

Outdoor skating rink popular in Cremona

Prompts village officials to look into skate park

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A new outdoor skating rink has been so popular in Cremona this winter it's prompted village officials to look into transforming it into a skate park during the summer.

Coun. Sonia Temple suggested the idea during the Jan. 19 council meeting and said officials could turn the boards around to create a half-pipe for skaters.

Council gave administration the go-ahead to apply for a Mountain View County Recreational Board Grant to build and maintain an outdoor skating rink for residents next winter.

Luana Smith, chief administrative officer for the village, said she isn't sure how much money officials will

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apply for because there could be extra costs associated with a skate park.

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Cremona residents have been able to utilize an outdoor skating rink in the

village for the first time this winter in several years, after council approved a resident's request for one last year.

It was built on the northeast side of the tennis courts in the village and council members said during the Jan. 19 meeting it has become very popular.

Bigfern Contracting donated the boards to place around the rink and the Cremona & District Fire Department

flooded the tennis courts.

Smith said there was an outdoor rink in Cremona many years ago. She said there is a cost to the village for maintenance and staff time, but it is minimal.

Mayor Tim Hagen said during the meeting he would rather the village apply for a grant than rely on volunteers to maintain the rink each winter.

So far this year, costs incurred by the village have been for water consumption and staff time for clearing snow. Users of the rink and volunteers in the community have also cleared snow.

The estimated cost for water is \$100 for the season and \$600 for staff time; however, Smith said there will be less costs next year since the materials have already been purchased for the rink.