

SOUTH WINNIPEG RECREATION CAMPUS

Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary

June 2023

Background

The City is building a new regional, multi-use, multi-generational South Winnipeg Recreation Campus (SWRC) to meet the community's recreation needs.

The project will be built in multiple phases, with design work for Phase 1 starting in fall 2022 and construction expected in 2024-2025. Phase 1 includes gymnasiums, multipurpose rooms, indoor walking track and fitness area, a daycare, and an outdoor spray pad. These spaces were identified as priorities by community and stakeholders in consultations conducted in 2019.

A master site plan will be created for future phases. Future phases may include an aquatic centre, library, indoor arena, and further development of the adjacent park space and athletic fields.

Engagement

The engagement process is intended to gather the public and stakeholders' vision, values, priorities, and programming needs for the SWRC. Input is helping shape the vision and design of the site and facilities.

This project includes targeted engagement aimed at residents of South Winnipeg, potential future users of the SWRC, and specific stakeholders. Table 1 summarizes the Phase 1 public engagement opportunities to date.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- News release – November 15, 2022
- Facebook and Twitter posts – November 15 to December 8, 2022
- Posters and postcards in five City recreation facilities – November 15 to December 8, 2022
- Email to over 60,000 ActiveNET subscribers – November 15, 2022
- Email to over 9,000 LeisureNews subscribers – November 15, 2022
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 4,700 recipients – November 16 and 28, 2022
- Free Press Community Review newspaper ad – November 23, 2022



Image 1: Workshop attendees work on a master site plan.

Table 1: Public Engagement Opportunities to Date

Date	Activity	Details
November 1, 2, 3 & 5, 2022	Stakeholder meetings	28 attendees
October 27 & November 23, 2022	Stakeholder interviews	2 participants (unable to attend meetings)
November 15 – December 12, 2022	Webpage	Over 4,700 unique visitors
November 15 – December 12, 2022	Online survey	2,547 respondents
November 30 & December 1, 2022	Public workshops	34 attendees
May 31, June 1 & 2, 2023	Stakeholder meetings	9 attendees

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Survey Findings

Survey respondents were asked to share their priorities for programming and amenities. Survey respondents identified indoor sports they could see themselves, friends, and family participating in. The top four were:



Indoor walking or running
(2,187 responses)



Group fitness classes
(1,158 responses)



Yoga
(1,037 responses)



Basketball
(825 responses)

The top four indoor non-sport activities were:



Rent space for parties, such as reunions, birthdays
(1,374 responses)



Leisure or “learn-to” programs
(1,195 responses)



Arts and crafts, such as pottery or painting
(1,025 responses)



Cooking classes
(945 responses)

The top four outdoor sports were:



Soccer field
(1,065 responses)



Tennis/pickleball court
(984 responses)



Outdoor fitness
(780 responses)



Baseball field
(638 responses)

The top four outdoor non-sport amenities most important to survey respondents are:



Ice skating
(1,503 responses)



Walking/running trails
(1,490 responses)



Shaded seating areas
(1,450 responses)



Picnic shelters
(1,331 responses)

A full list of programming and amenity priorities is available in Appendix A.

Survey respondents were then asked to share how they would like to feel or what they would like to see in the public area of the SWRC. A word cloud was created to capture survey respondents' vision for the public area.

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Figure 1: Themes for what participants want to see or feel in the public area

Survey respondents were asked to share how they would like to feel or what they would like to see in the outdoor leisure space at the SWRC. A word cloud was created to capture survey respondents' vision for the outdoor leisure space.

Figure 2: Themes for what participants want to see or feel in the outdoor leisure space.



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Workshop Findings

Two public workshops gathered preferences and priorities for programming and amenities, as well as feedback on site plan and connections. In the first activity, attendees used vision boards to indicate their priorities for indoor and outdoor sports and leisure. In the second activity, attendees created a mock recreation campus on a site plan with amenities represented by cut-out pieces.

Key findings from workshops include:

- Support for indoor activities and programming including space for educational and cultural programming, community multi-purpose rooms, and space for events and performances.
- Support for indoor sports; particularly, running or walking track, racquet sports, and court sports. Some participants disliked the use of the area for fitness- or aerobics-related activities.
- Support for various outdoor sports, although baseball garnered less positive sentiment than other sports.
- Support for public spaces that could accommodate group gatherings, eating spaces, and areas for relaxing or studying as well as outdoor leisure areas. Some participants disliked public spaces being designed for public viewing (for example: viewing public art).
- Other amenities that participants were in favour of include dog-friendly areas, indoor and outdoor hockey rinks, pickleball courts, and aquatic programs.
- Support for sport- and fitness-related amenities such as spray pads, aquatics, a skate park, ice rinks, and tennis and volleyball courts.

A summary of the workshops is in Appendix B.

Stakeholder Meetings and Interview Findings

The City met with neighbourhood associations, cultural organizations, education providers, and sports, recreation, accessibility organizations and transportation groups.

Key findings from stakeholder meetings include:

- Strong support for implementing sport-related amenities, activities, and programming, particularly for swimming, basketball, pickleball, indoor and outdoor track, indoor and outdoor skating, indoor and outdoor soccer, and indoor and outdoor cricket, among others.
- Support for building sport-related amenities outdoors, including fields for soccer, lacrosse, cricket, and volleyball among others, as well as rinks for hockey and skating. Other outdoor amenities requested include dog-friendly areas and outdoor washrooms.
- Support for the implementation of multi-purpose rooms to use for community gatherings and programs, hosting events, and as storage space.
- Concerns regarding being unable to access the campus through public transit or safe and reliable active transportation routes such as direct walking and biking paths, as well as secure bike storage.
- Other comments included requests for various community events and features to be implemented at the campus, such as educational programming, a community garden, outdoor events, etc.

Notes from the stakeholder meetings are in Appendix C and Appendix D.

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Table 2: How input was considered

What we heard	How input was considered
The top four indoor sports are running/walking, group fitness, yoga, and basketball.	The recreation campus includes a walking/running track above a gymnasium that is large enough for three basketball courts. The fitness area and movement studio can support group fitness and yoga classes.
The top indoor non-sport activities are rental space for parties, leisure or “learn-to” programs, arts and crafts, and cooking classes	The recreation campus includes six multi-purpose rooms with capacities from 35 to 100 people. The multi-purpose will be used for a variety of indoor programs and rentals. A catering kitchen is located off one of the multipurpose rooms.
The top four outdoor sports are soccer, tennis/pickleball courts, outdoor fitness, and baseball.	The site plan includes soccer, tennis, and pickleball courts. Smaller outdoor amenities such as outdoor fitness equipment, picnic shelters, and lounge areas will be considered in future phases. A baseball field was not able to fit on the site.
The top four outdoor non-sport amenities are ice skating, walking/running trails, shaded seating areas, picnic shelters	The site plan includes picnic shelters, benches, a winter warming area, and an outdoor lounge area. Multi-use pathways through the site connect to the walk/bike network. An ice rink was not able to fit on the site.
The recreation campus must be accessible and designed for all ages and abilities.	The recreation campus includes universal washrooms with accessible stalls, adult change tables, and person hoists. The gymnasium has a storage room dedicated to inclusive sports equipment. The fitness centre has inclusive fitness equipment.

Next Steps

What we heard during public and stakeholder engagement to date will help identify the programming needs and community priorities. Stakeholder engagement is ongoing. The architect will use the needs and priorities identified in Phase 1 of engagement to design the new SWRC.

The City will share the design with the public and stakeholders in 2023 during Phase 2 engagement. Feedback will validate the design and adjustments will be made based on Phase 2 feedback.

Appendices

Appendix A – Survey Results
Appendix B – Workshop Results
Appendix C – Stakeholder Meeting and Interview Notes
Appendix D – Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Appendix E – Stakeholder List