Public Information Sheet

Cardiff Stormwater Pond Emergency Wastewater Discharge

June 27, 2026

What Happened?

On June 27, 2026, Sturgeon County responded to extraordinary rainfall conditions that caused unusually high volumes of water to enter the Cardiff wastewater collection system. Despite continuous monitoring, pumping operations, and the use of multiple vacuum trucks, wastewater flows exceeded the capacity of emergency response measures.

To protect residents and critical infrastructure, the County authorized a controlled emergency discharge of approximately 200 cubic metres of highly diluted wastewater into the Cardiff Stormwater Pond.

Sturgeon County believes the water is safe. However, to be extra careful, please avoid contact with the water until environmental testing is completed.

Why Was This Decision Made?

The emergency discharge was done to prevent more significant impacts, including:

- Sewage backups into approximately 400 homes in Cardiff;
- Damage to private property;
- Failure of the Cardiff Lift Station;
- Extended interruptions to wastewater service; and
- Uncontrolled wastewater releases.

County staff evaluated other disposal options; however, regional flooding, road closures, and capacity constraints throughout downstream wastewater systems limited their effectiveness during the emergency.

Why Was the Stormwater Pond Used?

The Cardiff Stormwater Pond was determined to be the lowest-risk option available at the time because:

- It is a contained facility designed to store large water volumes;
- Significant dilution was occurring due to ongoing stormwater inflows;
- It had available storage capacity; and
- No direct connection to fish-bearing waterbodies had been identified.

Environmental Monitoring

Based on an environmental assessment conducted by a specialized environmental consulting firm, the stormwater pond appears to be safe; however, additional testing is underway to confirm these findings. Sturgeon County believes the water is safe. Even so, residents are advised to avoid contact with the water until further testing is complete.

The County reported the incident to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas in accordance with provincial requirements. Environmental monitoring and water quality sampling were initiated immediately following the discharge and remain ongoing to assess conditions within the pond and identify any potential environmental impacts. Results will be provided to regulators as required. Based on the environmental assessment and the volume of diluted sewage removed from the lift station, Administration has determined the discharge to pose a low risk to residents and the surrounding environment, with continued monitoring and testing underway to confirm conditions

Rainfall Conditions

June 2026 was one of the wettest Junes on record in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Preliminary data indicates approximately 262 mm of rainfall was recorded during the month, exceeding the previous June record of 217 mm set in 1914. Rainfall on June 26–27 generated approximately 45 mm of rain over 48 hours, creating unprecedented pressure on wastewater infrastructure across the region.

Our Commitment

Sturgeon County is committed to:

- Protecting public health and safety;
- Maintaining critical wastewater services;

- Meeting regulatory reporting requirements;
- Monitoring environmental conditions; and
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen infrastructure resilience for future extreme weather events.

Cardiff Stormwater Pond location

The Cardiff Stormwater Pond is not connected to Cardiff Pond inside Cardiff Park.

Contact Information

Utility & Waste Management Services, Sturgeon County

780.939.8254

780.939.4321 (After hours Emergencies)