

Winter recreation activities on stormwater management facilities in the community

Council Meeting
November 30, 2021

Winter recreation activities



To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on actions taken to address safety concerns related to Stormwater Management Facilities and winter recreation.

Function of stormwater management facilities

- Stormwater ponds, along with dry ponds and constructed wetlands, are part of the stormwater management system in urban areas and are collectively called **Stormwater Management Facilities (SWMFs)**.
- Stormwater management facilities:
 - gather rainfall and surface water runoff
 - reduce the possibility of flooding, erosion and property damage
 - provide treatment of stormwater prior to its release to downstream receiving water bodies
 - provide a habitat for birds and animals
- The water that accumulates in stormwater ponds, dry ponds and wetlands is released gradually back into the natural drainage system, avoiding erosion and flooding downstream.



Communications plan

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Winter
KEEP OFF ICE
Danger unknown
ice conditions


Summer
**NO SWIMMING
OR BOATING**


This is a stormwater management pond designed to help control flooding during rainstorms. Water quality cannot be guaranteed because the pond collects street runoff. Water levels can suddenly change without notice.
For your safety, direct contact with this water is prohibited.
Parks Bylaw 21-2013
www.strathcona.ca


Strathcona County will continue to take a coordinated approach with surrounding municipalities to educate the public on reasons why there are safety concerns with recreating on stormwater management facilities.

Municipal comparison

City	Do they allow skating on SWMF?
Strathcona County	No
Edmonton	No (Hawrelak Park is a natural body of water)
Red Deer	No
St. Albert	No (Lacombe Lake is man made for recreation – not a SWMF)
Spruce Grove	No
City of Leduc	No
Fort Saskatchewan	No
Calgary	No
Town of Strathmore	Limited (two only)
City of Lacombe	Limited (three only)

Skating on SWMF history

- Broadmoor Lake Park maintained until 2013
- Woodbridge Farms lake maintained until 2009
- Toboggan areas remain on these sites and ice measurements are coordinated through operational teams

Outdoor skating areas prior to 2018

Year opened	Rinks
2017	Whitecroft and Davidson Creek (snowbank)
2016	Hastings Lake (snowbank) and Ardrossan Regional Park (snowbank and boarded)
2014	Emerald Hills skating pathway
2011	McGhan (boarded)
2009	Deville (snowbank)
2007	South Cooking Lake and Collingwood Cove (snowbank)
2003	Uncas (snowbank)
2002	Cloverbar Ranch (snowbank) and Strathcona Athletic Park (snowbank and boarded)
2001	Nottingham and McPherson (snowbank); Heritage Hills (snowbank and boarded)
1996	McGhan (snowbank), Mills Haven (boarded) Sherwood Heights and Brentwood (snowbank and boarded)

New skating areas since 2018

Year opened	Rinks
2020	Summerwood (snowbank), Ardrossan skating trackway and Cloverbar Ranch skating loop**
2019	Ardrossan Regional Park skating pathway**, Hastings Lake loop** and Fountain Creek (snowbank)
2018	South Cooking Lake loop **, McGhan skating loop **, Broadmoor Lake and Josephburg skating pathways

** means additional skating surface added to previous snowbank rink / site

Summary of outdoor skating areas

	Total prior to 2018	Added since 2018	Total for 2021/2022 season
Boarded rinks	8	0	8
Snowbank rinks	17	2	19
Skating pathways and tracks	1	8	9
TOTAL	26	10	36

Recreation and culture strategy

Community needs

- Identify the community need
- Prioritize the community need
 - Outdoor Implementation Plan
- Investigate the feasibility of the identified need in order to serve the needs of the community



Skating areas as destinations



Next steps



- Continue to promote indoor and outdoor skating amenities.
- Participate in the regional education approach around Stormwater Management Facilities.
- Administration will continue to look at future outdoor skating opportunities.

Questions?

