



12/1/2023

PRPD Statement on Start of 2023-24 Rink Season

Welcome Skating Enthusiasts!

The Paradise Recreation and Park District (District) welcomes you as we embark on a new chapter in our winter tradition. Since its inception in 2012, the ice rink has become a source of pride and joy for Butte County residents, fostering a sense of community and shared winter experiences.

In our commitment to providing an enriching skating experience, the District shifted this year towards an experiment to use a synthetic ice surface at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center. Our drive to maintain the beloved winter skating tradition on the ridge required us to balance the challenges in recent years of decreased participation and sponsorships. The District explored synthetic ice to manage costs effectively and ensure continued affordability for families. These realities required the District to explore innovative options.

While some people cherish traditional ice rinks, they come with substantial expenses in terms of setup, maintenance, and resource consumption. The synthetic ice rink offers a sustainable alternative, as it is one third of the cost of conventional rinks and requires no additional electricity, water, nor refrigerant chemicals.

Beyond the economic benefits, the new surface enhances the overall atmosphere at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center. It operates quietly, allowing the festive ambiance and music to take center stage, creating a more enjoyable and immersive experience.

We acknowledge that the initial delivery and set-up of the new rink faced challenges, impacting the overall experience of our skaters. Due to unforeseen supply and equipment issues with our vendor, we initially lacked the materials necessary for optimal cleaning, treatment of the surface, and sharpening of skates. As of 11/29/23, these issues have been rectified, and the rink is now fully operational and allows skaters to glide through the remainder of the season. We will be offering free or discounted passes to those inconvenienced by the previous short-coming in the experience early in the season.

We invite the community to actively participate in shaping the future of our winter recreation by sharing your thoughts on the improved skating experience. Your feedback is invaluable, and to express our gratitude for your patience, we will be offering free and discounted skate days to gather fair and comprehensive input.

Looking ahead, the District is enthusiastic about the potential for expanded programming throughout the year. If the response to the synthetic ice rink is positive, we envision offering additional skate-related activities, including lessons, hockey leagues, and perhaps even summer skating.

However, if the community's preference leans elsewhere, the District is committed to exploring alternative winter recreation options. Your opinion matters, and together, we can ensure the Terry Ashe Recreation Center remains a vibrant winter hub for community engagement and shared joy.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm as we embark on this exciting journey.

Please provide feedback or questions to info@paradisepspd.com or call (530)872-6393.