



Recreation & Community Services

YEAR IN | 20 REVIEW | 24



Recreation & Community Services

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2024

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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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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CAPITAL PROJECTS

The 2024 capital projects showcased our department's commitment to developing functional, vibrant, and sustainable spaces for the community' to enjoy.

BEAUTIFICATION AND FORESTRY

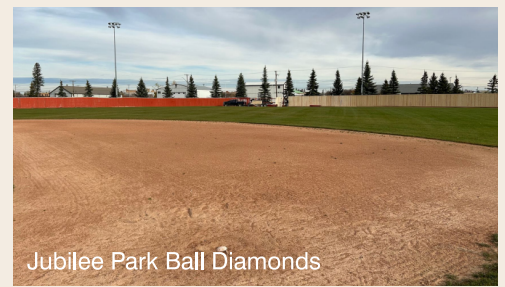
- Trees and grass were planted at the **Highway 9 Intersection Wall** project. 299 trees and shrubs were planted.
- 133 trees were planted at **Logan Green Soccer Pitches** to help block wind during games at the venue.

BALL DIAMONDS

- New fencing upgrades at **Jubilee Ball Park**.
 - Diamond #1 received 600 linear feet of new outfield fencing.
 - Diamond #1 brand new backstop is framed. Net installation is scheduled for the spring of 2025.
- New dugouts at **Jaycee Beach Ball Diamonds #3 and #4**. Each diamond is getting a new single dugout and then a shared, larger dugout build back-to-back. These upgrades will also allow storage in the double dugout.
- Yorkton Minor Baseball completed installation of batting cages at **Jubilee Ball Park**.

RECREATION FACILITIES

- **Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre** received a modernization overhaul to the kitchenette that is provided when renting the meeting space at the Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre and the Land Titles Building. The modernization of the renovation included, new cabinets, counter tops, floors and painting.
- **Yorkton Public Library** re-roofing was an extensive project tending to the needs of repairing the old flat roof with new materials.
- A new rooftop unit was installed at the **Gloria Hayden Community Centre**.
- **Kinsmen Arena** Ice Systems Upgrades project will begin January 2025. Lots of preparation work was completed this year in anticipation to the large scale project. For more specifics on the scope of work, head to shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca/kinsmenarenaproject.



Jubilee Park Ball Diamonds



Godfrey Dean Kitchenette



Before



After

Yorkton Public Library Re-roofing



Kinsmen Arena

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

CAPITAL PROJECTS

GALLAGHER CENTRE

- **Flexi-Hall** and **Westland Arena** both received sound system upgrades.
- **Flexi-Hall** and **Ag Pavilion** both received LED lighting upgrades.
- Fencing repairs and upgrades were completed around the **Gallagher Centre Grounds**. Also, a replacement of the gate near Tim Horton's.
- The **Gallagher Centre** completed an accessibility overhaul of the facility as per the findings of a recent study completed by the Dementia Society. All three main entrances to the facility now have accessible door openers. The Water Park also has accessible door openers as well as lifts to allow access into the lap pool and hot tub. These updates were partially funded through the Government of Canada's Employment and Social Development of Canada Accessibility Grant.
- The exterior digital sign has been upgraded to new technology and is now used as a communication and marketing tool for the Gallagher Centre and the City of Yorkton.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

- Warm up shelters were replaced at all five outdoor rinks. Outdoor rinks are located at Heritage Heights, Knights of Columbus, Silver Heights, Ukrainian Pioneer and Weinmaster Parks

DEER PARK GOLF COURSE

- Irrigation upgrades and course drainage work continues annually to improve course and playing conditions.
- New equipment was purchased this year to replace aging equipment.
 - New fairway mower
 - Utility vehicle
 - Debris blower
 - Tractor with attachments
 - Leased a new fleet of golf cart for use starting in 2025



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

RECREATION AND CULTURE PROGRAMMING

In 2024, we delivered a dynamic range of programs, events, and facility improvements that enriched our community's recreational and cultural experiences.

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS WATER PARK

- We saw great engagement with school break programming. There was a significant number of swimmer admissions during the February Break and the Easter break.
- We had 1,061 participants take part in lifeguard training.

GLORIA HAYDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

- Operated until May 17 and reopened September 30.
- Hosted three racquetball and seven pickleball clinics as well as one teen re-ball event.
- Home to the **S-CAPE** summer day camp program with 396 participants.
- Hosted multiple user groups including; Venom Volleyball, Blitz Volleyball, Women's Competitive Volleyball, Pickleball Yorkton, Yorkton Minor Baseball and RISE Basketball

KINSMEN ARENA

- Supported Yorkton Minor Hockey until the season ended in March, when the ice was taken out.
- Resumed operations for fall programming in mid August with a plan to remove the ice on December 23 for upgrades.

DEER PARK GOLF COURSE

- Hosted 20 organized events (tournaments, scrambles, and classics) with 1,646 golfers.
- 18,797 rounds of golf was played and 332 season passes were sold

SPRAY PARKS

- Spray parks were open from May 17 to September 16.

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

- Served as home to numerous organizations, including Yorkton United Football Club, Yorkton Lacrosse Association, Yorkton Minor Baseball, Yorkton Crush Softball, supporting over 1,000 local athletes



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- All outdoor skating surfaces, including Crokicurl, were flooded and opened before Christmas in 2023. Despite challenges from warm weather, the season ran until March 12.
- Celebrated June is Parks and Recreation Month with two Park Parties at Tupper Park and Weinmaster Park.
- Entered a float for the Yorkton Exhibition's Summer Fair Parade presented by Yorkton Tribal Council.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS, CLINICS AND PROGRAMS

In 2024, the Recreation and Community Services department delivered a variety of programs, workshops, and events that encouraged active living, cultural engagement and community connection.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

- The family friendly event, **Noon Year's Eve** at the Gallagher Centre saw over 1,200 attendees.
- Gallagher Centre held a **Bargain Bonanza** indoor rummage sale in May with 42 booths.
- **Canada Day Fireworks** - July 1 at the Yorkton Exhibition Grounds.
- **Movie in the Park** featured *Elemental* on August 14. Over 300 people attended. Popcorn, face painting, food, bouncy castle and lawn games were also available.
- A refreshed approach to the City Wide Registration Night launched the **Activity Expo** on August 21, with 40 organized groups and roughly 500 attendees.
- **Culture Days Yorkton** was in the top ten community events for the fifth year in a row!

ACTIVE LIVING AND RECREATION

- **January is Active Living Month** encouraged active lifestyle choices with:
 - BOGO public swim admission at the **Access Communications Water Park**.
 - Free Aquacise Bootcamp and Aqua Cycle water spin class at the **Access Communications Water Park** all month.
 - 50% off court sports, including racquetball, squash and wallyball.
- New fitness programming included:
 - Master Fitness with 65 participants.
 - Strollercise with three participants.
 - Sculpt and Sweat with 23 participants.
 - Diapers and Dumbbells with 17 participants.



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS, CLINICS AND PROGRAMS

WORKSHOPS AND CLINICS

- Needle Felting Workshop at the Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre in February.
- Three Intro to Raquetball Clinics at the Gloria Hayden Community Centre in February with 12 participants.
- Forever in Motion Leader Workshop in March with 8 attendees.
- Culture 365 - Henna Workshop on May 1 at the Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre.

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

- **S-CAPE Summer Program** was held from June to August with 396 participants.
- **Teen Toonie Reball** at the Gloria Hayden Community Centre, in partnership with the Prairie Harvest Christian Life Centre, had 30 participants.
- **Drop in and Play** partnership with the Yorkton Resource Centre was hosted at the Gloria Hayden Community Centre in the fall.

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

- **Film Screening of Reserve 107 – Reconciliation on the Prairies** in partnership with Yorkton Film Festival and the Yorkton Public Library for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21 with a strong showing of attendees.



Pickleball at the Gloria Hayden Community Centre



Racquetball at the Gloria Hayden Community Centre



S-CAPE Summer Program



S-CAPE Summer Program



S-CAPE Summer Program

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

TREE MAINTENANCE AND PLANTING

- Forestry completed the planting of 160 trees throughout the city
- Removed 75 trees as part of maintenance and safety efforts.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE MANAGEMENT

- Diagnosed and removed two trees affected by Dutch Elm Disease to prevent further spread.



SEASONAL BEAUTIFICATION

- Bedding plants and downtown flowers arrived on May 21 and were fully planted and installed by June 18.
- Sold and installed two benches through the Commemorative Bench Program.
- Sold and installed three memorial plaques at Logan Green Memorial Tree Park

GRANTS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

GRANTS

Funding was secured from various sources to enhance community programs, facilities, and events

- Over 400 volunteers were involved in bringing sport, culture and recreation programming to the community.
- Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program allocated \$118,844.00 to support over 30 community sport, culture and recreation programs, facilities and special events.
- Received \$5,000 from the Community Initiatives Fund for summer programming initiatives.
- Received \$5,000 from SaskCulture for Culture Days Hub funding.
- Received \$7,500 through the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Community Rink Affordability Grant for the Kinsmen Arena, the Westland Arena and the curling rink.
- Received \$1,250 in grant funding from the Trans Canada Trail for Spring Clean Up Week.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Prairie Wild Consulting was hired to complete the **Community Cultural Plan 2.0** as much has changed in the community from the 2009 Municipal Cultural Plan. The consultation concluded this year and was formally adopted at the July 29 meeting of City Council. More information on the studies and reports can be found at shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca



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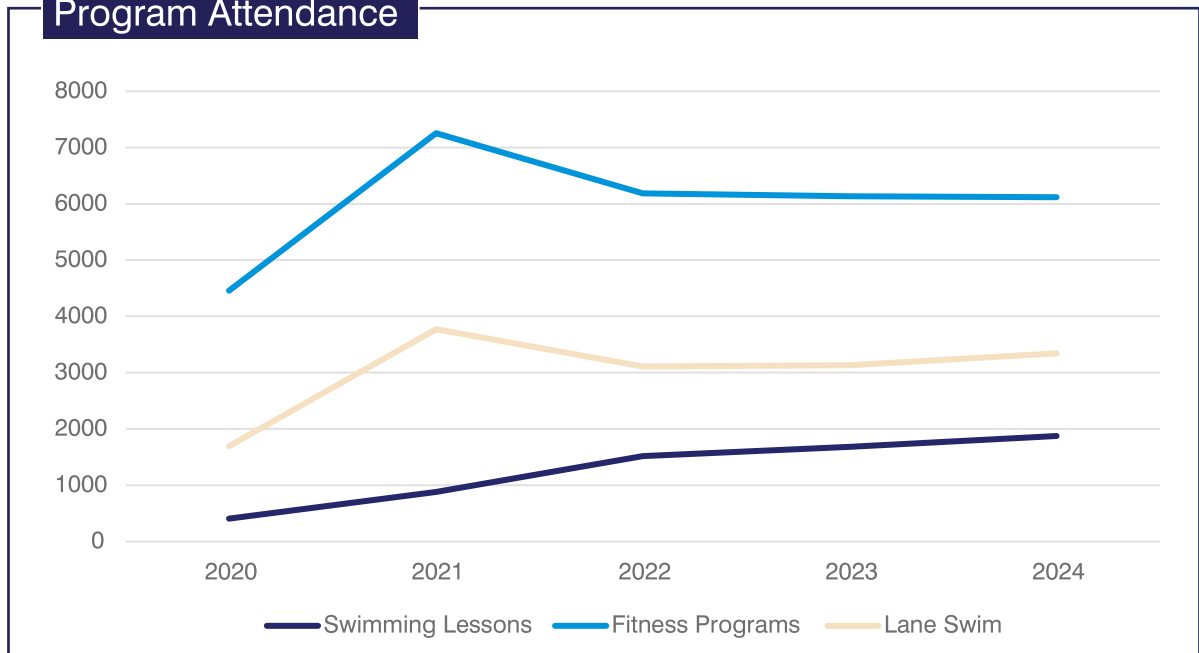
YEAR END STATISTICS

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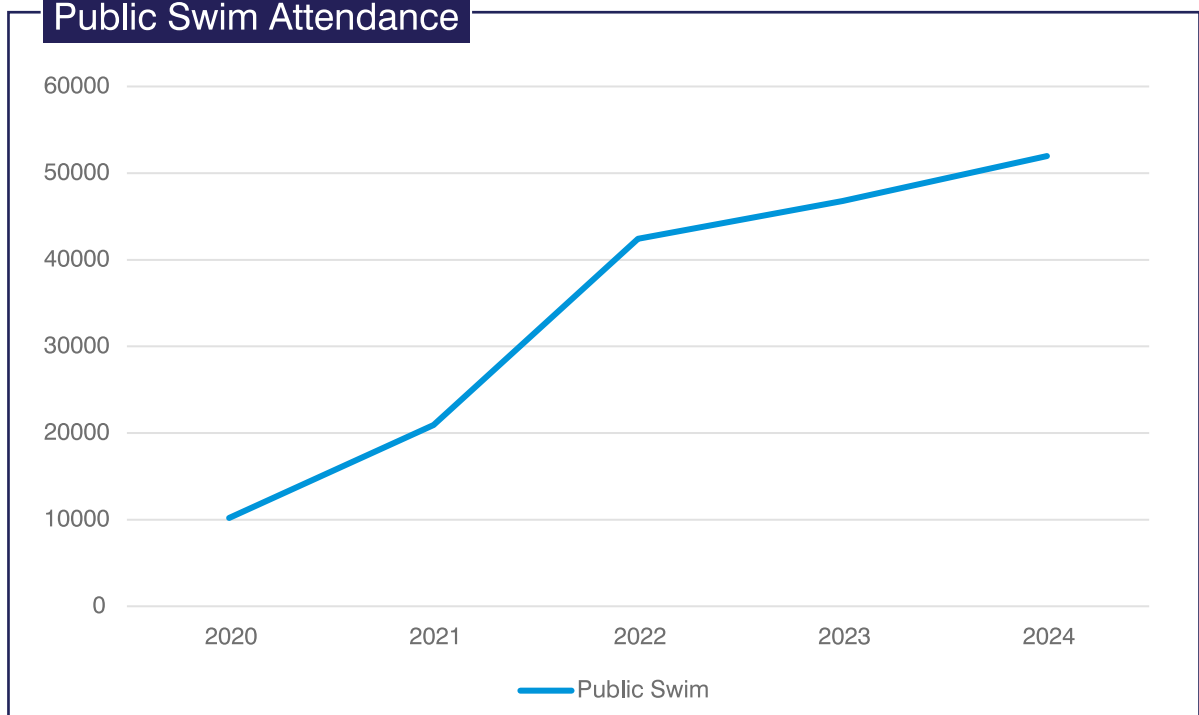
ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS WATER PARK

The charts below show strong participation in swimming programs from 2020 to 2024, with swimming lessons maintaining high attendance and fitness programs and lane swims showing steady growth. Public swim attendance consistently increases over the years.

Program Attendance



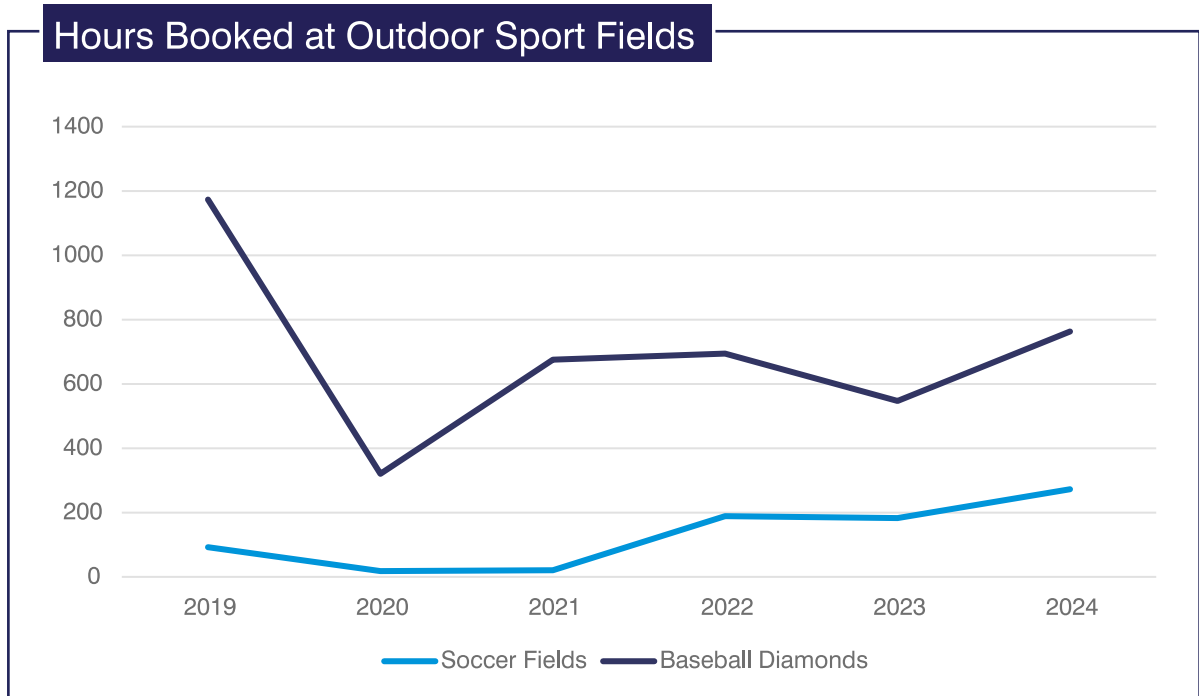
Public Swim Attendance



YEAR END STATISTICS

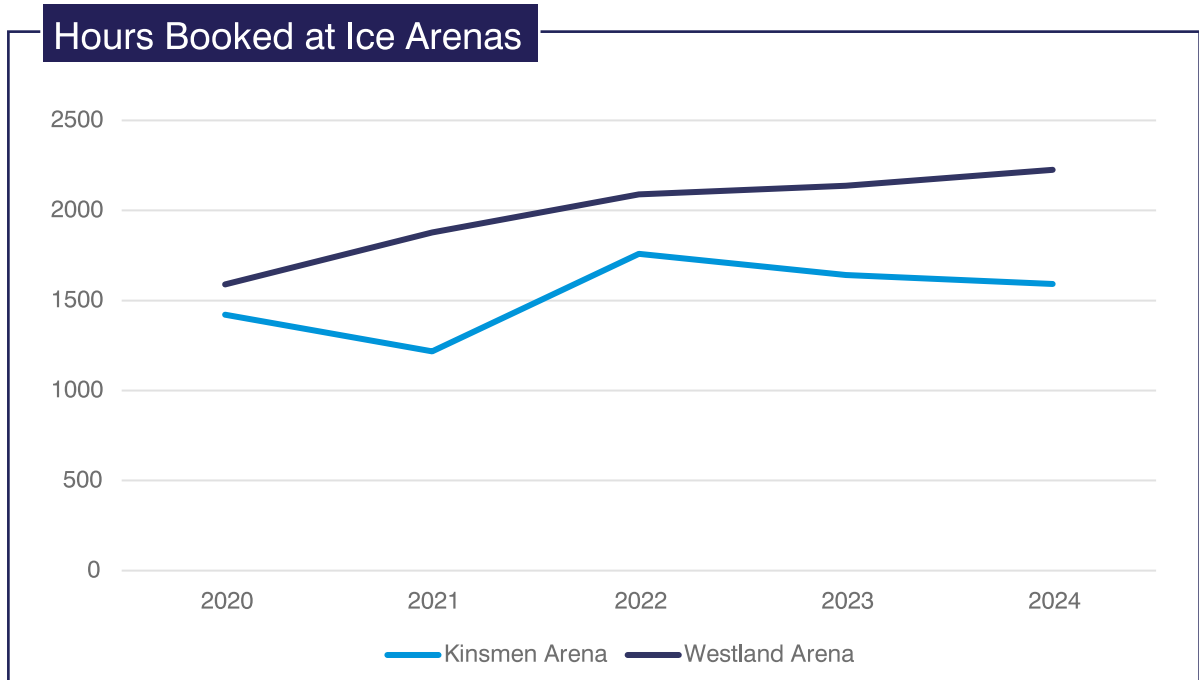
SPORT FIELD BOOKINGS

The chart shows the annual hours booked for soccer fields and baseball diamonds from 2019 to 2024.



ICE ARENA BOOKINGS

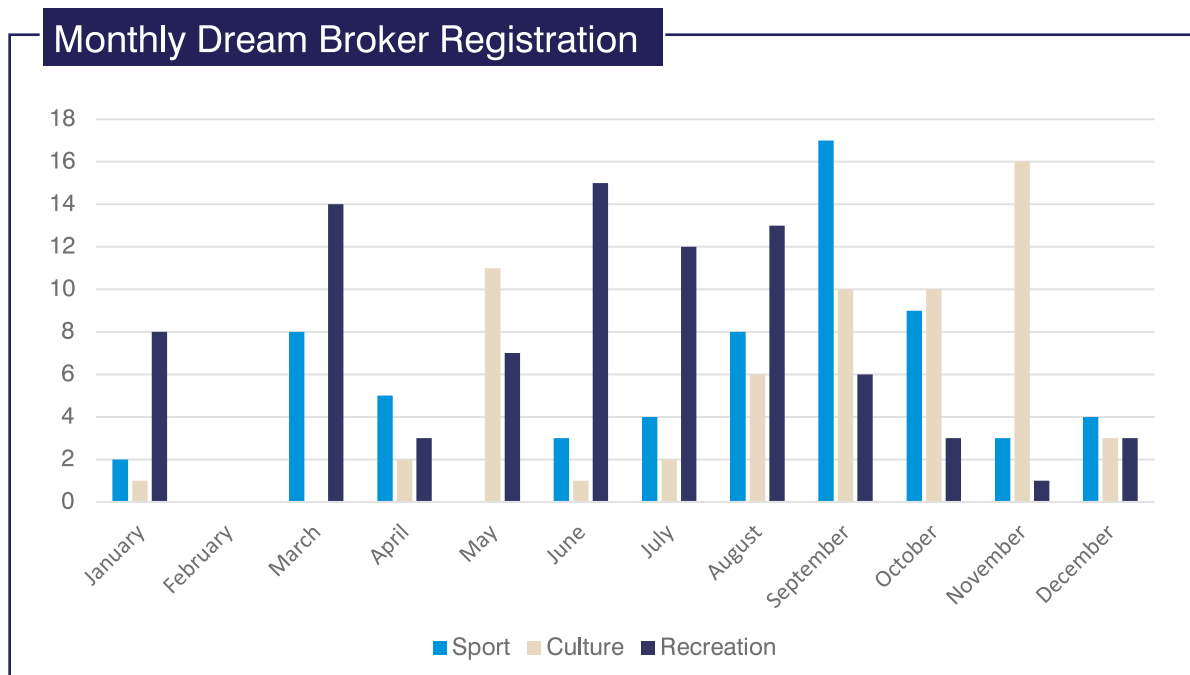
The chart shows the annual hours booked for the ice arenas from 2020 to 2024.



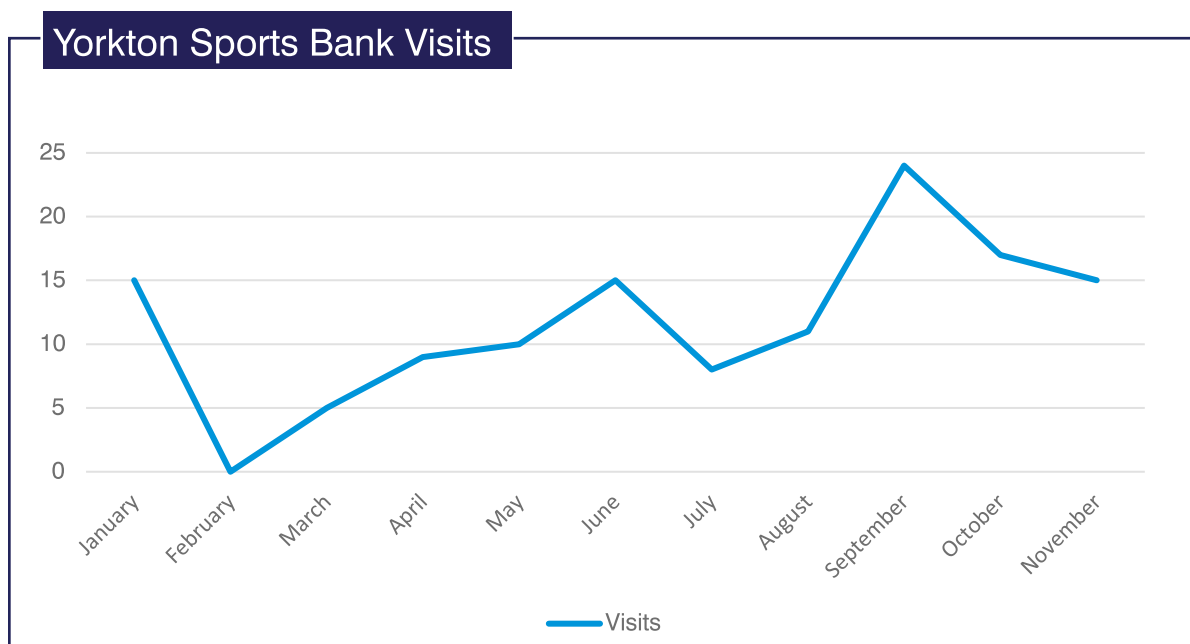
YEAR END STATISTICS

DREAM BROKER

The District Dream Broker connects students to community-based sport, culture and recreation opportunities. Over the course of the year, students are registered in programs and activities. Each category has varying levels of activity, with some months showing clear spikes in specific categories, such as a peak in recreation in March and high sport activity in September.



The chart below illustrates the monthly number of visits to the Yorkton Sports Bank in 2024, showing fluctuations with a peak in September and dips in February and March.



YEAR END STATISTICS

CEMETERY

The graph illustrates interments in the Cemetery from 2019 to 2024, divided into two categories: cremation and burial. Cremations have shown an overall upward trend, peaking in 2024 with the highest recorded number in the observed years. Traditional burials have steadily decreased since 2021, marking a significant decline by 2024. This shift aligns with trends favoring cremation over traditional burial due to factors like cost and personal preferences.

