

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Ensuring High Standard Ice Quality at City of Toronto's Outdoor Artificial Outdoor Stand-Alone Pleasure Skating Facilities

Moved by: Councillor Fletcher

Seconded by: Councillor Nunziata

SUMMARY:

Outdoor artificial ice rinks are a vital recreational amenity that provide affordable access to physical activity, community gathering spaces, and winter recreation for residents of all ages. Every year the city is adding more skate trails which are open for pleasure skating only and at times draw many skaters over many hours.

There are no permits for skate trails. Without a permit system at times, it becomes difficult for the staff to control the actions of skaters as there is no penalty for poor behaviour.

Residents have expressed concerns regarding inconsistent quality at stand-alone pleasure outdoor skating trails due to a number of factors that are not present at AIRs with boards.

While climate change is contributing to more frequent winter temperature fluctuations and freeze-thaw cycles that can negatively affect rink conditions there are steps that may can be taken to ensure the same level of ice quality on outdoor skate trails as rinks with boards.

Reason for urgency: A timely review will facilitate improvements which can be implemented in the new season.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation to
 - a) undertake a review of outdoor skate trail operations and maintenance practices with the objective of setting a standard for trails and improving and maintaining consistent, high-quality ice conditions, which can include more frequent flooding, scrapping and inspections;
 - b) review the current staffing model for skate trails for the upcoming winter season within the current budget to ensure a senior staff person is present and available to assist rink guards in dealing with prohibited activities; and
 - c) bring forward any resulting financial impacts for consideration as part of 2027 budget process.

July 29, 2026