

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

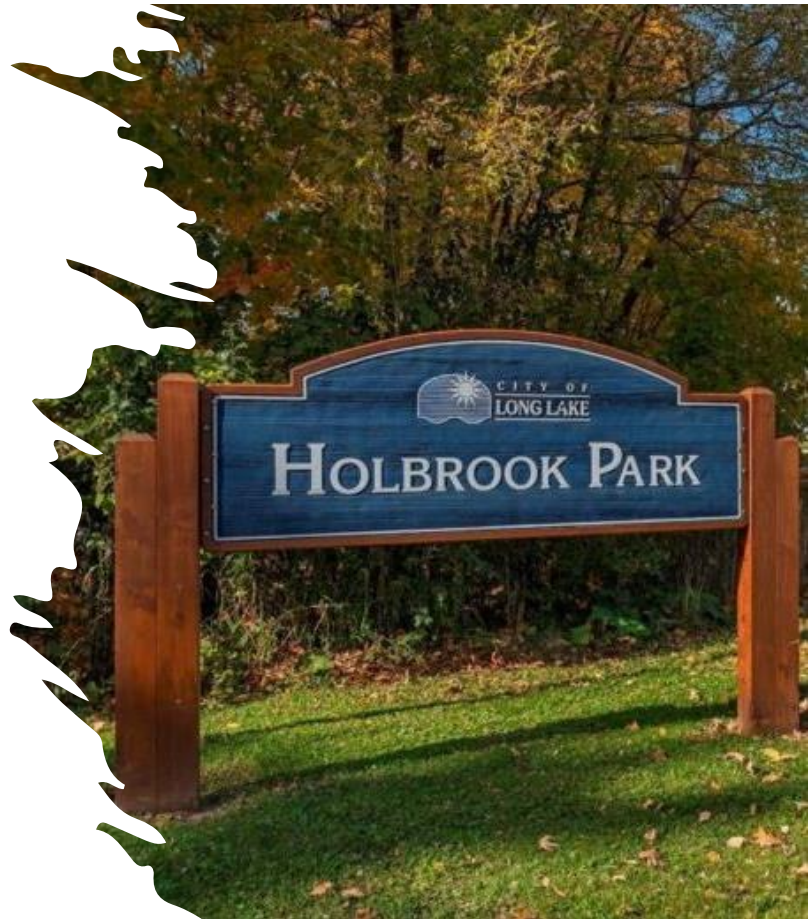
Outdoor Recreation Grant 2024

Long Lake Park Board Recommendations to Support a Grant Application
for the Conceptual Skate & Splash Project at Holbrook Park



Park Board Updates

- Grant fund/cycle tracking beginning in late 2023
- Review City working goals and General Plan 2040
- Working to identify strong candidate park and trail projects on the books
 - Holbrook Park outdoor ice rink redevelopment/activation
 - Dexter Park playground redesign/expansion
 - Local trail connections
 - Trash can replacement
 - All access/universal access
- Park Needs Survey
- Park programs/events to increase use
 - Tree lighting
 - Community volunteerism



Key City Goals for Holbrook Park

- Pave the internal trail with asphalt.
- Staff the Warming House during winter skating seasons.
- Partner with Orono Youth Hockey for rink usage in balance with public open skate hours.
- Research and consider alternatives to improve the current rink flooding system.
- Repair ice rink boards and posts, machine grade the rink area, and repaint the Warming House.
- Partner with Orono Youth Hockey on possible rink facility improvements.



Current Ice Rink Area in Holbrook Park

- ~200' x 85' unpaved ice rink area
- ~3.5' high boards permanently set in the turf
- 2 rink lights to support night skating
- ~2,500 sf Warming House with restrooms, lockers, drinking fountains, concession stand, covered patio, and picnic tables
- Limited pathways, discontinuous from main park trails
- Rink area serves as off-leash dog recreation area in warmer seasons

Current Issues for Holbrook Park's Ice Rink

- Current ice surface is exposed to the ground
- Soil temperature variation and moisture accumulation lead to inconsistent ice quality
- Inconsistent ice quality results in puddles, bumps, and rough patches which make skating difficult and potentially hazardous
- Shorter, unpredictable skating season
- Deactivates a large portion of the park, including the Warming House
- Flooding lawn can damage the park's natural features
- High cost and effort from City staff to create and maintain the rink
- No pathways or amenities connecting the rink to Warming House or trails
- Trails are not consistently paved and accessible, including ADA



Outdoor Recreation Grant Program

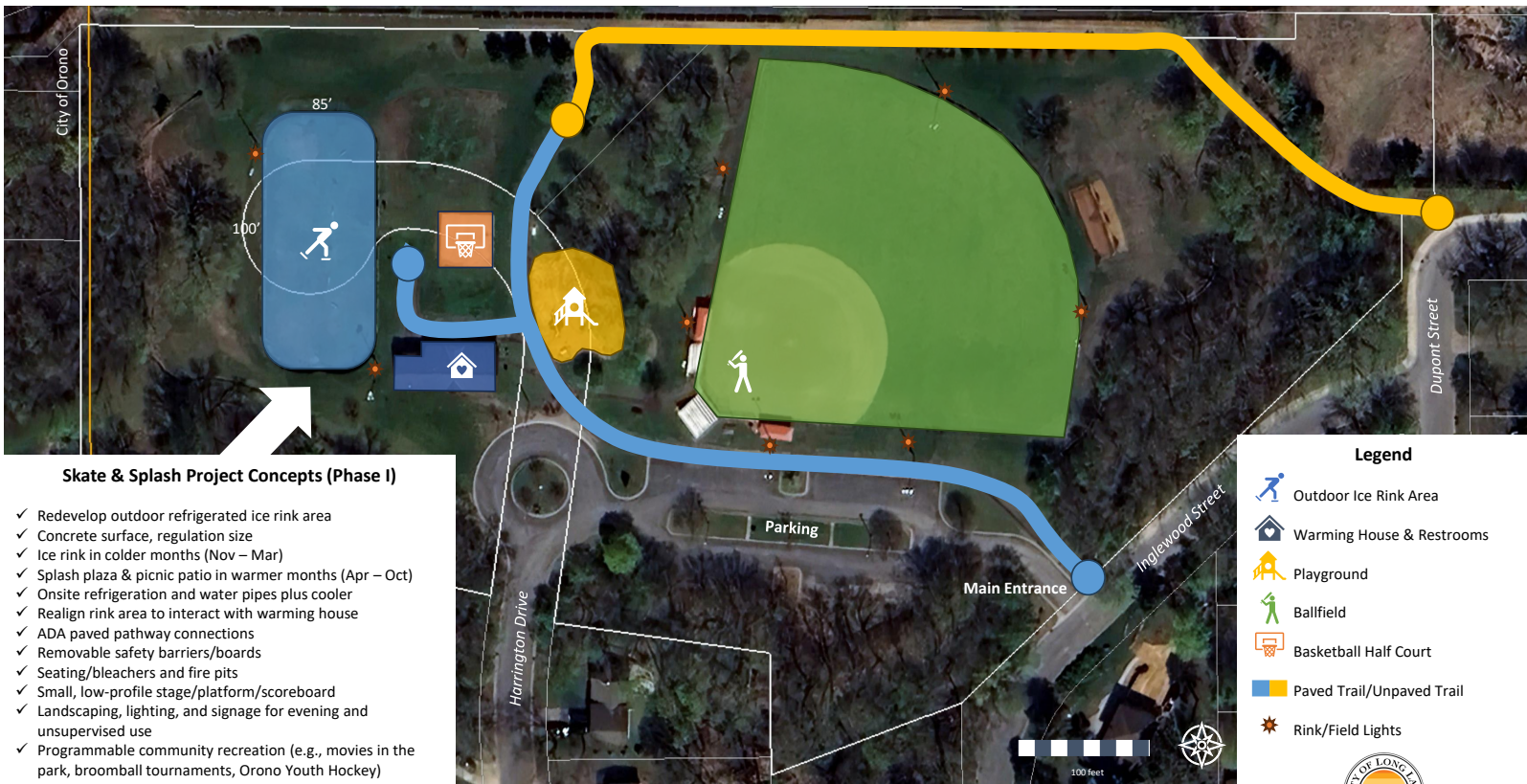
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) annual program
- Increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks
- Matching grants up to 50% of project cost
 - \$350,000 max (for a total project cost of \$700,000)
- Local match can consist of cash; the value of materials, labor, and equipment usage by the local sponsor; donations; or any combination thereof
- Applications due April 1, 2024
- Resolution of support required from sponsoring local agency





Skate & Splash Project

- Create an all-season recreation facility in Long Lake, the first of its kind in the area
- During winter
 - Consistent ice during a November to March skating season (up to 50-degree weather)
 - Youth and adult hockey rink plus pleasure skating
 - Night lighting
 - Special events such as skating lessons, training, demonstrations, music, or tournaments
- During summer
 - Splash plaza/cooling center
 - Paved flex area for community gathering or sports (e.g., roller skating or roller dancing, inline hockey, skateboarding)
 - Seating/picnic facilities
 - Special events such as community movies in the park or small performances or gatherings
- Supporting amenities
 - Paved internal trails, including 1,400-foot-long park trail
 - Landscaping, lighting, and signage
 - Seating and fire pits and/or patio heaters
- Phased approach to match funding priorities
 - Covered rink



Skate & Splash Project Concepts (Phase I)

- ✓ Redevelop outdoor refrigerated ice rink area
- ✓ Concrete surface, regulation size
- ✓ Ice rink in colder months (Nov – Mar)
- ✓ Splash plaza & picnic patio in warmer months (Apr – Oct)
- ✓ Onsite refrigeration and water pipes plus cooler
- ✓ Realign rink area to interact with warming house
- ✓ ADA paved pathway connections
- ✓ Removable safety barriers/boards
- ✓ Seating/bleachers and fire pits
- ✓ Small, low-profile stage/platform/scoreboard
- ✓ Landscaping, lighting, and signage for evening and unsupervised use
- ✓ Programmable community recreation (e.g., movies in the park, broomball tournaments, Orono Youth Hockey)

Legend

- Outdoor Ice Rink Area
- Warming House & Restrooms
- Playground
- Ballfield
- Basketball Half Court
- Paved Trail/Unpaved Trail
- Rink/Field Lights



Cone Park
Sioux City, IA

Sherbourne Park
Toronto

Lancaster Park
Obetz, OH

Logie Park
Lindsay, ON



Courtesy of Custom Ice, Inc.

2

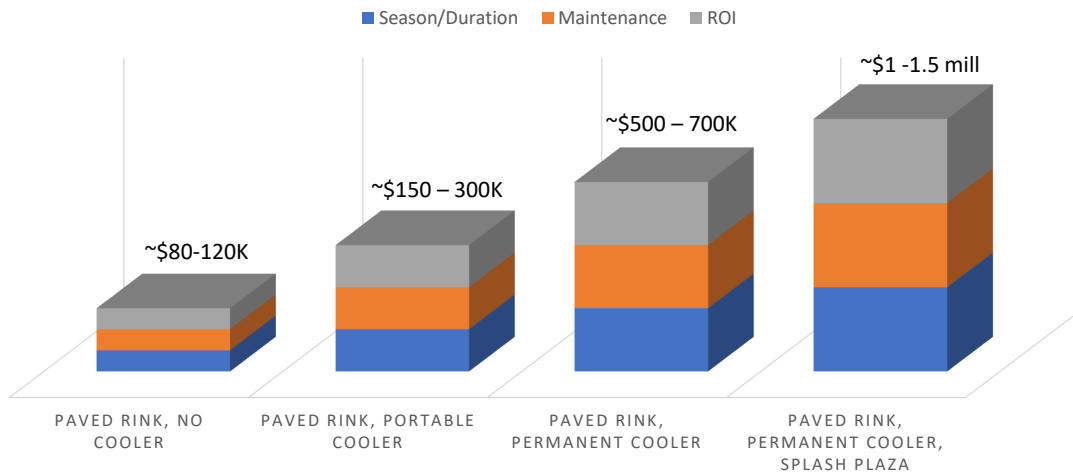
Example Outdoor Ice Rink/Splash Pad Facilities



Park Board Draft | February 29, 2024

Cost/Benefit Considerations

COST/BENEFIT OF PROJECT OPTIONS





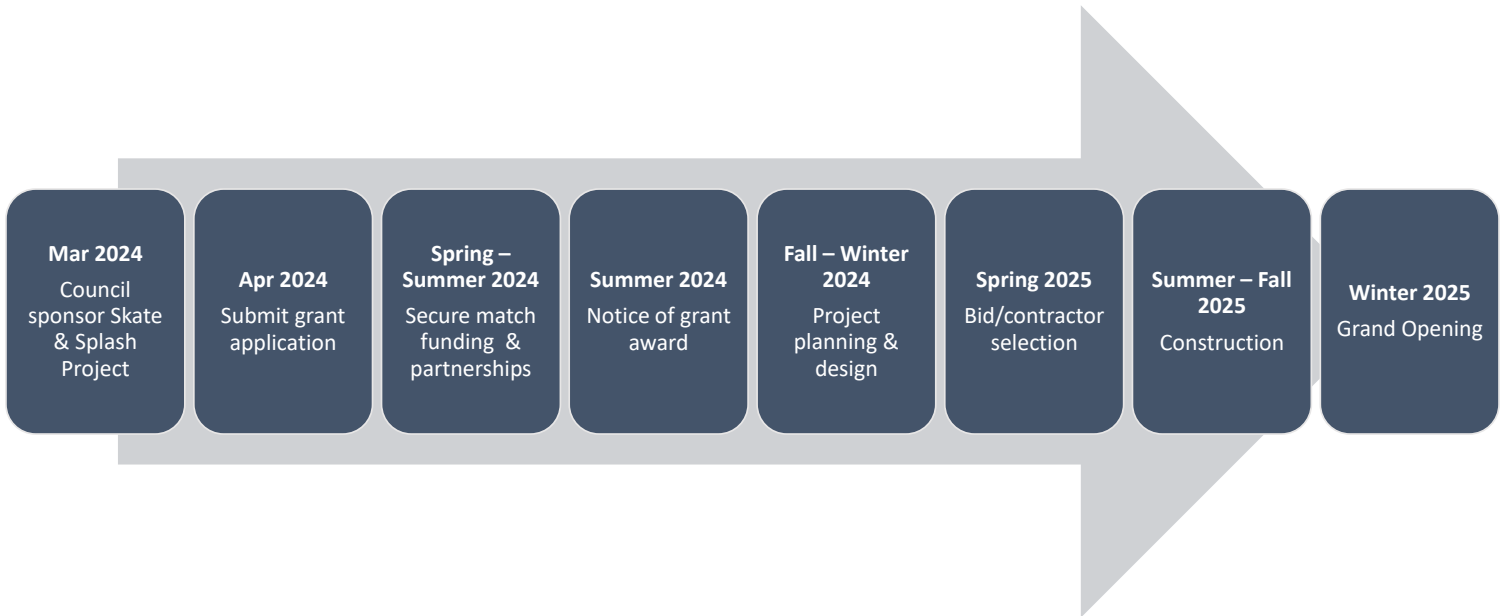
Case Study: Goat Hill Park, City of Eagan

- Public-Private Partnership. City + Eagan Hockey Association (EHA)
- Phase I: Outdoor Refrigerated Rink
 - Funded in Aug 2021; Ground-breaking in Oct 2021; Grand opening in Nov 2022
 - \$1.3 million project
 - \$12,000 donation to City of planning/design and outreach
 - \$350,000 loan secured by EHA
 - EHA fundraising from hockey/skating community
- Phase II: Pavilion, Zamboni, plus warming house improvements

Focus Questions

- What could be key priorities or outcomes desired for this project?
- What could be major barriers/issues to overcome?
- How could the Park Board/staff assist in removing these barriers?
- Any must-haves or no-gos for the project components?
- What information could be presented to support Council sponsorship of the grant application?
- What key stakeholders or partners could engage in the planning and funding process?

Timeline



Next Steps

- The Park Board is excited to present the concepts discussed tonight and hear feedback from the community and the Council.
- Let's work together to:
 - Consider the project concepts and options, including a phased approach
 - Consider the focus questions and conduct an open discussion
 - Engage stakeholders and potential partners
 - Reconvene to consider a resolution of support for the grant application
 - The Park Board/City staff would proceed with the application submittal only at the direction of the Council