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OPINION

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OUR VIEWS

Skate park

Fun, exercise for young people

Skating and skateboarding are great pastimes and forms of exercise for the younger generation. But skating on sidewalks and in streets isn't very safe, particularly due to sudden and unpredictable maneuvers that could get skaters or passersby in trouble.

One answer is skate parks, and El Paso has 10 of them, soon to be 11 with the construction of a skate park in Northeast at Mountain View Park on Diana Drive.

The facility will be a roomy 15,000 square feet and will include an 8-foot-deep concrete bowl, a concrete pyramid and concrete stairs with rails.

And, of course, there will be sidewalks and picnic tables.

It's important to provide recreational outlets for our young people, and with the current popularity of skateboarding and skating, these parks are ideal venues.

There's also growing concern about childhood obesity and the problems that can cause. Exercise is one good way to combat obesity.

Particularly during tough economic times, there are always questions about funding sources for such projects.

The Northeast park, scheduled to be completed by June, is being paid for with Community Development Block Grant money — a good use of those funds.

As city Parks and Recreation Department recreation specialist Carlos Rodriguez said, "This had been something we had been wanting for some time ..."