

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS RECREATION, CULTURE & PARKS BOARD

Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Welcome to the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board Meeting – September 4, 2024
 - 1.2 Call to Order
 - 1.3 Approval of Agenda
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2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Recreation, Culture and Parks Board acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.
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3. PRESENTATIONS

None

4. BUSINESS

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2024
 - 4.2 Thrifty Thursdays 2025
 - 4.3 Local Non-Profit Sports Fields Rates
 - 4.4 Abbey Centre Update
 - 4.5 Parks & Facilities Update
 - 4.6 Board Member Extensions
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5. CONFIDENTIAL

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marina Appel, Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Laura Svab, Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Barb Shepherd, Lacombe County Representative Jill Bried, Public at Large
Kayla Marquis, Public at Large
Kristy Lawrence, Public at Large
Trent Kroetsch, Public at Large
Louise Rellis, Public at Large

OTHERS ATTENDING

Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
Carol Simpson, Abbey Centre General Manager
Jeff Heindel, Parks and Facilities Manager

REGRETS

None

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bried welcomed all attending and called the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Member Svab moved That the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board approve the Agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

Disc Golf Course – Optimist Club

The Optimist Club along with Kurt Jensen, Recreation & Culture Programmer, presented options for a future location to develop a disc golf course in Blackfalds.

Blackfalds Supercross Track

The Central Alberta BMX Supercross group presented a proposed option for a BMX supercross track in Blackfalds at Sterling Industries Sports Park.

BUSINESS

Minutes

Member Kroetsch moved That the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board approve the Minutes from May 8, 2024 as presented.

MINUTES

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community Initiatives Grant – Optimist Club of Blackfalds

The Recreation, Culture and Parks Board reviewed the application provided by the Optimist Club of Blackfalds for the disc golf course signage. It was suggested that the grant be approved in principle until a course location is determined.

Member Kroetsch moved That the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board recommend to Council to consider the Community Initiatives Grant request for \$2,200 from the Optimist Club of Blackfalds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Abbey Centre Update

- Manager Simpson presented the monthly highlights

Parks and Facilities Update

- Manager Heindel presented the monthly highlights

Disc Golf Course

The Recreation, Culture and Parks Board reviewed the proposed location presented by the Optimist Club and considered other options.

Member Rellis moved That the Recreation, Culture and Parks Board recommend that the disc golf course be constructed in Blackfalds and that Council and disc course professionals determine a location as the Board is lacking the knowledge and information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Recreation, Culture and Parks Board received the items as information.

Chair Bried adjourned the Recreation, Culture & Parks Board Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Jill Bried, Chair

Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2024
PREPARED BY: Carol Simpson, Abbey Centre General Manager
PRESENTED BY: Carol Simpson, Abbey Centre General Manager
SUBJECT: Thrifty Thursday

BACKGROUND

In March 2022 a promotional discount program was started at the Abbey Centre which offers a variety of discounts for various areas of the centre to showcase the services provided. These discounts are only available to be accessed on the first Thursday of each month.

DISCUSSION

Certain cost savings have been very well received such as membership discounts, while others proved a marginal amount of interest such as rental promotions. Administration proposes a continuation of this program into 2025 to help the community find some cost savings while promoting our memberships, programs and services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- *Thrifty Thursday 2025*



Thrifty Thursday's - 1st Thursday of each month

Proposed for 2025

Jan 2 – buy 5 personal training sessions and get the 6th one complimentary

Feb 6 – 2 for 1 day admissions

Mar 6 – Buy an annual membership and get 1 month free for a friend/family member

Apr 3 – 10% off child minding pass (1 per family either child or family pass)

May 1 – 10% off child, youth, teen monthly memberships (limit of 1 for each child, youth or teen in account) YOUTH WEEK

June 5 – For any purchase (any value) by a senior they are eligible to enter their name to win a Senior's gift basket (value \$100) SENIORS WEEK

July 3 – 10% off any punch pass (limit of 1 per account)

Aug 7 – Book a birthday party and get a complimentary child 10 punch pass (one per account).

Sept 4 – 10% off a monthly membership (1 per person/family)

Oct 2 – Register today and put your name in the draw to win your registration back (limit amount \$200). Value to be received on an Abbey Centre gift card.

Nov 6 – Win your purchase back (limit family annual value). Value of purchase to be received on an Abbey Centre gift card.

Dec 4 - Purchase a gift card for \$50 and get another \$10 gift card free (limit of 5).

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2024
PREPARED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
PRESENTED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services
SUBJECT: **Local Non-Profit Sports Fields Rates**

BACKGROUND

The current rates for local non-profit sports fields usage is based on a per player fee for all those using our sports fields. Our local non-profit organizations are Blackfalds Minor Baseball and Blackfalds Minor Soccer.

DISCUSSION

Administration has been trying to move from the per player fee that we currently charge to an hourly rate which is more commonly used. However, by doing this, it would alter the annual charges for both local non-profit organizations.

The current per player fee for both organizations is \$11/player. The current hourly rental rate is set at \$12/hour for each field/diamond. In 2024, Minor Soccer had 349 players paying \$11/player (\$3,839). If we charged the hourly rate, their organization would now pay \$1,632 based on 136 hours of use. That would be a difference of \$2,207 in savings for their organization.

For Minor Baseball, they had 183 players use our fields totalling \$2,013. Their hourly usage in 2024 was 264 hours which would total \$3,168, a difference of \$1,536. This would work out to a 94% increase in charges.

Having said this, when comparing our rates to other communities who charge an hourly rate, our current hourly rate is well below the average rate. We compared our rates to Lacombe, Penhold, Rocky, Innisfail, Ponoka, Olds, Sylvan Lake, Red Deer and Stettler. The comparisons are provided for your review. Most of our comparators charged either per hour or per game/practice. One charged per season so we did not have an hourly rate to compare to. The average hourly rate based on 8/9 comparators was \$17.94/hour for baseball and \$16.45/hour for soccer.

Administration is looking for the RCP Board's thoughts on determining a fair rate to charge our local non-profit organizations. Administration believes that moving to an hourly rate will provide more accurate scheduling and be in line with how other communities operate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Changing the rates will impact revenues for our Athletic Parks budget.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- *Rate Comparisons with other Communities*

Rate Comparisons with other Communities

Ball Diamond Rates per Diamond	
Municipality	Local Non-Profit/Local Youth
Lacombe	\$29 per game/practice (\$19.33 per hour)
Penhold	\$30 per game (\$15 per hour)
Rocky MTN House	\$13.50 per hour
Innisfail	\$26.50 per game/practice (\$17.66 per hour)
Ponoka	\$20.25 per use
Olds	\$20.00 per hour
Sylvan Lake	\$21.79 per hour
Red Deer	\$15.95 per hour
Stettler	\$7400 for entire Minor Ball season (50% of that is subsidized)
Average	17.94 per hour

Soccer Pitch Rates	
Municipality	Local Non-Profit/Local Youth
Lacombe	\$34 per game (\$17 per hour)
Penhold	\$30 per game (\$15 per hour)
Rocky MTN House	\$11.25 per hour
Innisfail	\$26.40 per game (\$13.20 per hour)
Ponoka	\$13.50 per hour
Olds	\$20.00 per hour
Sylvan Lake	\$25.70 per hour
Red Deer	\$15.95 per hour
Stettler	\$7400 for entire Minor Soccer season
Average	\$16.45 per hour

Recreation & Culture Board Update – Sept 4, 2024

- The 9th and final week of Camp Curious will wrap up Aug 30 with a 91.5% fill rate with 65 left waitlisted. Unfortunately, a lot of field trips had to be rescheduled this year due to a variety of reasons (busing, weather, closure) but staff made it all work.
- Swim lessons for the summer lesson sets had a 48% fill rate which is a significant decline from last summers sets 70% fill rate, but around the same as 2022. We collected parent feedback with a lot of positive comments for a variety of our instructors.
- The Aquatics team performed 4 water rescues this year which is down significantly from the 24 we had last year – thankfully we had zero aquatics based major medical or emergency procedures this summer
- Last day of operations for the pool will be September 2. Shutdown and winterization begins afterwards and will wrap up by Sept 13. 4 aquatic staff will remain after the pool closure.
- On July 17 the motor quit on our Leisure Pool circulation pump. Without circulation we cannot operate and the pool had to close. This, understandably, greatly affected our aquatic operations. Due to an 8 week turnaround time for replacement, the motor was rewound and reinstalled Aug 1. On August 4 after a 2 ½ week shut down the Leisure Pool reopened.
- Pool closures happened 3 times due to the Air Quality Index, 7 times due to low temperature and 20 times for lightning/thunderstorms and unsettled weather.
- We reprised our ‘Thanks for Being Awesome’ campaign which saw us handing out 100 coupons for free slushies at A1 Max to youth under 18 who we noticed were being respectful, kind or following rules.
- SuperKids ran July 6 with lots of sun, fun and super heroes! This will be the last year for this event due to lower than required registration numbers.
- Installation of a large timeline mural on the Trans Canada Trail depicting construction and opening of the Abbey Centre has been completed.
- Many Fitness Centre equipment pads were re-upholstered due to wear. This caused several pieces of equipment to be out of service for a day or two as the pads went back and forth to the contractor. This is the first time doing re-upholstery vs. replacement and we are happy with the look and quality of the upholstery and look forward to seeing longevity outcomes.
- The Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program launched Aug 1. This program helps to break down the barriers of the cost of a membership, allowing qualified applicants to choose between several options (please see application).
- There has been some staff changes this summer – we had a Custodial I transfer from Facilities to us mid August, a new Fitness Programmer joined us August 27 and we will soon to be having a new Facility Monitor join us in September.
- Application has been made to Lacombe County FCSS funding for Camp Curious for 2025.
- The Abbey will have a table at the Community Info Expo next Wednesday, Sept 11 please make sure to come see us 6-8 pm
- C’Amped will resume Sept 20. Due to the high attendance to this program last school year, we have continued to include Red Deer Catholic School dates as well as Wolf Creek Public School PD days.
- Drop in classes and fall programming starts up again with session 1 on Sept 16.
- The fabrication and powder coating of the Love Heart has been completed, install of the mounting spider and the heart is at the Ops yard. We should have a late August install. A sponsorship agreement has been finalized with announcements and unveiling to come this fall!

ABBHEY CENTRE MEMBERSHIP **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program (ACMAP) is intended to help make recreation opportunities at the Abbey Centre more accessible for residents.

Assistance applications are accepted year-round, and the program is accessible while funds remain available. Applicants are only eligible to receive subsidization once per calendar year. If applicants do not utilize their memberships, future applications may be affected. Applications are accepted at FCSS only.

This program is funded through the Town of Blackfalds, and as such, the criteria and management of this program may change in 2025. We recommend you contact the Abbey Centre at 403.885.4039 or FCSS at 403.600.9066 for more information regarding this program.

APPLICANTS MUST RESIDE IN THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS, OR LACOMBE COUNTY

Please fill out the attached Abbey Centre Membership Form before moving forward. Please note, by signing the Membership Form, you acknowledge that the Abbey Centre and/or FCSS may contact you in matters pertaining to this application, and any misuse of program privileges may result in the loss of those privileges and influence subsequent applications.

**Applications are only accepted at FCSS in person at 5018 Waghorn St, or by emailing
fcss@blackfalds.ca**

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

MEMBERSHIP PERKS & DETAILS (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)	PUNCH PASS	MONTHLY	ANNUAL
· Available to Child, Youth, Teen, Adult, Senior, or Family*	✓	✓	✓
· Full access to entire facility for the duration of membership/pass purchased (Age restrictions may apply)	✓	✓	✓
· Early registration benefits on specified programs			✓
· Two (2) complimentary day passes for annual memberships (must be the same age / membership category)			✓
Complimentary Pass #1 <input type="text"/> Pass #2 <input type="text"/>			
· Registered and Drop In Fitness Classes	✓	✓	✓
· Eligible for monthly credit card charge		✓	✓
· Non-refundable or cancellable ¹	✓	✓	✓
· Ability to place membership on hold an unlimited number of times.			✓

MEMBER INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) **MEMBERSHIP #**

First Name _____ **Last Name** _____

Date of Birth _____ **Phone #** _____ **Email** _____

Address _____ **Lacombe County Resident?**

Town/City _____ **Province** _____ **Postal Code** _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ **Phone #** _____

Medical Conditions? **Optional**

List Child Names for family membership only (2 adults and all children living in the same residence)

2nd Adult First Name _____ **Last Name** _____ **Birthdate** _____

Phone # _____

Child #1 First Name _____ **Last Name** _____ **Birthdate** _____

Child #2 First Name _____ **Last Name** _____ **Birthdate** _____

Child #3 First Name _____ **Last Name** _____ **Birthdate** _____

Child #4 First Name _____ **Last Name** _____ **Birthdate** _____

WAIVER/CONSENT FORM

I and said child (if applicable) do hereby agree that I and said child assume all risk of personal injury, death or property loss resulting from any cause whatsoever, including, but not limited to the inherent risk involved with the Town of Blackfalds Community Service Department programs, collision with natural or manmade objects or with other persons, or from the negligence, breach of contract, or breach of statutory duty of care on the part of the Town of Blackfalds, Town of Blackfalds, the Blackfalds & District Recreation, Culture and Parks Board, the Community Services Department Staff, their supervisors, directors, officers, coordinators, managers, employees, contractors, and agents (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Town").

I and said child do agree that the Town shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, or property loss from any cause of nature whatsoever, including but not limited to, the negligence of the Town, and hereby release the Town, and waive any and all claims with respect thereto.

I and said child agree that any litigation involving injuries, death or property loss arising out of said child's participation in the Town programs shall be brought within the province of Alberta and that any and all rights, duties and obligations as between I and said child and the Town shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Alberta.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Monthly memberships and 10 punch-passes are non-refundable or cancellable.

Cancellation/refund is only allowable on an annual membership if supported by a medical certificate or proof of permanent relocation outside of a 50 km circumference region which includes Ponoka, Alix, Bowden and Eckville.

Members may leave a credit on account for up to one year for future use or may request a refund.

Refunds will take up to 21 days to process. No refunds will be issued if the cancellation is within the final month of the membership. Refunds or credits will only be issued once a doctor's note or proof of relocation has been received by the Guest Services.

Abbey Newsletter

Please let us know if you would like to receive our monthly electronic newsletter with all of Abbey's latest news, programs and specials.

Canada's new anti-spam law requires us to obtain express consent from the public before we can send any commercial electronic messages. By checking the "Yes" box, you agree to receive commercial content from us.

Yes No

Media Consent

I UNDERSTAND photographs and/or video and/or audio recordings of me may be circulated widely and that, if posted on the Town of Blackfalds and other websites, they will be available to the public.

I further understand that the Town of Blackfalds has no control over, and is not responsible for, the use or misuse of materials including my photograph and/or video and/or audio recordings of me.

FOR THE PURPOSE STATED ABOVE, I CONSENT to be photographed and/or to be video and/or audio recorded by the Town of Blackfalds or its authorized representatives.

I ALLOW the Town of Blackfalds and its representatives to use, reproduce, publish, transmit, distribute, broadcast and display any photograph and/or video and/or audio recording that contains my image and/or voice along with my name in any Town of Blackfalds publication, multimedia production, video, CD-ROM, DVD, display, advertisement and/or on the municipality's website or other social media web sites without further notice or my approval of finished photographs and/or video and/or audio recordings.

I can, at any time, opt out of this media consent by providing written notice to Communications at the Town of Blackfalds.

Please indicate your choice:

Yes No

Member Signature (If under 18 - Parent / Guardian Signature)

Date (MM/DD/YY)

Personal information collected on this form will be used to facilitate enrollment in programs offered by the Town of Blackfalds. This information is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be protected under Part 2 of the Act. Questions regarding the collection and/or use of this information may be directed to the Records Management & FOIP Coordinator at foip@blackfalds.ca or by phone at 403.885.6370.

BLACKFALDS
ALBERTA

ABBHEY CENTRE MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Name: _____

Please select **ONE** of the options below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Child, Youth, Teen, Adult, Senior or Family	<p style="text-align: center;">2 Month Membership (months must be consecutive)</p> <p>Family Memberships can be used for a maximum of 5 individuals that live at the same residence. Up to 2 of those can be adult/seniors. Additional family members can be added at a 50% discount. Fees for additional family members would be the responsibility of the applicant.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> One Adult & One Child	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Month Membership each + 10 hr. Child Minding Punch Pass</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> One Adult & One Youth	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Month Membership each + 10 hr. Child Minding Punch Pass</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Month Membership each + 10 hr Family Child Minding Punch Pass</p> <p>Family Memberships can be used for a maximum of 5 individuals that live at the same residence. Up to 2 of those can be adult/seniors. Additional family members can be added at a 50% discount. Fees for additional family members would be the responsibility of the applicant.</p>

Successful applicants will be able to access the following (**some areas are dependent on age requirements**):

- Fitness Centre*
- Outdoor Aquatic Centre
- Indoor Track*
- Indoor Play Space
- Field Houses
- Drop-in Fitness Classes
- Registered Fitness Classes (drop-in option ONLY)
- Daily drop-in activities in Field House #2 (M-F)

** Youth 12 - 17 years of age require an orientation before accessing the Fitness Centre or Indoor Track.*

** Youth 12 - 13 must complete their orientation with an adult and require supervision until 14 years of age.*

The Child-Minding program provides childcare services for children ages 3 months to 10 years

ELIGIBILITY

Name: _____

Family annual net income for the 2023 tax year must be equal to, or below, these levels (see line 236 of Income Tax Notice of Assessment.) Qualification levels as per the Alberta Child Health Benefit Guidelines.

# Family Members	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$27,589	\$2,299
2	\$34,346	\$2,862
3	\$42,224	\$3,518
4	\$51,267	\$4,272
5	\$58,145	\$4,845
6	\$65,578	\$5,464
7	\$73,011	\$6,084
More than 7 persons, add \$7,433 per additional person.		

WHAT PROOF OF INCOME IS REQUIRED?

Please submit a copy of ONE of the following documents with your application and check below which document is being submitted. The total household income must be less than the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) set by Statistics Canada which is updated annually.

- Canada Revenue Agency: Notice of Assessment** – Please present a current “Notice of Assessment” for each family member 18 years and over who lives at the listed Blackfalds residential address. Total income before tax is shown on line 1500 of the “Notice of Assessment”.
- Assured Income for Severely Handicapped benefits (AISH)** - Please include a copy of a current Health Benefits Card (that has not expired).
- Alberta Works: Income Subsidy/Support (Supports for Independence)** – A copy of a current Health Benefits Card (that has not expired).
- Resettlement Assistance Program form** – A copy of the Start-Up & Monthly Allowance that confirms the support received under the Resettlement Assistance Program.

CERTIFICATION:

I am a resident of Blackfalds or Lacombe County. The information provided above and accompanying this application is complete and true.

I understand that incomplete, unsigned, or untrue applications will not be considered.

(Applicant or Guardian Signature)

Date (YYYY / MM / DD)

Personal information collected on this form will be used to facilitate contact and enrollment in the Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program. This information is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and will be protected under Part 2 of the Act. Questions regarding the collection and/or use of this information may be directed to the Records Management & FOIP Coordinator at foip@blackfalds.ca or by telephone at 403.885.6370.

Parks & Facilities Update – September 2024

Spring and summer 2024 were busy for the Parks and Facilities team!

Facilities:

- Ice is in both arenas. Arena #1 first booking was August 12 and Arena #2 first booking is September 3.
- Sterling Sports Park hosting U11AA Baseball Provincials
- The Circus was at the EBC Arena #1 on July 17th & 18th.
- Sterling Sports Park and Diamond 5 hosting Ladies Fastball Provincial from July 26-28.
- Sterling Parking Industries hosted U13 and U15 c softball provincials from July 12-14.
- Plant room Brine holding tanks emptied scrubbed and new brine added.
- Eagle Builders Centre (Arena #2) hosted Seniors Lacrosse Provincials on July 5-7.
- EBC plant room drywall repairs and painting.
- Rooftop units, evaporate and condenser coil maintenance and clean out as well as gutters cleaned out.
- Banquet Room and Ag Room painting
- Sterling Sports Park covered players shelter (dugouts) concrete pads are completed with some cleanup remaining.
- Sterling Sports Park hosted a Blackfalds Minor Ball Provincial playdown tournament August 2-4
- Scrape and paint the outside doors at the Community Centre.
- Custodial team completed stripping and waxing in Arena #2 stairwell and upstairs hallway.
- Sterling Sports Park hosted National Ladies Fastpitch tournament, August 7-11.
- The Facilities team also works one the majority of the maintenance in all Town facilities!

Parks:

- Added Engineered Wood Fibre (playground safety surfacing) at Abbey, Mikey Lang, Sterling, Pine Cr, and McKay Ranch.
- Weekly sweeping of Centennial Trails
- Equipment repairs and inspections
- Aquacide equipment (steam) was used for weed control at playgrounds and Denise Nielson Garden
- Installed soil and seed along low spot around playgrounds at Sterling and Community Centre
- Weekly inspections and maintenance at both community gardens
- Weekly rounds/playground inspections.
- Removed baby's breath and other noxious weeds at various sites.
- Ongoing tree pruning in various parks and boulevards
- Gopher control conducted by staff and contracted services

- Playground inspections and installation of engineered wood fibre at the Abbey and Pine Crescent playgrounds.
- Maintenance of flower beds and shrubs and turf.
- Completed park furniture and bollard installations
- Parks installed some new garbage receptacles and picnic tables at some sites.

Projects:

- EBC brine pump rebuild and compressor overhaul projects completed
- Contracted tree removal along east side of Abbey Centre
- Work on Cemetery Bylaw review
- Live Barn installed in Arena #1 and #2 at the EBC.
- Parks and Facilities teams supported SuperKids event with some pre-event preparation.
- Collected info from other municipalities regarding the use of eBikes at their bike parks.
- Sterling Sports Park covered players shelters (dugouts) concrete pad project completed.
- Started working on operating and capital budgets!