

Background

We are building a new recreation facility, called the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus (SWRC). This regional, multi-use, multi-generational recreation facility is being built to meet the community's needs. The project will be built in multiple phases, with construction for Phase 1 expected in 2026-2027. Phase 1 includes:

- gymnasiums
- multipurpose rooms
- an indoor walking/running track
- a fitness area
- a serving kitchen
- a child care centre
- an outdoor spray pad

Engagement

We gathered input from residents in winter 2022 on the programs and amenities they want in the SWRC. This input helped shape the design. Engagement on the design took place between March 10 and April 7, 2025. We heard from residents of south Winnipeg, potential future users, and stakeholder organizations. Table 1 summarizes the public engagement opportunities.

Table 1: Public engagement opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
March 10 – April 7, 2025	Online survey	610 respondents
March 10 – April 7, 2025	Fly-through video	690 views
March 18 – 21, 2025	Stakeholder meetings	2 organizations
March 22, 2025	Open house	Over 64 attendees

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- Project webpage – Over 3,800 visitors from March 10 – April 7, 2025
- News release – March 10, 2025
- Facebook posts with over 33,000 followers – Five posts from March 10 – March 21, 2025
- X posts with over 113,000 followers – Five posts from March 10 – April 2, 2025
- Instagram posts with over 950 followers – One post on March 10, 2025
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,700 recipients – March 11 and March 20, 2025
- Email to 102 project subscribers – March 10, 2025
- Postcards and posters – 500 postcards and 50 posters were dropped off on March 11, 2025, at seven locations including:
 - Margaret Grant Pool
 - Pembina Trail Library
 - Fort Garry Library

SOUTH WINNIPEG RECREATION CAMPUS

Public Engagement Summary



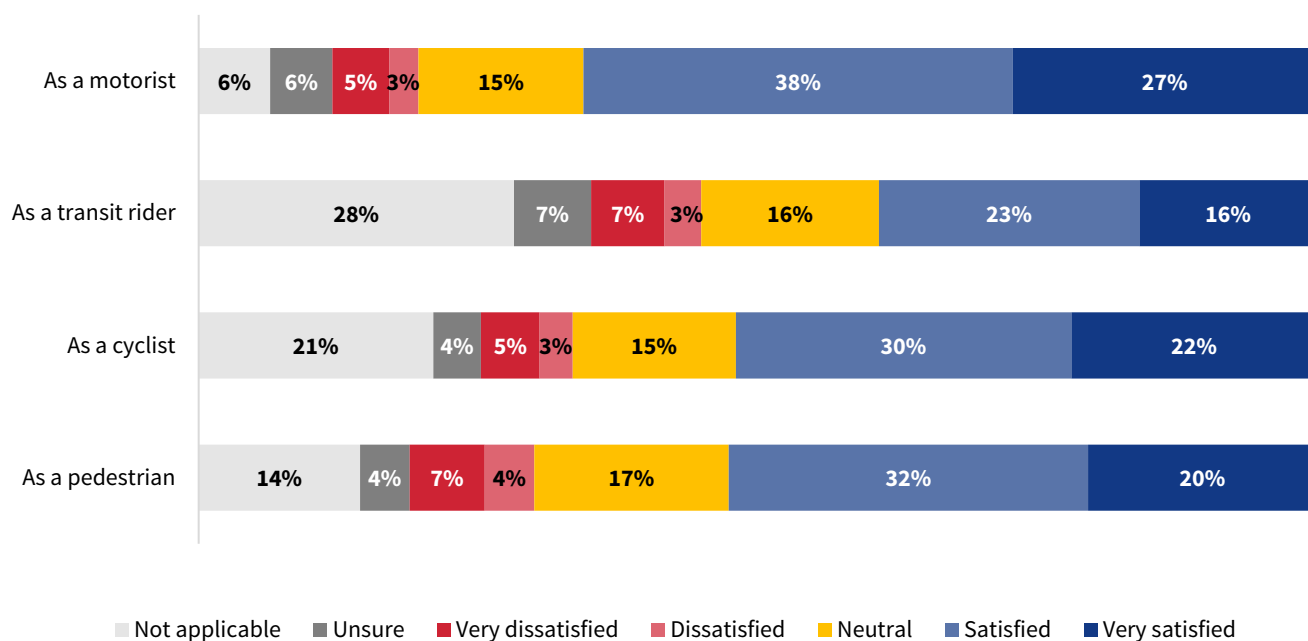
- South Winnipeg Community Centre (Waverley, Richmond, and Ryerson)
- Whyte Ridge Community Centre
- Bison Run School
- Pembina Trails Collegiate

What we heard

Survey findings

The following graphs show key survey results. A full report of the survey findings can be found in Appendix A.

Question 1: We need to make sure that people can get to the campus using all types of transportation. The design includes an entrance near Bison Drive for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders. The design also includes parking and a drop-off/pick-up near Joe Keeper Way for motorists. How satisfied are you with the access to the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus? (610 responses)



**Many respondents selected 'not applicable' for the 'cyclist' and 'transit rider' options. This results in a smaller percentage of respondents saying they're satisfied with bike and transit access, even though the people who do cycle and take transit might be happy with it.*

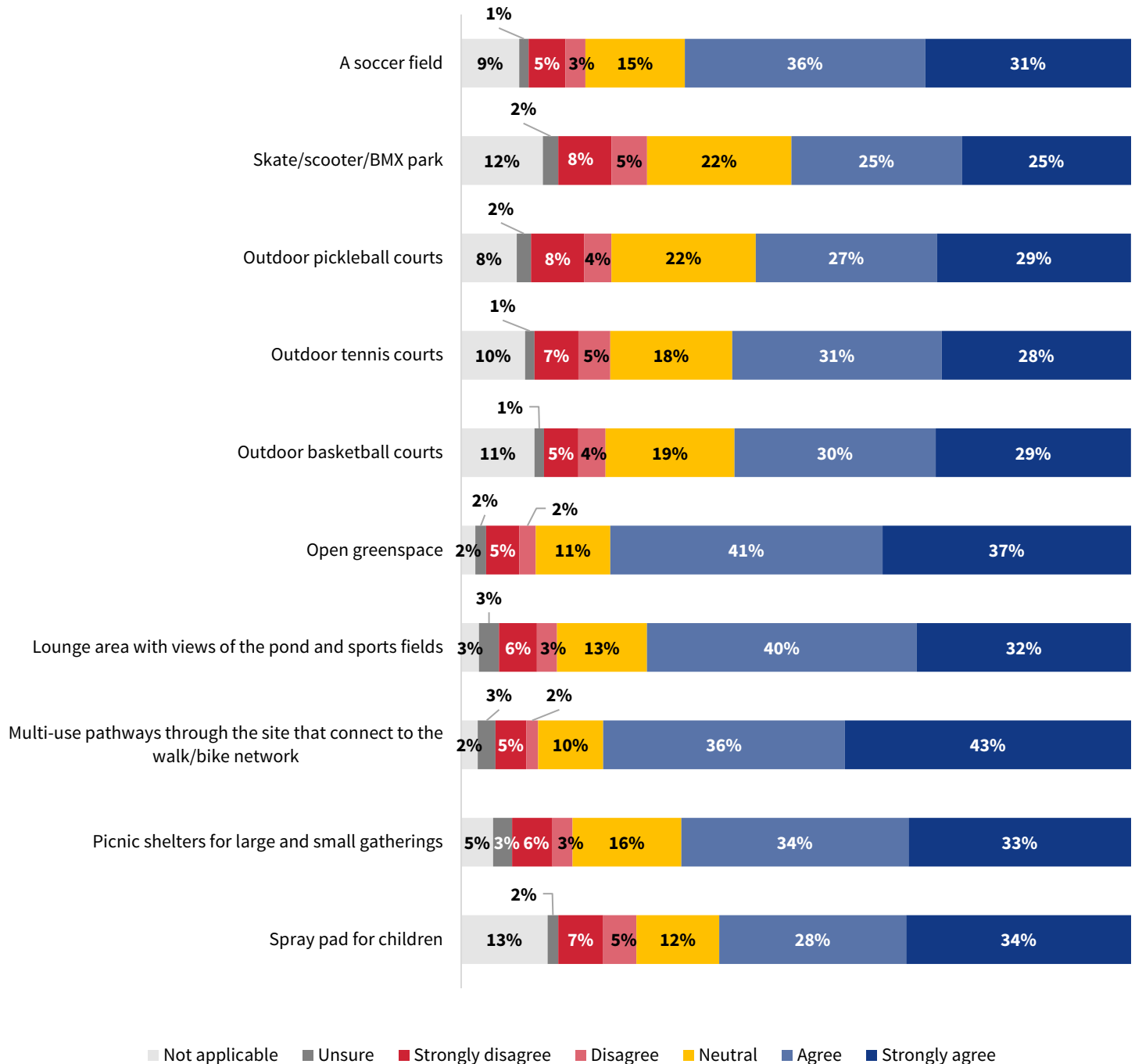
Of the respondents that were not satisfied, road capacity and congestion (29 comments), connectivity to the rest of Winnipeg (29 comments) and transit coverage (26 comments) were the most common reasons.

SOUTH WINNIPEG RECREATION CAMPUS

Public Engagement Summary



Question 3: The South Winnipeg Recreation Campus includes a variety of outdoor amenities in Phase 1 and future phases. Do you agree or disagree that the following amenities will meet the needs of you and your family? (566 responses)



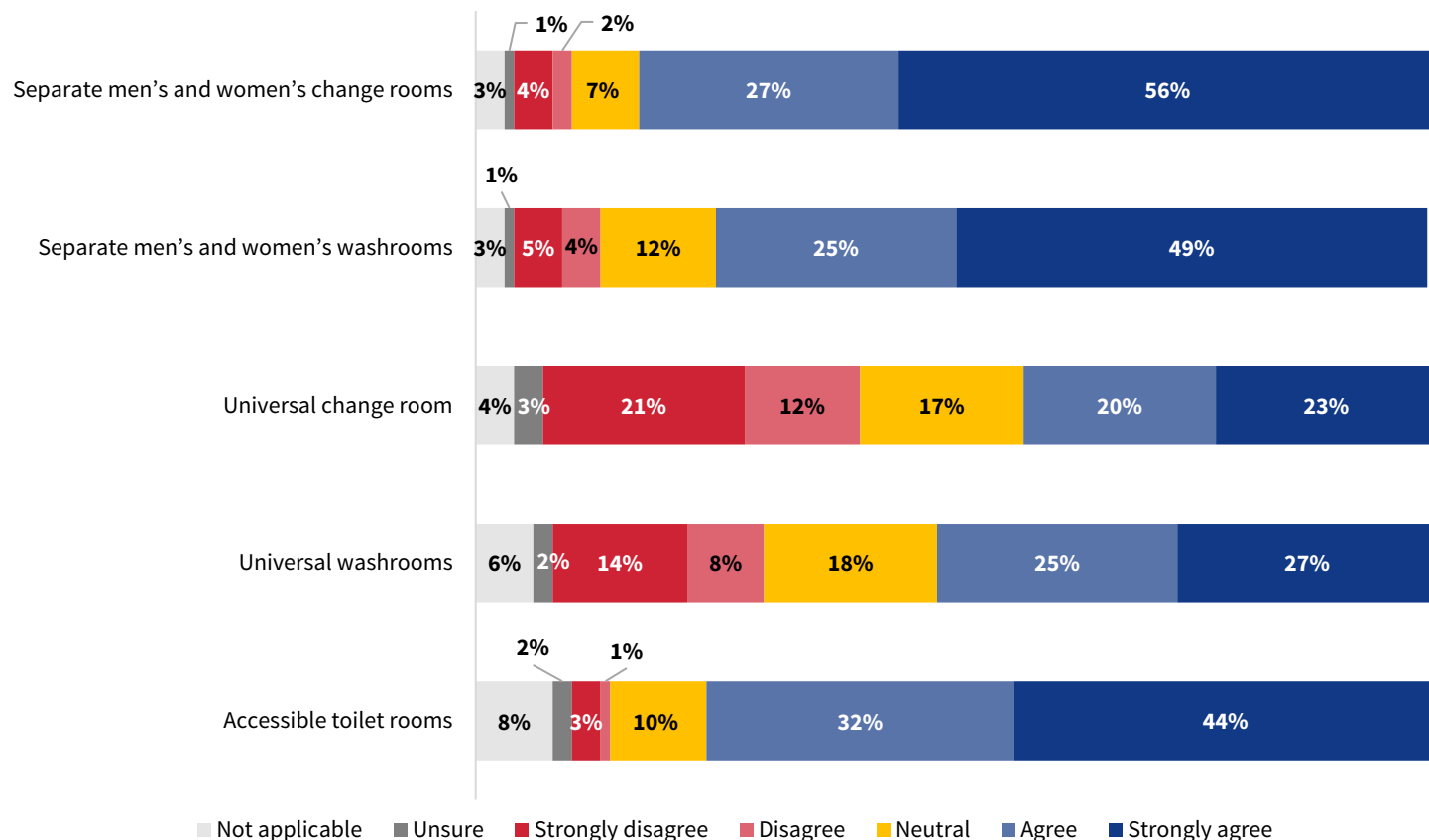
Of those that indicated the outdoor amenities would not meet their needs, respondents suggested alternate facilities like baseball or hockey (105 comments) and noted the facility is too far from high needs areas (23 comments).

SOUTH WINNIPEG RECREATION CAMPUS

Public Engagement Summary

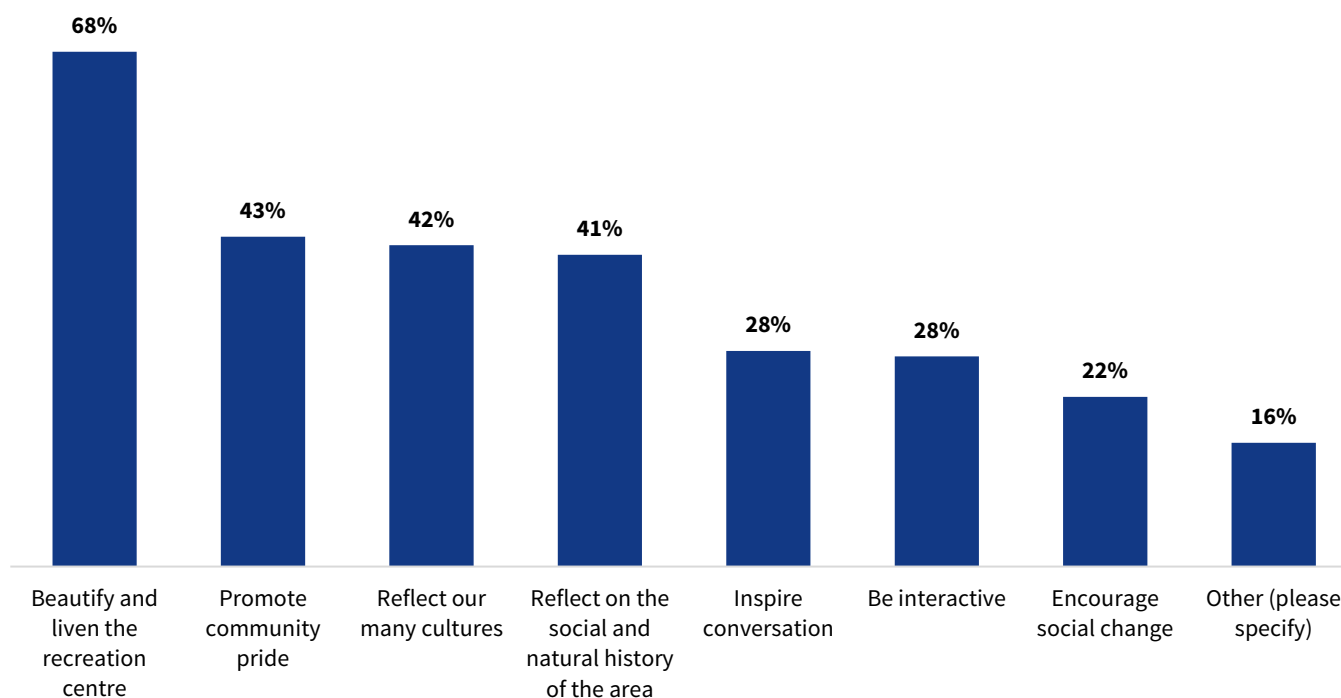


Question 6: Do you agree or disagree that the following change room and washroom options will meet the needs of you and your family? (554 responses)



The majority of respondents agreed that separate men's and women's change rooms (87%), accessible toilet rooms (76%), and separate men's and women's washrooms (74%) and would meet their needs. The majority of respondents that identified as being under 55 years old agreed that universal washrooms (56%) and universal change rooms (50%) would meet their needs. Respondents that identified as being 55 years or older were less in agreement with the universal washrooms (21%) and change rooms (30%).

Question 7: The South Winnipeg Recreation Campus will include public art. What do you want the public art to achieve? * (546 responses)



*Responses will not equal 100% as respondents were able to choose multiple responses.

For those who chose 'other' (89 responses), the results were as follows:

- **Support for local artists** – 14 respondents wrote in that they want to see art created or displayed by local, Winnipeg, or Manitoba-based artists
- **Opposition to public art due to cost** – 13 respondents expressed concern that public art is a waste of taxpayer money, especially considering the City's debt and infrastructure needs

Open house findings

An open house was held on Saturday, March 22 at Bison Run School. Over 64 residents attended the event. The open house included two presentations followed by question-and-answer sessions. Attendees asked about the revenue model for the campus, fees, parking, road access, child care, and community group usage.

Storyboards were set up in an adjacent room. Following the presentations, participants could meet the project team and have more in-depth conversations. Paper surveys were also available.

Stakeholder meeting findings

We met with accessibility organizations and the Manitoba Islamic Association to present the design and gather feedback.

Key findings from stakeholder meetings include:

- General excitement for the new campus
- Interest in hosting community events at the new campus
- Desire for culturally appropriate amenities, such as gender-specific washroom options
- Concerns about parking and snow and ice clearing for the campus
- Support for showing both Indigenous and newcomer community stories in the public art

A full report of the stakeholder meeting findings can be found in Appendix B.

How feedback was considered

The following summarizes how feedback was considered in the project.

Table 2: What we heard and how it was considered

What we heard	How it was considered
Respondents shared mixed support for the different types of washrooms and change rooms in the design.	The design has a variety of washrooms and change rooms for different needs and users. On the first floor, there are separate men's and women's change rooms, plus a universal change room in the middle. Universal change rooms are becoming more common because they work well for many people. This universal change room has private showers, changing areas, and washrooms in different sizes. The different spaces can support individuals, people with caregivers, and families with children.
The majority of respondents (68%) would like to see the public art beautify and liven the recreation campus.	We are working with the Winnipeg Arts Council. Input on public art was shared with the Winnipeg Arts Council. The input will help shape the types of art on the recreation campus.
Respondents are concerned with congestion and road capacity in the area, including Bison Drive (29 comments).	The City's Public Works Department is studying extending Bison Drive from Frontier Road to Waverley Road. Bison Drive will also be widened to four lanes in the future. This will improve access to the SWRC.
Respondents suggested socially underserved neighbourhoods should be a higher priority for new recreation instead of new neighbourhoods (73 comments).	The City owns and operates very few recreation facilities in southwest Winnipeg. The facilities that do exist are not big enough for the growing population of this area. This means we cannot provide the same level of programs and services as we do in other areas of the city.

SOUTH WINNIPEG RECREATION CAMPUS

Public Engagement Summary



What we heard	How it was considered
Respondents suggested other recreation amenities including a pool, baseball diamond, and arena (243 comments).	Some of the suggested amenities are part of future phases including an aquatics centre and twin arenas. We expect to start designing the aquatics centre in 2026 as part of the next phase. An arena is also planned for a future phase. A baseball diamond was not able to fit on the site. However, we plan to install at least one baseball diamond at a new, yet-to-be built park in the Bison Run neighborhood.
Respondents commented on the cost of the SWRC and identified different spending priorities (120 comments).	Investing in recreation helps communities in many ways by creating places for people to exercise, stay active, and connect with others. Recreation centres also play a key role in building stronger communities by offering safe spots for people of all ages to meet, build friendships, and improve their overall well-being.

Next steps

What we heard will help refine the design to reflect the community's priorities. Phase 1 construction is expected to start in 2026 and open in late 2027. Funding is available to start designing the second phase of the project in 2026. The second phase of the project is aquatic centre. Council approval and funding is needed before construction starts on the second phase.

Appendices

Appendix A – Survey results

Appendix B – Survey analysis

Appendix B – Stakeholder meetings