

	City of Lacombe Recreational Use of Storm Water Ponds (SWP)	
	Policy Number:	75/241.01 (12)
	Approval Date:	
	Effective By:	March 12, 2012
	Supersedes:	
	Revision Date:	
	Review Date:	2017
	Department:	Community Services, Recreation & Parks
	Reference:	City of Lacombe Bylaw 253

Purpose of Policy

- To provide the public and City administration with information about services, programs and a list of criteria for recreational uses of all ponds including Storm Water Ponds (SWP),
- To increase the public’s overall awareness and understanding of recreational uses of SWP.
- To ensure SWP are used in a manner with the least amount of risk.
- To ensure proper signage of SWP.

Policy Statement

Subject to conditions outlined in this policy, Cranna Lake, Royal Oak and Iron Wolf SWP, may be used for winter ice activities such as skating, broomball, shinny and non-direct contact water activities in the summer. These summer activities include non-motorized boating with boats propelled solely by human power such as paddle boats or canoes. These three SWP locations will be inspected on an ongoing basis to ensure safe ice thickness levels. Signs shall be posted at all SWP identifying if the ice is safe or not.

Since storm water ponds help control flooding during heavy rainstorms, water quality cannot be guaranteed because the ponds collect street runoff. Therefore the ponds are not recommended for use for activities such as swimming, wading, board-sailing, water skiing, kayaking, scuba diving and any use of inner tubes and small inflatable or any activities that may result in direct contact with the water.

Applicability

The City of Lacombe, Community Services Department, all those using or wishing to use SWP. Non-Compliance consequences are outlined in City of Lacombe Bylaw 253.

Definitions

Non-Contact water activities- any recreation activities which restrict direct body contact with the storm water in the pond.

High Risk Zones- the areas of the pond which are identified by Engineering reports as the thin ice zones and are typically adjacent to the inlet and outlet locations in the pond.

Special Events- an event held in or around the SWP which anticipates drawing a large number of spectators and /or participants. (i.e. Pond Hockey Tournament at Cranna Lake)

Storm Water Ponds (SWP)- are typically artificial bodies of water situated within city limits with the primary function of providing storm-sewer overflow retention. For the purpose of this policy they shall be limited to **Cranna Lake, Royal Oak and Iron Wolf SWP** while excluding Len Thompson, Bruns Pond, Wolf Creek Industrial SWP, Mackenzie Ranch SWP, Henners Storm Cell and the Airport SWP. Other bodies of water most commonly located on golf courses are not considered part of this program.

Lacombe Storm Water Ponds

- Len Thompson
- Cranna Lake
- Bruns Pond
- Wolf Creek Industrial
- Iron Wolf
- Royal Oak
- Mackenzie Ranch
- Henners Storm Cell
- Airport

Low Areas (natural water bodies)

- Les Walker
- Lake Anne
- Elizabeth Lake
- Barnett Lake
- Henners Pond
- Crescent Lake
- Approx. 6 unnamed low areas that hold water

Responsibilities

Parks Staff

- a) Shall test the ice thickness of each of the identified skating ponds during the “winter ice season” (approximately Nov 15 - Mar 1) and record their measurements on the *Ice Thickness* form.
- b) Shall maintain/update the signage at each SWP to indicate whether or not it is authorized for use.
- c) Issue news releases/safety bulletins with the information gathered during the ice thickness testing.
- d) Shall pick up debris from the ponds left on the ice during spring melt.

Community Services Department

- a) Shall administer this policy, ensure all requirements are met, and recommend updates to the policy as required.
- b) Shall oversee the educational and safety awareness components of the recreational uses of the SWP program.
- c) Shall be the designated point of contact for information related to skating on SWP ponds.
- d) Shall develop and maintain a web page with relevant information on SWP ponds.

Infrastructure Services Department

- a) Shall conduct formal evaluations of the physical properties of the SWP on an as-needed basis. The study will include a map identifying zones of highest risk for skating on the SWP.
- b) Shall supply and install the required signage for the SWP.
- c) Shall provide the services, or contract the services to dredge the SWP ponds as required.

City Council

- a) Shall be responsible for approving changes to this policy as required

Procedure

Subject to conditions outlined in this policy, Cranna Lake, Royal Oak SWP and Iron Wolf SWP may be used for winter ice activities such as skating, skiing, snow-shoeing, broomball and shinny.

- 1) **Ice Thickness evaluation/management program** - Shall be carried out by the Parks staff on a weekly basis until sufficient ice thickness has been reached. Specifically, the ice thickness must be a minimum of 8 inches (20cm), for people to be allowed on the SWP. The ice thickness will then be tested every week. Staff will specifically:
 - a) Do a minimum of (3) three test holes per SWP pond, including testing in and around the high risk zones.
 - b) Produce a bulletin/news release to update the public and administration staff on any changes as a result of the ice testing.
- 2) **Evaluation of Physical Properties of SWP**
 - a) Shall be carried out or commissioned by Infrastructure Services Department staff, and will be reviewed every (2) two years to document any possible changes in the high risk zones. Ponds that have not changed after two reviews and show no tendency to change will be put on a five year cycle to review.

3) Restrictions for summer recreational use

- a) For public safety, any activities that may result in direct contact with the water in storm water ponds is not recommended and the City makes no representation of the quality of the water in the storm pond
- b) Any interested group or individual will be allowed to use identified SWP for non-direct contact activities at their own risk
- c) Non-direct contact activities include non-motorized boating with boats propelled solely by human power such as paddle boats or canoes

4) Restriction of winter recreational use

- a) Users must obey posted signs relevant to ice safety and ice thickness.
- b) Ice thickness shall be monitored on an ongoing basis. Once it has reach an acceptable level of thickness (8" thick or greater), warning signs will be removed or covered, and the pond will be open for use at the user's discretion and risk.
- c) Any interested group or individual will be allowed to use SWP for winter activities at their own risk.
- d) Vehicles are not permitted on the ice. Small, push-model snow blowers are allowed. Any other ice clearing activities must be approved by special permission.

5) Restrictions for Special Events

- a) Will be required to make application to the Community services Department for permission to host the special event.
- b) Will be required to have the applicable insurance and indemnity agreements.
- c) Will be required to adhere to all specifications outlined in the City of Lacombe Special Event Application.

6) Special Consideration for Other Allowable Uses

- a) The Administration recognizes there are also situations where it is advantageous to consider other allowable uses for the SWP. For all special consideration requests, the restrictions noted in Clause 5 above also apply.
- b) The City may for any purpose close or restrict access to a storm pond for any length of time.

7) Recognition of Risk

- a) Any advisories or signage regarding existing ice thickness on SWP is provided as information only and is limited to the time and date of measurement, and does not indicate that the ice is safe to use for any purpose.
- b) Persons using the SWP ice surface are advised to beware that the ice may become unstable at any time, and that the ice thickness may change any time for a variety of reasons, some of which are unpredictable.
- c) Anyone using the ice surface on a SWP pond does so at their own risk.

8) Maintenance of Cranna Lake & Royal Oak Storm Water Pond

- a) Parks Staff assume the safety and maintenance responsibilities (snow removal, flooding, lighting etc.)
- b) Users may assume responsibilities for additional snow and debris removal.

9) Maintenance of Iron Wolf Storm Water Pond

- a) Users assume safety and maintenance responsibilities (snow removal, flooding, shoveling, etc.)
- b) Users may provide a light plant to be used to light up the skating area during the winter season from dusk to 9:30pm.
- c) Observe park hours (Closed from 11pm – 5am) as per City Bylaw 253.

_____ Stephen Christie _____
Mayor

_____ Norma MacQuarrie _____
Chief Administrative Officer