



News Release

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Century Skating Rink Attracting Students

Outdoor skating is becoming a way to stay active this winter at Century College, thanks to a new skating rink on the pond in the nature area behind West Campus. The rink opened at the beginning of the semester, Jan. 10.

Students can borrow hockey skates free of charge from The Connection, the student life hub at the far end of West Campus, and skate between classes, after classes or whenever it fits their schedule, said Matt Ruhland, director of intramurals and recreation. Students can take their skates, walk out the back door and follow a short path to the shoveled rink, which has a perimeter of built-up snow and is trimmed in holiday lights. Benches have been built near the rink so that students can don their skates outside.

“This is a way to engage students who may not be able to fit a gym workout into their schedule,” said Ruhland. “There is a lot of competition for gym time here at Century.”

With all the snow this winter, Ruhland and his student workers have had a workout just keeping the rink clear of snow. To speed up the snow removal, they have deployed a six-foot board and rope operation that sweeps a wider path. It is a big improvement over the two snow shovels they used in the beginning.

On Wednesdays, the student life staff will begin offering student skaters hot chocolate from 2 to 5:30 p.m. in addition to figure skating lessons from instructor Jen Fenton, a student life intern at Century.

Ruhland, a North St. Paul resident, has some experience with ice rinks. He once worked as a rink attendant at Northwood Park in North St. Paul.

This spring, the student life staff plans a much warmer activity: salsa dancing in the new student center, which is slated to open in mid-February.