

Policy Title: Natural Ice Rink Program

Policy Number: 08-03-01

Section:	Community Services	Subsection:	Recreation
Effective Date:	October 1, 2019	Last Review Date:	September, 2019
Approved by: Council	Owner Division/Contact: Parks Forestry and Environment Division, Community Services Department		

Policy Statement

The Parks, Forestry and Environment Division, Community Services Department is responsible for identifying suitable and viable natural ice rink locations in the City of Mississauga and for providing assistance in their operations through the Natural Ice Rink Program.

Objectives

The objectives of the Natural Ice Rink Program are to:

- Encourage volunteer participation in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in the City of Mississauga, and
- Provide safe and well equipped natural ice rinks for the purpose of unscheduled skating opportunities

Natural ice rinks created under this program are intended for use by the general public for pleasure skating only.

Application

Any individual, volunteer group or organization in the City of Mississauga may apply to Parks Operations to operate a natural ice rink. All applicants must confirm that at least two other volunteers are willing to assist with the rink and list these individuals on the application. The primary applicant must be 18 years of age or older. Additional volunteers can be between the ages of 14 and 18, with parent or legal guardian consent.

Applications must be made on a yearly basis. The Natural Ice Rink Program is advertised on the City's external web site and on social media. Parks Operations staff issue application forms to all operators from the previous year by September 1st and throughout the year to all others requesting forms.

The deadline for submitting an application is November 15th. Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection of their application by December 1st.

Equipment

Sites selected for natural ice rinks are prepared by Parks Operations Staff in advance by installing a rink hut, rink boards and supplying the following equipment: water hydrant keys, shovels, scrapers and hoses.

An inventory of all equipment at each natural ice rink site will be conducted weekly. Applicants will be contacted and given a timeframe to rectify any discrepancies.

Based on site conditions and utilities, natural ice rink locations will be equipped with an electric heater and heater cables in the rink hut.

In huts equipped with flood lights, a timer system will be set up to automatically turn the lights on and off.

Maintenance

The applicant is responsible for the flooding, snow removal and day to day maintenance of the natural ice rink for the duration of the season. Parks Operations staff provides consultative assistance as well as required equipment. Ice rink conditions will be inspected on a weekly basis. If deficiencies are noted (e.g. poor ice conditions not related to weather conditions) applicants will be notified and given a timeframe to correct the deficiency.

If deficiencies that are within the applicant's control are noted throughout the season, the volunteer will be notified in writing. If three or more deficiencies are noted, future applications for that volunteer may not be accepted.

General maintenance of the natural ice rink area is conducted by Parks staff, including litter pick up, garbage removal and repairs to the water supply and other equipment provided (lights, hoses, boards, shovels, rink huts, etc.).

Revision History

Reference	Description
OW-85-89 1989 02 27	
August 10, 2012	Minor administrative changes due to reorg
February 2, 2016	Additional revision – Parks do not remove

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3 of 3

	heavy snowfall
October 1, 2019	Scheduled review. Revised to reflect current operational practices and to allow volunteers 14 -18 years old.