



TOWN OF DRAYTON VALLEY

Subject:	Neighbourhood Outdoor Skating Surfaces Policy	Policy:	RC-01-14
Department:	Recreation and Culture		
Approval Date:		Review Date:	

Neighbourhood Outdoor Skating Surfaces Policy

Purpose

The Town of Drayton Valley encourages its residents to enjoy recreational and sporting opportunities during the entire year. In an effort to support the community in providing opportunities for recreation and sport, specifically in the winter months, the Town has established a policy for the establishment of neighbourhood outdoor rinks. The policy also addresses the use of storm water retention ponds for winter skating purposes.

The intent of this Policy is:

- a. to provide the Public and Town Administration with information about the use of neighbourhood outdoor skating rinks and storm water ponds;
- b. to establish optimal use of all outside ice surfaces based on design parameters (natural or man-made) and location;
- c. to increase public awareness and understanding of presence and use of outdoor skating surfaces;
- d. to ensure outdoor skating surfaces are used in a manner with the least amount of risk; and
- e. to ensure proper signage of outdoor skating surfaces.

Definitions

Within this Policy the following definitions shall apply:

Applicant means local community group of adult volunteers which assumes both maintenance and liability responsibilities for a neighbourhood outdoor skating rink.

Neighbourhood outdoor skating rink(s) means a skating area or surface set up in a local community green space by applicants or neighbourhood groups, and are the responsibility of

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those applicants or neighbourhood groups. (Further referred to as “rink” or “rinks” within this Policy.)

Storm Water Pond means an area designated to temporarily store excess flow in a drainage system.

General Policy

Neighbourhood outdoor skating rinks will only be allowed in locations approved by the Town. Individuals or applicants must apply to the Town for approval of the location of neighbourhood outdoor rinks prior to any ground preparation or flooding. Neighbourhood outdoor skating rinks are the responsibility of the applicant. Applicants will meet with the Town of Drayton Valley to review roles and responsibilities for maintenance and provide mitigation measures against liability.

The Town shall be responsible for maintaining skating surfaces located on the storm water ponds.

Neighbourhood outdoor rinks may permit the playing of hockey provided the Applicant has received the prior approval of the Town of Drayton Valley. Approval will be based on the design of the rink and its location within the community.

Responsibilities

Public Works Staff

- a. Shall determine the feasibility of establishing a skating surface on the storm water ponds during the winter months, and, if deemed to be feasible, shall develop a maintenance and monitoring schedule for the skating surface. All maintenance and monitoring of the storm water ponds shall be the responsibility of the Town.
- b. Shall monitor and assess the rinks from time to time but not less than once each week while the rinks are in use, and log their findings.
- c. Shall take measures to close any ice skating surface if the surface is deemed to present a safety or property hazard.
- d. May provide suggestions or recommendations to the Applicant to improve the condition of the rinks.
- e. Shall ensure that all necessary signage, as provided by the Town, is posted at the rink site and/or storm water pond.

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- f. Shall administer this Policy, ensure all requirements are met, and recommend updates to the Policy as required.

Applicant

- a. Shall enter into an Agreement with the Town regarding the creation, maintenance and operations of the rink.
- b. Shall assume all responsibility for the rink/surface and any damage caused to Town lands.
- c. Will provide all materials, including water for the rink with no compensation from the Town.
- d. Will ensure the maintenance of the rink surface to maintain a minimum two (2) inch base.
- e. Ice surface will be scraped clean of all snow, ice chips, flakes and dirt before flooding.
- f. Shall maintain ongoing repair of cracks and holes on the rink surface as required.
- g. Shall inspect the rink surface daily for any damages.
- h. Place signage or a warning barricade to warn users at any time if the rink surface becomes unusable.
- i. Ensure rinks are to be used for the permitted uses as approved by the Town of Drayton Valley.
- j. Complete a monthly maintenance log sheet and submit to the Public Works Department.

Procedure

The Town has identified, but not limited, the following areas as potential sites for neighbourhood outdoor skating rinks:

- Celebrity Estates
- Aspenview
- Regency Park or Sunrise Park
- MacKenzie Park
- Little Lions Park

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Rotary Park
Park Place

In establishing rinks at the above locations or any other location approved by the Town, the following shall apply:

1. The Town shall prepare and provide signage to be placed by the Applicant at the site of the rink. These signs include, but are not limited to:
 - a. In an emergency, call 911.
 - b. Use at Own Risk
 - c. Operated by Your Local Volunteer Community Group
 - d. This park is NOT supervised.
 - e. Use of protective equipment (helmets, pads, etc.) is strongly recommended while using the rink.
 - f. The rink should not be used in poor weather. Poor weather conditions create hazardous conditions for users.
 - g. Respect all users of the facility.
 - h. Unauthorized equipment (such as hockey sticks, pucks, etc.) is not permitted on the rink. (Specific to ice surfaces restricted to skating only)
 - i. The Municipality is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury resulting from using this rink.
 - j. Warnings of any nature that the Town determines reasonable.
2. The Applicant shall be required to enter into an Agreement with the Town regarding maintenance and the logging of same. Such Agreement shall outline the responsibilities of the Applicant with regard to the installation, maintenance and removal of the rink.
3. The Town shall not be responsible for training the Applicant in the installation, maintenance or removal of the rink, but shall monitor and assess the condition of the rink from time to time. Such monitoring and assessment shall be logged by the Town for its records, including any recommendations made to the Applicant regarding improvements to the rink.

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4. The Applicant shall not cause any damage to the Town lands upon which the rink is located; any damage caused as a result of the rink shall be rectified at the cost of the Applicant.

Storm Water Ponds

1. Parameters of winter recreational use
 - a. Users must obey posted signs relevant to ice safety and ice thickness.
 - b. Public Works staff will:
 - i. test the ice thickness of each of the Northview, Aspenview, Southview (Ivan To), Omniplex SWP, and any other Town approved storm water pond used for winter ice surfaces during the winter ice season (approximately Nov. 15 - Mar 1) and record their measurements on the Ice Thickness form.
 - ii. maintain/update the signage at each SWP to indicate condition of the ice.
 - iii. issue news releases/safety bulletins with the information gathered during the ice thickness testing.
 - iv. pick up debris from the ponds left on the ice during spring melt.
 - c. Any advisories or signage regarding existing ice thickness on a SWP is provided as information only and is limited to the time and date of measurement, and does not indicate that the ice is safe to use for any purpose.
 - d. Persons using the SWP ice surface are advised to be aware that the ice may become unstable at any time, and that the ice thickness may change at any time for a variety of reasons, some of which are unpredictable.
 - e. Anyone using the ice surface on a SWP or a rink does so at their risk.