sponsor donations — the proceeds from which go to **local charities and non-profits**.
- We have an announcer, DJ, advertisers and a program — as well as a staff of volunteers.



Canva

< 1 OF 14 >



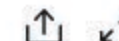
## PRACTICE

- We currently have practice twice a week, for 5 hours total.
- We have a separate training program for **rookie skaters** (including future players and refs), which also occurs during practice hours; they must pass a thorough minimum skills assessment before they are eligible for regular practice and gameplay.
- We host recruitment events throughout the year. **NO experience** is required to join.
- For the last two years, we've split our season between the **Alachua County Fairgrounds** and **Broward Rec** on campus — but the future of both locations is precarious after 2020.
- **We are fully insured;** as a league and individually.



Canva

< 1 OF 6 >



## ORGANIZATION

- We maintain a board of directors and a training committee. We have a handbook, policies, an org chart and various committees to help maintain the league.
- We are entirely self-run, giving members new opportunities for **professional development** — leadership, training, mentoring, event planning, marketing and fundraising to name a few.
- Our membership is comprised of skaters, referees, non-skating officials (NSOs) and volunteers.
- We are a **registered not-for-profit** and an active member of the international governing body (WFTDA).



Canva

< 1 OF 7 >





# WE ARE GAINESVILLE

The Gainesville Roller Rebels (GRR) have a mission to empower its league members to **realize their full potential** both on and off the track, and to promote the wonderful sport of roller derby in the Gainesville area.

Our team is as **unique and eclectic** as the city we represent. Like Gainesville, our team is a vibrant, progressive melting pot. We thrive in this city, and are proud to be part of **its innovative culture**.

We also **serve the city** as health care workers, scientists, researchers, administrators, teachers, students, parents and so much more.

## OUR CORE VALUES:

**Athleticism** – GRR values creating a safe space for women, gender-expansive and gender non-conforming people to engage in competitive sport, developing individually as athletes and together as teammates.

**Community** – GRR is a fun, supportive and inclusive organization. We are more than a sports team, we are here for each other as teammates and friends. We also strive to improve our local community through service and by providing family-friendly entertainment.

**Empowerment** – GRR is proudly made by and for its league members, both skaters and non-skaters. Whether it’s on skates or in our community, we empower our league members to explore new facets of who they are and become the best versions of themselves.

### Adopt-a-Highway



### Active Streets



### Charity Raffles

At each game, GRR donates the proceeds from raffle tickets to local charities.

### Gainesville Pride Parads



### Girls Place, Inc.



### Computers for Kids



### AUXO Fitness



### Elevate Fitness



### Gainesville Greenway Challenge



### Racial/Social Justice Donations

Regular practice is currently suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic; thus, thus, GRR voted to donate all the money we would have spent on rent in July to a local social/racial justice organization — and continue to support local organizations with this mission.



# WE NEED THE CITY'S HELP. WHY NOW?



We rented practice space at the **Alachua County Fairgrounds** for years. It was covered, with room for 2 tracks. The Fairgrounds were donated to the Army Reserve in Oct. 2020.

**Broward Outdoor Rec** is on UF's campus. It's uncovered, with room for 1.5 tracks. UF plans to demolish Broward Rec in 2021, according to the [Campus Master Plan 2015-2025](#).



## WHERE WE PLAY



We enjoy renting the **MLK Multipurpose Center** for our home games, with its bleachers, A/C and locker rooms. However, in the past, we've been required to first put down a masonite floor due concerns our skates will damage the court. This is not feasible for twice-weekly practice.

Over 13 years, **we have proven our team and our sport is worth investing in:** we're self-organized, hard-working, responsible and committed to making a positive impact in the community. We are an entirely self-run not-for-profit.

We meet a **unique + unmet need** in amateur athletics: predominately women, majority LGBTQ+, multicultural, all-ages, all-bodies — and appealing to people who don't have an athletic background.

**Gainesville loves us.** We have fans, sponsors and community partners. Our fan base is consistent and unique. We are part of Gainesville's culture and bring value to our community.

**We love Gainesville.** We live, work and go to school in in Gainesville. We give back to our community. We represent this city well, and are as unique and eclectic as it is.

## LACK OF VIABLE, AFFORDABLE ROLLER DERBY PRACTICE SPACE IS IS NOT A UNIQUE PROBLEM.

Many roller derby teams across the country face the same challenge.

KOMO News

Local Roller Derby leagues continue fight for spaces to play, equal treatment

Local Roller Derby leagues continue fight for spaces to play, equal ... no for an answer, to reach solutions when they needed a place to play.

Oct 11, 2019

Bangor Daily News

The end of Happy Wheels leaves Maine's biggest roller derby ...

As roller-skating rinks around the country die off, seen as generational vestiges, roller derby is losing critical space. The search for a new spot. As ...



# PRACTICE SPACE NEEDS

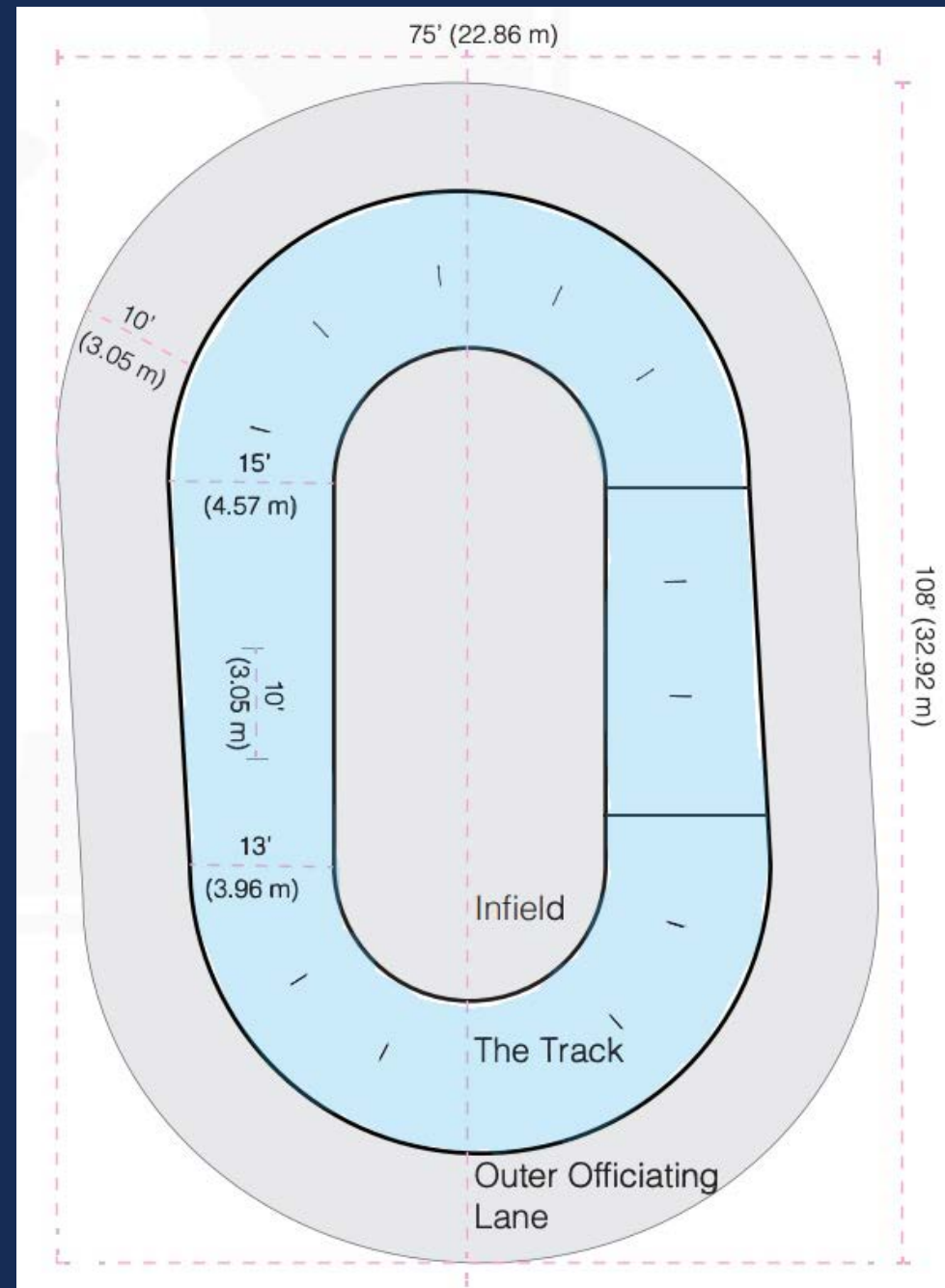


## REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to rent space for **three hours 2x/ week** during our season (Jan-Oct), on weekday evenings or on the weekend for \$30-\$50/hour.
- At least **98 x 65 ft.** of open space (smaller than a double basketball court).
- Nighttime lighting
- A hard surface **suitable for skating**, such as wood, poured or polished concrete, sport court, tile, linoleum, etc.
- **Ability to lay a track** for practice — with tape, chalk or paint.

## PREFERENCES (NOT REQUIRED— BUT EXTREMELY HELPFUL):

- **Roof or canopy over the track(s)** to shield from sun and rain.
- Ability to rent a handful of **Saturdays or Sundays** during the year.
- Additional track/skating area for **rookie skaters**
- Bathroom access
- Additional **officiating/referee lane** around the track (an additional 5 ft. around the perimeter), which is required for official tournaments or games.
- Ability to **keep the derby track** (made with tape, chalk or paint) at the practice location, without having to constantly remove it.
- Electrical outlet(s)
- Water or water fountain
- Access to **shed or storage** (or permission to leave portable shed)



- **A ROLLER DERBY TRACK IS ESSENTIALLY A TILTED OVAL / ELLIPSE.**
- **THIS IS THE WOMEN'S FLAT TRACK DERBY ASSOCIATION'S GUIDE FOR LAYING OUT A TRACK, SHOWN ABOVE.**
- **MODERN ROLLER DERBY IS "FLAT TRACK" AND IS THEREFORE MUCH MORE VERSATILE; MOST HARD SURFACES CAN BE ADAPTED.**



# SEARCH UPDATES

## COUNTY

- Kanapaha Veterans Memorial park roller hockey rink:
  - No nighttime lighting, no covering, not in great condition (upgrades in planning phase; will be years from now)
  - Working to ensure it's not converted into a Pickleball-only space

## UNIVERSITY

- Broward Outdoor Rec roller hockey rink:
  - not covered, slated to be demolished

## CITY

- Wild Spaces + Public Places: Forest Park
  - Years to go in planning and development
- Parks , Recreation and Cultural Affairs
  - Fred Cone Park: uncovered, no nighttime lighting
  - **MLK Multipurpose Center:** 6-week trial!



- 75% of our team lives and/or works in the same district as MLK. Our home base for games.
- Evidence that the potential wear and tear is equal to that caused by other activities.
- Effective guidelines that many, many teams across the country enforce to ensure to make the least impact in similar spaces.
- Successful demo.
- Refinishing once a year.
- Giving back by hosting community skating events, such as: a monthly skating event for kids, or a "Learn to Skate" night for adults.

## NEED FOR MORE WHEEL-FRIENDLY SPACES IN GVILLE



BIKE  
POLO



ROLLER  
HOCKEY



REC  
SKATERS



# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT...

Gainesville Roller Derby now has ALL the infrastructure in place to take our team to the next level, and pursue options like these — once we can secure consistent practice space.



There are **Junior Roller Derby leagues** all across the country that accept skaters as young as 8 years old. It's not just an empowering sport for kids; it also creates a pipeline of adult players.



WFTDA teams like our can apply to **host official tournaments**, which comes with promotional support and would bring multiple teams and volunteer staff to Gainesville for days worth of local entertainment.



Many roller derby teams in **cities the size of Gainesville** are **considerably larger**. For instance, Ann Arbor Roller Derby (pictured) has 4 teams, 16 bouts a year and a robust support staff of refs and volunteers.



**Men's Roller Derby** is a niche sport within a niche sport, but it's gaining momentum; there is an international governing body with 75 member leagues (two in FL) and Championships.



# THANK YOU FOR FOR YOUR TIME.

We hope we've been able to demonstrate the value and potential of the Gainesville Roller Rebels. We humbly ask that you **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAUSE AS WE SEARCH FOR PRACTICE SPACE** for 2021 (and beyond) so that our team may continue playing the sport we love — in the city we love.



**Contact:** (850) 766-1113 or [TC@GainesvilleRollerRebels.com](mailto:TC@GainesvilleRollerRebels.com).

Visit Us Online! →



## CHECK OUT RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

QUOTES ABOUT GRR FROM MEMBERS (ORIGINALLY USED FOR RECRUITMENT EVENT PROMOS).

