Action
Sports
Qualifications
Overview

With a long-term commitment to the people and places we serve, we have the unique ability to connect to projects on a personal level and advance the quality of life in communities across the globe.

About Us

The action sports designers at Stantec hold the largest, most notable portfolio of skate, bike, and motocross parks worldwide. We create functional, site-integrated, and visually spectacular spaces that give a cohesive sense of place, become a source of community pride, and leave your heart pumping.

Our landscape architects, planners, and engineers are licensed and insured to meet the needs and standards your community demands. With over 250 office locations, Stantec is always local. Our work begins at the intersection of community, creativity, and client relationships.

Signature Result

Nothing exists in isolation. Physical, cultural, historical, and behavioral factors must be reflected in our process, service, and end product. We are proud to create unique, integrated environments for skate park facilities. Instead of adhering to a signature style, we produce a signature result: aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sound, and economically vital, with an end result that enriches the lives of its users.

Client Involvement

The best designs emerge not from preconceived notions, but from thoughtful, collaboration processes tied to the real world. We encourage our clients and communities in which we work to get involved with the process. We challenge their assumptions, and ask them to challenge ours. We pose proactive questions, often exposing issues they were unaware of. We place each aspect of a project in the next larger context, ensuring that it connects to the entire project. Connection and collaboration is our culture. We understand how to bring different teams together, and we relish the opportunity to transform difficult assignments into breakthrough work for our clients.

Communication

The community consensus process is hugely important to the success of a project. Understanding the needs of all stakeholders not only guides the design process, but it maintains a transparent work flow with goal-oriented results. Communicating a design or design options to a broad constituent base is crucial to generating interest, support and fundraising, as well as community consensus. We work directly with our in-house 3D modelers to ensure that design features and aesthetics are clearly communicated in our visuals throughout the design process.
Skate Parks & Wheel Friendly Plazas
BMX Race Track Facilities
Bike Parks & Trail Systems
Action Sports Parks
We transformed 19,000 square feet of under-utilized, downtown space into a wheel-friendly skate plaza in Poplar Bluff, MO. The skate plaza now helps keep young people active, counteract negative stereotypes of the skating culture, and has become a healthy gathering place for the community.

**Key Projects**

**Location:** Poplar Bluff, Missouri  
**Project Size:** 19,000 square feet  
**Completion Date:** July 2012

**Wheel Friendly Skate Plaza**

Converting a downtown parking lot into a needed recreation area garnered this project unique funding from the Missouri Foundation of Health.

Responding to comments from the community, we carefully selected urban design elements for the plaza to reflect features of the existing environment, fitting into and enhancing its context. We used several of the features found in the surrounding historical architecture, such as a brick façade we replicated on the back transition wall. The focal point for the plaza’s main corridor, multi-colored sunburst concrete paving patterns, were developed from colors of the local movie theater. Sustainable design features, such as carefully placed landscaped areas, drain the site while enhancing the look of the park.

The urban design theme was particularly significant, as the project was a Brownfield renovation of a downtown parking lot, bringing a needed recreation area and a healthier environment to the city. As a result, funding for the project came from a unique and first-time source for skate parks, the Missouri Foundation of Health.

We provided services throughout the project’s planning, design, and construction. Our renowned community outreach helped with public facilitation, in which we used 3D modeling to clarify the design. In addition, we provided grand opening assistance.

Our team provided design services for the Wheel Friendly Skate Plaza prior to their employment with Stantec. Construction administration services were provided as Stantec.
Heritage Skate Plaza

Location: St. Cloud, Minnesota
Project Size: 22,000 square feet
Completion Date: November 2011

With this exciting project, our action sports team brought our creativity to the development of a new standard for skate plaza design—green design. Working with the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota Parks and Recreation Department and an established skate park advisory committee (SAC), we implemented sustainable techniques never used before in a skate park, garnering the Heritage Skate Plaza world recognition.

Among the green design elements we used in this first-of-its-kind skate plaza are unique central planters that drain into rain gardens. A bio-swale system was designed for each rain garden, resolving the challenging drainage issues on the site. The park additionally uses recycled materials as well as a color palate and stamped brick to reflect the natural landscape and the surrounding neighborhood. In this way, the skate park is seamlessly integrated into the town’s residential communities.

We also built support and interest in the effort by reaching out to the local community through public meetings and site visits. Our strength in community building, helped initiate a successful grassroots fundraising effort, with funds from such organization as the Tony Hawk Foundation and several local businesses.

Our team provided design and construction administration services for the Heritage Skate Park prior to their employment with Stantec.
Corning Skate/Bike Park

- Location: Corning, California
- Project Size: 22,000 square feet
- Completion Date: October 2013

This unique park provides enjoyment to all ages while using green technology and beautifully reflecting its context.

Our park design welcomes the entire community, with paths, spectator viewing, and wheel friendly environments within the park. Further, we included adequate community ingress and egress and ample off-street parking, welcoming all members of the community.

The Sacramento River and a grove of olive trees were the dominant elements influencing our design, and we also wanted to preserve the trees. To do this, we creatively wrapped the park around the trees, adding more green space to the facility. Our color palette and materials were selected to represent the Sacramento River and mimic the color tones of the olive trees.

We performed not only park planning and design but also public facilitation. We conducted three public meetings to refine the concept and design, presenting conceptual design along with 3D modeling. We also developed a fundraising packet for the community. Along with city funding, the project garnered local business donations. We then prepared construction documents, provided construction administration, and assisted with the grand opening.

Our team provided design services for the Corning Skate/Bike Park prior to their employment with Stantec. Construction administration services were provided as Stantec.

Encinitas Community Plaza and Skate Park

- Location: Encinitas, California
- Project Size: 34,000 square feet
- Completion Date: December 2014

We balanced the needs of the community and skateboarders to create this unique skate plaza that serves as the entry to a 44-acre park.

Our mantra to design with community in mind is typified in this wheel friendly plaza that is the city's first multi-purpose skate park. Since communities are all different, public input is essential to each project, and our public meetings here led to this very unique park design.

The community wanted the former brownfield site to resemble an authentic urban plaza, reflecting the city's artistic culture. It had to be a multi-use park, pedestrian friendly and ADA accessible. That's just what we did—using colors and a sunburst paving pattern to reflect the local context as well as creating an urban plaza with specially designed planters, ramps, and platform areas with room for pedestrians, spectators, and skateboarders.

But that's not all. We also had meetings with a skate park core focus group, comprised of top skateboarding professionals, the media, and industry. The community wanted the park to include authentic skate park elements. Balancing this request with park aesthetics, we designed a separate bowl for skateboarders. Because of our outreach, the project has support from the Tony Hawk Foundation and several skateboarding businesses.

Our team provided design services for the Encinitas Community Plaza and Skate Park prior to their employment with Stantec. Construction administration services were provided as Stantec.
Haldimand County Skate Plazas

Location: Dunnville and Caledonia, Ontario
Project Size: Dunnville 6,000 square feet / Caledonia 8,500 square feet
Completion Date: Fall 2015

Community passion. That’s what brought two new skate parks to life in Haldimand County, Ontario, where now skaters of all ages have a place to call their own. The opening of the two skate parks in Caledonia and Dunnville are the result of three years of work by Haldimand County and the community groups that spearheaded the projects. Among the first efforts to be approved by the County under their new Community Partnership Program (CPP), the skate parks engaged kids at a grassroots level, helping raise money and find grants to fund their development.

Once funding was secured, the county looked for a design consultant who understood the special considerations that come with parks in a northern climate. That’s where the Stantec team came in. With dozens of similar skate park projects under our belt, our team jumped right in, engaging the communities of both towns right from the start to develop parks that met their vision—from safety and visibility to durability and challenging terrain.

Stantec’s Kanten Russell joined pros Jimmy Cao and Jamie Palmore to show off the parks’ features and how the long road of this grassroots effort paid off.

Harbour Landing Skate Park

Location: Regina, Saskatchewan
Project Size: 4,000 square feet
Completion Date: August 2015

Harbour Landing Skate Park is a new recreation space that joins two neighborhoods together.

Dream Development had a vision for a skate park that would bring skateboarders and BMX bikers in Regina together in their new community of Harbour Landing. They wanted a park that complemented an existing playground, basketball court, and recreation area that also appealed to all ages and skill levels. They called on our action sports group to design the city’s first wheel friendly skate plaza where regardless of the wheels you ride, you’re sure to have a great time.

The team used a robust planning and public consultation process to discover how the skate park could bring residents together. Lead designer Kanten Russell explains, “what we’re trying to do is bring some of that urban aesthetic and downtown-feel, but put it in a place that’s safe—that’s made for skateboarding.”

We considered community needs, green design, and cold-climate design. The plaza is pedestrian friendly and includes elevated spectator seating, and is situated along a series of paths and parks that link two neighborhood subdivisions. The team also reduced costs by using troweled concrete slabs, meaning the City could increase the overall size of the park.
**Skate/Bike Plaza**

- **Location:** Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
- **Project Size:** 16,000 square feet
- **Completion Date:** August 2012

Our team worked with the City of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to develop the city’s first wheel friendly skate plaza that is pedestrian friendly as well. The plaza includes spectator viewing with covered seating. The project has an urban plaza theme that integrates the city’s culture into the overall feel.

The park design takes into consideration community needs, aesthetics, and green design. Adequate community ingress and egress is provided along with off-street parking and wheel friendly environments within the park. A stamped brick pattern in the plaza creates visual appeal. Drainage features incorporate the skate park elements. Cold climate design was required, and the plaza lanes are unique.

The team conducted three public meetings to refine concept and design. Services provided included planning; public facilitation; 3D modeling; schematic, conceptual, and final design development; construction documents and administration; and grand opening assistance.

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**Lynch Family Skate Park**

- **Location:** Cambridge, Massachusetts
- **Project Size:** 40,000 square feet
- **Completion Date:** November 2015

For decades, skateboarders throughout the City of Boston have skated its streets, finding favorite plazas, staircases, sculptures, and other features to frequent, without a true park of their own. But now, thanks to Stantec, a new skatepark—the largest in New England—will give skaters a home that pays tribute to those landmarks of Boston’s skateboarding past, as well as the city’s rich sports culture.

The skate park has been a long time coming. The Charles River Conservancy, the nonprofit organization building the park, spent nearly a decade raising money and generating the public support needed to move the project along. Our expertise, in both designing skate parks and working with city agencies on permits and other site development issues, was the final piece of the puzzle and the spark to get the project off the ground.

Once a contaminated site, the new skate park is situated under a ramp of the Zakim Bridge at the edge of the Charles River. With a new pedestrian park on one side and a commuter rail yard and gravel plant on the other, the skate park is the perfect middle ground between the contrasts of recreation and creativity and the industrial tinged edge of the skateboarding culture. Guided by the desire to create a community space, we held several public meetings to solicit input and garner support. Based on that input, our park design draws from the local artwork and city features that have come to define Boston’s skateboarding scene while incorporating local materials, nods to local sports teams, and other elements that mark it as uniquely Boston.

The new park puts Boston on the skateboarding map and creates a destination for skaters throughout the region.
Novant Health BMX Supercross Track Facility

- **Location:** Rock Hill, South Carolina
- **Project Size:** 3 acres
- **Completion Date:** August 2014

We boosted the community’s economy by designing an Olympic trial-caliber BMX race facility on the site of a decommissioned landfill. Attracting families to the community, welcoming even the youngest bikers, and being a part of the $4M Rock Hill Outdoor Center at Riverwalk, with trails, a mountain bike course, and a velodrome—we are proud of our transformation of a brownfield site into one of only two Olympic trial-worthy Bicycle Motocross Supercross race tracks in the country. Our team provided planning, design, landscape architecture, park master planning, and construction documents.

The facility is open to the whole community, with a 32-foot tall starting hill for professional and Olympic trial uses and a world-class training track with a smaller starting hill for children as young as five. This is very special, as the only other BMX facility, run by the United States Olympic committee, limits access to Olympians in training and participants in some exclusive events.

Miramar Outdoor Adventure Park, US Marine Corps

- **Location:** San Diego, California
- **Project Size:** 22 acres
- **Completion Date:** In Progress

Considering the needs and abilities of all ages, we designed this outdoor action park with multiple, interchangeable zones of recreation.

To attract all community members, our site plan for this unique facility included a range of recreational choices, including an area for extreme sports includes paintball, rock climbing, rappelling, skate boarding, BMX racing, conditioning, and mixed martial arts training. Added to that, we also included shade structures for relaxation and a children’s playground.

To make the park even more welcoming to the whole community, we added concession stands, access roads, and parking, as well as a large scale amphitheater and an entry plaza. Versatile walkway configurations that use rubberized surfaces lead the user through the site to other areas of the park.

Our plan was also conceived with green design and sustainable features. Among these were solar lighting and drought-tolerant landscaping. We minimized and controlled storm water runoff through the use of porous surfaces, indigenous plantings, and vernal pools. We accomplished all this while minimizing disturbance to the natural terrain.

Our team provided design services for the Miramar Outdoor Adventure Park prior to their employment with Stantec.
Our Team

Mike McIntyre, RLA, CLARB, ASLA
Principal Landscape Architect - Action Sport Design

Mike McIntyre brings to Stantec creative, thoughtful, and collaborative processes specializing in planning, design, engineering, and construction services for action sports and adventure environments.

He has created over 200 successful action sport environments such as skate parks, BMX facilities, and action & adventure themed projects worldwide as both a licensed landscape architect and former sponsored rider. Mike has helped pioneer such movements as the “skate plaza” and now the “wheel friendly-barrier free plaza” along with the development of BMX racing standards used in today’s track development. He has had the opportunity to participate in projects from the United States and Canada, to South Africa, London, Israel, and Grand Cayman Islands. Mike’s talents, designs, and innovations have been featured in Time Magazine, Scholastic Books, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Transworld Media, and on the Discovery Channel.

Select Project Experience
- Novant Health BMX Supercross Track Facility, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- Miramar Outdoor Adventure Park, US Marine Corps, California
- Elizabeth Milburn Bike Park, Cedar Park, Texas
- Alga Norte Community Skate Plaza, Carlsbad, California

Registrations
Registered Landscape Architect, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, IN, IA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NV, NM, NY, OH, OK, PA, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV

Office Location
Austin, TX
A long-time fixture in the professional skateboarding world, Kanten Russell is currently a lead designer in Stantec’s action sports group. Growing up in Southern California—the birthplace of action sports—Kanten was a professional skateboarder for 13 years. After retiring from skateboarding, he studied civil engineering and landscape architecture as he transitioned into an action sport park designer. To date, Kanten has led the design process of over 75 skate parks in North America and abroad.

As an experienced facilitator of the public participation process, Kanten listens to the needs and goals of the communities he designs for and makes action sport facilities a reality for cities and towns. He combines his technical expertise from both an athlete and designer’s perspective. His years of competing in the professional action sports circuit informs material and surface choices, as well as the variations, flow, and complexity of obstacles.

**Select Project Experience**
- Alga Norte Community Skate Plaza, Carlsbad, California
- Encinitas Community Plaza and Skate Park, Encinitas, California
- Wheel Friendly Plaza, Poplar Bluff, Missouri
- Heritage Skate Plaza, St. Cloud, Minnesota

**Awards**
- California Parks & Recreation Society Award (CPRS) District 12, Best New Facility (Encinitas Community Plaza and Skate Plaza) (2016)
- California Park & Recreation Society Award of Excellence, Alga Norte Community Park (Skatepark) (2014)
- American Public Works Association - San Diego & Imperial Counties Chapter Public Works Project of the Year, Alga Norte Community Park (2014)
- California Park & Recreation Society Award of Achievement - Santa Clarita Skate Park (2010)
- City of Tempe, AZ Beautification Award - Victory Acres Bike Park (2010)

**Office Location**
San Diego, CA
Design with community in mind

We’re active members of the communities we serve. That’s why at Stantec, we always design with community in mind.

We collaborate across disciplines and industries to bring buildings, energy and resource, and infrastructure projects to life. Our work—professional consulting in planning, engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying, environmental sciences, project management, and project economics—begins at the intersection of community, creativity, and client relationships.

Since 1954, our local strength, knowledge, and relationships, coupled with our world-class expertise, have allowed us to go anywhere to meet our clients’ needs in more creative and personalized ways. With a long-term commitment to the people and places we serve, Stantec has the unique ability to connect to projects on a personal level and advance the quality of life in communities across the globe. Stantec trades on the TSX and the NYSE under the symbol STN.