

March 1, 2022

G.H. Dawe Community Centre Project: Facility closure

Work is underway on the G.H. Dawe Community Centre Project. We expect to welcome visitors to the transformed space in early 2023. Here are just some of the changes:

- Two NHL standard ice surfaces
- Expanded fitness areas, including a running track
- Outdoor spray park with washroom facilities
- Improved accessibility
- Additional north entrance + site access from 67 Street
- Additional parking

During construction, there will be some changes and impacts to existing amenities and programs, and we'll do you best to share this information in advance. Check out monthly construction updates on the [G.H. Dawe Community Centre Project page](#).

1. How will construction affect facility access in 2022?

- The facility will close from May 1 to June 25, 2022. During this time the pool, gym, preschool areas, childminding, fitness and meeting rooms at the Dawe will not be available.
- We anticipate the facility will re-open on June 26, with some exceptions:
 - The Fitness Room will not be available; some larger pieces of existing fitness equipment will be temporarily moved to the "mall area" until the grand opening of our new health and wellness spaces in 2023. Use of this equipment will require a daily admission or monthly pass.
 - Playing surfaces in the arena will not be available until construction is complete, which is expected to be early 2023.
- Access to the Dawe branch of the Red Deer Public Library will be maintained throughout construction.

2. Will all other City recreation centres be open?

Yes, all other City recreation centres will remain open during the Dawe shutdown (outside of unanticipated issues).

- All other City pools, including the Outdoor Pool (June 1), will be operating during the Dawe closure.
- The Field House at the Collicutt Centre will forego the typical May shutdown in order to provide continued access for spontaneous sport use.

3. Why is this extended closure necessary?

The closure is needed as part of ongoing construction at the facility. While we have been able to largely maintain facility access, we need to complete work on the fitness room, water park and program spaces. In order to do so safely and efficiently, a full facility closure is needed. Some of the work we will be doing during this time includes reconfiguring/adding program and fitness spaces, adding an accessible change room and a washroom in the Preschool program room.

We will take advantage of this closure to complete other important work, including:

- Regular facility maintenance, including replacement of Water Park acoustical panels, completion of the upgraded natatorium air circulation system, pool basin, steam room and water slide general maintenance, as well as the relocation of the fitness equipment.
- Certifications and staff training: We will use this time to update and recertify staff in various types of training.
- Program planning: Through the pandemic, program offerings were scaled back or cancelled altogether. The closure will allow our team to rebuild program content, providing fresh new programming for our community this summer and into the fall.

4. Will programs that normally run out of the Dawe still be available?

We have worked to reposition as many programs as possible in different locations. Outdoor fitness classes, aquatic leadership programs, swimming lessons and dryland programming will be partially accommodated at the Recreation Centre, Michener Aquatic Centre and the Collicutt Centre, as well as Setters Place and Servus Arena. Please check your program registration for location information.

5. I have a monthly pass. Can I get a refund for the duration of the closure?

Options for available for monthly pass holders:

- Depending on the membership type, you can access other facilities. Information on pass types is available [here](#). We have also added value by including outdoor and virtual fitness programming with the Value Pass for the month of May and June.
- You can request a prorated refund. Please email recreation@reddeer.ca to request a refund.

6. Will summer camps at the Dawe be available?

Yes, will be available when the facility re-opens on June 26. For more information about summer camps, please visit. <https://reddeer.ca/recreation-and-culture/recreation/my-activity-guide/>

For more information, contact:

Corporate Communications
The City of Red Deer