

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 18, 2023
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks
Subject: Red Arrow Park Roller Skating Plan
File Type: Informational Report

REQUEST

This report provides a status update on Parks’ operations of Red Arrow Park Ice Rink as a roller-skating facility since May 1, 2023.

POLICY

The 2023 Adopted budget included the passage of amendment number 01 which contained the following:

“Funding in the amount of \$32,000 is provided to hire a seasonal ranger and park worker to staff Red Arrow Park five hour per day from May 1 to September 30 to supervise roller skating and preventing damage from unauthorized equipment use. This authorization will also be used to update signage and publicize the new rules.”

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	2023
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	01
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

Related File No’s:	23-522, 22-542, 22-396
Associated File No’s (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

On May 3, 2023, Park Operations began operating the rink for skating on weekdays from noon to 5pm. On weekends the rink opened earlier in the day, with hours from 9am-5pm. Attendance was tracked on an hourly basis by Parks employees. After Memorial Day weekend, Parks adjusted the schedule to reflect periods of higher use and seasonal staffing levels. Information is posted on the Parks Department website and hours are also

listed on the rink banner.

Use of the rink has varied since it was open for roller skating. Attendance has increased after the middle of June, and on an average weekday the rink averages between 5 to 10 skaters, while weekend use is slightly higher with 10 to 15 skaters per day. The rink has been the most heavily used during the two special evening events led by the Downtown BID (BID 21) on June 16 and July 21. These events included special activities and were held from 5pm to 9pm. A final event was held on August 18.

Parks conducted a benchmark assessment of the rink on April 23 to document the existing condition of the rink. Parks employees have also conducted a visual inspection of the rink every two weeks to document any condition changes on the concrete. While roller skate skid marks and minor concrete cracking is visible, major concrete damage is not apparent. However, the full extent of the impact of roller skating on the rink will likely not be known until the rink is prepared for winter operations in early November 2023.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns with the strategic plan by working to dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

FISCAL EFFECT

The report is informational only and there is no fiscal impact.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Jim Tarantino, Deputy Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Jeff Orlowski, Director of Recreation and Business Services, Milwaukee County Parks

PREPARED BY:

Peter Bratt, Director of Operations and Skilled Trades, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks *Guy Smith*

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Sheldon Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PEEC Chair

Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PEEC Vice Chair

Felecia Martin, Supervisor District 7, PEEC Member

Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PEEC Member

Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PEEC Member

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB