

New rec centre fills a need in city's southeast

BY ALEX FRAZER-HARRISON MAY 27, 2016

Whether its for a workout, borrowing a book, or childcare, many southeast Calgary residents will be turning to a major new facility in Remington Development's master-planned Quarry Park community. Here are five things to know about the new City/YMCA recreation facility opening soon, writes Alex Frazer-Harrison



A rendering of the new recreation facility set to open in Quarry Park this summer.
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1. Amenities

The approximately 94,000-square-foot facility will be home to the Remington YMCA and will include amenities such as a fitness centre, running track, gym, 25-metre lap and leisure pool, plus multi-purpose rooms and an on-site 62-spot childcare facility. The Calgary Public Library will also open a new branch as it relocates from its previous location at Glenmore Square.

2. Universal locker rooms

It will be the first such facility in Calgary to have “universal locker rooms,” says Jenny Miron, general manager of the Remington Y.

“There will be change stalls, and a day-use locker in the middle,” she says. “It will be a locker room accessed by everybody: adults, seniors, families, folks with special needs.”

She adds there will also be “women’s plus” and “men’s plus” facilities available offering amenities such as steam rooms and towel service. Miron says she expects the facility to be kept busy not only by area residents but by people who work in the offices and businesses of Quarry Park and surrounding area.

“We’re working closely with the companies to provide opportunities for ... their employees to access wellness (programming) and to come and do volunteer opportunities,” she says. “We’re always talking about that work-life balance, and the importance of having recreation experiences within the community.”

Calgary YMCA will also operate the Quarry Park Child Development Centre, a childcare facility a few blocks from the rec centre that also is expected to open this summer.

3. More on the way

The facility is expected to service residents throughout the southeast. Other recreation centres are currently under development in the Great Plains industrial area and in Seton.

4. Just add an LRT

The facility “rounded out the amenity package we want to see within Quarry Park,” says Cody Clayton, president of Remington Development Corp., which has lent its name to the new Y and has overseen the creation of the mixed-use Quarry Park community that has brought major office, retail and residential development to the area south of Riverbend. “There is such a massive residential concentration and commercial now with Quarry Park ... I think it’s a great win, not only for Quarry Park but for all the communities in the southeast.”

He says the “last piece of the puzzle” for Quarry Park’s major amenities is expected to be the Green Line LRT, which will have a station just outside the facility.

5. Canada Day launch

The Remington YMCA is scheduled to open to the public on July 1. An official grand opening celebration will be held at a later date. The facility is located at 108 Quarry Park Rd. S.E.

“The real focus is to create a community hub,” says Miron.