

From: [C P](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 2:54:53 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Westminster City Council,

On January 8th 2023 I, Cody Payne, a 28 year resident of Westminster, CO and Colorado native, was notified and ticketed by Park Rangers that I was not allowed to ice skate on a small and shallow marsh puddle/pond on the Open Space.

On this puddle, dozens of my fellow residents, family, and friends, have been skating on, teaching their kids to skate, and playing ice hockey since November of 2021. This incident was the first any of us had heard that ice skating wasn't allowed on ANY "body of water" in Westminster per an **unknown** city ordinance *wmc 13-1-15(c)*.

There are NO signs on this particular piece of water stating that no is skating allowed, danger, and/or to keep off the ice! In addition, no warnings or displays of Open Space ordinances at trailheads.

We are very aware of the potential danger of entering the ice on some ponds or lakes, so prior to skating on this pond/puddle in 2021, there was careful analysis of:

- Thickness and quality of ice: **10"- 12"**
- Water Depth at deepest point : **0"- 24"** depending on moisture
- General skate-ability of ice: Smooth, Clear, Dense, and No Cracks!
- Ice depth and quality was monitored daily before skating
- Only skated on after prolonged sub-freezing temperatures for multiple consecutive days. Typically between 7 AM and Noon
- In Summer this water is so low that birds can be seen standing in the middle and marsh can be "dry"!

■

See pictures attached

I was ticketed without **any** WARNING by the officer, which I feel is unfair and extreme. And now have a mandatory court appearance on the 21st of Feb 2023 at 1:30 PM MT for my arraignment! I would very much like this ticket to be reduced to a warning, considering I had never been contacted by an officer about this before, and the lack of signage at the marsh.

I ask that the City please reconsider this “puddle” as an exception to the ordinance. The “marsh” is incredibly safe, it bonds the community, as do frozen ponds and lakes all over the Midwest. It also keeps adults and kids active and engaged with one another in the fresh air, and could truly be a “one of a kind” feature in our city!! And will proceed with a petition to make it come true!

Sincerely,

Cody Payne
3495 W. 115th Ave
Westminster, CO 80031
303-374-4920

No warning signs:









Total Depth:





Ice Depth:
No signs at trailhead:



Location:

