

## Outdoor Ice Strategy Council Presentation

**October 10, 2023**



## Presentation Outline

- Background
- Outdoor Ice Strategy Process
- Options and Information
- Financial Information
- Recommendations
- Next Steps

Town provides **natural ice rinks** at Georgetown Fairgrounds, Prospect Park, and various volunteer locations.

**Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan (2020)** identified need for outdoor recreation activities 4 seasons

2022 Capital Budget:      Outdoor Ice Feasibility Study

2022-2023:                Outdoor Ice Strategy & Consultation

# Outdoor Ice Strategy

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## What types of facilities were reviewed?

**OUTDOOR NATURAL RINK  
(MUNICIPAL/VOLUNTEER)**



**REFRIGERATED OUTDOOR MULTI-USE  
SPORT RINK**



**REFRIGERATED OUTDOOR RINK**



**MULTI-USE / SPLASH-PAD AND  
REFRIGERATED RINK**



**NATURAL BODIES OF WATER**



NOTE: SKATING ON STORM WATER PONDS IS  
UNSAFE AND PROHIBITED IN THE TOWN  
OUTDOOR REFRIGERATED RINK  
(PLAZA STYLE)



**SEMI-ENCLOSED REFRIGERATED RINK**



**SYNTHETIC RINKS**



**NATURAL ICE SKATING TRAIL**



**REFRIGERATED ICE SKATING TRAIL**

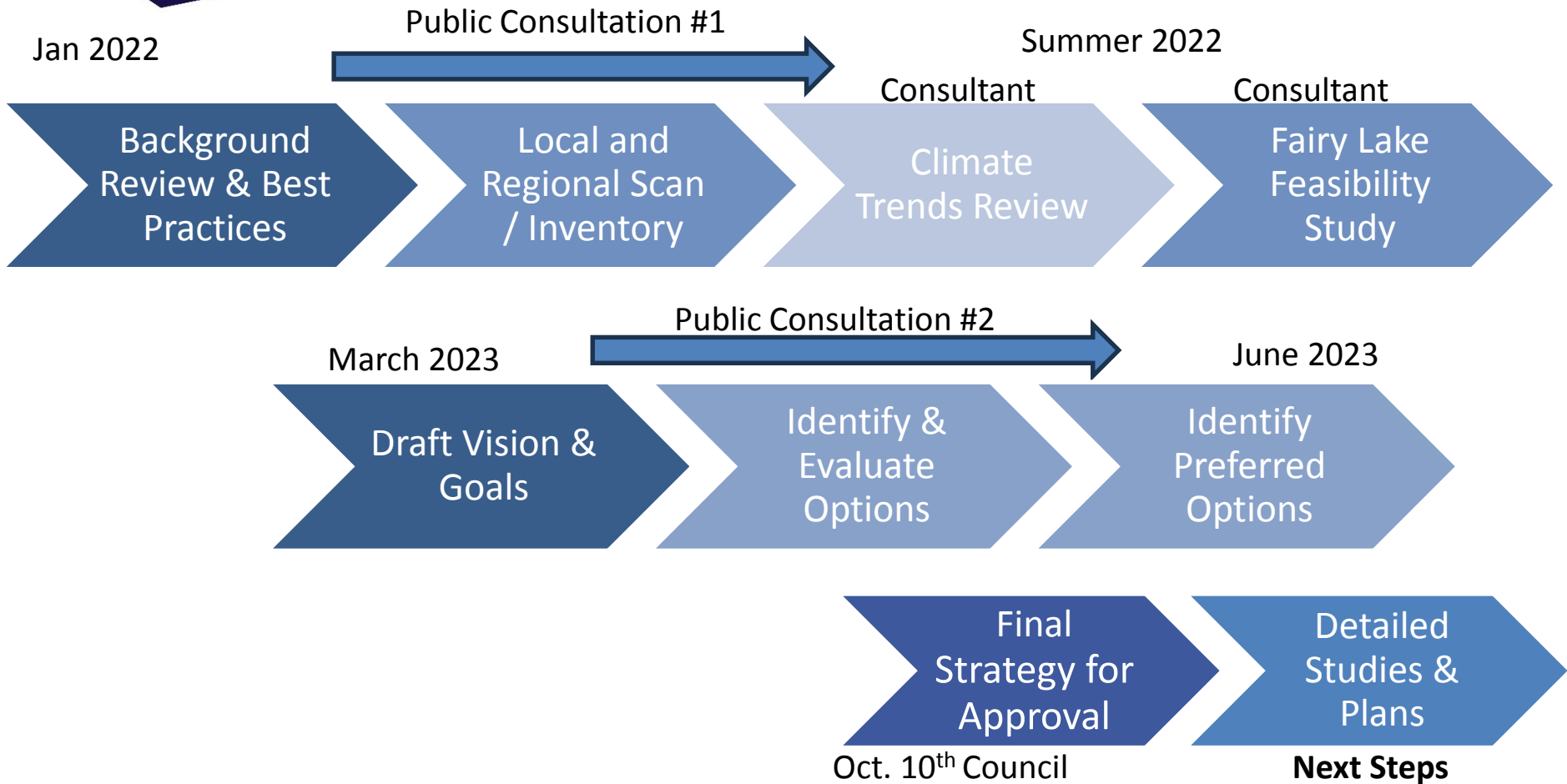




# Outdoor Ice Strategy

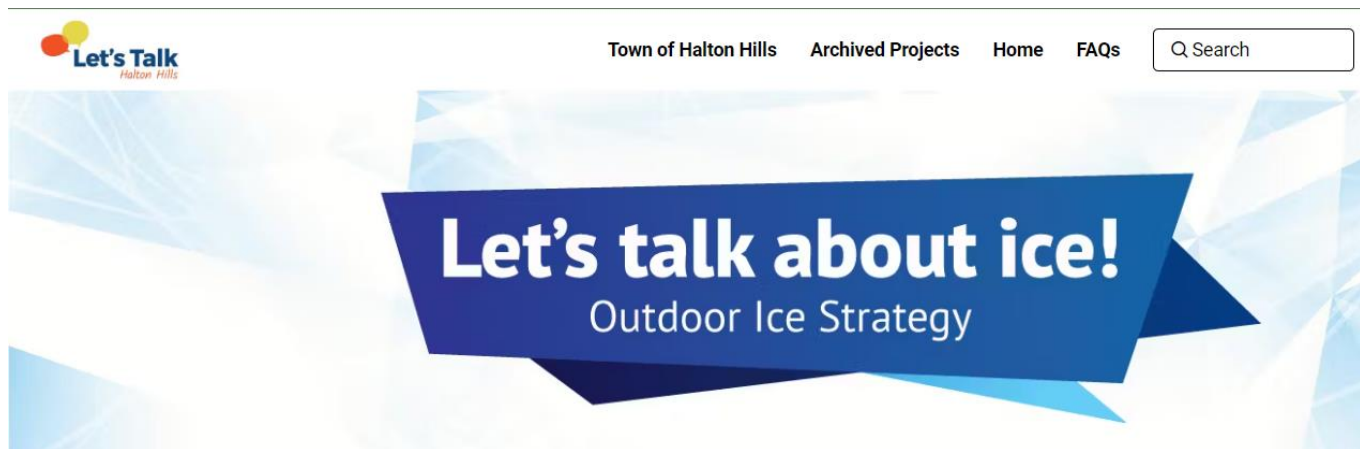
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## Process



-Conducted a comprehensive online consultation for the public and stakeholders.

- 2 surveys (preliminary and preferred options)
- total of 569 respondents
- 3 stakeholder groups



***Vision:*** The Town of Halton Hills operates a variety of ice surfaces, at convenient locations, that provide unique outdoor winter experiences for all residents, and accommodate a wide range of different outdoor ice activities.

### **Facility and Operations Goals:**

- safe and accessible facilities
- inviting and unique environments
- high quality surfaces and amenities
- fiscally responsible
- community partnerships

### **Public Information / Promotion Goals:**

- increase awareness / access to information
- promote new ice surfaces for awareness
- receive and respond to public input

### **Services and Program Goals:**

- a range of programs, services and events
- community partnerships to enhance programs
- Explore vendor relationships to increase and enhance programs, amenities and services

### **Climate Change Goals:**

- Monitor climate and weather patterns
- Review, evaluate and adjust the Outdoor Ice strategy

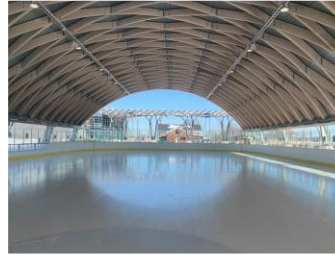
# Outdoor Ice Strategy

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## Key Options Considered



Improve Natural  
Rink Program



Refrigerated Ice  
Facility at  
Gellert



Fairy Lake Ice  
Program



Synthetic Ice  
Rink



Neighbourhood  
Rink Program



# Outdoor Ice Strategy

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## Community Feedback

#1

Need basic  
amenities



Improve Natural  
Rink Program



Refrigerated Ice  
Facility at  
Gellert



Fairy Lake Ice  
Program

#3

#2

Needs to be  
refrigerated



Synthetic Ice  
Rink

#5



Neighbourhood  
Rink Program

#4

User  
Conflicts

- advancing options will require significant efforts
- refrigerated facility costs (\$6-9 million capital, 100-\$150k operating) not affordable in short term
- additional detail required to inform long range financial forecast and planning
- lower cost solutions could improve basic level of services in the short term for natural rinks, Fairy Lake, Community Rink Program



- acknowledge community desire for a refrigerated facility (skating trail)
- cost prohibitive based on current financial projections/plans
- undertake a more detailed feasibility and financial review to inform future budgets
- consider any servicing requirements (where possible) in park expansion plans

## Recommendation #1



**Review Detailed Feasibility for Refrigerated Ice Facility at Gellert**

- basic improvement to level of service
- natural rinks at:
  - Gellert Community Park
  - Georgetown Fairgrounds
  - Glen Williams Park
- low cost solution for interim
- weather dependent
- enhanced basic amenities (seating, lighting, spectator areas)
- manage leisure skating times and shinny

## Recommendation #2



**Improve Natural Rink Program**

## Recommendation #3

- Town / Community partnership to monitor ice and build rinks/trails on Fairy Lake
- compliments natural rink at Prospect Park
- low cost solution
- weather dependent
- requires a more detailed review of safety protocols and policies, community engagement process



**Develop a Fairy Lake Ice Program**



- supported by public regardless of other improvements
- compliments Town programs / services
- low cost
- weather dependent
- requires a more detailed review of protocols and policies, community engagement process
- \$500 to support neighbourhood rinks until formal program considered

## Recommendation #4



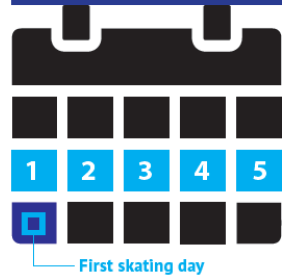
**Develop a Neighbourhood Rink Program**

# Outdoor Ice Strategy

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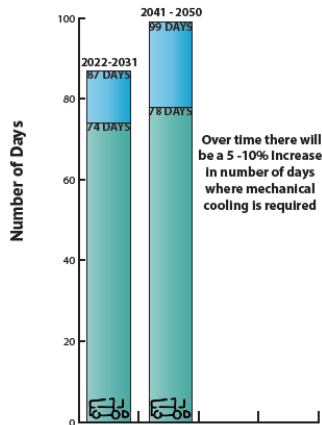
## Recommendation #5

### FIRST SKATING DAY

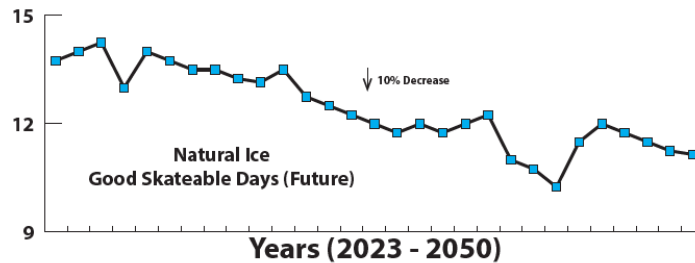
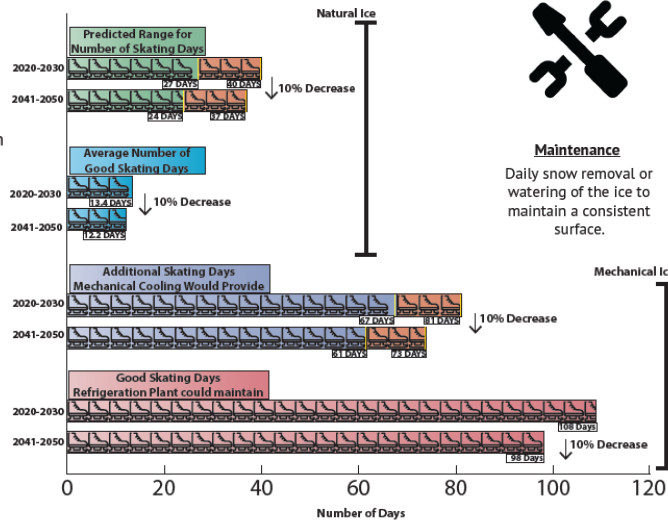


<0°C  
First skating day: five consecutive days where the maximum daily temperature does not surpass 0°C.

### DAYS REQUIRING MECH. COOLING



### SKATEABLE DAYS

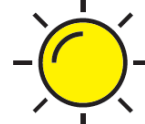


### FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE ICE MAKING



#### Maintenance

Daily snow removal or watering of the ice to maintain a consistent surface.



#### Sun

Increased sun exposure can cause melting and degradation of surface.



#### Temperature

The majority of non-skateable days are caused by temperature.



#### Covers

A roof cover will help prevent melting and add to skate-able days during a season.



#### Snow/Rain

Snow in relation to maintenance will need to be cleared in good time off the ice.

**Monitor Winter Climate Trends / Industry Practices regarding outdoor ice**

- With council endorsement of the report, staff will proceed to:
- Undertake detailed Feasibility and Financial Review for Gellert refrigerated skating trail (existing budget)
- Implement capital improvements (existing budget) for additional natural ice rinks (Operating expense part of 2025 Budget)
- Prepare policies & procedures including volunteer management for Fairy Lake Ice Program – report back to Council
- Prepare a Neighbourhood Ice Rink Program – report back to Council
- Monitor winter climate trends annually.

## Thank You



## Questions