



Community Outdoor Skating Area on the Lake

Target Risk Factor:

Physical Activity

Target Population:

All age groups

Project Leads:

CDPI community committee members & CDPI community facilitator

Community:

Killarney

RHA:

Assiniboine

Project Partners:

RM of Killarney-Turtle Mountain Community Members and CDPI Committee

Project Details:

Multiple event or ongoing project

Description:

We created an outdoor skating area on our local lake. Over 400 people used this area during the first holiday season. A warming shed was moved onto the beach during the second season so that users had a place to warm up and put their skates on. This activity appealed to all ages, making it an intergenerational success. We also held various winter events at the skating area to promote getting active in the winter!

Time:

Before we could clear the snow from the lake we needed to ensure that the depth of the ice was adequate and safe for users. After spot checking ice thickness in numerous locations around the skating area we were ready to begin clearing the snow and flooding the surface. The skating area was available to skaters throughout the winter months as long as the ice depth was appropriate.

Objectives:

Our committee wanted to create access to a multigenerational activity that would allow anyone the opportunity to get active outdoors with no cost.

Planning Supports:

We needed to research information in regards to safe ice thickness for skating areas on lakes. Due to safety regulations, ice thickness had to be checked on a regular basis.

Results:

Over four hundred people used the outdoor rink during the first holiday season. We had skaters from age 2 to 65 year of age. Many comments were made about how nice it was to skate in the great outdoors. The local school made use of the skating area with students as well as church youth groups.

What worked:

The rink was accessible to anyone at no cost 24 hours a day. People of all ages and skating abilities utilized it.

What didn't work and any changes made:

Each year we discovered ways we could improve the outdoor skating area. During the first year, we needed a better plan for clearing the ice surface. We also saw a need to improve the lighting and access from the parking lot to the skating area. There was also a definite need for a warming hut and seating area.

Unexpected Outcomes:

Weather had a huge impact on the usage of the rink during the second year. It was a very cold winter. Because the skating area was in an open area, snow would blow on the ice surface very easily and the need for snow removal was ongoing.

Our community also built a new recreational facility which gave people more access to indoor public skating time.

Resources**Volunteers:**

Lots of community support and volunteers for this project
The local paper - advertising and covering events

Facilities:

Warming hut - donated by the local foundation

Equipment:

Perennial Bliss Gardening Centre - tractor to clear ice/generator and hoses for flooding
Local farmer - bales for seating
Town and RM - setting up warming shed/clearing parking lot
Community Members - Christmas lights
Large overhead lights - MB Hydro

Total Costs:

Year 1 - \$587.37
Year 2 - \$300.00

Contact Information:

Healthy Together Now

Assiniboine Regional Health Authority

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