

STORM WATER POND SAFETY REVIEW

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Saskatoon has completed a comprehensive review and investigation of current best practices to better improve safety around storm water retention ponds. The following recommendations for storm water retention ponds are proposed subject to Council approval:

Education and Awareness

- *Collaborate with school divisions to educate students on storm pond safety, with attention on schools near Dundonald and Lakeview storm ponds. The Saskatoon Fire Department will incorporate storm pond and ice safety messages in their new curriculum for delivery to all schools with ponds in their neighbourhoods.*

Signage

- *Revise storm pond signage for increased clarity, particularly for younger children and people with language barriers, by using larger images to communicate dangers and restrictions for entering the water, swimming, and skating.*

Maintenance

- *Examine cost-effective opportunities to expand sedimentation control, with an added focus on storm ponds near schools.*

Recreational Use

- *Utilize external, professional advice to supplement the City's internal review of current policies for ice testing and skating.*

Future Planning, Design, and Construction of New Storm Ponds

- *Continue current design best practices for edging, drainage, and sediment control.*
- *Stipulate gentle storm pond slopes and contours for increased safety, including flattening the maximum side slopes leading to the pond from the current "minimum 5:1/preferred 7:1 slope" to "minimum required 7:1 slope".*
- *Unless separated by a barrier or other risk-mitigating factors are in place, storm water ponds should be located a safe distance from schools.*

Barriers

- *In new neighbourhoods, utilize roads or residential/commercial developments as barriers between storm ponds and schools/playgrounds.*
- *If safety risks cannot be mitigated through location and other design options, assess fencing as a barrier on a case-by-case basis.*
- *For Dundonald Park, a partial 1.2 m high wrought-iron fence by the park pathway is recommended.*