

Capitola preparing to enforce new skateboard ban

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Skateboarders are flouting the law if they're still skating in some areas of Capitola.

The city's new skateboard ordinance went into effect this week and Capitola police want skaters to know they're risking a citation if they disobey the rules.

Sgt. Herb Ross, traffic division supervisor, said the regulations will be strictly enforced.

Areas off-limits to skateboards are The Esplanade Park, including the restrooms; Jade Street Park Community Center, excepting the blacktop area of the parking lot; publicly owned tennis courts and walls; any portion of construction projects located on public property; and the Pacific Cove parking lot and mobile home park, including adjacent pathways.

Skateboards are also prohibited in the area bounded by the ocean,

Soquel Creek, the railroad trestle and sidewalks on the easterly side of Monterey Avenue.

Other areas in which the Capitola City Council agreed last night to prohibit skateboards are the King's Plaza shopping center, the Nob Hill Center and Capitola Garden Apartments.

The owners of those properties had asked that skateboards be outlawed on all their driveways, sidewalks and parking lots. The prohibitions

will go into effect as soon as the owners post signs.

The ordinance also regulates skateboarding on sidewalks and roadways.

Sidewalk regulations require skaters to yield to all pedestrians and to proceed with care and at a safe speed when skating in areas frequented by pedestrians.

Roadway regulations state that skaters must also obey the common rules of the road — stopping at all

stop signs and red signals, yielding to all vehicles at yield signs and to pedestrians in marked or unmarked crosswalks, and yielding bicycle lanes to bicyclists.

Skaters must not impede or interfere with the flow of vehicular traffic, be towed by a vehicle at any speed or by a bicycle at an unsafe speed, or create a hazard by suddenly leaving a place of safety, such as a curb, and crossing into the path of a vehicle.