
SUBJECT: Skyway Community Centre – Construction Update and Opening Details

TO: Council Information Package

FROM: Community Services
Recreation, Community and Culture

Report Number: CSS-15-25

Wards Affected: all

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: N/A

CIP Date: 6/13/2025

This memo provides an update on the status and schedule to completion for the Skyway Community Centre and Park Redevelopment Project.

Memo Details

Background

Faced with the aging 1975 Skyway Arena reaching the end of its lifespan, the City of Burlington launched a broader initiative to reimagine a facility that would better serve the evolving needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods and the wider community. Eight years of extensive community engagement helped shape a new vision that prioritizes accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability, and intergenerational social connections.

Driven by a commitment to community values, the new Skyway Community Centre and Park will offer a versatile facility designed to enhance recreation and accessibility. Key features include:

- **Hearing loop-enabled service areas** for improved communication accessibility.
- **A welcoming lounge area** with modular seating, a fireplace, TV monitors, wheelchair charging stations, and a self-serve kitchenette for community use.
- **A 140m, three-lane indoor track** for walking, strolling, and rolling.
- **An expanded, accessible NHL-sized ice pad** with increased spectator seating for 300, warm-zone or ice-level viewing options, and unobstructed sightlines.

- **Barrier-free dressing and referee rooms** equipped with accessible showers and washrooms.
- **Inclusive, gender-neutral washrooms**, including four individual units, two barrier-free options, and one universal washroom with a height-adjustable changing station.
- **Two multipurpose community rooms**, each featuring lined pickleball courts and kitchenettes for social gatherings, meetings, and recreational activities.
- **A 275' fenced baseball diamond** with accessible bleachers.
- **An outdoor playground** featuring natural wood elements and accessible pathways integrated seamlessly into the landscape.
- **A public art installation** at the main entrance, recognizing climate change responsibilities and the power of collective impact.
- **An expanded parking lot**, complete with two dual-head EV charging stations and bioswales to support sustainable stormwater management.

The redevelopment of the site commenced construction in October 2022. The project experienced several challenges that impacted the timeline, including post-pandemic-related disruptions and weather-related slow-downs. These obstacles have now been addressed, and partial occupancy was obtained in May 2025 enabling staff to commence operational setup and training. Now nearing completion, the Skyway Community Centre and Park is scheduled to officially open in Fall 2025.

Key Dates and Next Steps

The following are the key dates and milestones:

June 2025

- Construction of the outdoor playscape underway
- Completion of asphalt line painting
- Finalization of art installation

July – August 2025

- Installation of the naturalized playground
- Turf maturation on the baseball diamond
- Testing and commissioning of the ice plant

September – October 2025

- Ice production and line painting commence
- Scheduled start of registered programs, rentals, and drop-in activities

- Ice rentals set to begin following Thanksgiving
- A Community Opening Celebration will be held to highlight the new centre and park, with the date to be determined in the coming months based on construction progress. Updates will be shared with the community through various communication channels.

Author:

Name: Mandy Kerr

Title: Recreation Planner

Recreation, Community and Culture

Contact Info: mandy.kerr@burlington.ca

Name: Jennifer Johnson

Title: Senior Project Manager

Engineering Services

Contact Info: jennifer.johnson@burlington.ca

Memo Approval:

All memos are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner, Head of Corporate Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor.