



POLICY NUMBER: C534

REFERENCE: **ADOPTED BY:** Recreation Facility Master Plan, 2005-2015 City Council - 16 January 2008 Urban Parks Management Plan, 2006-2016 **SUPERSEDES:** Medium Term Recreation Facility and Sports Field Plan, 2007 **New** Alberta Health and Wellness Pool Standards 2006

PREPARED BY: Community Services **DATE:** 8 November 2007 **TITLE: Outdoor Aquatics**

Policy Statement: This policy supports building a city with “quality of place” that includes desirable amenities, lifestyle and an environment that includes outdoor aquatic opportunities. Council considers outdoor recreation as an activity that significantly contributes to the well-being of Edmontonians.

Increased Choices

Edmonton will be a great place to enjoy outdoor aquatic recreation infrastructure and physical activity through a range of outdoor leisure and recreation options for increasingly diverse communities. Outdoor environments will be revitalized with opportunities to be near water, touch and enjoy water.

Popular Destinations

Edmonton’s water features will be popular destinations for residents and visitors that contribute to Council’s vision of economic prosperity and Edmonton’s identity. Community park and recreation hubs are vibrant places that provide a focal point for more activity-friendly outdoor aquatic opportunities.

Engaged Communities

Residents will be actively engaged in identifying outdoor aquatic recreation and leisure opportunities suitable for their communities. The City will address barriers to participation through appropriate services and programs and develop greater participation and involvement through existing community relationships (e.g., Community Leagues, sport clubs, and cultural groups).

Connecting People

The City will build a diverse and comprehensive outdoor recreation infrastructure that supports strong communities and social networks. The system of outdoor aquatic recreation facilities and opportunities will feel distinctly Edmonton. Outdoor aquatic opportunities will be available to all Edmontonians, regardless of age, ability, discretionary income, ethnicity, gender, special needs or physical location. Strong connections will increase social cohesion and people’s sense of belonging through community building and partnerships.

Healthy Lifestyles

Parks and recreation facilities increase participation in outdoor recreation and leisure activities and promote healthy lifestyles and well-being. Changing demographics means increased focus on the implications of an aging population and the consequent changes in demand for outdoor aquatic activities that support healthy lifestyles.

Environmental Considerations

Edmonton will offer outdoor aquatic facilities within accessible and safe environments. The City will encourage people to experience, appreciate and protect the natural and built environment through sustainable water management practices and balanced with sufficient green spaces.

The purpose of this policy is to: plan a range of outdoor aquatic opportunities for Edmonton. :
Outdoor aquatics include spray decks, spray parks, wading pools, outdoor pools, interactive play



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structures, fountains and water art, water walls and water curtains, urban beaches, swimming lakes, large scale interactive water parks and multi-purpose recreation centres with indoor and outdoor aquatic elements.

- This policy does not address amenities related to the North Saskatchewan River, natural areas and stormwater lakes.

• Neighbourhood Level:

1. Water Playgrounds: This policy supports the opportunity for communities to choose playground and outdoor aquatic experiences most appropriate to their local needs. To support this, outdoor aquatic elements will be eligible for Neighbourhood Park Development Program (NPDP) funding.
2. Wading Pool Rehabilitation: Aging wading pools will continue to be evaluated for rehabilitation or conversion to a spray deck that offers shallow water experiences for children and conforms to provincial health regulations.

• District Level:

1. Social Hearts: (as defined in the Medium Term Recreation and Sports Field Plan approved by Council in 2007) The Strategy identifies these outdoor gathering areas as opportunities to include either passive or active outdoor aquatic features in the design. The choice of amenity will be unique and appropriate for each site and the community it serves.
2. Spray Parks: New spray parks will be developed to address gaps in service opportunities. Future spray parks may be located at Social Heart sites. Existing spray parks will be renewed and revitalized wherever feasible.
3. Co-location Opportunities with Recreation Facilities: This concept blends indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities on the same site, expanding programming opportunities and benefiting from economies of scale. Outdoor aquatic opportunities will be considered in the development of new multi-purpose recreation facilities such as Clareview and Meadows sites, and as part of the Kinsmen Sports Centre.
4. Rehabilitation of Outdoor Pools: Edmonton's outdoor pools will be rehabilitated wherever feasible.

• City Level:

1. Rehabilitation of Wading Pools: Wading pools in Kinsmen Park and Borden Park will be rehabilitated.
2. River Valley Parks: The central area of the city is well served with outdoor aquatic opportunities, therefore, small scale feature amenities will be developed at Hawrelak Park and Rundle Park that are in keeping with the aesthetics and capacity of each site.
3. Signature Outdoor Water Venues: The Strategy recommends an evaluation of developing two signature outdoor water venues in south and north Edmonton to address service gaps in new areas of Edmonton. These venues may contain constructed swimming lakes, outdoor pools, water parks, lazy rivers, water slides, urban beaches or whitewater paddling facilities. The evaluation will include a review of potential sites, capital and operating costs, and a community needs assessment. Facilities at this level will require viable partners, possibly with the private sector or neighbouring municipalities in the region.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Municipal Government Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.



CITY PROCEDURE

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Outdoor Aquatics

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1. PROCEDURES

The attached procedure, entitled [Outdoor Aquatic Strategy, 2008 – 2017](#), guides the City's involvement in providing, developing and managing outdoor aquatic amenities and facilities.