

## RECREATIONAL USE OF STORMWATER PONDS

<b>Policy Number:</b>	75/741.01 2020PO
<b>Policy Review:</b>	Every Five Years or Upon Legislative Change
<b>Policy Owner (Dept.):</b>	Community Services Division
<b>Reference(s):</b>	City of Lacombe Bylaw 253

### 1. PURPOSE OF POLICY

- 1.1. To provide restricted recreational use of specific City of Lacombe stormwater ponds (SWPs) to the public in all seasons of the year.

### 2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. To manage public use of the City of Lacombe SWPs.
- 2.2. To inform the public of the restrictions and criteria for recreational use of SWPs.
- 2.3. To reduce health and safety risks associated with public use of SWPs.

### 3. APPLICABILITY

- 3.1. This Policy applies to all members of the public accessing or using City of Lacombe SWPs.
- 3.2. This Policy applies to all City of Lacombe employees.
- 3.3. This Policy comes into effect upon approval of Council.

### 4. NON-COMPLIANCE

- 4.1. The consequences of non-compliance with this Policy include increased risk of physical harm to the public accessing and using SWPs, damage to City infrastructure, and increased liability to the City of Lacombe.

### 5. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- 5.1. **High-Risk Zones** are the areas of a SWP identified by the City of Lacombe as having the potential for thin ice, water flow, or other hazards, typically adjacent to the inlet and outlet locations of a SWP.
- 5.2. **Non-Contact Water Activities** are non-motorized recreation activities on a thawed water body that do not include direct physical contact with the water, such as boating, canoeing, and kayaking.
- 5.3. **Recreational Use** means Non-Contact Water Activities and Winter Ice Activities as defined in this Policy.

- 5.4. **Special Events** are events held on or at a SWP that expected to draw numerous spectators or participants; examples include a pond hockey tournament, fireworks display, musical concert, etc.
- 5.5. **Stormwater Pond and SWP** are facilities which may or may not contain standing water, situated within City limits designed or used for the primary function of stormwater management by retention and redirection, including natural, semi-natural, and constructed cells, ponds, and lakes as the case may be.
- 5.6. **Winter Ice Activities** are walking, hand-pulled sledding, cross-country skiing including setting track, snowshoeing, curling, ringette, and skating including skating sports such as broomball, shinny, and pond hockey.

## 6. GENERAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 6.1. Council

- 6.1.1. Approves this Policy.
- 6.1.2. Reviews and amends this Policy, at its discretion, when presented with proposed revisions.

### 6.2. Chief Administrative Officer

- 6.2.1. Ensures all employees comply with this Policy.
- 6.2.2. Ensures Policy revisions are presented for Council consideration as needed.
- 6.2.3. Reviews applications for Special Events and exemptions to this Policy.

### 6.3. Directors

- 6.3.1. Supports employees to comply with the terms of this Policy.
- 6.3.2. Reviews and proposes amendments to the Policy as needed.
- 6.3.3. Ensures this Policy meets regulatory and legislative requirements.
- 6.3.4. Supports Managers and Supervisors to incorporate input from stakeholders such as City departments, regulatory agencies, the municipal insurer, and the public when using, reviewing, or revising this Policy.

### 6.4. Managers and Supervisors

- 6.4.1. Supports employees to comply with the terms of this Policy.
- 6.4.2. Incorporates input from stakeholders such as City departments, regulatory agencies, the municipal insurer, and the public as applicable when using, reviewing, or revising this Policy.
- 6.4.3. Create readily accessible and searchable records related to the Department's duties.

### 6.5. Employees

- 6.5.1. Comply with this Policy.

## 6.6. The Public and User Groups

- 6.6.1. In accessing or using any SWP for any activities, do so at their own risk.
- 6.6.2. Comply with Bylaw 253 and other City direction related to accessing and using SWPs, including adhering to advertised notices and signage.
- 6.6.3. Alert the Parks & Facilities Department to concerns, risks, or problems related to SWPs access and use.

## 7. SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 7.1. Operations and Planning Division

- 7.1.1. Retains the overall responsibilities for City SWPs, including design, use, condition, evaluation, repair, modification, and decommissioning.
- 7.1.2. With the Parks & Facilities Maintenance Department determines which if any City SWPs will be available for recreational use.
- 7.1.3. Executes the duties specified in section 8.4, below, and reports as needed to the Parks & Facilities Department.

### 7.2. Recreation & Culture Department

- 7.2.1. Assesses public recreational needs related to the use of SWPs and advises the Directors.

### 7.3. Parks & Facilities Maintenance Department

- 7.3.1. Executes the responsibilities specified in sections 8.2 and 8.3, below, and as otherwise directed by Directors or the CAO.
- 7.3.2. Advises Directors and the CAO on trends or emerging circumstances related to the SWPs and the public's access to and activities on or around them.

## 8. POLICY DETAILS

### 8.1. SWPs Designated for Recreational Use

- 8.1.1. Table 1 lists the SWPs available for public recreation, the SWPs unavailable for public recreational use, and water bodies within City limits not designated as SWPs and not subject to this Policy.

Table 1: *List of Storm Water Ponds and Other Water Bodies and their Designation*

SWP Available for Recreation Use	SWP Not Available for Recreation Use	Water Bodies Not Designated as SWP
Cranna Lake	Bruns Pond	Barnett Lake
Iron Wolf	Elizabeth Park	Elizabeth Lake
Royal Oak	Henners Pond	Crescent Lake
	Henners Storm Cell	Lake Anne
	Len Thompson	Les Walker
	Mackenzie Ranch	Other unnamed City properties that periodically hold water
	Market Square	
	Wolf Creek Industrial	

**8.2. Ice Thickness Evaluation and Access Management Program**

- 8.2.1. Evaluating ice thickness and managing public access to SWPs will be done weekly until the ice reaches sufficient thickness.
- 8.2.2. The ice must be a minimum of eight (8) inches (20cm) thick for the public to be allowed on the SWP for Winter Ice Activities.
- 8.2.3. Evaluation includes drilling a minimum of three (3) test holes per SWP pond, including holes in and around the High-Risk Zones.
- 8.2.4. When the ice thickness has reached eight (8) or more inches, warning signs will be covered or removed, a Notice or Media Release issued, and the SWP will be available for Winter Ice Activities at the user’s discretion and risk.
- 8.2.5. The Department will continue to monitor ice thickness with weekly testing and will sign the SWP and issue a Notice or Media Release when the thickness is insufficient for use.
- 8.2.6. The Department’s access management will begin at first ice formation and continue through to full SWP thaw.

**8.3. Winter Maintenance of Cranna Lake and Royal Oak SWPs**

- 8.3.1. The City will perform the weekly ice thickness testing and ice maintenance responsibilities (snow removal, garbage removal, flooding, lighting etc.) at Cranna Lake and Royal Oak SWPs.
- 8.3.2. Users may perform interim snow and garbage removal provided they adhere to section 8.5.2 of this Policy.

## 8.4. Evaluation of Physical Properties of SWPs

- 8.4.1. The Operations and Planning Division will evaluate the physical properties of SWPs, including the High-Risk Zones, every two (2) years to document any trends or changes in the zones.
- 8.4.2. The Division will extend the review cycle to once every five (5) years for those SWPs where the High-Risk Zones have not, after two reviews, changed or shown any tendency to change.

## 8.5. Recreational Use of Frozen SWPs

- 8.5.1. The public must obey warning signs related to ice thickness and access.
- 8.5.2. The public may not drive any vehicles or use any power equipment on a frozen SWP except a small motorized snowblower; any other motorized ice clearing equipment must be pre-approved by the CAO on application.

## 8.6. Special Events

- 8.6.1. The public, including user groups, must apply to the Corporate Services Division of the City to receive a permit before hosting any Special Event at or on a SWP.
- 8.6.2. Special Event permit holders must adhere to all specifications outlined in their permit in addition to all restrictions and requirements in this Policy.

## 8.7. Other Recreational Uses and Closure

- 8.7.1. The public may wish to use a SWP for an activity other than those specified in this Policy and may apply in writing to the CAO for a one-time Policy exemption or an amendment to the Policy.
- 8.7.2. The City may, at its sole discretion and for any purpose, close or further restrict access to any SWP for any period, and if doing so will sign the SWP as such and issue a Notice or Media Release.

## 8.8. Winter Maintenance of Iron Wolf SWP

- 8.8.1. Users will perform the ice maintenance responsibilities (snow removal, flooding, garbage removal, lighting, shoveling, etc.) within the limits of section 8.5.2 of this Policy.
- 8.8.2. Users providing or using a light plant to illuminate the skating area during the winter season may operate the lights from dusk to 9:30 p.m.
- 8.8.3. Users of this SWP must adhere to the park closure hours of 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. as stipulated in Bylaw 253.

**8.1. Disclaimer**

- 8.1.1. The City does not conduct water quality testing of SWPs at any time.
- 8.1.2. Through this Policy’s allowance for Non-Contact Water Activities on SWPs, the City makes no representation of the advisability of activities on or in a SWP.
- 8.1.3. The public using a SWP for any activities do so at their own risk.
- 8.1.4. The City’s notices, media releases, signage, and other advisories regarding ice thickness on SWP are information only, the accuracy of which is limited by the limited nature of its ice thickness testing at the time and on the date of measurement; the information is not a statement that the ice is safe to access for any purpose at any time.
- 8.1.5. The public accessing or using a SWP, whether frozen or thawed, must be aware that the surrounding landscape, banks, body of water, and surface of a SWP may become unstable, inundated, unpredictable, hazardous and suddenly changed without warning at any time; in particular, the stability of ice in a frozen SWP is not guaranteed at any time.

**9. END OF POLICY**

Original Signed  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Mayor

November 9, 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Original Signed  
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 Signature of CAO

November 12, 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**POLICY RECORD**

**Approval and Amendment History**

Date of Council Meeting	Council Motion Number	Description
November 9, 2020	20-380	Approval

**Review History**

Date of Policy Owner’s Review	Description/Action Taken or Required