

Meadows Community Recreation Centre and library officially open

A new southeast community hub was bustling with activity and excitement as Edmontonians celebrated the opening of The Meadows Community Recreation Centre and The Meadows Library on December 6, 2014.



The 234,419 square foot facility features an aquatic centre with a leisure pool, lane swimming and waterslide, fitness centre, gymnasium, arena and multi-purpose rooms. It also includes a new branch for Edmonton Public Library. Unique to The Meadows are the indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities including an outdoor spray park and sports fields in the district park, and a skating rink next to the facility for use in winter.

"The Meadows Community Recreation Centre is a prime facility that will connect community groups and individuals to the programs and space they need to thrive," said Mayor Don Iveson. "In keeping with Council's vision of building strong and healthy communities, The Meadows Community Recreation Centre will be a social hub where people can participate in physical, social and community activities. The southeast has seen some substantial growth, so it's important for the City to maintain the livability in these areas by building new recreation facilities."

Construction of The Meadows Community Recreation Centre and The Meadows Library began in September 2011 and the doors opened to the public on November 27, 2014. The \$147.5 million project received \$138 million in funding from the City of Edmonton and \$9.3 million from the Government of Alberta's Municipal Sustainability Initiative that the City has directed towards the district park.

"The Alberta Government is proud to partner with the City of Edmonton through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) on this important community project," said Diana McQueen, Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs. "Government will continue to work with our municipal partners to manage our province's growth."

"The new recreation centre is a wonderful addition to our vibrant community," says Devin Gray, President of The Meadows Community League. "It provides an active social space where friends and neighbours can meet and enjoy arts, fitness, cultural and leisure activities."

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) branch will offer 15,000 square feet of space and interesting spaces for Edmontonians wanting to grow their minds.

"EPL could not be more pleased to have a new branch as part of this beautiful City of Edmonton multi-purpose facility," said Linda Cook, Chief Executive Officer of EPL. "Our goal is to provide both accessible and functional public spaces throughout our rapidly growing city, and we are doing just that with a library adjacent to the entrance of the Meadows recreation centre. We are also excited to offer customers an outdoor reading area, as well as EPL's first green roof."

The City of Edmonton allocated one per cent of the construction budget for public art as part of the Percent for Art policy, which is managed by the Edmonton Arts Council. There are three pieces that can be viewed at The Meadows: *Wheatfield with Crows* by Konstantin Dimopoulos located outside at the East and West entrance, *The Ballroom* by France Dubois painted on the wall of one of the main floor hallways and *Sculptures in Landscapes* by Cliff Eyland located in The Meadows Library.

In keeping with the City of Edmonton's environmental goals under the Way We Live, this facility is built to the International Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) standards for buildings that will have a reduced impact on the environment. The facility incorporates sustainable features such as a green roof, efficient mechanical systems, reduced water consumption and efficient lighting systems.

For more information about Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre, visit edmonton.ca/meadowsrec

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