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Pens Foundation, Highmark Team Up To Build 12 Dek Hockey Rinks in City, County

PITTSBURGH--The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Highmark have teamed up with the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County on a \$2.1 million project to build 12 community dek hockey rinks over the next four years.

Known as "**Project Power Play**," the program will place four dek hockey rinks in the City and eight others in the County and surrounding communities. The rinks also may be used for other sports such as soccer and lacrosse.

Highmark is leading the effort with \$1.5 million in funding, and the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation is contributing \$600,000. The City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County are providing the land as well as maintenance services, lighting and other support.

The first rink has been completed at Banksville Park on Crane Avenue in the City. Pittsburgh Penguins CEO David Morehouse, Highmark Executive Vice President, Chief External Affairs and Communications Officer Dan Onorato and Mayor Luke Ravenstahl were on hand to officially open the Banksville rink today.

A second **Project Power Play** rink is under construction now at Lewis Park in Hazelwood, adjacent to the Hazelwood YMCA.

The rinks are "multi-sport courts" measuring 155 feet by 75 feet. The facilities include a premier dashboard system, players' benches, a penalty box, goals at each end and start-up dek hockey equipment.

One site already selected for next year is Brookline. Other sites will be chosen on factors such as a community's need for this type of facility and a commitment to develop programming.

Citiparks and local athletic associations will program the Banksville and Lewis Park rinks, with assistance from the Penguins.

"Our mission with the Penguins Foundation is to create opportunities for our youth that stress physical fitness, teamwork and sportsmanship," the Penguins' Morehouse said. "Thanks to the significant financial contribution from Highmark and the enthusiastic support of the Mayor, we're excited to open the Banksville rink today. It is the start of a great collaborative effort with Highmark, the City and the County on a tremendous program."

"At Highmark, we aim to create healthy communities," said Onorato. "Project Power Play gives area youth a venue where they can get out and get active, ultimately, leading to better health in our local communities."

"This collaborative partnership is a perfect example of why Pittsburgh's quality of life continues to improve," Ravenstahl said. "We're thrilled to be cutting the ribbon on another recreational amenity that will be enjoyed by our young people for years to come. I want to thank the Penguins and Highmark for their dedication to the Pittsburgh region and I commit that we will do our part to make this one of a kind partnership a great success."

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