

Storm Water Pond Safety Review – Recommendation Summary

Education and Awareness

- Continue annual distribution of flyers to homes near storm water ponds to remind citizens of safety risks and prohibited activities related to storm water ponds.
- Collaborate with school divisions to educate students on storm water pond safety, with a focus on students at schools near Dundonald and Lakeview ponds. The Saskatoon Fire Department will incorporate storm water 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

- Continue to install temporary fencing during storm pond maintenance.
- Examine cost-effective opportunities to expand sedimentation control, with an added focus on storm ponds near schools.
- Incorporate storm pond dredging immediately following completion of new neighbourhood developments that contribute to high sedimentation levels.
- Assess maintenance options for cattails for storm ponds near schools.

Recreational Use

- Complete the review and updates to the Council and Administrative Policies for Recreational Uses of Storm Water Retention Ponds.
- Secure 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 with the City of Saskatoon's current storm water pond design standards that already meet best practice safety standards.
- Plan for storm water pond safety, including location and size, during the new neighbourhood concept stage.
- Increase the profile of storm water pond safety in the City of Saskatoon's Design and Development Standards Manual. Safety has been incorporated in a new objective and incorporated in other areas in the updated 2018 manual.
- Stipulate gentle storm pond slopes and contours for increased safety. A new storm water storage basin design, which incorporates a 7:1 slope near the normal water level edge is in the Design and Development Standards Manual 2018.
- Ensure measures to reduce risk are incorporated into storm water pond designs.
- Develop standards for an appropriate sub-base to accommodate emergency vehicles.

Barriers

- Continue current standards for edging and vegetation to deter unintentional access.
- In new neighbourhoods, incorporate residential/commercial developments, streets, or distance as barriers between schools and storm ponds.
- If safety risks cannot be mitigated through location and other design options, assess fencing as a barrier on a case-by-case basis.

Dundonald Pond

- Install partial fencing as a visual and physical barrier between the Dundonald pond and the nearby school playgrounds.
- Investigate opportunity to modify design of edging to improve visibility from school to pond.
- Assess the current path lighting to determine if it is working as intended.