

New recreation facilities highlight quadrant's growth

BY JACQUELINE LOUIE, CALGARY HERALD FEBRUARY 26, 2014



Seton is expected to have a large retail area, including a mixed-use street

The City of Calgary is developing three new recreation facilities in the south in Seton, Quarry Park and Great Plains.

The Seton Recreation Facility will offer leisure, sports, arts, cultural and recreational amenities in a 330,000-square-foot central gathering place.

Proposed amenities for Seton Recreation Facility include a water park, competition lane swim pool, two ice rinks, gymnasiums, fitness centre, theatre, art space, youth centre and a full-service 25,000-square-foot public library.

Estimated completion date is summer 2017.

The Quarry Park Recreation Facility, meanwhile, is being built along Quarry Park Road S.E. to serve both residents from nearby communities and employees at local business parks.

The facility, to be run by YMCA Calgary, will be a community hub with a variety of sport, leisure, cultural and learning amenities, including a fitness centre, running track, gymnasium, aquatics, a 7,500-square-foot full service Calgary Public Library branch and large and small multi-purpose rooms for use as studios, classrooms and meeting spaces.

The 100,000-square-foot facility will connect to existing city pathways, accessing surrounding neighbourhoods and the Bow River, and will be within walking distance of the future LRT.

Estimated completion date is spring 2015.

Lastly, the Great Plains Recreation Facility is to be located at the corner of 76th Avenue and 57th Street S.E.

Expected to be completed by winter 2015, the facility will include two multi-purpose rinks for ice sports including hockey, sledge hockey, ringette and figure skating, plus one rink with enhanced spectator seating. Proposed amenities also include multi-purpose rooms for use as a fitness centre, studios, classrooms and meeting space.

SETON

The three new recreation facilities are not the only benefits to living in south Calgary, says John Hall, City of Calgary co-ordinator of subdivision services.

“People can live, work, and do everything they need to do in the area,” he says.

“In all of these communities, the completion of Stoney Trail has really opened up access.”

The community of Seton is home to the South Health Campus, and Seton will eventually include an LRT station along the future southeast LRT line.

A large retail area, including a mixed-use main street, is also in the works for Seton. Nearby communities such as Mahogany and Auburn Bay will benefit from the southeast town centre that will be developed in Seton.

“We see Seton evolving into the town centre for the southeast — it’s almost like a miniature downtown, with a lot of the same functions: a mix of land uses, with retail, employment areas, and higher density housing,” Hall says.

MAHOGANY

Mahogany, meanwhile, offers a broad mix of housing types suitable for all ages.

“We like to call it the ‘aging in place concept,’” says Hall. “This means that if a young family buys a home in the community, they can stay here, even after their children have grown up and moved out. Eventually, they can downsize to a condo or townhome, and in their later years they can move to a seniors’ residence or an assisted living facility.”