

EAST OF THE RED RECPLX

Public Engagement Summary

January 2023

Background

The proposed East of the Red RecPlex (ERRP) will be a “one-stop shop” multi-use centre where families and individuals can spend time pursuing different activities in the same location. The proposed recreation centre is located on the north-west corner of Transcona Boulevard and Plessis Road, next to the Transcona Library.

The City of Winnipeg (City) prepared a Feasibility Study for the proposed ERRP in 2018 that included a building vision, conceptual floor plans, a cost estimate, and a business case with recommendations for advancing the project.

In September 2021, the City began an update of the ERRP Feasibility Study including:

1. Gathering feedback from the community;
2. Updating the project design and cost estimates; and
3. Exploring funding options.



Image 1: Proposed East of the Red RecPlex

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- News release - October 26, 2021;
- Facebook posts with 16,797 followers - October 26 – November 14, 2021;
- Twitter posts with 78,700 followers - October 26 – November 14, 2021;
- Flyers/posters - October 27, 2021;
- Kildonan Place Mall pop-up - November 6, 2021; and
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 2,800 recipients - November 2, 2021.

Engagement

Winnipeggers had the opportunity to provide input on the proposed ERRP through an online survey and a virtual open house. The virtual open house included an online presentation followed by a Q & A period (see Appendix B for presentation boards and Appendix C for Q & A responses). Participants were also given the opportunity to fill out an online survey.

The purpose of the public engagement was to:

- Communicate why a new recreational facility is needed in this area.
- Gather feedback from the community on the need, design, and potential amenities for the new recreation facility.
- Identify potential challenges related to the proposed recreational facility.

Table 1: Public Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
October 26, 2021	Webpage	2,600+ unique visitors
November 8, 2021	Virtual open house	61 attendees
October 26 - November 15, 2021	Survey	1,462 respondents

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Survey Respondents (respondents = 1,462)

73% of respondents live in the Transcona Ward

8% of respondents live in the Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward

9% of respondents live in the North Kildonan Ward

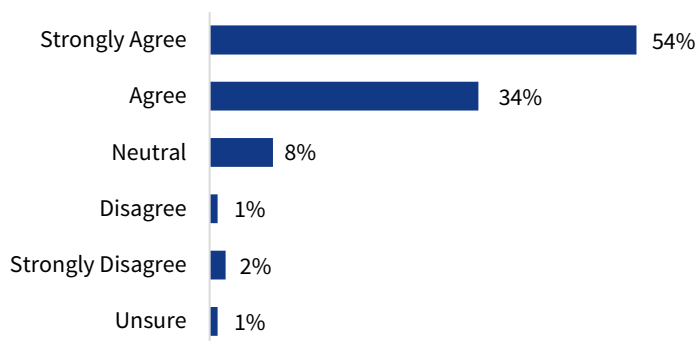
The remaining 10% of survey respondents live in other Winnipeg wards.

Key Findings

Participants were asked about their overall impression of the proposed ERRP:

- 96%** of respondents Viewed the proposed facility as excellent or good.
- 4%** of respondents Thought that the proposed facility was poor or very poor.

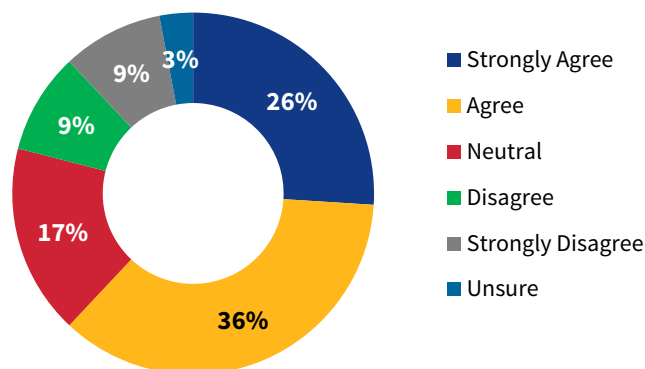
Participants were also asked if the proposed amenities would meet the needs of their families? More than 88% agreed.



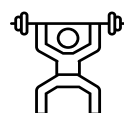
Survey participants were asked if they would be supportive of charging slightly higher fees for a facility such as the proposed ERRP:

- 51%** of respondents Strongly agreed or agreed to have slightly higher user fees.
- 25%** of respondents Were neutral or unsure.
- 24%** of respondents Were not in support of the higher fees.

When asked if participants would be supportive of selling adjacent land for a housing development to help pay for the proposed ERRP, 62% agreed, 18% disagreed, and 20% were neutral or unsure.



Survey respondents were also asked to rate the top amenities of the proposed facility. The top 4 identified by respondents were:



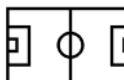
Fitness Space
(692 respondents)



Indoor Track
(650 respondents)



Wave Pool
(539 respondents)



Gymnasium
(495 respondents)

Details survey results and responses can be found in Appendix D.

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What We Heard

Additional comments from the survey and virtual open house are outlined in the tables below.

Housing

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Selling adjacent land for a housing development to help pay for the proposed EERP is supported.	The City will continue to explore options that use the adjacent land to help fund the proposed EERP.
The types of housing being proposed for development are not a good fit.	Multi-family residential housing is proposed for the EERP site in alignment with Council-approved planning documents. Council has also approved housing projects by the Winnipeg Housing Rehab Corp. and Homes for Heroes on land adjacent to the EERP site. These initiatives are not part of the EERP project.

Traffic & Parking

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Parking is a concern.	Parking will meet City bylaw requirements. The parking lot configuration will be further refined as the design of the facility advances. Other means of accessing the facility will also be encouraged including transit and active transportation options.
Increased traffic and congestion could become an issue from the proposed multi-family housing.	Traffic signals are planned at the intersection of Transcona Boulevard with the private road to the south to address potential traffic issues. Transcona Boulevard and Plessis Street are major arterial roads constructed to support current and future traffic volumes.

Amenities & Programming

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Programs and spaces that offer activities for seniors are important and should be included.	The proposed EERP will be a multi-purpose and multi-generational recreation centre that supports activities for all ages. It will have programming spaces and change rooms that are universally accessible and easy to navigate. Programs specific to different age groups, including older adults and seniors, will be offered.
Indoor sports are popular and indoor courts and fields are needed in the area.	The proposed EERP will include multiple gymnasiums that can be used for a wide variety of activities and sports including pickleball, badminton, floor hockey, handball, volleyball, and basketball.
Indoor children's play areas and childcare spaces would be a great addition.	Indoor play areas/structures and a dedicated childcare space are not included in the current design. However, inclusion of these spaces will be reconsidered in the future as the design of the facility progresses, subject to Council approval and funding.
Café or canteen spaces should be included.	It is anticipated that proposed EERP will have some type of food service available. Further details on café or canteen spaces will be developed as the design of the facility progresses, subject to Council approval and funding.

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Cost

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
Higher fees could be a financial barrier to participation, especially for lower income families and seniors.	The City will continue to offer its fee subsidy program for low-income households. No decision has been made on specific fees for the proposed ERRP.

Outdoor Amenities & Greenspace

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
There is a lack of outdoor spaces and a play structure immediately adjacent to the facility.	Opportunities to adjust the design to accommodate a play structure and other small outdoor gathering areas will be pursued as the design of the proposed EERP progresses, subject to Council approval and funding.
There is a lack of greenspace and/or outdoor recreational space associated with the proposed ERRP.	The City is not considering adding large greenspace or outdoor recreation amenities to the site because there are two parks directly across from this site, Kiwanis Park and Rotary Centenary Park. These parks include open free play areas, playground equipment, pathways and walkways. The Park City West Community Centre is also located within a 10 minute walk of the proposed ERRP and includes sports fields and spray pad.
Transcona Trail is an important and well-used amenity that should be maintained.	The proposed EERP will include a direct access to Transcona Trail which offers great recreational and active-transportation benefits. Construction of the EERP will include additional plantings and trees to enhance the site and trail connections.

Next Steps

The feedback on the need, design, and potential amenities received through the public engagement (including the survey and Public Open House) will support the next step, which is to update the 2018 Feasibility Study conceptual design and cost estimates.

The project team will then explore funding options and financing tools for the new recreation facility. The Feasibility Study Update is scheduled for completion in early 2023.

The project is then subject to Council approval and funding before preliminary design and detailed design begin. Project funding will be considered within the City's annual budget process and is subject to availability of City funding, as well as partnership funding from other levels of government.

Appendices

Appendix A – Promotional Material
Appendix B – Virtual Open House Presentation Boards
Appendix C – Virtual Open House Feedback
Appendix D – Survey Results

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