



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 14, 2002

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Donald K. Cochran, Director of Parks
Michael F. Riley, Acting Chief, Park Development Division *MR*
Douglas Alexander, Supervisor, Design & Project Management
Section *DA*

FROM: Ellen Masciocchi, Project Coordinator *EM*

SUBJECT: Old Wheaton Ice Rink

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approval:

- Commence repairs to the roof structure of the old Wheaton Ice Rink in order to continue use as an in-line skating / roller hockey facility.
- Approve programming of ice hockey in the old Wheaton Ice Rink during upcoming Fall / Winter season.
- Transmit letter to County Executive recommending removal of old Wheaton Ice Rink site from consideration for proposed Kemp Mill Community Center.

Background and Justification

In 1996, the Council approved a PDF to construct a new ice rink in Wheaton Regional Park. The existing rink in the park was not fully enclosed and therefore could not be operated year-round for ice activities (see vicinity map, attachment 1). Furthermore, the old rink lacked desired amenities such as spectator seating and party rooms. The PDF for the new rink stated that the old ice rink would be used as an in line skating facility (see PDF, attachment 2).

The new ice rink opened in November 2000. Since then, the old ice rink has been used for in-line skating, specifically, roller hockey leagues. The Department of Recreation books time for roller hockey at the old rink for seasons in Spring

and Fall; typically March through June and September through early November. Recreation retains a vendor to administer the roller hockey leagues. The old Wheaton Ice Rink is the only covered facility available for roller hockey league play in the County and provides a valuable resource for the down County area.

Staff proposes to re-instate ice at the old rink this Fall for ice hockey. Current demand for ice time exceeds the new rink's capacity. Ice making equipment at the old rink was replaced in the early 1990's and is functional. The ice season would be November through March.

The roof of the old rink has developed leaks, and steel supports to the roof require structural repairs. Further use of the facility for roller hockey or ice hockey is precluded until the repairs are completed due to safety issues. It is the Department's intent to have our Central Maintenance Division complete repairs to the roof structure in September so that the old rink can be used for ice sports later this Fall.

The demand for both in-line and ice sports is overwhelming. A number of area high schools are interested in starting ice hockey programs and cannot obtain ice time. There is demand from school and church groups for ice skating as well as private citizen requests to use the rink for birthday parties. Rink Managers at both Commission owned ice rinks are reporting that they have to turn groups away for ice time. The Manager of the Wheaton Ice Rink reported in a memorandum that requests for ice time have increased significantly compared to last year (see attachments 3 & 4). Montgomery County Youth Hockey anticipates having to turn away 150 players this coming year due to lack of ice time (see attachment 5).

Requests for roller hockey time have increased significantly as well. Enterprise staff completed a report on roller hockey in the Metropolitan area that cites the support of a number of local groups to use the old rink for roller hockey (see attachments 6 & 7). They report a growing interest in high school roller hockey leagues. The Southeastern Street and Roller Hockey Association have expressed an interest in returning to Wheaton. They are located in Howard County and have been displaced from the Gardens Ice House in Laurel.

Staff recommends that the old Wheaton Ice Rink continue to be used for active recreational use. Both roller hockey and ice hockey will help to generate revenue for the Enterprise program.

Proposed Kemp Mill Community Center

The Regional Services Centers are now responsible for the site selection process for proposed community centers within their geographic areas. The old Wheaton Ice Rink site is among several sites currently under consideration for a Kemp Mill Community Recreation Center. A Kemp Mill Site Evaluation

Committee staffed by the Director of the Mid-County Services Center has met several times and recently toured potential sites including the old Wheaton Ice Rink. The goal is to find a site that would be suitable for a Kemp Mill Community Center and could also serve the Wheaton community until funding is available in the Capital Improvements Program for a new Wheaton Center. The facility would need to be 25,000 square feet in size and preferably located on a minimum ten-acre site. The Department of Recreation has verified that the plan is to erect a new Wheaton Community Center in the future in priority order after the Kemp Mill Community Center. Recommendations for a final site have not been made at this time.

The Recreation Facility Development Plan, published in June 1997, projected the need for a White Oak/Kemp Mill Community Center. Since the report was published, the County Council determined that the White Oak Area should have a separate community center. There is funding currently available for this center. Neither the Kemp Mill, nor the Wheaton Community Center has been funded for construction at this time.

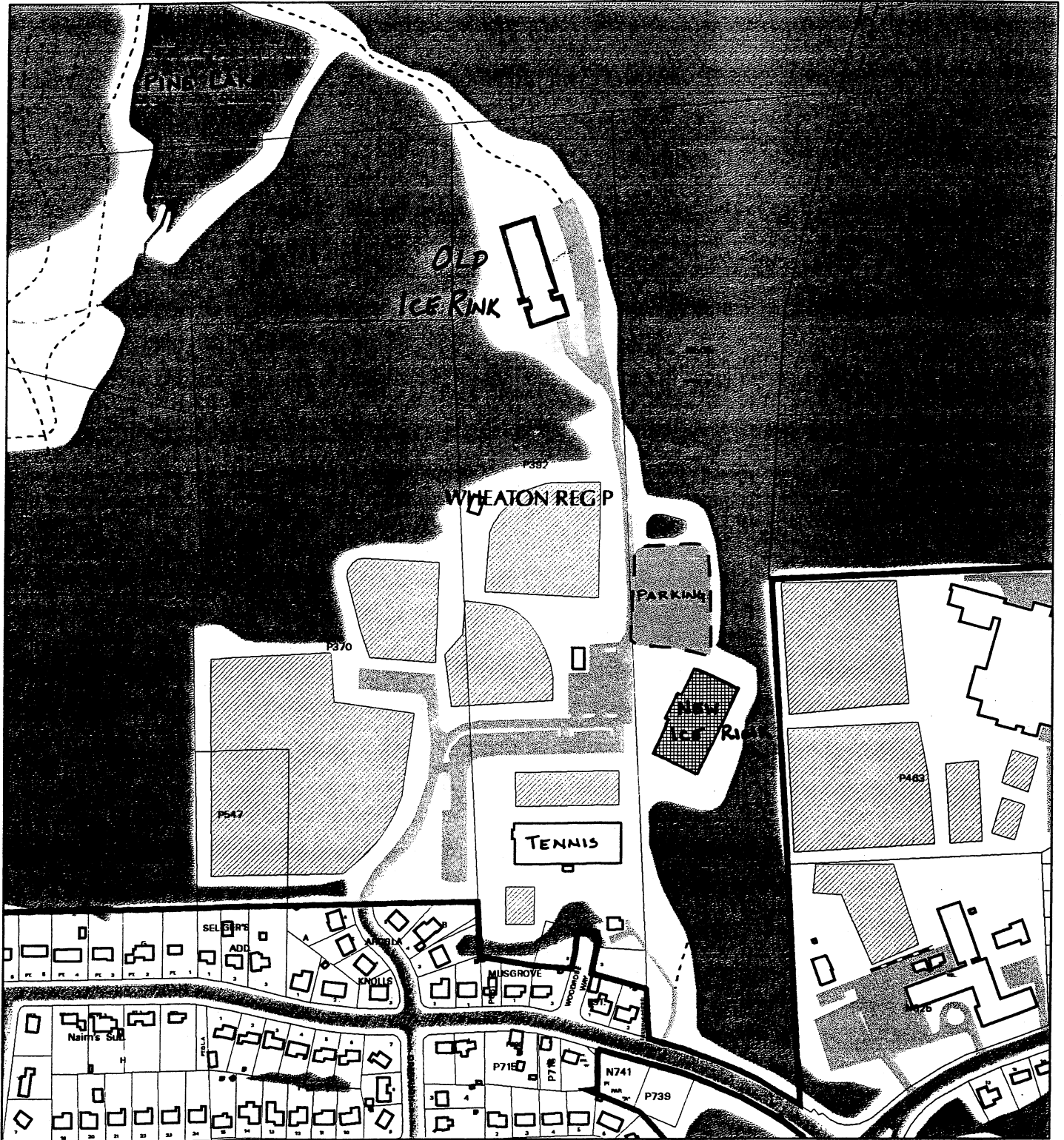
CONCLUSION

Staff believes that the best use of the old Wheaton Ice Rink is to provide for the growing demand for ice and in-line sports for the foreseeable future. In order to provide this service, the roof of the rink requires repairs. There is a risk of wasted effort if the repairs are performed while the site is under active consideration for another use. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board affirm their intention to continue recreational use of the facility and transmit a letter to the Executive recommending removal of the old Wheaton Ice Rink as a potential site for the proposed Kemp Mill Community Center.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Vicinity map of Old Wheaton Ice Rink
- Attachment 2: 1996 PDF for Wheaton Ice & In-line Skating Rinks
- Attachment 3: Memorandum from Manager of Wheaton Ice Rinks
- Attachment 4: Leased Ice Requests
- Attachment 5: Letter from Montgomery Youth Hockey
- Attachment 6: General Overview – In-Line Hockey in Area
- Attachment 7: In-Line Facility Summer Usage

VICINITY MAP FOR OLD WHEATON ICE RINK



Map compiled on May 26, 2002 at 2:48 PM | Site located on base sheet no - 215NW02

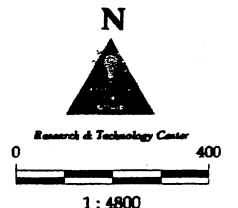
NOTICE

The planimetric, property, and topographic information shown on this map is based on copyrighted Map Products from the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and may not be copied or reproduced without written permission from M-NCPPC.

Property lines are compiled by adjusting the property lines to topography created from aerial photography and should not be interpreted as actual field surveys. Planimetric features were compiled from 1:14400 scale aerial photography using stereo photogrammetric methods.

This map is created from a variety of data sources, and may not reflect the most current conditions in any one location and may not be completely accurate or up to date. All map features are approximately within five feet of their true location. This map may not be the same as a map of the same area plotted at an earlier time as the data is continuously updated. Use of this map, other than for general planning purposes is not recommended. - Copyright 1998

Key Map



23-76B

A. IDENTIFICATION AND CODING INFORMATION

1. Project Number: 968763
 2. Date: FEB 05, 1996
 3. Project Name: WHEATON REG. ICE & IN-LINE SKATING RINKS;
 4. Program: REGIONAL/REC PARKS

5. Agency: M-NCPPC
 6. Planning Area: 31 KENSINGTON-WHEATON

7. PREV PDF PG I/O
 8. REQ ADEQ PUB FAC IDENT.

B. EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (000'S)

Cost Elements	(8) Thru FY95	(10) Estimate FY96	(12) Year 1 FY97	(13) Year 2 FY98	(14) Year 3 FY99	(15) Year 4 FY00	(16) Year 5 FY01	(17) Year 6 FY02	(18) Beyond 6 Yrs
1. Planning, Design and Suprv.	350	280	70						
2. Land									
3. Site Imprvmts. and Utilities	1223		1223						
4. Construction	1980		1980						
5. Furniture and Equipment									
6. Total	3553	280	3273						
C. FUNDING SCHEDULE (000'S)									
ENTERP	3553	280	3273						
D. ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT \$ (000'S)									
DEBT SVC									
MAINTENANCE ENERGY	1408	128	256	256	256	256	256	256	256
PRGM-STAFF									
PRGM-OTHER									
COST SAVINGS									
OFFSET REVS									
NET IMPACT STAFF (WKYRS)	1408	128	256	256	256	256	256	256	256

E. DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

PROJECT NO. 968763 PROJECT NAME Wheaton Reg. Ice & In-Line Skating

DESCRIPTION: This project will provide planning, design and construction funding for a new single sheet enclosed ice rink, amenities and parking lot at Wheaton Regional Park. This project will also provide for the conversion of the existing ice rink, at no capital cost to County Bond funds, into an in-line skating facility.

JUSTIFICATION: PROS PLAN AND OTHER STUDIES: This project is recommended by an Ice Rink Market Analysis conducted by the Department of Parks, the adopted Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan, and because of the tremendous use and demand at our existing Wheaton Rink.

DEVELOPMENT: Development scheduled beyond FY 96 may be amended as the project undergoes review.

IN FY 96: Prepare site development plan, detailed engineering and architectural plans, and construction documents.

IN FY 97: Obtain all permits; construct new ice rink; convert existing rink for in-line skating.

COST/SCOPE CHANGE: Not applicable (new project).

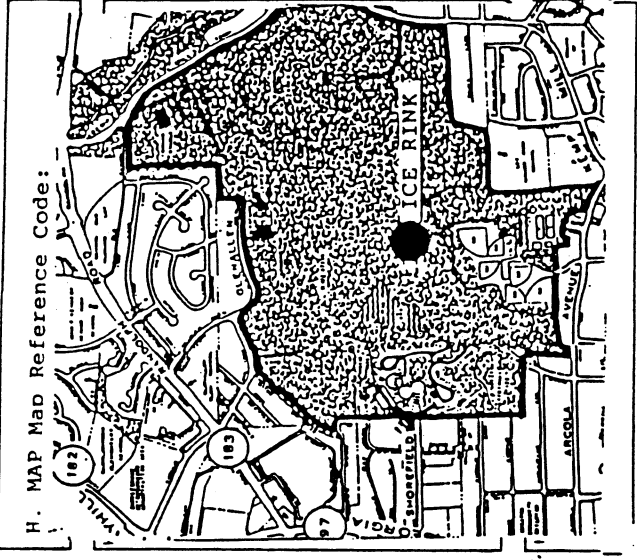
OTHER: The Department of Parks will consider private development proposals for the construction and/or operation of this project pursuant to the Public/Private Development Guidelines for the Evaluation and Approval of Solicited and Unsolicited Offers for Joint-Venture Development of Park Property (March 1996).

F. APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (000'S)

Date First Appropriation FY 96: 3553
 Initial Cost Estimate: 3553
 First Cost Est Current Scope (96): 3553
 Last FY's Cost Estimate: 3553
 Present Cost Estimate (96): 3553

Cumulative Appropriation: 3273
 Expenditures/Encumbrances: 280
 Unencumbered Balance: 3273

EXPEND. AUTHORIZATION
 BUDGET YEAR FY 97: 3273
 SUPPL. EXPEND. AUTHOR. CURRENT YEAR FY 96: 280



I. COORDINATION & OTHER INFORMATION (INCL SUBPROJS & WORK PRGM LISTS)

MCDOT, MCDEP, WSSC
 MC Dept. of Recreation



MEMO

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

TO: Don Cochran, Director of Parks
Jerry Bush, Administrative Supervisor

FROM: Cathy Laws^{CW}, Recreation/Enterprise Facility Mgr. III, Wheaton Ice Arena,
Wheaton Train/Carousel, and Wheaton In-Line

SUBJECT: Wheaton In-Line Usage

DATE: May 31, 2002

Attached is a letter I received from Montgomery Youth Hockey. I am currently working on the ice arena splits for the 2002-2003 winter season. To date, the facility has received five times the amount of requests we received last year. High School Hockey is growing rapidly. Last year we received requests from two schools and were able to accommodate both. This year we have received requests from six schools. Three of the requests were from new teams that are forming. In addition, Montgomery Youth Hockey's Bob Weiss tells me their program has maxed out and they are forced to turn hundreds of players away each year.

As I put a schedule together over the next week, I will track all unavailable requested time. Upon completion, I will forward to you a usage schedule for the In-Line Facility with attached revenue projections. Please seriously consider Montgomery Youth Hockey's Proposal or arrange for Central Maintenance to get the facility's needed repairs back on their schedule. Hockey programs throughout the county are suffering.

I am very confident that this facility's staff can keep that building busy year round. Our requests for in-line usage have increased six fold and an in-line lesson program is greatly needed. I keep a running list of interested rental parties for both the ice arena and in-line rink. As I said, filling the in-line rink time will not be a problem. The staffing costs would be minimal compared to revenue intake.

Please do not hesitate to call if you should have any questions or concerns. Thank You for your time in relation to this matter.

cc: Ronnie Gathers, Assistant Chief, Southern Region
Marty Aument, Park Manager III, Wheaton Regional Park

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS

**UNABLE TO FILL
LEASED ICE REQUESTS
FOR '02 - '03**

CLUB	# of HOURS
Blair High School Hockey	1.5
Good Counsel High School Hockey	3.5
St. John's High School Hockey	4.5
Springbrook High School Hockey	1.5
The Academy of the Holy Cross H. S.	1.5
Whitman High School Hockey	3
High School Hockey Game Ice	3
Montgomery Youth Hockey	29.5
Washington Little Capitals	4.5
Hockey North America	16.25
Wheaton Speed Skating	1.5
TOTALS	70.25

*** The above are actual requests for a one week period that could not be filled. The ice season would typically run from the 3rd week in October through the month of March.

*** This list does not include special sessions, such as, Dance, Stick 'n' Puck, Pick-up Hockey and "Learn to Skate" Hockey Programs that could be scheduled as well..

*** At present the Montgomery Youth Hockey Programs are at capacity due to the lack of available ice. The new Wheaton Ice Arena has built a Dance program that also cannot expand due to the lack of available ice.

May 28, 2002

Cathy Laws
Wheaton Ice Rink
Wheaton Regional Park
Wheaton, Maryland

Dear Cathy:

Good luck on assigning the ice for next season. I know it must be difficult to satisfy all of the users' requests. Montgomery Youth has now expanded to approximately 1000 players. For the first time last season we were forced to turn kids away due to ice constraints. It is very important to our club to maintain the level of ice we have historically taken at the Wheaton rink (MYHA has taken ice at Wheaton for over 20 years) to at least accommodate the kids who skated last season. As we discussed, the exact time of the ice slots can vary somewhat from the previous time last season.

Montgomery would very much appreciate your organization reconsidering the opening of the old Wheaton rink. As I mentioned above, MYHA was in the unfortunate situation last season of having to turn kids away. This season will be worse as I forecast that over 150 players will be turned away due to the lack of ice. Montgomery would be very willing to participate on various levels to assist in the reopening of the old Wheaton rink. First, MYHA would contractually commit to at least 15 hours per week of ice time from October to February on a long term basis if desired. Secondly, MYHA would commit capital funds, approximately \$250,000, to assist in repairing the rink. In return we would want a long term lease on a substantial block of ice time and a reduced rate for that ice. We would be happy to submit a more detailed proposal if there is interest on your part. Thirdly, MYHA does have a diverse membership and I am sure one of our parents could have a company with the necessary skills to complete the various repairs on the rink at a cost competitive rate. Please convey our strong interest in assisting in whatever way to get the rink reopened.

I look forward to hearing from you on next season's schedule and pursuing some process to reopen the old rink.

Regards,



Bob Weiss

Board Member and Club General Manager
Montgomery Youth

General Overview - In-Line Hockey in this area

According to Harry Leckenby, Regional Coordinator for USA Hockey, in-line hockey is still a young and growing sport with a lot of potential. It is a faster moving game, usually with higher scores than ice hockey so young players especially, enjoy it more. It is safer and much easier than ice hockey to introduce to young children because 'checking' is prohibited. Teams are easier to form because they require one less person (four players and a goalie) than ice hockey. It is cheaper for players and easier on facilities because ice maintenance costs aren't necessary. It is a great cross-pollinator for ice hockey. Still in the eastern part of the US, in-line hockey's growth has been stunted because there are few indoor facilities to accommodate league play.

Having said that, the groups in this area who have caught in-line hockey fever are really excited about it. They are encouraged to hear that we are thinking about in-line skating at Wheaton. Most local clubs are run by volunteers who love in-line skating and who want to see it grow. They see the potential for everything from general skating, to leagues (youth and adult), to travel teams, to national competition. The northern VA clubs, in the spirit of cooperation, are interested in putting us in touch with Maryland/DC clubs that they know are looking for a hockey home. According to them, adult leagues are the most lucrative. Recently, they are noticing a growing interest in high school leagues which could be fodder, especially in this area, for college leagues in the future.

A facility like the old Wheaton Ice Rink, though not enclosed, is a considerable asset.. Bill Elder, director of the Prince William Hockey Club, said he wished he could move our old rink to his county. Mike Hendricks, vice president of the Southeastern Street and Roller Hockey Association, called Wheaton the "perfect place for roller hockey". His club would be interested in returning to Wheaton (they stopped using it two years ago) if we install a sports court, keep the surface clean and repair the roof. Leckenby thinks that in-line would do well here if a complete in-line hockey program, with learn-to-skate programs, clinics, parties, general admission, food concessions and pro shop, along with league play were offered. He plans to attend the next NRPA conference and is interested in discussing possibilities with us in person. He also recommended that we contact Jay Moore of Athletica Inc., in Minneapolis, MN at (800)809-RINK if we need advice on modifying the old rink.

I have included a list of people/organizations who want to encourage us and who will gladly assist us in bringing in-line skating to Wheaton.

LAUREL, MD

The Gardens Ice House in Laurel, MD has one skating surface, 200' x 75'. It is converted for in-line skating use by laying a sports floor over the concrete base during the spring and summer. The Southeastern Roller Hockey Association, under Mike Hendricks, (410)715-2255, assistant director, does all of the in-line programming there and currently uses that facility exclusively. They have a database of approximately 5,000 skaters, according Hendricks. Because the ice surface at the Gardens has been restored, they are actively looking for a facility to use for this fall/winter season.

They have plans to expand their program this year from strictly games to include instruction and practice. They also plan to add clinics.

League Play - \$120.00/player for 10 games and a playoff game

Spring	April - mid May
Summer	mid May - Aug

During the season, they play M-F 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm and all day Sunday.

HOWARD COUNTY

The Columbia Association (410)730-0322, a private, community association, owns and operates two skating facilities. Up until three years ago, the Columbia Ice Rink, was used for in-line and roller skating during the summer months. In-line hockey leagues along with general admission in-line or roller skating patrons enjoyed the rink through early Fall. However; in 1997, the facility became a year-round ice rink. In-line hockey players from there now play primarily at the Gardens Ice House in Laurel or the Frederick Sportsplex.

The association also owns and operates the Columbia Skate Park, in Harper's Choice off of Route #108. The 20,000 sq ft, outdoor park is uncovered and uses a black top with tennis court coating for a skating surface. The perimeter is secured by a wrought iron fence. Outdoor lighting allows skating and/or skate boarding (there are 13 jumps and ramps) until 10pm. Weather permitting, it is open year (weekends only in the winter if the temperature is 40 degrees or above). Skaters pay \$5 each for a 5-8 hour session (depending on the season). Clinics and private lessons for in-line skating and skate boarding are available. Students pay the \$5 admission fee to the association and the lesson fee directly to the instructor.

The Howard County Recreation & Parks Department (410)313-4686, is trying to do as much as its citizens will permit, to keep up with the growing popularity of in-line skating. Currently in Alpha Ridge Park (Marriottsville), is an outdoor skating park parceled from 2 tennis courts. It is completely open, without covering or wind screens and is without ramps and lighting. It is

primarily used for hockey league play, but a summer day camp also operates there. General public skating is allowed at no charge when nothing else is scheduled, primarily on Sunday mornings and Friday nights.

League Play - \$65.00/player

Sep - Nov	Monday - Thursday	5:30 pm - dark
Mar - May	Saturday	9:00 am - dark
Jun - Aug	Sunday	12 noon - dark

Summer Camps (roller hockey) - \$110/week, 4-one week camps

Monday - Friday 3 hours/day

Tax subsidies do not underwrite Howard County recreation facilities. Fees generated from Alpha Ridge Park programming cover staff salaries, officiating fees and uniforms.

Plans to build a better facility on the same site were presented to neighbors who vehemently rejected a proposal for a covered and lighted facility. What will open, probably in early Spring 2001, is an 106' x 181', uncovered rink with dasher boards, penalty boxes and bleachers. The skating surface will be approximately 80' x 175' with a smooth-surface, concrete floor. Bids for the project came in at \$308,000 (including equipment, boards, etc.) and they expect to break ground Oct 2000. Mike Milani (410)313-4700, facility manager, estimates that the scaled down facility will limit Fall usage by about 50% less than originally planned structure.

In Fall 2001, a 26,500 square feet, covered pavilion will be constructed at Meadowbrook Park (Rt 100 & Rt 29). It will house basketball courts, volleyball courts and an in-line skating surface. The in-line skating rink will pretty much follow the basic dimensions of the rink at Alpha Ridge but feature a smooth surface sports floor instead of concrete. Howard County budgeted \$1.1 million for this facility. Bids will come in soon.

For the past two summers, a very innovative traveling skate park has been operating with considerable success. The program, conceived by Terri Paddy (410)313-4705, recreation coordinator, brings in-line skating and skate boarding opportunities areas where facilities such as Alpha Ridge Park don't exist. With approximately \$10,000, she bought: two trailers, quarter pipe, small bank ramps, two fun boxes, kicker ramps and free standing rails, and can transform a smooth surface parking lot or basketball court into a skate park. This traveling park was set up in four areas this summer: Savage Park, Rockburn Bridge Park, Roger Carter Recreation Center and Centennial Park. The program recovered most of this cost during the first season. She added enough camps in the Fall and Summer (\$45 - \$135) to cover the costs for it's raison d'etre: cost free, general public skating. Donations from corporate sponsors, most notably a local Honda dealership, also help cover operating costs. She requires that skaters bring their own safety

equipment. Parents must sign a liability waiver for any free programs. Her program is so successful that she is currently looking for warehouse space to use for skating facility during the winter.

Frederick County

The Frederick Sportsplex, (301)662-6866, an indoor multi-sport complex, has two 185' x 85' playing surfaces, one covered in hard court and the other in artificial turf. Both fields have NHL professional-quality dasher boards. It offers a full range of programming for in-line and roller skaters.

Party Packages	\$120 for 10 kids		
General Skating	MWF, 4-6pm	Admission	\$3
	Fri, 7-10pm	Skate rental	\$2
	Sat, 8-11pm		

Dave Alvarez, just two weeks into his position as hockey director, has ambitious plans for league play. He has just started a 14-week youth program on Sundays from 1-3pm. Currently three teams are in the program. The \$140 fee includes a team jersey and covers the costs of referees. An additional \$25 fee (mandatory) gives players injury insurance from USA Hockey. Alvarez plans to post the players' statistics on the net and is actively trying to attract national teams and travel teams to his facility.

Prince William County, VA

The Prince William Hockey Club has a well established youth (5-18) league. Beginning in 1993 as a deck (street) hockey league, this league has evolved with the interests of its players. In the Spring of 1995, it became a roller hockey league under the sanction of USA Hockey In-line. From this sprang an ice hockey league, an informal adult, co-ed league (comprised mostly of the players parents), a more competitive men's league (comprised mostly of the players' fathers) and an all girls' division. According to USA Hockey, this is an unusual growth pattern for a club. PWHC is one of the few clubs in the country that has both ice and in-line hockey leagues. The youth league, including travel teams, has approximately 280 players in Fall programs and 400 in the Spring.

PWHC's home facility is the Total Sports Pavilion, a multi-sport indoor complex in Woodbridge, VA. rink. The rink, about 2/3 the size of an NHL rink, has a sports court surface. This club also regularly travels 45 minutes from their home rink to lease time at Slapshotz, state-of-the-art multi-sport complex, in Fredericksburg, VA. For several years they have tried to pull resources together to build their own NHL size, covered, outdoor rink. The county has offered a plot of land. Estimated cost for the facility, including the scoreboard, is \$100,000.

PWHC programs short sessions (approximately 8-10 weeks) for Fall, Winter and Spring. They skate on Sunday 8 am - 5 pm with some additional times on Saturdays during the early afternoon. Players are charged \$70 per session and must pay the \$25 annual registration fee required by USA Hockey In-Line. Fees do not cover practice time. These fees cover facility rental, awards, a jersey and the cost for referees. To develop future interest in-line hockey, they also offer a 1-week deck hockey (shoes not skates) clinic in the summer to little kids. The fee is \$40/player, M-F for 1-1/2 hr each day.

Loudoun County, VA

The Loudoun Roller Hockey League, LRHL, was formed in the fall of 1997 in conjunction with the development of the Douglas Community Center Outdoor Hockey Rink in Leesburg, VA. About \$70,000 in private funds and corporate donations have gone into this facility developed on county land. This uncovered, outdoor rink has asphalt flooring coated with a 'plexi-flor' rink surface and outdoor lighting. Funds are now being raised for dasher boards. LRHL has a 'first right of use', lifetime agreement with the county under a contract that is renewed annually. The facility is used by the general public when not in use by the league.

LRHL a youth league sanctioned by USA Hockey In-Line, is highly organized with a board of directors, game cancellation voice mail phone number and newsletter. There are approximately 200 players from ages 6-18 which includes travel teams. They are looking to expand their program to accommodate a growing interest in high school teams.

LRHL offers play in the Spring and Fall. Each season is approximately 9-12 weeks long. Practice is held during the week from 5:30 - 9:00 pm. Games are played on Sundays 12:15 noon - 8pm. Travel teams play on Saturdays.

**League Play - \$85.00/player for 1st child in family
-\$65.00/addition children**

**Learn to Skate Summer Camps - \$54/5 week session
1 day/week for 1 hr**

Stafford County, VA

Slapshotz, in Fredericksburg, VA, is a mammoth multi-sports arena that has two regulation sized (180' x 85') playing surfaces. Suitable for box lacrosse, volleyball, indoor field hockey, ultimate frisby, soccer or roller hockey, the air-conditioned, well lighted facility is popular year-round with in-line hockey leagues. Approximately 3,000 skaters, youth and adult, participate in the in-line program, which includes travel leagues and high school hockey leagues.

Winter, spring, summer and fall, Slapshotz offers an 8-week session for in-line hockey. Friday night from 7:30pm - 10:30 pm is Open Skate Night for the general public. Admission is \$6, skate rental \$3.

Youth Leagues (competitive play with good skaters)
\$105.00/8 weeks (includes games and practices)

Youth Rec Leagues (beginning skaters, usually 8 and under)
\$75/8 weeks

Summer Hockey Camps (1 week each)
\$80 - \$200 depending on skill level

The program is USA Hockey In-Line sanctioned, so players also pay the mandatory \$25 annual registration fee.

Anne Arundel County, MD

Broadneck Sports Facility in Annapolis, went out of business several years ago. The site is now a used car lot. The county's Department of Recreation and Parks does not operate in-line skating facilities or programs.

Harrisburg, PA

Twin Ponds East, is an ice rink, operated by the Harrisburg Recreation and Parks Department. There is no in-line skating program in their system.

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

Free State Indoor Sports Arena, is a multi-sports facility in Baltimore County, approximately 20 miles north of Baltimore City. The un-airconditioned building offers just about every sport, except ice skating. Pearl Strickler (410)335-6400, is the program director for roller hockey. The rink is about 180' x 90' and has a cement based surface coated with sealant. A high powered fan is over the playing surface. When this area isn't used for roller hockey, it becomes a field for soccer or lacross..

Strickler is battling to re-build a roller hockey program that was decimated last year by poor management. She is wooing players back with an aggressive public relations campaign and lower than usual prices. In her favor is the fact that there is no comparable facility in the immediate area

(the two closest being in Delaware and Laurel). Most of her players just 'sat out' last year. She registers between 90 - 600 skaters depending on the season. Approximately 39 teams play by NARCH rules. The program is not USA Hockey In-Line sanctioned. Freestate currently offers three seasons to in-line hockey (there are no general skating opportunities), but hopes to increase to year-round play once the reputation of the program has been restored.

Spring Season (Apr-Jul) - \$75/player
Summer Season (Jul-Aug) - \$50/player
Fall Season (Sep 15 - Oct 31) - \$90/player

Each season players pay a one-time referee fee, \$17 for adults and \$15 for youths and play the following schedule:

M - Th, 7pm - 8pm	ages 16 and under
M - Th, 8pm - 10pm	adults (17- 30)
Friday, 7pm - 89m	ages 12 and under
Saturday, 9am - 2pm	Clinics for adults and children
Sunday	adults over 30

Clinic fees are \$5 per session
1 hr for children ages 3-8
1-1/2 hr for older children and adults

These are the people/organizations are very interested in helping us get started:

Loudoun Roller Hockey League
Marcia Foster
(540)338-5049
<http://www.Loudounrollerhockey.com>

USA Hockey In-Line
Harry Leckenby, Region Coordinator
(800)888-4656 x120
<http://usahockey.com>

Prince William Hockey Club
Bill Elder, director
(202)637-8787 (w)
(703)491-9585 (h)

Paul Reid, past director
(703)834-6123(h)

Southeastern Street and Roller Hockey Association
Mike Hendricks, assist. director
(410)715-2255

Rick Gravelle, director
(410)465-5165

IN-LINE FACILITY SUMMER USAGE
(APRIL THROUGH THE 1ST WEEK OF OCTOBER)

*** At present the Wheaton In-Line Facility has a list of ten names, 3 leagues, and one recreation department wanting to use the facility. We receive calls weekly, from individuals wishing to use the facility for summer camp outings, special events, and birthday parties. In addition, we receive calls from parents whose children want to learn how to play in-line hockey or just want to come to a public in-line skating session.

LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES:

Alan Caro
Bruce Gilbert
Dan Kulpiniski
Bob Kocher
Frida Stock
Page Hirsch
Jason Meyers
Brian Hak
Greg Keim
Matt Rosenthal

Southwestern Roller Hockey
RRHL Hockey
Jewish Community Center

Montgomery County Department of Recreation
M-NCPPC Park Police - Special Events
Montgomery County Roadrunners
George Washington University - Human Powered Hover Craft Competition
Wheaton In-Line and Ice Arena Summer Programs