

CITY OF STAMFORD

Terry Connors Ice Rink

Ken Smith

Terry Connors Ice Rink Manager
3/18/2025





Department Organizational Chart





Budget Summary 2025/26

There have been no significant changes large or small to the rinks full time staff. We were operating shorthanded from May of 24 to January 5th , 2025 before our newest hire began full time employment on January 6th , 2025 to bring us up to our full complement of 5 full time staff at Terry Connors Rink.

Our budget has for the most part remained flat although this year will be approximately 15k higher due to cost escalation of all goods and services that are needed to operate the ice rink. Additionally , as of January 1st CT's minimum wage has increased to \$16.35 per hour which will impact us making it imperative for us to increase our rates to keep pace with rising expenses.

Capital Projects

Besides the Evaporative Cooling Tower that will use grant funding we do have a Center Bleacher seat project we are hoping to get completed. The project involves removing current aluminum benching in both sides center sections and replacing with recycled plastic lumber seating and back support benches.

We have allocated 90k for this project



New/Expanded/Discontinued or renewed Services/Programs

- Nothing new to add here as our year-to-year recipe of programs and services remains the same with only minor alterations as needed.



Challenges & Anticipated Changes

- We are hoping this will be the year our Evaporative Cooling Tower gets replaced. We have begun talks with an architect for the design of the system while targeting mid/late August for installation of new cooling tower. The project will use state funds acquired by the city's grants department.
- At long last we have added LiveBarn at Terry Conners Rink – LiveBarn is an audio/video company that for a fee you can watch certain rink events from home. TCR receives a percentages of all sales associated with our rink and is anticipated to add around 1k to 2k to the rinks overall revenue stream.
- A vendor is close to being chosen for the rink which will add 9k per year to our revenue stream , we have been without a hot food vendor for 4+ years.

Biggest Challenge

- As every year we seek to be revenue positive , we get by on the heavy usage of our facility and affordability. With that being said we need to increase our rates and have a proposed fee schedule ready to go to the boards. With nearly every single thing the rink needs to operate increasing in cost and our rink being the most affordable (we have the lowest ice rental rates in Fairfield County) this is something we very much need to do.



Performance Improvements

- We are looking to exceed our revenue intake to cover ALL expenses associated with operating an ice rink
- We were awarded a plaque from USA Hockey/US Figure Skating Association for surpassing 300 skaters enrolled in a calendar year and are on track to surpass that number again.
- Once again we had zero incidents at the rink amongst employees and lost no days for worker compensation.