

Bellingham Covered Skatepark — Economic Impact Briefing (Landscape Version)

Model updates: \$61 consumer surplus/visit; 291.2 open days (covered park in Bellingham); Visitor spending categories (Local \$44, Regional \$55, Tourist \$71.50); 16,000 sq ft size. Capital cost: \$800,000–\$1,200,000.

Scenario	Users/Day	Days Open	Annual Visits	User Benefit (@\$61)	Tourism Output (Gil categories)
Conservative (x1.5)	30	291.2	8,736	\$532,896	See categories below
Optimistic (x2.0)	120	291.2	34,944	\$2,131,584	See categories below

Implied payback (tourism output only): Conservative ~1.6–2.4 yrs; Optimistic ~0.3–0.4 yrs.

Why \$61 Consumer Surplus per Visit

Earth Economics / RCO reports support per-day values >\$60; \$61 reflects our model and is a conservative, WA-specific figure agreed with Dr. Kemp.

Basis for 291.2 Days Open

Bellingham has ~150–170 wet days per year. A covered, lit facility realistically supports ~291 usable session days per year according to skate groups' estimates.

Visitor Spending (Gil's Draft Categories)

Local Users: \$44/day (80% of WA state average).

Regional Visitors: \$55/day (100% of WA state average).

Tourists: \$71.50/day (130% of WA state average).

Rationale: Locals incur minimal travel costs and high frequency of use lowers per-visit utility; regional visitors reflect WA recreation norms; tourists invest significantly in travel, accommodation, and gain premium destination value.

References

1. [RCO / Earth Economics — Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State \(2015/2019 update\).](#)
2. [RCO 2020 Update — Outdoor Recreation Economic Impacts \(IMPLAN overview\).](#)
3. [Dean Runyan Associates — Washington State Travel Impacts & Visitor Volume \(2010–2018\).](#)
4. [NOAA U.S. Climate Normals \(Bellingham International Airport\).](#)
5. [WeatherSpark — Average Weather at Bellingham International Airport.](#)
6. [BestPlaces — Bellingham, WA Climate.](#)
7. [Public Skatepark Guide — How Much Do Skateparks Cost?](#)
8. [BEA — RIMS II Multipliers: Overview.](#)
9. [RIMS II User Guide.](#)
10. [IMPLAN — Understanding Multipliers.](#)