

Ice Skating – Skating Aids/ Skate Walkers

Purpose

To provide clear guidelines for the availability and safe use of skate walkers at Allegheny County-operated ice rinks, while ensuring fair and accessible accommodations for guests with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Definition

A skate walker is a supportive skating aid designed to assist with balance while on the ice. It is not intended to replace supervision for minors or serve as a mobility device off the ice.

Allegheny County North Park and South Park ice rinks each provide 25 skate walkers, each weighing 17 pounds, and made of durable molded plastic suitable for use by all skaters.

Availability

- **Sunday through Thursday:** Skate walkers are available during all operational hours and all public skating sessions on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Friday through Saturday:** In the evenings, when guest volume is higher, skate walkers are available upon request. Guests who require a skate walker as an accommodation should notify rink staff at the front desk. Staff will make every reasonable effort to provide a skate walker promptly.

Use & Safety

- Skate walkers must be used at your own risk.
- Guests must remain in control of the skate walker and avoid interfering with other skaters.
- Guests must follow all staff instructions regarding safe use of skate walkers while on the ice.
- Staff reserve the right to remove a skate walker from use if it is being operated unsafely or against posted guidelines or is damaging the ice surface.
- Personal Skating Aids
 - Guests can bring their own skating aids or walkers to the ice rink, provided the mobility device does not damage the ice surface or impede other skaters.

- Guests are encouraged to call ahead or notify staff upon arrival that they have their own device.
- Devices are subject to inspection to ensure they will not damage the ice, are appropriate for ice use, and do not pose a safety risk to patrons.
- Guests are responsible for their own skating aids at all times.

Weather Conditions

- Please note: Weather conditions, such as warm temperatures, sunshine, and precipitation may impact ice quality.
- Rink management will evaluate ice conditions and determine when skate walkers may be safely used.
- Rink management may delay, limit, or restrict access at any time for guest safety and/or to prevent damage to ice surface.
- For updates, please contact:
 - North Park Ice Rink: 724-935-1280
 - South Park Ice Rink: 412-833-1499

Allegheny County has the right to modify, update, or replace policies at its sole discretion.