

The Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink set to open and help you find your holiday spirit in Ashland's season of celebration!

By Lonny Flora, APRC Recreation Manager

Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) is pleased to announce the opening of the Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink in Lithia Park on November 21, 2020. Countless disruptions and changes have occurred in the past six months and it is our hope that the opening of the outdoor ice rink will bring some enjoyment back to the community and help you find your holiday spirit in Ashland's season of celebration!

In order to keep you safe and utilize resources responsibly, several state mandated changes will be implemented upon opening. You will notice these changes if you have been a visitor to the rink before. To ensure you get the best visit possible, please check our website ashland.or.us/IceRink BEFORE every trip to the rink. It will be important to review information about changes in requirements, scheduling and programs. Help make your visit a positive experience by knowing all of the details BEFORE you arrive.

While businesses, community members and many public agencies struggle with the fallout of COVID-19 and the devastating aftermath of the Alameda Fire, the expense of putting up and taking down the ice rink cover is not feasible this year. The cost is too great and coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is safer to open an "open-air" rink. However, not having a cover over the ice rink will result in an increased amount of closures and our website will remain updated regularly keeping you informed of daily changes, ashland.or.us/IceRink.

To keep you safe and adhere to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Phase 2 Reopening Guidelines, you can expect changes to our capacity, programming and procedures at the rink this season:

- All visitors and staff at the Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink will be required to have face masks or shields covering the nose and mouth at all times
- Recreation skating sessions will be two-hours long and the capacity of the rink will be limited to 50 people on the premises (including spectators) at one time
- We ask that only those skating, and those needing to provide supervision to minors, visit the rink
- No more than 10 people are permitted to arrive at the ice rink in one group
- We are unable to accept reservations and all admissions will be first come, first served
- Private and semi-private (two skaters from same household) lessons will be offered for basic, figure and hockey skating
- Stick and Puck Hockey sessions will be available from 8 to 9 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday, but organized hockey games are not permitted per OHA guidelines
- At the conclusion of each session all patrons must leave the ice rink premises
- In between each recreation skating session, one-hour will be dedicated to facility and ice maintenance and cleaning the facility to keep our staff and you safe
- The facility will be closed to the public when staff is not present. This means free morning skating will not be permitted

- Staff will enforce OHA public health guidelines including physical distancing requirements and follow workplace protocols required by OHA and OSHA
- We are a public facility and therefore required to follow all OHA guidelines. For that reason the following programs will not be scheduled this year:
 - Adult Hockey programs facilitating games
 - Group skating lessons including team hockey
 - The First Frost Event
 - Southern Oregon Adult Hockey Association 3-on-3 Hockey Tournament
 - Free Hockey and Recreational Skating

Our main goal this Ice Rink season is to communicate effectively with you, our customer. We are excited to be recreating with you this winter. Again, we encourage you to go to ashland.or.us/IceRink before each visit to stay up-to-date on our operating hours, participation requirements and all we are doing to keep you safe while visiting the Ice Rink. Consider bookmarking ashland.or.us/IceRink for easy reference throughout the season and be sure to tell your friends and family! Once the rink is open you can also call ahead to get information on recreational skating times, when to arrive and what to expect. The direct line to the rink, after November 21, is 541.552.2258. The rink will be open through February 2021. If you have questions before November 21, please email ParksInfo@ashland.or.us or call 541.488.5340.

We hope you can experience one of the most magical places in Ashland... that little outdoor rink in beautiful Lithia Park, where the air is fresh, the white lights are twinkling and the music blends with the sounds of nature and blades on the ice... "Let's skate!"

Information on APCR at AshlandParksandRec.org. Follow us on social media... [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)
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