



# Release

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## **FLOODWAY AUTHORITY UNVEILS MITIGATION PLAN FOR SPRINGHILL WINTER SPORTS PARK**

### **Excavated Floodway Earth to Enhance Springhill Ski and Snowboard Runs**

**Winnipeg, MB** – Today, Premier Gary Doer announced a plan to mitigate the impact of floodway construction on the operation of Springhill Winter Sports Park – a ski hill operated and leased on Crown Land within the floodway right-of-way.

“While floodway expansion is critical to the long-term protection of Winnipeg, Springhill Winter Sports Park is one of Manitoba’s many great recreational destinations during the winter season,” said Premier Gary Doer. “The mitigation plan announced today presents an opportunity to use earth from the expansion project to improve Springhill’s ski and snowboard runs and contribute to long-lasting recreational and tourism opportunities in the region.”

“During our extensive public consultation and environmental licensing process, MFA made a firm commitment to mitigate adverse impacts directly related to floodway construction,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “These measures will support the Springhill’s future planned development efforts, further promote economic development opportunities and ultimately enhance the benefits the expanded floodway will have to the community.” Gilroy noted that additional mitigation plans will be announced in the upcoming weeks as the floodway project moves forward.

As part of the mitigation plan, the MFA will undertake the following:

- Excavate on the south side (west bank) of the channel to minimize disruption to Springhill;
- Establish perimeter fencing to deter trespassing by unauthorized vehicular through-traffic; and
- Place excavated earth from the floodway channel adjacent to the facility to increase the elevation of the existing ski hill and establish the foundation of a snowboarding half-pipe.

These measures will support the operator’s planned development and enhancement plans which include:

- Enhancing the size of the existing ski training area;
- Developing a “half-pipe” Olympic calibre snowboarding run;
- Leveling the area at the rear of the facility to provide space for a skating rink; and
- Improving access for persons with disabilities.

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“The MFA has been great to work with over the past year,” said Dan Woodbeck, owner of Springhill Winter Sports Park. “As construction proceeds, we appreciate that the MFA has recognized the impact the project has on our operation. We are also very excited that the floodway earth will allow us to increase the height of our ski hill and construct a half-pipe for the benefit of our user groups.” Woodbeck indicated that the operation is currently undertaking facility improvements including expanding the size of the ski chalet to include restaurant improvements and conference rooms.

In March 2005, MFA announced that floodway excavation would be undertaken on the opposite side of the floodway channel outside of the ski season to ensure that there would be no disruption to the ski season. Subsequently, after reviewing its construction schedule and after discussions with the operator, MFA identified the potential impacts:

- Unpredictable weather and other construction-related factors could delay the start of the 2007 ski season;
- Increased safety and security risks for the operators of Springhill associated with trespassing and unauthorized access due to floodway construction access points; and
- Restriction to the development of off-season summer recreation opportunities associated with summer construction.

Springhill Winter Sports Park provides facilities for downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, and features day and night skiing, ski and snowboard rental, professional ski school instruction, a restaurant and a sports bar. It hosts approximately 30,000 visitors annually over the course of their three-month winter downhill skiing season.

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