

About Rink Management at McCarthy Park

Courtesy of: Matthew Hyne, City of Ottawa, Recreation Supervisor

1. There is currently a volunteer who maintains and operates this rink. His name is Angelo Lopes.
2. This is not a paid position. Rink volunteers enter into an agreement with the City that outlines their responsibilities and the expectations associated with operating and maintaining the rink. The City provides a financial contribution to the volunteer to help offset some of the costs associated with maintaining the rink. This contribution is not considered a wage and is not intended to compensate the volunteer for their time. I have attached a sample of this agreement.
Typically, the agreement remains with the volunteer until they indicate that they are no longer interested in maintaining the rink. At that point, we would begin looking for a new volunteer or Community Association to take over responsibility for the site.
Our preference is generally to have Community Associations hold the agreement where possible. This provides greater continuity, as individual volunteers or board members can change while the agreement remains with the Association. That said, we would not remove an existing volunteer from their agreement simply to transfer the rink to a Community Association. There would need to be a valid reason, such as the volunteer indicating that they no longer wish to maintain the rink or failing to meet the obligations outlined in their agreement.
3. The current volunteer has not identified a need for additional volunteers at this time; however, we always encourage volunteers operating our rinks to take advantage of any assistance that is offered. We would also be happy to help connect anyone interested in assisting with the current volunteer.
4. Rink volunteers are responsible for establishing and maintaining a safe, skateable ice surface and meeting a number of other requirements outlined in their agreement. The contribution referenced above is tied to specific ice-quality milestones and is only provided once the City has verified that those milestones have been achieved.
5. The City is responsible for providing the rink boards, water source, hoses and hose fittings and, in the case of McCarthy, the heated trailer used to store the hoses and prevent them from freezing.
The volunteer is responsible for any additional supplies or equipment they determine are necessary to maintain the rink such as shovels, snowblowers, gasoline, winter clothes etc. The City's contribution is intended to help offset some of these costs; however, any equipment purchased by the volunteer remains their property.
Storage options vary from site to site. At McCarthy, storage is limited, so the current volunteer transports and stores his own equipment off-site.

6. The volunteer who currently holds the agreement to operate the McCarthy rink would first need to step down. If the Community Association then wished to assume responsibility for the rink, we could enter into an agreement with the Association.
As noted above, there are very rare circumstances where a volunteer fails to meet their obligations under the agreement to the point that the City would need to terminate the arrangement. Outside of those circumstances, or the existing volunteer choosing to step down, we would not reassign the rink to another party.
7. We have a rink manual that is regularly updated and distributed to rink volunteers. It does not specifically provide guidance on how to organize or coordinate volunteers, but it does provide detailed information on rink operation and ice-making.
We also hold training/information sessions for volunteers who have an agreement to maintain a rink. I have attached last year's manual for reference.
8. I will request permission from the current volunteer to share his contact information with you. If he is comfortable with me doing so, I will forward his contact information to you. We do ask that any concerns or feedback relating to the quality of the ice surface or whether the volunteer is meeting the obligations outlined in their agreement be directed to us so that we can address them appropriately. These conversations can be delicate, and there are often a number of factors that need to be considered when assessing rink conditions or a volunteer's ability to meet their obligations. As these individuals are volunteering their time to operate the rink, we want to ensure that any concerns are addressed fairly and constructively through the City.

September 25, 2026