

HOCKEY AND ICE SKATING

OUTDOOR SKATING

Shakopee has an excellent indoor facility at the Ice Arena and currently has three staffed warming houses and six outdoor rink locations throughout the city. Hockey rinks are an important part of parks and recreation that is unique to Minnesota; however, they are expensive to build and maintain on a yearly basis. Additional challenges are present when making outside ice usable in recent unpredictable winter weather patterns. Shakopee Parks and Recreation Department is monitoring the hockey usage across all of the rinks in the winter of 2018/ 19 and should continue to monitor in the 2019/ 20 season as well. Preliminary results show that the rinks located in neighborhood parks, especially new neighborhoods to the south and southeast, are sparsely used and likely difficult to justify the cost/benefit of the investment.

Hockey facilities should be reduced and concentrated, focusing on quality over quantity. Shakopee Parks and Recreation should continue to monitor and strategize about where these facilities could occur. Ideally they would be distributed geographically throughout the city. Lions Park should be the primary outdoor hockey and skating area in the system, and broomball could be a similar activity that could be supported. Lions Park should evaluate renovation of the Youth Building to provide warming house services. This expanded usage could provide more concession opportunities that may make skating more attractive to families. Additionally, skate rental and/ or skate donations could be stored at this facility to provide opportunities for beginners or families without means to purchase equipment.

Southbridge could serve the east side of town as it already has good facilities to support. Lastly, Green Meadows is a good location for a centralized rink that will serve a higher density of residents in the near future due to development. Shakopee Parks and Recreation Department should continue to monitor and adjust ice facilities to meet demand and provide the greatest cost/ benefit for the community. Development to the south may require an additional facility as the distance traveled may become too great.



