



Recreation & Community Services

YEAR IN REVIEW | 20 25





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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Recreation and Community Services department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Yorkton residents. Our department strives for effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable governance.

Our mission is to deliver valued public services that not only build individual and community capacity but also promote overall well being alongside the positive development and growth of our community.

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PARKS AND OUTDOOR SPACES

Parks and outdoor facilities saw several capital improvements in 2025. These upgrades, combined with regular maintenance and park events, improved accessibility, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities, engaging hundreds of residents in outdoor programs and activities.

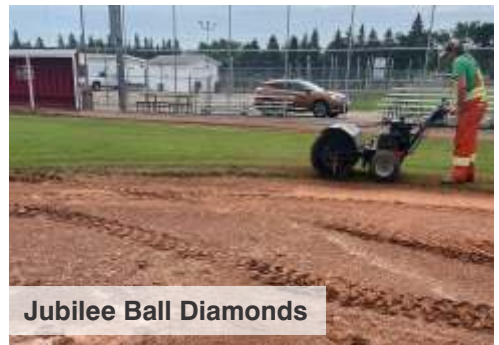
WHAT IMPROVED

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- 85 cubic yards of red shale added at **Jubilee Ball Diamond #1**, Yorkton's premier ball diamond.
- Heritage Heights **tennis and pickleball court** was resurfaced and expanded.
- New siding on five warm up shelters at outdoor rinks. Located at Heritage Heights, Knights of Columbus, Silver Heights, Ukrainian Pioneer, and Weinmaster Parks.



Heritage Heights Pickleball Court



Jubilee Ball Diamonds

HIGHLIGHTS

- Planted 160 and removed 75 trees throughout the city.
- Beautified public spaces and enhanced tree canopy.

CEMETERY

The cemetery continued to provide essential interment services while making improvements to enhance options for families and the overall appearance of the grounds.

WHAT IMPROVED

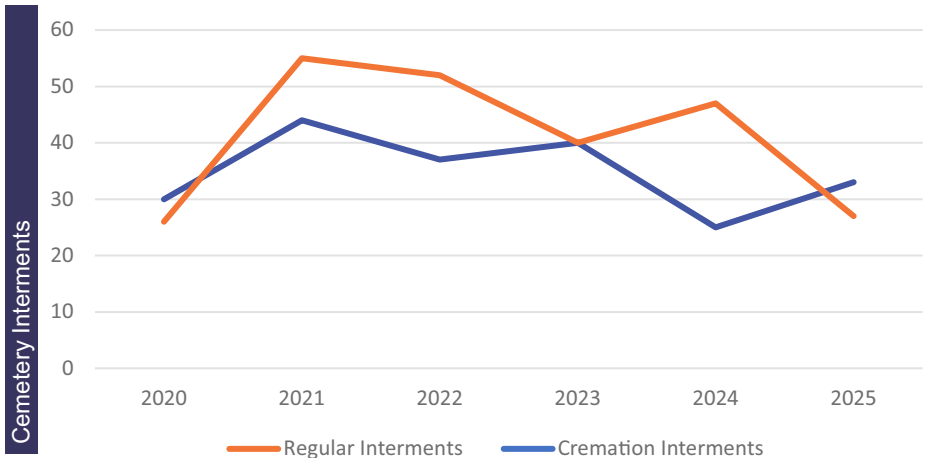
CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- Installed a new 72-niche granite columbarium.
- Added landscaping around the new and existing columbariums to improve accessibility and aesthetics.



Columbarium

Burial activity from 2020 to 2025 shows that cremation interments were generally higher than regular interments throughout this period. In 2025, regular interments rose slightly, while cremation interments dipped, illustrating a shift in burial patterns in the most recent year.



FACILITIES

The Kinsmen Arena, Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre, and Yorkton Public Library all underwent upgrades and improvements to enhance accessibility, modernize spaces, and support a wide range of community programs and events. The renovation and ice system upgrades at Kinsmen Arena were a major highlight, representing a major investment in one of the City's most heavily used recreation facilities.

WHAT IMPROVED

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Completed ice system upgrades at the **Kinsmen Arena** from January to October. The project involved removing the old rink system, replacing the ground oils, and installing a new concrete arena floor with upgraded refrigeration piping, along with new boards, glass, benches and seating. It also included new dehumidification equipment plus code and ice plant upgrades. For the full scope of the project, scan the QR code or visit shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca/kinsmenarenaproject



Kinsmen Arena



- Installed a new rooftop unit at the **Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre** to improve climate control and comfort.
- Upgraded meeting and children's rooms at the **Yorkton Public Library** with new kitchenette, fresh paint, updated carpet, and hallway flooring.



Yorkton Public Library



GALLAGHER CENTRE

2025 for the Gallagher Centre saw significant upgrades, new partnerships, and well attended events. The Water Park had it's biannual maintenance shutdown and expanded lifeguard training, aquatics, and fitness programs. It reinforced it's role as a community hub where Yorkton happens.

WHAT IMPROVED

- Filtration system and water treatment upgrades to the water park were completed during the biannual maintenance shutdown. This includes new filter tanks, media, and moving to a new ultraviolet light treatment system. For the full scope of the project, scan the QR code or visit shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca/waterparkshutdown

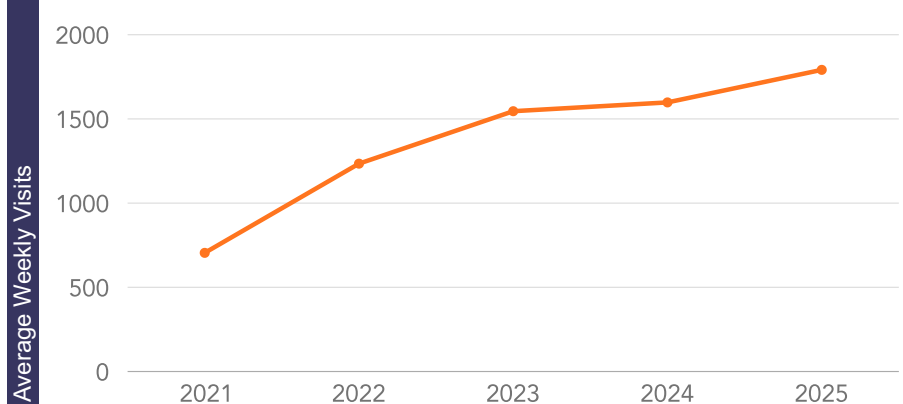


HIGHLIGHTS

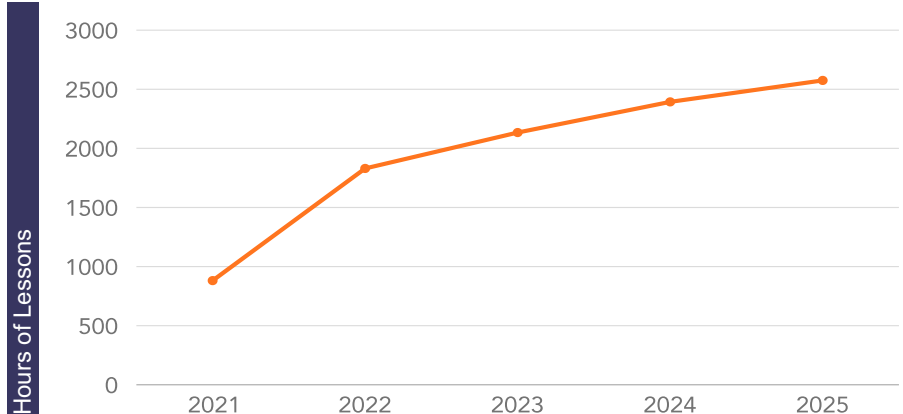
- Renewed the **Gallagher Centre** naming rights for 10 years, ensuring the legacy of George Gallagher and his family remains in place through 2035.
- Established a 10 year naming right agreement for the **Great Canadian Oil Change Curling Rink** and the **SoakZone Auto Spa Sports Lounge**.
- Over 70,000 people visited the water park, with increased participation in lessons, fitness and leadership programs.



This chart shows the average of weekly visits to the water park. There has been a consistent upward trend in weekly visits from 2021 through 2025. 2025 stands out with a sharp increase, indicating a notable surge in visitor interest and participation.



This chart shows that water park lessons stayed popular. Lesson hours rose over the five years, especially for one-on-one instruction. Even with weeks lost to the shutdown, registration was still high in 2025. The lower numbers in 2021 were due to COVID-19 restrictions and reduced capacity.



DEER PARK GOLF COURSE

Deer Park Golf Course continues to be a top rated municipal course in the Province. Improvements this year ensured a high quality playing experience and maintained the course as a premier recreation destination in the region.

WHAT IMPROVED

Capital projects at Deer Park included annual course improvements of:

- Irrigation upgrades
- Course drainage improvements
- Expanded parking areas

HIGHLIGHTS

- 22,220 rounds of golf were played. This is an **increase of 18.2%** from last year's 18,797.
- 384 season passes were purchased, **up 15.7%** from last year's 332.
- 20 organized events were hosted, including tournaments, scrambles, and classics. This number remained the same, showing a solid foundation of returning groups.



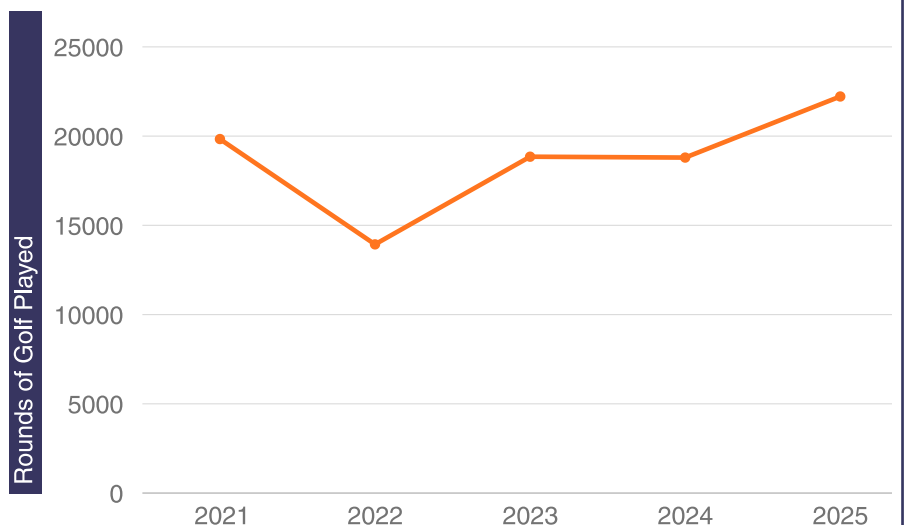
Photo credit: Sask Golfer



This chart shows the number of rounds of golf played from 2021-2025.

There has been relatively consistent play levels from 2021-2024. The dip in 2022 reflects the impact during clubhouse construction.

The course saw a significant increase in rounds played in 2025, showing strong growth in play at Deer Park.



CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Cultural programming continued to highlight Yorkton's heritage and support arts initiatives, while celebrating community diversity.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Released eight Heritage Corners and 12 YouTube videos which included topics like historic nicknames, local newspapers, and notable landmarks.
- Four new heritage displays were installed at the Gallagher Centre, each highlighting different aspects of the community's past, such as local hockey legends, heritage champions, and long standing historic businesses.
- Successfully hosted the inaugural **Community Heritage Fair**, which showcased local student and community projects, with several entries advancing to provincial and national level competitions.
- Continued to actively participate in **Culture Days**, earning a Top Ten national ranking for the fifth year in a row, reflecting strong community engagement and support for cultural activities.



Heritage Display

GRANTS

The City of Yorkton received funding from various programs to support sport, culture, recreation, community events, and seasonal initiatives. These grants helped enhance programs, maintain facilities, and provide special events for residents.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program: \$118,844 to support sport, culture, recreation programs, facilities, and special events.
- Community Initiatives Fund: \$7,500 for summer programming initiatives.
- SaskCulture Culture Days Hub funding: \$5,000.
- Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Community Rink Affordability Grant: \$7,500 for indoor arenas and curling rink.
- Trans Canada Trail grant: \$1,250 for Spring Clean Up Week.
- Young Canada Works grant: \$4,913.63 for a Summer Tour Guide.



Spring Clean Up Week



Summer Guided Tours

PROGRAMS

Recreation programs offered residents of all ages structured opportunities to stay active, develop skills, and engage in community life. Programs included fitness, youth sports, summer camps, and clinics, serving hundreds of participants and supporting over 30 local organizations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **January is Active Living Month** encourages the community to be active activity during the month. Low or no cost activities, including water park promotions, free walking track access, and indoor court discounts were offered. This supports physical and mental health while promoting community well being.
- Year round fitness and yoga classes were programmed (Master Fitness, Sculpt & Sweat, Diapers & Dumbbells, Chair Yoga, Gentle Yoga, Yoga in the Park). Program attendance increased **over 70%** from 2024 to 2025.
- **S-CAPE Summer Day Camp** saw over 400 registered camp spaces filled, with two new programs, **S-CAPE Junior** and **Splash Camp**, successfully introduced and set to return next season. **S-CAPE Junior** welcomed a small group of five year olds for a one week introduction to camp, helping them build comfort and excitement before fully joining as six year olds, with all participants indicating they plan to return in 2026. **Splash Camp** offered a special “*Splash Week*” featuring swim lessons and water-safety programming aligned with National Drowning Prevention Week, providing campers with eight hours of instruction plus additional in water activities. Both programs were well-received and will continue next year.
- Support continued for youth programs and recreation.
- Clinics and workshops continued, including, Intro to Racquetball Clinics, Forever in Motion Leader Workshop, and Culture 365 Henna Workshop.
- The **District Dream Broker** consulted with 77 families, and enrolled 124 children in over 250 community based sport, culture, and recreation programs. Created and offered nine unique programs in a variety of areas, including: art, dance, cooking and sports.
- The **Yorkton Sports Bank** welcomed 52 visits.
- Enrolled children in a wide range of sports, arts, music and recreational programs for youth.
- In partnership with Saskatchewan Senior Mechanism and the Saskatchewan Health Quality Council, the City launched a three year pilot project to hire a **Community Connector** to work with adults 55 plus, linking them to social supports and addressing social needs.



Master Fitness Class



S-CAPE Summer Day Camp



Splash Camp

EVENTS

We hosted a variety of events throughout the year, all of which saw high participation and strong community engagement. These events encouraged residents of all ages to connect, celebrate, and enjoy seasonal activities, while fostering partnerships with local groups and businesses.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Noon Year's Eve** returned for the third year in a row, attracting over 750 visitors and partnering with local businesses and community groups for a successful event.
- Spring and Fall **Activity Expos** hosted 46 registered groups and saw over 500 attendees across both events.
- June was recognized as **Parks and Recreation Month**. It was celebrated with three Park Parties at City Centre Park (in partnership with YBID for CultureFest), Weinmaster Park, and at the Parkland Mall green space for a movie in the park.
- The **Leisure Quest**, had participants follow clues hidden throughout local parks to spell a mystery word. The program was well received and engaged residents of all ages.
- **Canada Day Fireworks** at the Exhibition Grounds.
- **Howl-o-ween** was a partnership with Yorkton Terriers. Over 700 trick or treaters and over 1,500 people attended. 21 businesses or organizations participated, handing out candy and hosting activities.
- **Discover Downtown Yorkton** offered free guided tours exploring the history, culture, and heritage of downtown Yorkton. Tours ran through July and August. Participants learned about key landmarks and the stories that shaped the city. Nearly 100 people participated in the tours, which received highly positive public feedback and was showcased in an interview on CTV News.



Noon Year's Eve



Park Party - Weinmaster Park



Discover Downtown Yorkton



Howl-o-ween

SUMMARY

2025 was a busy year for the Recreation and Community Services department. The city's commitment to enhancing community well being is evident through the major capital projects and improvements, regular park and facility maintenance, and the many programs and special events that were offered.

Although the year may be wrapping up the RCS department is already gearing up for 2026 and can't wait to share all that's in store for next year!



