



TOWN POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 7205

REFERENCE:

Resolution No. 106.03.21
Resolution No. 177.05.21

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council

PREPARED BY: Community & Protective Services

DATE: May 5, 2021

TITLE: Recreational Use of Strathmore and Kinsmen Lakes

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the public and Administration with information about services, programs, and a list of criteria for the recreational use of Strathmore and Kinsmen Lakes.
- 1.2 To increase the public's overall awareness and understanding of recreational use of Strathmore and Kinsmen Lakes.
- 1.3 To ensure that Strathmore and Kinsmen Lakes are used in a manner that minimizes risk.
- 1.4 To restrict the recreational use of any other Storm Water Pond in the Town of Strathmore.
- 1.5 To ensure proper signage in and around Kinsmen and Strathmore Lakes.

2. Scope

- 2.1 Subject to conditions outlined in this policy, Kinsmen Lake and Strathmore Lake (the "Lakes"), may be used in the Winter for activities such as skating, broomball, hockey/shinny and in the Summer for water activities that do not involve direct contact with the water in the Lakes. These Summer activities include fishing and boats (excluding kayaks) propelled solely by human power, and radio-controlled watercraft which are propelled by wind or with electric motors.
 - 2.1.1 The Town at no time assumes risk that could result from any approved use of the Lakes.
 - 2.1.2 The Lakes will be inspected by the Town on an ongoing basis to evaluate safe ice quality and thickness. Signs shall be posted at the Lakes that indicate if ice is considered safe for public use. The Town assumes no risk if the Lakes are used by a

member of the public and the signage clearly states the ice is not considered safe for public use.

- 2.2 Since the Lakes are stormwater ponds, they help control flooding during heavy rainstorms. The Town cannot guarantee water quality because the Lakes collect street runoff. Therefore, the Lakes may not be used for activities such as swimming, wading, stand up paddle-boarding, 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.

Definitions

“Administration” means the administrative body of the Town of Strathmore assigned with the responsibility of managing programs pursuant to this Policy.

“Chief Administrative Officer” is the person appointed by Council to carry out the powers, duties, and functions of the position of Chief Administrative Officer, or the person appointed to act as their designate.

“Council” means the Council of the Town of Strathmore, in the Province of Alberta.

“Fishing” means the act of attracting and retrieving fish by means of hook and line and in accordance with the Alberta Sport Fishing Regulations as amended from time to time.

“Group” means any event or activity on a Lake that includes more than 12 spectators and or participants.

“High Risk Zones” mean the areas of the pond which are identified by the Infrastructure, Development and Operations department reports as those most susceptible to fragile and unstable ice conditions and are typically adjacent to the inlet and outlet locations in the lake.

“Lakes” bodies of water surrounded by land. For this policy, Strathmore Lake and Kinsmen Lake are the only bodies of water considered to be Lakes.

“Non-Contact Water Activities” means any recreation activities which restrict direct body contact with the Stormwater in the Lakes.

“Policy” means this Town of Strathmore Policy together with all attachments hereto as amended from this time.

“Properties” means a Town asset. These include, but are not limited to, events, services, programs, activities, real property, facilities, intellectual property, parks, features (e.g. rooms, ice pads, bridges, playgrounds, etc.), and other assets, but not including streets and lanes.

“Special Event” means an organized event as defined in the Town of Strathmore’s Special Events Bylaw as amended from time to time.

“Stormwater Ponds (SWP)” means any wet or dry stormwater retention area situated within the town with the primary function of providing stormwater conveyance.

"Thin Ice Zone" is an area on Strathmore Lake, or Kinsmen Lake where stormwater inflow or outfalls lead to poor ice quality and should be avoided for public use.

"Town " means the Town of Strathmore and all areas within its municipal boundaries.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1 Ice thickness and quality evaluation/management program

- 3.1.1 Monitoring of ice thickness and quality shall be carried out by Administration as often as deemed necessary until the ice quality and thickness is sufficient for public use. Administration may deem the ice surface unsafe if the quality of the ice could pose a hazard to the public.

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. The bulletin or news release will be shared on other media platforms as deemed necessary to inform the public.

3.2. Recognition of Risk

- 3.2.1. Any advisories or signage regarding existing ice thickness or quality on the Lakes is provided as information only and is not a guarantee or representation by the Town of the suitability of the ice for use. The advisories and signage are limited to the time and date of measurement and does not indicate that the ice is safe to use for any purpose.

- 3.2.2. Persons using the Lake 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, which are unpredictable and which are not the responsibility of the Town.

- 3.2.3. Anyone using the ice surface on the Lakes does so at their own risk.

3.3. Restrictions on use

- 3.3.1. All users must observe park hours (Closed from 12:00am – 5:00am) as per Bylaw 14-07.

Restrictions on Summer Use

- 3.3.2. For public safety, any activities that may result in direct contact with the water in the Lakes is prohibited and the Town makes no representation of the quality of the water in the Lakes.

3.3.3. Any interested group or individual will be allowed to use the Lakes for Non-Contact Water Activities at their own risk.

3.3.4. Non-Contact Water Activities include fishing and boats (excluding kayaks) propelled solely by human power, and radio-controlled watercraft which are propelled by wind or with electric motors.

3.3.5. Catch and release fishing is the only type of fishing permitted on Lakes.

Restrictions on winter recreational use

3.3.6. Users must always obey posted signs.

3.3.7. Any interested individual will be allowed to use The Lakes for winter activities at their own risk.

3.3.8. Ice Fishing is not permitted.

3.3.9. No fires shall be permitted on the surface of the Lakes at any time.

3.3.10. Vehicles are not permitted on the ice. Small, push-model snow blowers are allowed if in good repair. Any other ice clearing activities must be approved in writing by the CAO.

3.4. Restrictions for Special Events

3.4.1. All individuals will be required to make application to the Community & Protective Services Department for permission to host a Special Event. Applicants must produce valid insurance and indemnity agreements prior to the commencement of all Special Events.

3.4.2. Applicants must adhere to all specifications outlined in the Town of Strathmore Special Events bylaw.

3.5. Special Consideration for Other Allowable Uses

3.5.1. Special Consideration of other uses of the Lakes not noted in this policy may be granted by the Chief Administrative Officer.

3.5.2. Notwithstanding, Council may approve new uses of Lakes by passing a motion that supports the new use(s) at a regular Council meeting.

3.5.3. If a new use has been approved, Administration will notify the public by posting a news bulletin or release to the Town's media platforms.

3.5.4. Administration may for any purpose close or restrict access to a Lake for any length of time at its sole discretion.

3.6. Special Permission for the Use of a Storm Water Pond (SWP)

- 3.6.1. The use of a Storm Water Pond may be granted by written permission of the Chief Administrative Officer, or Director of Infrastructure, Operations and Development Services at their sole discretion.

Maintenance of Stormwater Ponds

- 3.7. Administration assumes general maintenance responsibilities of Lakes for snow removal however, makes no guarantees or warranties as to the condition of the water or ice that may be present.
- 3.8. Users may assume responsibilities for snow and debris removal but do so entirely at their own risk.

4. RELATED POLICIES, BYLAWS & APPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Parks and Pathways Bylaw (14-07),

5. ACCOUNTABILITY

Adherence to policy is a Town employee requirement and non-compliance will be addressed as per all Town policies and procedures.

6. ATTACHMENTS

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Inventory of Stormwater Infrastructure
- 6.2 Appendix 2: Map of Stormwater Infrastructure

End of Policy

Appendix 1: Inventory of Stormwater Infrastructure

Lakes

- Strathmore Lake
- Kinsmen Lake

Main Storm Ponds

- Strathmore Lakes
- Pond 1 (aka Gray's Park)
 - North Forebay
 - South Forebay
- Pond 2
- Pond 3 (aka Kinsmen Park)
- Future 4A
- Pond 4
- Pond 5
- Pond 6

Community Storm Ponds

- Hillcrest Boulevard
- Aspen Creek Circle
- Hillcrest Manor Estates

Dry Ponds

- Highland Circle
- Strathcona Road
- Cambrille Crescent
- Cambria (identified as a park)
- Aspen Creek Crescent
- Wildrose Crescent
- Wildrose Bay
- Aspen Creek

Appendix 2: Map of Stormwater Infrastructure

