



News Release – For Immediate Release Wednesday, June 5, 2019

County Officials Eye Sportsplex Pond Re-opening Soon

County personnel and environmental protection specialists are in the final stages of remediating the shoreline of the Crosslink County Sportsplex pond.

The popular recreational facility and trails were closed until further notice on May 23 after disposal of industrial oil waste product was discovered in a curbside street drain. The incident occurred at 85 Avenue and 105 Street in Clairmont.

Alberta Environment and Parks Compliance division, in co-ordination with the County's Enhanced RCMP unit, is pursuing an investigation into the illegal disposal, and thanks the public for its input to date. Any one with information about the incident is encouraged to contact the County's Enhanced RCMP Unit at 780-532-9727.

"We appreciate the patience of residents and visitors," says Christine Rawlins, Parks and Recreation Manager. "We know people are eager to use the fishing pond and it's our goal to have it safely remediated and open to the public as soon as possible, once Provincial legislation has been met."

County staff are working with Provincial fisheries specialists to sample fish in the pond to ensure there is no contamination. Alberta government officials have also provided advice for cleanup and mitigation, including protection of wildlife such as fish and waterfowl. This included measures to deter waterfowl from landing on the pond.

"This is a very sensitive time for waterfowl, especially for any ducklings or goslings that may be in the area, and we are closely monitoring any wildlife that may call the pond their home," said Rawlins

The scheduled fish re-stocking at the pond has been postponed until the all clear is provided by Alberta Environment and Parks.

Crews were immediately dispatched when the illegal disposal was discovered to assess the situation and implemented measures instantly to contain the oil waste and prevent further contamination of the pond.

As the release occurred in the drainage system, there were no impacts to the wastewater system and there are no immediate effects to public health and safety. However, residents are asked to avoid the area around the pond until further notice, for their own safety and that of crews and the environment.

Information and updates are being posted on the County website, social media channels and shared with local media.

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Media Contact:

For interview requests, please email communications@countygp.ab.ca