

New equine riding arena: a big leap forward

May 2, 2016

Construction is set to begin on a new fully-accessible indoor riding arena at the Whitemud Equine Centre, expanding space for the horses and for the people who are close to them.

"The Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association provides a truly special service to a broad range of citizens," says Councillor Michael Walters. "City Council recognizes the importance of supporting the Centre's vision to preserve and enhance this unique facility now and for the future."

The City of Edmonton and the Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association approved the Whitemud Equine Centre riding arena redevelopment in 2015. This project rebuilds the most crucial infrastructure on site and supports WELCA to continue offering equine-related opportunities for the citizens of Edmonton.



This renewal project will replace the current deteriorating infrastructure with an indoor riding ring, stables with horse stalls for educational opportunities, two large tack rooms, teaching spaces, a multi-purpose room and indoor washrooms. This project also includes upgrades to the gravel access road and utilities.

Since 1999, WELCA has been connecting people to horses and other equine-related activities along with providing programs to approximately 1,000 visitors each week. For more than 40 years, the centre has also been the home of the Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Program for persons with disabilities.

"The start of construction is an important step for our friends, sponsors and volunteers," says Trevor Christman, Chair of the WELCA Board of Directors. "They have been looking forward to this day for a long time, so it's important that we be able to celebrate with them and thank everyone for their continuing support."

WELCA and the City of Edmonton have worked together to engage the membership and public during the concept and design phase of the new riding arena through public meetings, stakeholder workshops, surveys, presentations and ongoing updates.

The old arena will be demolished once the new facility is open which allows WELCA to continue offering its programs throughout construction. The City of Edmonton will continue annual structural assessments and ensure the current facility is maintained at a level to ensure the safety of everyone on site.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/whitemudequinecenter
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littlebits.ca

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