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Ermineskin Park, nearly there

December 2020

Good news, we have completed the construction for the flood mitigation project at the Ermineskin Park dry pond and the sewer upgrades in both Ermineskin and Steinhauer. The Steinhauer dry pond construction is still on hold pending approval of the land acquisition from the Edmonton Public School Board (ESPB).

The final stage in 2020 for Ermineskin Park was to complete the landscaping planting to ensure there are future amenity spaces that meet the City of Edmonton specifications and the community desires. All of this work will lead to a full facility opening in Ermineskin Park anticipated to happen in **fall 2021**.

Recently, we have received multiple reports of the safety fencing surrounding the site being removed and individuals entering the site and using the area for recreational activities. While it may appear the area is ready to use, especially with the snow we have received, the landscaping is not ready for any activity. We understand there is a strong desire to enjoy this new space, but these activities will have long term consequences by damaging the landscaping and potentially delaying the full opening of the facility.

Damage can come from any number of activities, even something as simple as walking can cause the sod to move, compact the soil and damage new roots. The sod was placed in mid-September and has not had enough time for roots to establish or to knit together. Roots are still delicate and can easily tear and may result in poor recovery in the spring or even kill the sod entirely.

The snow can become ice-packed which can also kill the sod. Once the temperatures are above zero, the sod needs adequate moisture and sun to continue to grow and establish the root system. Packed ice prohibits these areas from early germination. Any landscaping that needs to be replaced in 2021 due to damage will mean that the fences will be required to stay up until fall 2022 and residents will see a second winter season where the areas are not open for use.

EPCOR cannot stress enough the risks to a successful project completion and timeline associated with entering the fenced worksites. At this stage EPCOR will be reinforcing the fencing and adding signage to indicate the closure of the space.

We understand you may have questions about this information, so please feel free to contact EPCOR at (780) 509-8080 or at epcordrainage@epcor.com.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.