



VOLUNTEER OUTDOOR ICE RINK POLICY

1. The Corporation of the Town of Markham (“Town”) will permit a Volunteer Service Group (“VSG”) which consists of a group of Town trained/approved Volunteers and a Volunteer Co-ordinator to install, operate and maintain outdoor ice rink(s) on Town lands at designated locations approved by the Town. The Volunteer Co-ordinator shall enter into the required agreement with the Town by signing the Volunteer Co-ordinator Agreement and all other volunteers will be required to sign the Volunteer Agreement
2. The location and the size of the ice rink must be approved by the Town prior to its installation. The ice rinks will only be permitted subject to receiving the consent of a majority of residents who abut the park and shall not be placed on sports field turf.
3. The Town will plough access into the site, and provide benches and waste receptacles, as required.
4. The VSG shall appoint a Volunteer Co-ordinator to act as liaison with Markham. The Volunteer Co-ordinator is responsible for creating and circulating a petition confirming the acceptance of the ice rink by the majority of residents adjacent to the park or ice rink location. The petition must be received and approved by Town staff prior to the implementation of the ice rink. The Volunteer Co-ordinator shall be responsible for following and enforcing all guidelines and directions as provided by the Town against the Volunteers. The Volunteer Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring that the ice surface is inspected a minimum of twice daily and more frequently when weather conditions fluctuate in order to determine if the ice is suitable for skating. The Volunteer Co-ordinator is also responsible for recording the information required on the Volunteer Program for Outdoor Ice Rink Maintenance Form provided by the Town. The completed form(s) shall be turned over to the Town at the end of the ice season, and shall be made available to the Town upon request. The Volunteer Co-ordinator shall also report all accidents which occur or arise as a result of the operation of the ice rink to the Manager of Parks Maintenance.
5. The Volunteers and Volunteer Co-ordinator shall maintain the ice rink by flooding the ice and providing snow removal as required.
6. The Town will install flag signage system indicating ice conditions. The “Yellow” flag/sign allows skating at your own risk and the “Red” flag/sign prohibits skating. The Volunteer Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring that the “Red” flag/sign is in place at all times unless the ice surface is smooth and covers 100% of the rink area at which time the “Yellow” flag/sign can be posted. The “Red” flag/sign must also be posted when there is standing water on the ice surface.

7. All Volunteers and the Volunteer Co-ordinator shall supply at their own expense and wear appropriate protective clothing for warmth and ice cleats on their boots when inspecting, flooding or removing snow on the ice surface. In addition there shall be a minimum of two Volunteers together when inspecting, flooding or removing snow from the ice to ensure assistance is available should it be required.
8. All Volunteers and the Volunteer Co-ordinator shall attend an on site training session for operating and maintaining the water service, hose, and flag/sign warning system, and shall abide by all practices and procedures recommended at the training session by the Town.
9. Volunteers and the Volunteer Co-ordinator are responsible for providing shovels at their own expense and shall shovel and remove snow from the skating surface(s) and around benches and undertake any hand shovelling required to allow access to the rink(s).
10. The Town will provide the VSG with a hose, nozzle, pipe wrench, water key and access to a water service. Volunteers are responsible for returning this equipment in good condition at the end of the flooding season. To prevent freezing of hoses, hoses shall be drained after each flood and laid flat for storage, if possible in a warm place.
11. Organized hockey shall not be permitted on the ice rink. Shinny will only be allowed when a separate ice surface is installed by the Volunteer Service Group. Posts and fencing, supplied by the Town, shall be installed and maintained by the Volunteers and the Volunteer Co-ordinator between pleasure skating rinks and shinny hockey rinks. Hockey/Goal nets must be perpendicular to the pleasure skating area to ensure play is parallel to the pleasure skating rink in order to prevent the puck entering into the pleasure skating area.
12. When available, limited lighting from existing lights (i.e. ball diamond or pathway lights) will be allowed. The Volunteers and the Volunteer Co-ordinator shall be responsible for turning on the lights when required, and the lights will be on a timer set to turn off at a time determined to be appropriate by the Town based on location and proximity of homes adjacent to the park.
13. The ice rinks shall be open to use by all members of the community and it is strongly recommended that adult supervision be provided when the ice rink is in use.
14. The Town may, as it deems appropriate, inspect and maintain the ice rink, change the flag signage posted by the Volunteer Co-ordinator, close the ice rink to use at any time, or if required remove the ice rink as it deems to be necessary. The decision of the Town shall be final.
15. The Volunteer Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring the rink area is restored to the conditions that pre-existed the installation of the rink. All garbage/litter, equipment and materials must be cleaned up/removed by the VSG by April 1st or earlier at the request of the Town.