

## City of Wetaskiwin to begin re-opening outdoor recreation spaces as of May 27 in staged approach

May 26, 2020

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) — The City of Wetaskiwin is taking a staged approach in re-opening all its outdoor recreation spaces following their closure in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

As of Wednesday, May 27, the skateboard park and all City of Wetaskiwin playgrounds will be re-opened for public use with restrictions in place. Tennis courts, basketball courts, and ball diamonds will be re-opened on Friday, May 29, 2020, also with restrictions. Washroom facilities at By-the-Lake Park will remain closed for the time being to further reduce the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19. It is difficult to keep these confined, high-traffic areas sanitary—especially in the midst of a pandemic.

City-branded signage will be posted at each outdoor recreation space—as well as on the City’s website and social media channels—outlining actions that must be taken to help prevent the spread of the virus. Physical distancing guidelines remain in place for those who are not in the same household or cohort family. Provincial and municipal restrictions on mass gatherings will also continue during stage one of the re-launch.

“The lack of access to outdoor play structures has been an especially difficult reality for many families,” said Robert Osmond, Director of Emergency Management with the City of Wetaskiwin. “We are re-opening playgrounds and the skateboard park first while continuing to align with recommendations from Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer of Health. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the rules of use on our COVID-19 portal before attending any City outdoor spaces.”

Although these re-openings are happening in alignment with all public health orders and restrictions, community members are still strongly encouraged to exercise caution and do what is necessary to continue to prevent community transition of COVID-19.

Please be advised that the City is not washing or sanitizing structures. Families are encouraged to use extreme caution around common touch points, carry their own hand sanitizer with them, limit contact with those outside their family or cohort, visit playgrounds within their own neighbourhoods, and to stay home if they are feeling sick or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Users are reminded of and must follow public health guidelines including:

- Maintaining a two-metre physical distance from those not within your household
- Adhering to new mass gathering restrictions put in place for outdoor activities
- Only sharing common equipment with members of the same family or cohort
- Carefully washing and sanitizing your hands before (and after) using all common areas
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

Alberta's law enforcement agencies have been granted full authority to enforce public health orders and to issue fines. Violations of any of these restrictions will result in a fine under the Alberta Emergency Management Act or the Alberta Public Health Act.

"The City is now in a position to begin gradually re-opening a number of our outdoor facilities due to the diligence and commitment of our residents complying with all public health recommendations throughout the pandemic," says Osmond. "While we are excited to be returning to some form of normalcy, it will take the continued support of all community members to keep each other safe and healthy through this relaunch."

Details on the restrictions for each outdoor space can be found online at [www.wetaskiwin.ca/covid19](http://www.wetaskiwin.ca/covid19).

### **About the City of Wetaskiwin**

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

-30-

### **For more information please contact:**

Ren Goode  
Communications Manager  
City of Wetaskiwin  
780.361.4417



## **General Rules of Use – City of Wetaskiwin Outdoor Recreation Spaces**

- Individuals must maintain physical distancing of at least two (2) metres from people outside their household or cohort family. Distancing must always be maintained, including when arriving, during and between activities, and when returning to vehicles or homes following activities.
- **League play is not permitted.**
- No shared food or drink.
- Do not visit any public space if sick.

Alberta's law enforcement agencies have been granted full authority to enforce public health orders and to issue fines. Violations of any of these restrictions will result in a fine under the Alberta Emergency Management Act or the Alberta Public Health Act.

## **Facility-Specific Rules of Use – City of Wetaskiwin Outdoor Recreation Spaces**

### **Skateboard Park (re-opening May 27)**

- A maximum of 15 people can use the skate park at any one time.
- Maintain 2m distance from at all times, including when riding.

### **Playground Equipment (re-opening May 27)**

- Play with household or cohort family is permitted.
- Play with people outside household or cohort family permitted with the following restrictions:
  - Maintain 2m distance from others
  - Limit congregating with other people when entering and leaving the playground and supervising children playing (e.g. paths, benches, picnic areas).

Families are encouraged to use extreme caution around common touch points, carry their own hand sanitizer with them, limit contact with those outside their family or cohort, visit playgrounds within their own neighbourhoods, and to stay home if they are feeling sick or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Consider limiting children and other members of your household to only visiting playgrounds that are close to your home. This will help limit the number of people your family may come into contact with.

### **Sports Fields (re-opening May 29)**

- No league play.
- Play with household or cohort family is permitted.

- Play with people outside household or cohort family permitted with the following restrictions:
  - No sharing of common equipment
  - Maintain 2m distance from others
  - No more than 50 people may participate

### **Tennis Courts (re-opening May 29)**

- Play with household or cohort family is permitted.
- Play with people outside household or cohort family permitted with the following restrictions:
  - No sharing of common equipment
  - Maintain 2m distance from others
  - No more than 4 people may participate

### **Baseball Diamonds (re-opening May 29)**

- No league play.
- Play with household or cohort family is permitted.
- Play with people outside household or cohort family permitted with the following restrictions:
  - No sharing of common equipment
  - Maintain 2m distance from others
  - No more than 30 people may participate

### **Basketball Courts (re-opening May 29)**

- No league play.
- Play with household or cohort family is permitted.
- Play with people outside household or cohort family permitted with the following restrictions:
  - No sharing of common equipment
  - Maintain 2m distance from others
  - No more than 20 people may participate