Over the years the Department of Public Works has cut down the vegetation in the ponds and flooded them in preparation for the winter skating season. Unfortunately, this resulted in a large accumulation of sediment forming on the bottom of the ponds making it impossible to safely enter and cut back the new vegetation that grew during the spring and summer months.

Last winter after the pond froze over for the first time, DPW employees cut the vegetation down to the ice level and flooded the pond covering any remaining brush. A new layer of ice then formed allowing the pond to be used for skating.

Weather permitting, we intend to use the same method this winter.

The borough is currently researching the feasibility of dredging the ponds to improve the area for future enjoyment

Never assume ice is safe because someone else was out before you. Ice is never 100 percent safe. You cannot judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, or the temperature. Other factors, including water depth, size of the water body, water chemistry, currents, and local weather conditions, all impact ice strength

Did You Know?

- To officially open the pond conditions must have both:
    - A minimum of 5 straight days with temperatures below 20-25 degrees
    - A **minimum** ice thickness of 4" checked in multiple locations approximately 100' apart
- New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not.
- Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away. Continue to check the conditions as you move around on the ice.
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges, and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends, and inlets and outlets of lakes and ponds is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.
- Presence of snow on the ice: snow can warm up the ice because it acts as an insulator; ice under snow is generally thinner and weaker than ice without snow

These guidelines are for new, clear (blue) ice on lakes and ponds. White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice.