



**SUBJECT: Artificial Ice Opportunity**

**TO: Mayor and Members of Council**

**FROM: Recreation Services Department**

Report Number: RS-14-20

Wards Affected: Ward 1 and one other to be determined

File Numbers: 915-01

Date to Committee: December 14, 2020

Date to Council: December 14, 2020

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**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Director of Recreation Services to accept the donation from Patrick J McNally Foundation for one neighbourhood artificial ice surface as outlined in report RS-14-20; and

Authorize the Director of Recreation Services to execute a donation agreement, subject to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services, with the Patrick J McNally Foundation for one artificial ice surface as outlined in Report RS-14-20; and

Authorize the Director of Recreation Services to work with the Manager of Procurement Services to procure two artificial ice surfaces through a single source process with GLICE funded from the COVID account, to be purchased this December for installation during the Winter 2021, as outlined in report RS-14-20; and

Authorize the Director of Recreation Services to install the artificial ice surface at two neighbourhood rinks.

**PURPOSE:**

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
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## **Background and Discussion:**

At the Corporate Services, Strategy Risk and Accountability committee meeting on November 12, 2020 Recreation Services staff brought forward the re-design of recreational services this winter including an outdoor winter activation plan. The discussions on report CM-33-20 led to the following staff direction:

Direct the Director of Recreation Services to investigate outdoor skating opportunities such as artificial ice and portable ice plant operations and report back at the December 10, 2020 Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk and Accountability Committee (SD-24-20).

Staff did some preliminary investigation of portable ice plants and artificial ice. Upon initial review staff determined that the artificial ice is much more feasible. Artificial ice does not require staff with refrigeration qualification, does not require an ice resurfer nor a building to store the ice plant, etc. In addition, artificial ice can be used year-round and is somewhat portable allowing it to be moved around the City. Refer to Appendix A for a more detailed comparison.

Staff from Recreation Services and Roads, Parks and Forestry (RPF) participated in a demonstration of a product called GLICE. Staff were able to see how the product is assembled and were able to skate on the product. Staff have skated on other artificial surfaces and this product is the closest to the feel of real ice. At the time of the demonstration the company indicated that they have 200 sheets of the product uncommitted and more are scheduled to arrive before the holiday break. 100 sheets are equivalent to one outdoor artificial rink 11 x 24 metres in size.

As part of report CM-33-20 staff also discussed the neighbourhood rink program and sought committee's approval to proceed with the program again this winter in order to support residents with getting outside and being active during the pandemic. Committee was supportive of the neighbourhood rink program proceeding and to date staff have received 15 applications. Traditionally the City has provided a water source to many of the neighbourhood rinks allowing residents to access a hose bib inside one of the park maintenance buildings. This year because of the COVID restrictions members of the community cannot access staff areas. As a result, applicants to the neighbourhood rink program are required to supply their own water source resulting in rink organizers running hoses from their homes to the rink in the park.

In most of the parks there are homes that back onto the open space allowing for relatively easy access to water. However, there are a couple of parks that have traditionally had a neighbourhood rink with access to city water sources and do not have access to water from a residence. Staff recommend using the 200 sheets of GLICE to create two neighbourhood rinks which would be 11 x 24 metres in size, for neighbourhoods that had a rink in previous seasons and do not have residences

backing onto the park, (i.e. do not have access to a resident’s water source.) These two artificial surfaces would function as a neighbourhood rink where a committed group of at least six residents would assume the daily clearing and cleaning of the surface. In addition, the residents will apply the monthly application of the silicone solution. RPF staff would do a weekly observation of the rink as they would with other neighbourhood rinks. At this time, one rink will be in the Aldershot area given the restricted access to water and the other rink is to be determined as we access the applications and parks.

In addition, staff have also had a positive conversation with the Patrick J McNally Foundation. The Foundation would like to donate to the city, 100 sheets of artificial ice surface to support one artificial neighbourhood rink on the condition that the City will match their donation by purchasing another 100 sheets of artificial ice surface. With a combined donation and purchase of 200 sheets of artificial ice, the City would be able to support two neighbourhood artificial ice surface rinks in our parks.

Representatives of the Patrick J McNally Foundation have also indicated their willingness to consider providing further donations to match other donors who would support this neighbourhood initiative. Staff will investigate other potential donors.

**Strategy/process**

**Options Considered**

	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Concerns</b>
<b>Portable Refrigeration Plant</b>	Provides real ice with all the expected attributes	Needs certified staff to oversee the operation  Needs ice resurfacing equipment  Needs storage for the equipment  Limited to winter use only  Cost for the unit and associated infrastructure  Requires either a gas or diesel generator to operate

	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Concerns</b>
<b>Artificial Ice</b>	<p>After initial set up no staff supervision is required</p> <p>No on-site storage requirements</p> <p>Can be year-round and moved more easily from location to location</p> <p>Needs only a monthly servicing to apply a silicone spray on top</p> <p>No carbon emissions to operate.</p>	<p>Can get sticky, not giving it a total ice feel</p> <p>Residents do not take up use of the artificial ice and it sits empty</p>

A more detail comparison can be found in Appendix A.

**Financial Matters:**

If the City were to accept the donation of 100 sheets of GLICE from the Patrick J McNally Foundation one of the donor’s stipulations is that there be a matching contributor. At this time, the City would provide the match, by investing in 100 sheets of GLICE.

To take advantage of existing inventory and the donation from the Patrick J McNally Foundation and to ensure timely impact for residents this pandemic winter, staff would single source for the artificial ice surface and use the single source procurement process for values under \$100,000.

In addition, the 200 sheets of GLICE have a life cycle of about 20 years with a 12-year warranty and are somewhat portable so we will be able to move the surface and create other opportunities in the future as well as have outdoor year-round skating.

**Total Financial Impact**

Total investment for the City for 100 sheets of GLICE, plywood structure for the artificial ice to sit on, one bottle of silicone cleaning solution and a storage/moving trolley would be approximately \$52,000.

### **Source of Funding**

The COVID account

### **Other Resource Impacts**

Recreation staff will assist with the creation of the platform for GLICE to be installed on. Roads, Parks and Forestry staff will be consulted on locations and provide the weekly inspections as part of their regular patrols.

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### **Climate Implications**

No water, power or resurfacing is required for GLICE. The manufacture's tag line is, "GLICE, an ECO-Rink."

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### **Engagement Matters:**

Staff launched the neighbourhood rink program following the CSSRA meeting on November 12, 2020. To date, 17 applications have been received and interest from many more but given the limitations of accessing a resident's water source, some locations are just not feasible this year, especially in the Aldershot area. There is a lot of interest in the program this year and we want to be able to support the neighbours that do not have access to any home water source this year.

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### **Conclusion:**

Getting active outside is resonating with Burlington residents this pandemic winter. Timing has aligned such that staff has sampled an artificial ice surface called GLICE that has 200 uncommitted sheets of the product in stock and have secured a matching donation from a local Foundation. Coincidentally, 100 sheets of artificial ice are the approximate size of a neighbourhood rink. With the matching program in place, the City would be able to provide two neighbourhood rinks in parks that cannot have a rink this winter because of COVID protocols and no residences backing onto the space to provide a water source. Staff encourages committee to accept the donation for one artificial ice surface neighbourhood rink and to invest in a second rink to help residents get outside and be active this pandemic winter.

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Respectfully submitted,

Denise Beard

Manager of Community Development

905-330-4118

**Appendices:**

- A. GLICE and Ice Comparison

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.