

The Winnetka Park District's mission is to provide a balance of quality recreational and leisure opportunities, while protecting assets, natural resources and open space for the benefit of present and future generations.

WPD
WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT



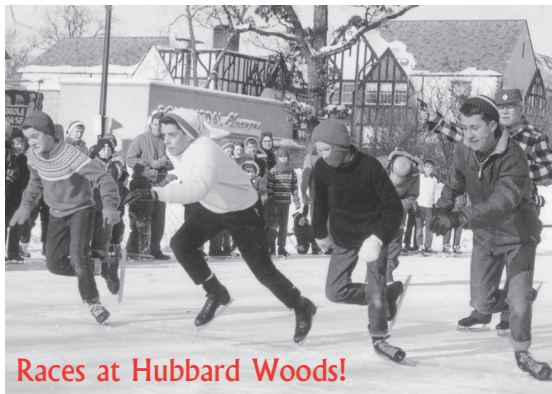
Park Place

Winter 2009-10

THE SCIENCE OF MAKING OUTDOOR ICE

Winter officially arrives in Winnetka when the outdoor rinks at Hubbard Woods, Indian Hill and Northfield Parks are up and running. It is a rite of passage for generations of residents whether it's children learning to skate for the first time, pick up hockey games with friends, family time on the ice or grandparents watching their grandchildren skating and reminiscing about past skating races in Winnetka.

The process of making ice is a labor of love, because it is not a process that comes easily. This article is designed to help residents and outdoor ice enthusiasts understand the step by step process involved to create an outdoor ice surface in Winnetka.



Races at Hubbard Woods!

Step #1: Staff preparation on the rigors of making ice.

This training/preparation begins prior to the potential start of the ice making season. Park staff review the process, determine their roles and prepare the necessary equipment.

Step #2: Wait for ideal ice making conditions.

Consistent low temperatures (*below 20 degrees*) for several days are required to allow frost to develop below the surface of the ground. This will prevent the water from just soaking into the ground when preparing the rink area.

Step #3: Time to make the ice.

While many believe the area's flooded, the process actually involves layering the water in both thin and thick layers (depending on the weather conditions). The park staff attaches a 2 inch fire hose from an adjacent fire hydrant for the water. It takes about 3 to 4 days of layering the water to get a rink established under ideal conditions. During the ice building stage, crews work around the clock until the ice is established.

That's at least a week between steps 2 and 3 for a rink to be ready during ideal circumstances.

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WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT WINTER SPECIAL EVENTS

December 21

Holiday Camp Begins
Winter Break Tennis Camp Begins
Holiday Open Gym Begins
RMG Hoops Winter Camp Begins
Winter Hockey Camp Begins
Free Learn to Skate
Free Give Hockey A Try

December 22

Free Learn to Skate

December 23

Free Give Hockey A Try

December 24

Holiday Sing

December 25

Christmas Day Skate

December 28

December Open
Tennis Tournament Begins

December 31

New Year's Fun Skate

January 15

National Skating Month Celebration

January 18

School Day Off Open Gym
The Kindness Connection
Middle School Ski Trip

January 22

Nielsen 7 Tennis Tournament Begins
Middle School Paddle Madness

January 23

Jumpin' Junior High Paddle Night

February 5

Illinois Men's Doubles Begins

February 6

Winter Carnival

February 11

Dad/Daughter Date Night

February 13

Viking Jr. Paddle Tournament

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 Winnetka, IL 60093

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THE SCIENCE OF MAKING OUTDOOR ICE (continued from page 1)

Step #4: Sustaining the ice.

Once the ice is established, park staff will perform a maintenance program of sweeping the rinks. The ice shavings are used to fill holes and cracks that may have formed in the ice. Water is sprayed daily to the repaired areas and to increase overall ice thickness.

There are several influences that can affect the conditions of outdoor ice and these conditions either bring you back to “**Step #2**” or adversely affect the quality of ice.

Temperature

The air temperature needs to be well below the 32 degree freezing point. Warmer temperatures prevent staff from making high quality ice rinks. It is also important to not use the rinks until a substantial thickness has been achieved. Proper ice thickness helps to prevent the ice from chipping and breaking.

Snow Accumulation

If snow falls prior to achieving the necessary frost level this will insulate the ground and prevent the rink from forming properly. The skating area needs to be free of snow prior to any water application. It is also not a good idea to attempt to make ice when it is snowing. The water will mix with the snow and form slush. When it freezes the skating surface becomes rough and will easily crack with use.

The Winnetka Park District outdoor ice making is a “labor of love”. During a successful season the work requires approximately 1,216 man hours at a financial cost of \$31,232 (*labor and supplies*). **The winter memories that generations of Winnetka residents have experienced at one of our three outdoor rinks is priceless.**

For more information about Winnetka Park District outdoor ice status, locations and hours of operation visit www.winpark.org.



Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. sharing a special moment with close friend John Powless.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARTHUR C. NIELSEN JR. TRIBUTE

Over 150 friends, family and community members gathered at the A.C. Nielsen Tennis Center on Saturday, December 5 to honor and pay tribute to Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. This tribute was also an unveiling of the new front lobby display. The display includes many beautiful pieces of Nielsen Family tennis memorabilia and historical information. Art Nielsen Jr.’s longtime friend, Charlie Schaaf spearheaded this effort along with a great group of volunteers. They have created a living history of how a family’s passion has turned into a legacy that continues to be shared with the community of Winnetka. **More photos and a video are available on the Winnetka Park District’s Facebook page. A link is available at www.winpark.org.**

WPD EVENTS (continued)

February 26
 North Suburban Tennis Championships Begins

March 11
 CoCo Key Water Resort Day Trip
 Mother/Son Date Night

March 20
 Tiny Tot Olympics

Additional Event Information is Available at www.winpark.org!

GIVE THE GIFT OF RECREATION!



Gift Cards Are Available At The Adm. Office, Tennis Center, Ice Arena & Golf Clubhouse!

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 E-Mail, Facebook & Twitter Links are Available at www.winpark.org