

SUMMERSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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BEACH CLUB ACCESS, FEES & AMENITIES

Q: How do I access the lake?

A: You must be a resident of Lake Summerside to have access to the lake and park- register at the office to receive your membership card.

Q: How do I register my property?

A: Bring your certificate of title and government issue photo ID to the office to register or email this information to Reception@lakesummerside.ca

Q: How do I get a membership card?

A: Bring your government issued photo ID with proof of residency to the office to register and receive your membership card

Q: How many people are allowed to register in a household?

A: There is no maximum number, but to have access everyone must have proof of residency at the Lake Summerside address.

Q: Why can't I sign in on web page?

A: There maybe multiple reasons why. Please call the SSRA office, or email reception@lakesummeride.ca so we can assist

Q: When do fee notices come out and how do I pay RA fee?

A: Fee notices are prepared and mailed out in the middle to end of November, and are due before January 1st of each year. You can pay online on your account if we have your email on file, or pay through our automated phone service, Telepay. You can also pay at the office in person, or by mailing in a cheque payment.

Q: If I don't use the amenities do I still need to pay the fee?

A: Yes. There is an encumbrance on your certificate of title when you purchase your property, which is a mandatory fee for owning property within Lake Summerside. It permits you access to the private lake and park, and provides the SSRA with the funding source to maintain these amenities, along with the various other pathways and parks the SSRA maintains in the community.

Q: Does smoke in the air effect access to the park?

A: The SSRA does not shut park access down in smoky weather conditions. You may access the park as you wish, and at your own risk. However, we align with the City of Edmonton and may shut programs or amenities down if the air quality is at a level 7 or worse, in order to protect our staff and users. Thus, any outdoor amenity that requires consistent staff supervision, such as watercraft rental, will be shut down in times of very poor air quality.

Q: Does the Parking Lot stay open all night?

A: Parking lot gates are locked once the park closes. Vehicles left in the parking lot after hours will be locked in until the park re-opens



RENTALS

Q: What Equipment is available for rental?

A: The equipment available for rental is seasonal dependent but includes various non- motorized watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, stand- up paddleboards, peddle boats, a fishing boat, a sail boat (proof of competency needed). We also rent out volleyballs, basketballs, tennis racquets and balls, pickle ball racquets and balls, footballs, mini golf clubs and balls, snowshoes, and manual ice augers.

Q: How windy does it need to be before boat rentals close?

A: The SSRA will shut down boat rentals if the wind meets or exceeds 20km per hour, or if it determines the need to because of other weather or wind concerns.



PARKS & COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE

Q: What area(s) does the SSRA maintain in the community?

A: Please see the Maintenance Map on our website. The SSRA only takes care of the areas in blue.

<https://www.lakesummerside.ca/about-us/maps-and-guidelines>. Please note all road maintenance is taken care of by the City of Edmonton. Thus, any concerns about road maintenance must be directed to them, not the SSRA.

Q: Can the SSRA take care of other areas if they need maintenance or upkeep?

A: The SSRA has a strict policy that we only maintain the areas owned by us. The reason for this is that the fee's, budgets etc. were designed to maintain these areas only. It also would not be fair to add extra maintenance to some areas and not others. Lastly, the SSRA faces potential liability issues if incidents or damaged occurred if we were completing work on areas that are owned by the City of Edmonton etc.

Q: Who's responsible for the fence on shared access paths?

A: Residents are responsible for the fence on the shared access paths (excluding the entry and exit gates). This includes the blue chain link fence.

Q: Can I request access to the walkway or path near my house for construction and/or moving purposes?

A: With these types of requests, we try to balance the benefits of access, versus the likelihood of damage and disruption to other residents. The main guidelines are that a construction plan needs to be submitted for review (type of work, where is the work being done, path of travel, etc.), equipment used is no wider than the sidewalk (to prevent turf damage), access is limited to where others enjoyment and path of travel is not affected. Submitting a request does not guarantee access will be granted, just that it will be reviewed.

Q: When I'm renovating, painting my fence etc. are there controls that need to be followed and if so why?

A: Yes, there are architectural controls in place in the community of Lake Summerside. The reason for these controls is to maintain the long-term beauty, and consistency in the community, and help maintain its property values. The SSRA does not actively patrol for violations of the architectural controls. However, it does enforce the controls if violations are reported or noticed. Please contact the SSRA office if you have a concern that you have spotted.

You can also access the control details at [Edmonton Community Guidelines \(brookfieldresidential.com\)](https://www.brookfieldresidential.com/Edmonton-Community-Guidelines)

Q: If I live on the lake, does the SSRA maintain my dock, and are there rules on what kind of dock can be installed?

A: The SSRA is not responsible for the maintenance of lake- front owners' docks. These owners are responsible for keeping their docks in good repair. There are also rules and controls associated with these docks. Please reference these rules at. [Residents-Dock-Guidelines.docx.pdf \(lakesummerside.ca\)](#)

If you have questions about who may be able to service your dock, please contact the SSRA office and we can provide you with the information of any contractors we may be using at that time.

Q: How does the SSRA determine when the lake can open for use in the winter?

A: We start measuring the thickness of the ice the last week of November from the dock. If we have 7-8" of ice we proceed to 14 additional spots to capture the overall condition of the lake. If it is deemed safe, accessing the ice will be allowed. Ice measurements are done every week thereafter.

Please note ice thickness is not the only factor. The SSRA also uses a formula to determine ice strength, because not all ice is the same. Typically, clear ice is denser and stronger. Ice that appears whiter in appearance is typically weaker. These factors, along with recent weather and freeze and thaw patterns are all taken into consideration when assessing when the lake can open for recreation.

Please note that just because you see staff out on the ice doing measurements, does not mean it's yet safe for recreation. Also, it's important to remember that safety is the responsibility of each user. Though the SSRA measures and assesses the ice consistently, ice safety can change rapidly based on a variety of factors. If you see any free-standing water, large cracks, areas that appear thin etc., please make sure to leave the ice immediately, and contact the SSRA so we can assess the situation.

Q: When does the SSRA start getting ice ready for skating and hockey?

A: The SSRA tries to get skating and hockey surfaces ready as soon as possible, but weather is the major factor.

For the land-based pleasure skating area, we need approximately 7 days of weather at -7c or colder and begin installing on an overcast day. This is needed to build a proper base of ice that will handle the amounts of traffic this area sees, as it will take 7-10 days to slowly build the ice up to a safe level.

For the land-based hockey rink we need to find a sustained cold snap where we are not expecting snow for approximately 3 days. This area is filled at once like a pool and then allowed to freeze. Once the area completely freezes to the bottom, we can prepare the top surface and open this amenity.

For lake skating and hockey, we begin taking ice measurements the last week of November. As indicated there are a variety of factors that help us determine ice strength. However typically once there is a minimum of approximately 8" of ice in all 15 measurement locations we will begin clearing areas for skating. Maintenance will continue by hand on the lake-based skating areas until we have thick and strong enough ice to allow for the tractor to resurface. Once the ice meets our strength needs to get the Zamboni on the surface, that can also be used. We typically need a minimum of 15 inches of ice for that to occur.

Q: Can I make my own outdoor rink on the lake?

A: Yes, but with the understanding the lake is the property of the Summerside Residents Association and guidelines must be followed. Please see the full rules and regulations associated with this at lakesummerside.ca> About Us> Rules and Regulations> Resident Rink Rules

Q: When do the land-based rinks and lake skating close for the spring?

A: Land based rinks close when we can no longer keep the ice at a safe thickness due to temperatures, or it becomes too soft to skate on. Lake skating closes once the lake ice begins to deteriorate. The lake ice starts to “rot” from the bottom up and uniform thickness and strength can no longer be assumed.

Q: How long does it take for the SSRA to clear the pathways after a snowfall?

A: We prioritize the park, parking lot and close proximity walkways first. After that we’ll move to the community walkways and paths. Our goal is to have all of the SSRA maintained areas cleared within 48 hours of the conclusion of the snow event.



LAKE & WATER MAINTENANCE

Q: Are there leeches in Lake Summerside?

A: Yes, leeches are present in Lake Summerside, just like most other lakes in central Alberta. However, reported contact with users is a very rare occurrence.

Q: Can you get swimmers itch by entering the water?

A: Yes, you can get swimmers itch by entering Lake Summerside, just like other central Alberta lakes. Swimmers itch occurs via birds who defecate in the water. If they have a swimmers itch related parasite, that parasite can get transferred into snails who live in the water. Those snails can then transfer the parasites on the skin of users, causing swimmers itch.

The SSRA does what is in its control to help lower the chances of swimmers itch occurrences by doing things such as diver snail picks in our swimming area, vegetation removal to take away the areas snails like to accumulate, and our bird control programs. However, because of bird snail cycle, it is impossible to eliminate the risk of swimmers itch completely.

If you feel you may have contracted swimmers itch in Lake Summerside, please contact the office so we can track reported cases for reports to our biologists, so we can intervene accordingly as needed.

You can learn more about swimmers itch here: <https://www.ualberta.ca/public-health/about/this-is-public-health/this-is-public-health-articles/2014/july/swimmers-itch-in-albertas-lakes.html>

Q: What does the SSRA do to control lake vegetation and weed growth? Can we just get rid of all the weeds?

A: Its important to know that the SSRA will never strive for a completely vegetation free lake. Though the lake started as a man-made amenity, over time it has become its own natural ecosystem. To maintain a healthy ecosystem having some vegetation and algae is important. It is not desired nor realistic to expect the lake to look like a pool.

However, being a private lake, the SSRA has the ability to have added measures to maintain its water quality. The SSRA has previously, and continues to work closely with a team of contracted biologists. Some of the vegetation control strategies the SSRA uses is shoreline manual weed removal, underwater diver- based weed removal, the use of a Truxor machine of take weeds out, water treatments, and phosphorus control strategies.

Q: Does the SSRA test the water?

A: The SSRA participates in a water testing program as outlined to us by AHS. Each week, from late spring until fall, the SSRA takes water samples from various parts of the lake and delivers them to a provincial testing site for analysis. We don't receive each specific weekly reading, but would be informed immediately by the labs and AHS if any undesirable readings were discovered. The SSRA cares about the safety of our users, and is happy to continue this participation in this program.

Additionally, the SSRA works with our biologists to take other water samples and readings to assess various short term and long-term lake parameters, which helps guide our lake treatment and management plan from year to year.

Q: Is there a filtration or aeration system in the lake and if so, what is it for?

A: The lake does not have a filtration system. However, it has an aeration system. This aeration system is extensive, and has over 90 diffusers that help put oxygen into the water. This system helps decrease the amount of undesirable algae, improves overall water quality, and helps keep a healthy environment for the fish in the lake.



WILDLIFE SAFETY & FISHING

Q: What do we do if there's wildlife on the lake?

A: Please alert your customer service representative in the Gatehouse and they will contact 311 and report the animal sighting.

Q: Are there muskrats around Lake Summerside

A: From time to time we do see muskrats try and make a home at Lake Summerside. However, they are unwanted guests. Please report any muskrat sightings to the SSRA so we can contact pest control.

Q: Do I need a fishing license to fish at Lake Summerside?

A: Lake Summerside is a private lake, therefore a fishing license is not required when fishing. However, prior to fishing we ask that you read over and sign the Fishing Rules and Regulations every year. The document can be found on our website www.lakesummerside.ca > Reservations > Fishing Rules.

Q: What kind of fish are in Lake Summerside?

A: The lake contains rainbow trout, brook trout, and grass carp. The SSRA stocks the lake with thousands of fish every year. We are also expecting tiger trout as of the spring of 2022.

There are also perch in Lake Summerside. The perch were not introduced by the SSRA, but instead were introduced without our approval, and unfortunately have multiplied significantly to the point where the SSRA must spend thousands of dollars each year netting and removing this species each year to keep their numbers from inflating to a point where they negatively effect our trout population and angling experience.

It is extremely important to never introduce any fish into Lake Summerside. Though people think it can be harmless putting something like their no- longer wanted pet goldfish into the lake, this can major problems in the lake, as some of these fish species can replicate to the point of completely overtaking the water body. A quick internet search of 'goldfish St. Albert' highlights the almost unbelievable problems introducing species into the lake can cause.

Please immediately report all sightings of any different fish species other than the ones listed prior. Pictures and locations will be important if they can be provided. Additionally, if you catch perch, or any other fish that the SSRA does not stock, please do not put it back into the water.

Q: When can we start ice fishing?

A: The SSRA goes through a measurement process around the lake to determine when it will open for recreation. As mentioned there are a variety of factors that determine when we open, but typically we will open the lake for fishing when we have 7-8" of ice.

Q: What can the SSRA do to control birds?

A: Because birds like seagulls and geese are migratory, they are protected species. That makes what the SSRA can do limited. You may hear a loud firework sounding bang from time to time around the lake. This is an auditory control method. The SSRA also has a volunteer dog patrol program that occurs outside of regular park hours, that has shown to be very successful thus far in decreasing bird traffic. If you are interested in being part of this program, please call the office for more information.



PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Q: Does Summerside Residents Association offer any programs?

A: Yes! There are a number of drop-ins, workshops, and registered programs for children, adults, and families each year including: Summer camps, Sportball, Karate, Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Kids Dance and more!

View our current programs on our website www.lakesummerside.ca

Q: What if I need to withdraw from a program that I registered in?

A: Our program withdrawal and cancellation guidelines are outlined on our website under PROGRAMS.

Q: How often are new programs offered?

A: New programs are offered on a seasonal basis, with registration available up to one month prior to classes starting.

Summer classes generally start in June/July.

Fall classes begin in September.

Winter classes begin in December.

Spring classes begin in April.

Q: What kind of special events does the SSRA offer?

A: The Summerside Residents Association also offers a number of special events each year, including: Easter Eggstravaganza, Summer Carnival and Fireworks, Movie in the Park, Halloween Haunted House, Santa Photos, Adult Beer Gardens and more! View our upcoming events on our website at www.lakesummerside.ca

Q: Who are the events for?

A: We always want to make sure SSRA Residents are prioritized for access to the events. However, we understand that being able to bring non-resident guests is important to many residents as well. The SSRA analyzes each event individually and allow guests as it deems feasible depending on the nature of the event, the expected demand, and the available for capacity etc.

Q: Do events have a limited capacity?

A: Some of our events may have a set capacity and or may require an RSVP. In the case of a ticketed event, you may also be required to purchase a ticket via Eventbrite. Please note that not all of our event offerings will require an RSVP or paid ticket but may be on a first come first serve basis.

Q: Do you offer sponsorship for special events?

A: Our sponsorship package gives your business the opportunity to become a part of the lively, expanding community of Lake Summerside and will provide exceptional value and exposure for your business. Don't miss out on your chance to partner with us and connect with the residents of Summerside! For more information please email programs@lakesummerside.ca



COMMUNITY FUN FACTS

Q: When did construction start?

A: Planning began in 1998. Construction began in 1999 and digging of the lake began in 2000.

Q: How much water was required to fill the lake?

A: 680 million liters of water was needed to fill the lake and took over 3 months to fill.

Q: What is the size of the Lake Summerside community?

A: Lake Summerside is 750 acres in total with over 4400 residences.

Q: What is the size of the lake?

A: The lake is 32 acres.

Q: What is the size of the main park?

A: The Beach Club park is 10 acres