



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk **FILE:**

FROM: Cory Halvorsen, Manager – Parks & Open Spaces –
Infrastructure, Development & Operations

DATE: 05/08/2024 (mm/dd/yyyy)

SUBJECT: Outdoor Rinks 2023-2024 Usage Statistics

**MEETING &
DATE:** Committee of the Whole – 06/03/2024 (mm/dd/yyyy)

At the October 16, 2023 City Council meeting, the downgrading and closure of multiple rink locations to be applied to the 2023/2024 Outdoor Rink program that would result in cost savings, was approved. Waddington Park, Charry Park, and Oliver Road Park were approved to be downgraded to operate as Boarded Unsupervised rinks sites, and the following eight (8) outdoor rinks were to be closed:

- Woodside Parkette
- Anten Parkette
- Picton Parkette
- Third and High Park
- Wilson Park
- Franklin Park
- Confederation Drive
- Holt Parkette

Administration was directed to report back by June 2024 to report on usage statistics for the 2023/2024 season to see if further rink closures should be explored. The following memo provides a summary of the 2023/2024 outdoor rink season, including usage statistics.

Warmer than normal temperatures impacted the length of the outdoor rink season, reducing it from 12 weeks to 8 weeks, with the first rink sites not able to open until January 5, and closing as of March 4. The warmer temperatures negatively impacted the ability to build up base ice thickness levels, which delayed opening and made the rink surfaces less resilient to warm temperatures throughout the rest of the season.

The impacts of increased temperatures also limited the number of user counts that could be completed, reducing the overall data sample gathered. Impacts were most prominent at sites that included a paved asphalt surface, uneven grading or drainage issues.

However, when the rinks were available the warmer temperatures appear to have had a positive effect on usage, resulting in average user per hour counts increasing slightly in multiple rink categories.

A summary of the 2023/2024 rink usage statics organized by rink category are included below.

| Rink Category | Users Per Hour Average | | | User Per Hour Target |
|----------------------|------------------------|------|-------|----------------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | |
| Parks Supervised | 7.1 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 10 |
| Community Supervised | 3.0 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 5 |
| Boarded Unsupervised | 3.0 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 3 |
| Ponds | 2.5 | 1.31 | 0.7 | 1 |
| PAL Skating Pad | 39.8 | 29.1 | 11.37 | N/A |

Usage statistics for individual rink site locations for the 2023/2024 season are summarized as follows:

| Rink Site | Users Per Hour Average | | | Users Per Hour 5 Year Average |
|--|------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | |
| Parks Supervised (Target 10) | | | | |
| James St. Playfield | 5.91 | 7.90 | 6.03 | 8.23 |
| Tarbutt Park | 5.62 | 4.51 | 5.21 | 6.13 |
| Wayland Park | 4.79 | 4.75 | 4.55 | 5.81 |
| West Thunder C.C. | 11.89 | 8.35 | 7.83 | 10.76 |
| Brent Park | 7.48 | 3.38 | 3.38 | 5.21 |
| Carrick Park | 5.35 | 7.03 | 3.88 | 7.65 |
| North End C.C. | 10.97 | 4.26 | 3.85 | 7.31 |
| West End Park | 4.86 | 4.49 | 2.97 | 4.76 |
| Community Supervised (Target 5) | | | | |
| Castlegreen Park | No Survey | 0.29 | 0.96 | 0.69 |
| N. McIntyre C.C. | 4.53 | 4.13 | 2.49 | 4.15 |
| S. Neebing C.C. | 3.17 | 7.67 | 3.77 | 4.33 |
| Vickers Heights C.C. | 1.80 | 1.78 | 2.33 | 2.50 |
| W. Arthur C.C. | 2.48 | 2.76 | 1.77 | 2.28 |
| Boarded Unsupervised (Target 3) | | | | |
| Charry Park | NoSurv | 2.94 | 3.42 | 3.71 |
| County Park | 4.00 | 1.24 | 2.82 | 2.56 |
| Dease Park | 4.50 | 3.80 | N/A | 4.15 |
| John / Jumbo C.C. | 3.00 | 1.98 | 1.10 | 2.49 |
| John Kuszniar Park | 0.87 | 1.03 | 0.83 | 1.24 |
| Minnesota Park | 1.39 | 1.75 | 2.06 | 2.29 |
| N. Neebing | 2.54 | 2.83 | 3.10 | 2.96 |
| Oliver Rd. C.C. | 3.50 | 3.18 | 2.48 | 3.66 |
| Parkdale Park | 4.17 | 2.18 | 2.92 | 3.01 |
| River Terrace Park | 2.72 | 2.55 | 1.88 | 2.77 |
| Stanley Parkette | 3.00 | 2.26 | 2.86 | 3.40 |
| Volunteer Pool C.C. | 1.84 | 1.82 | 1.87 | 2.04 |
| Waddington Park | 4.79 | 5.40 | 2.23 | 4.40 |
| Ponds (Target 1) | | | | |
| Friendship Gardens | 0.60 | 1.07 | 0.97 | 1.02 |
| Green Acres Park | 1.20 | 0.81 | 1.18 | 1.21 |
| Thornloe Parkette | 0.87 | 0.88 | 1.18 | 1.15 |
| Specialty Sites | | | | |
| PAL Skating Pad | 39.82 | 29.10 | 11.37 | 24.60 |
| Vickers Park Trail | 7.17 | 5.03 | N/A | 6.10 |

Administration has also been directed to complete a review of the outdoor rink program for potential changes and report back on or before September 16, 2024. This work will be ongoing through the spring/summer and will be informed by the detailed usage statistics collected for each rink, as well as observations made throughout the past season.

Administration provides the following recommendations for consideration:

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Cory Halvorsen, Manager-Parks & Open Spaces, dated May 8, 2024, we recommend that Outstanding Item 2023-106-INO be removed from the Outstanding List;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to Council for ratification.