

June 25, 2021

G.H. Dawe Community Centre Project: construction impacts

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

1. How will the project impact access to the Dawe?

During construction, there will be some changes and impacts to existing amenities and programs, and we'll do our best to share this information in advance.

Impacts for summer 2021 are as follows:

- Starting July 2, fitness and gym areas will open from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., daily. In July, summer day camps that normally operate from the Dawe will operate from other facilities.
- The pool will remain closed until September.
- To accommodate interior heating and ventilation construction, the facility will fully close from July 26 to August 31. Some registered preschool and summer camp programming may proceed, but no rental or general admission options will be available.
- On September 1, we anticipate the pool will be open, but some other amenities, like the gym, may not be available. More information will be provided as construction progresses.
- Playing surfaces in the arena will not be available until construction is complete, which is expected to be early 2023.

2. Will rental, meeting rooms or birthday parties be available in July?

Yes, rentals, meeting rooms and birthday parties will be available in July. To book space, please see [Facility and Park Rentals](#).

3. Is childminding available in July?

No, childminding will not be available in July.

4. My child is registered in a summer day camp at the Dawe. Where will it take place?

Day camps that normally run from the G.H. Dawe Community Centre will continue, but will be held in different locations. Please see your registration details for more information.

If you have questions, please contact Recreation at recreation@reddeer.ca or 403-309-8411.

5. What work is happening this summer?

Contractors have been on site since May of this year, setting and preparing the site for construction. Site work is expected to start middle of June and pending approvals, the contractors will begin underground service work that will extend from June into August. During the facility closure, some demolition work will occur, long with heating and ventilation work.

Check out monthly construction updates on the [G.H. Dawe Community Centre Project page](#).

6. Why will the arena be unavailable for so long?

The project includes upgrading the existing ice surface to NHL standards, as well as adding a second NHL- standard ice surface. Due to the significance of the work required, we will not be able to provide ice for the duration of the project.

7. Why is this project happening?

With the Kinex Arena nearing the end of its useful life, the G.H. Dawe Community Centre project was prioritized in an effort to maintain the number of ice surfaces available to our community. It was prioritized in an effort to balance equitable ice distribution, geographical needs and recreation opportunities across Red Deer, while considering the need to provide flexible and unstructured activities in a sustainable way.

8. What is the cost of the project and how is it being funded?

At this time, the project is expected to cost \$44 million. The project is being funded jointly by the federal, provincial and municipal government:

- \$15.1 million from the Government of Canada through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- \$12.8 million from the Alberta Government through Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding.

Red Deer City Council:

- In November 2018, City Council approved \$2.469 million as part of the 2019 capital budget for detail design.
- In November 2019, City Council approved \$5 million for site servicing as part of 2020 Capital Budget deliberations.
- In December 2020, City Council approved the 2021 and 2022 municipal portion of the project budget for \$7.566 million, having approved \$7.739 million in previous capital budgets.

For more information, contact:

Corporate Communications
The City of Red Deer