

Background

We are designing a new regional recreation centre called the East of the Red RecPlex (ERRP). This proposed centre will be a place where families and individuals can enjoy various activities in one location. The ERRP will include:

- An aquatic centre
- Multi-purpose rooms
- A community kitchen
- Gymnasiums
- Fitness areas
- A walking/running track
- A childcare centre
- A café
- A connection to the Transcona Library

Engagement

Past public engagement gathered input on programs and amenities. We learned what people want to do and what spaces people want to see at the ERRP. The input helped us design the ERRP. Phase 2 engagement happened in winter 2024/25. As part of Phase 2 public engagement, we:

- Shared the design and amenities
- Gathered feedback on the design
- Explained how previous input helped shape the design
- Provided information on next steps and timelines

Table 1 below provides an overview of all public engagement opportunities.

Table 1: Public engagement opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
November 14, 2024	Aquatic sport organizations meetings	Three attendees representing three organizations
November 21, 2024	Accessibility 'lived experience' focus group	Six attendees representing four organizations
February 4 - March 3, 2025	Online survey	1,709 responses
February 18, 2025	Public open house #1	Over 95 attendees
February 19, 2025	Public open house #2	Over 100 attendees
March 11, 2025	Transcona Community Network meeting	14 attendees representing seven organizations

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- Project webpage – updated February 4, 2025
- News release – February 4, 2025
- Facebook posts with over 42,000 followers - February 3 to 28, 2025

- X posts with over 131,400 followers - February 3 to 28, 2025
- Instagram posts with over 11,000 followers - February 3 to 28, 2025
- Posters and postcards at Transcona Library - February 10 to 19, 2025
- Over 11,400 postcards mailed to residents in the project area - February 10 to 12, 2025
- Newspaper advertisement in the Free Press Community Review - February 12, 2025
- Email to 117 project subscribers - February 6, 2025

Examples of promotion materials are included in Appendix A.

What we heard

Stakeholder meetings

We met with aquatic sport groups to talk about the specific needs of different sports. Some groups were concerned that the design did not include a 50-meter lap pool or a dive tower. This would support competitions and high-level training.

We also held an accessibility focus group. The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities helped organize the focus group. We learned about the design needs of people with neurodiversity challenges. We also learned about accessibility considerations for the community kitchen, change rooms, washrooms, site access, and website for available programs.

In a meeting with the Transcona Community Network, we heard strong support to 'build it now.' The group stressed the need for lots of accessible parking. They also shared ideas to use the roof in creative ways, such as adding green space, hosting events, or installing wind turbines.

Open house and survey

Two open houses were held at the Transcona Library. Residents were invited to see the proposed design and speak to the project team. A survey was also available online and at the open house.

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the proposed design and spaces planned for the East of the Red RecPlex.

Figure 1: Do you agree or disagree that the design provides the following:

(1,709 responses)

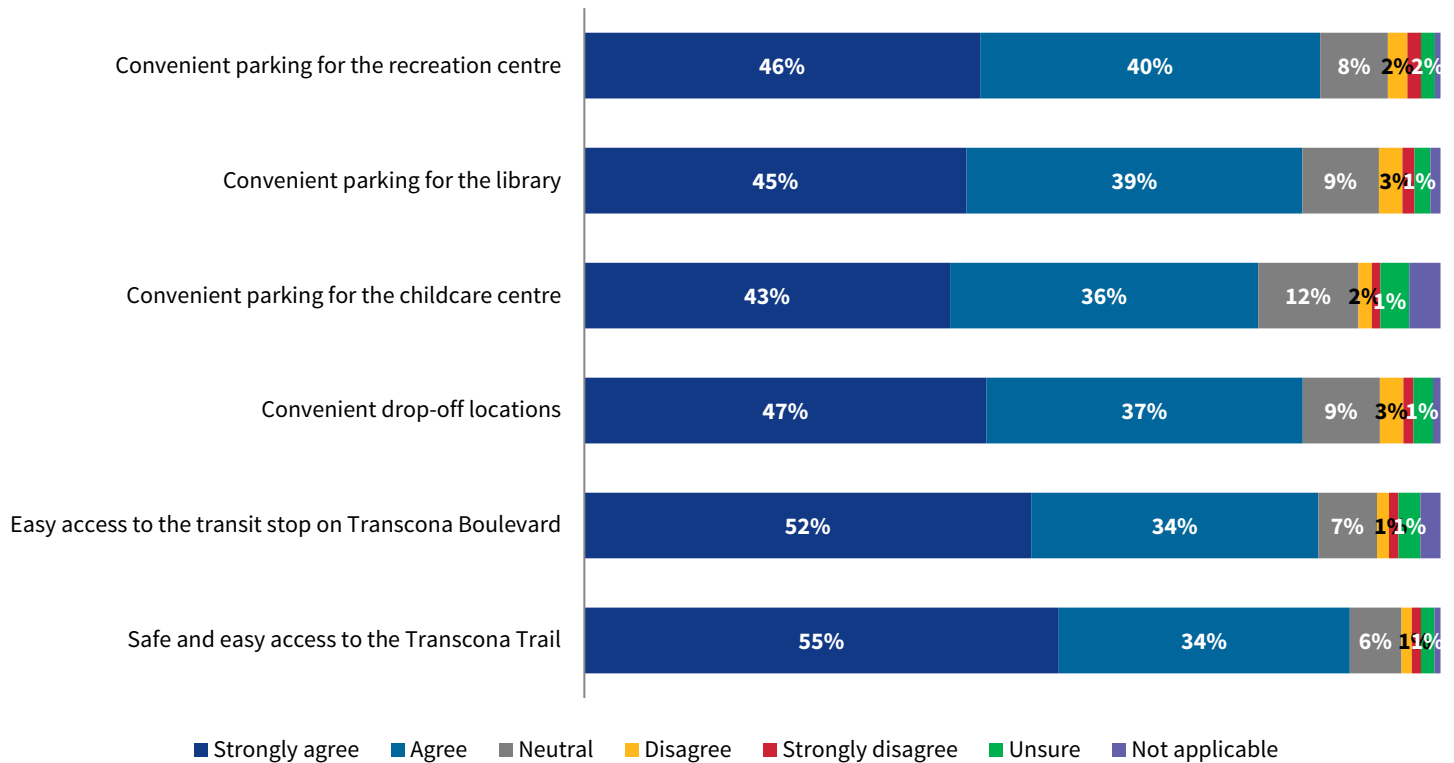


Figure 2: Do you agree or disagree that the proposed aquatic spaces will meet the needs of you and your family?

(1,601 responses)

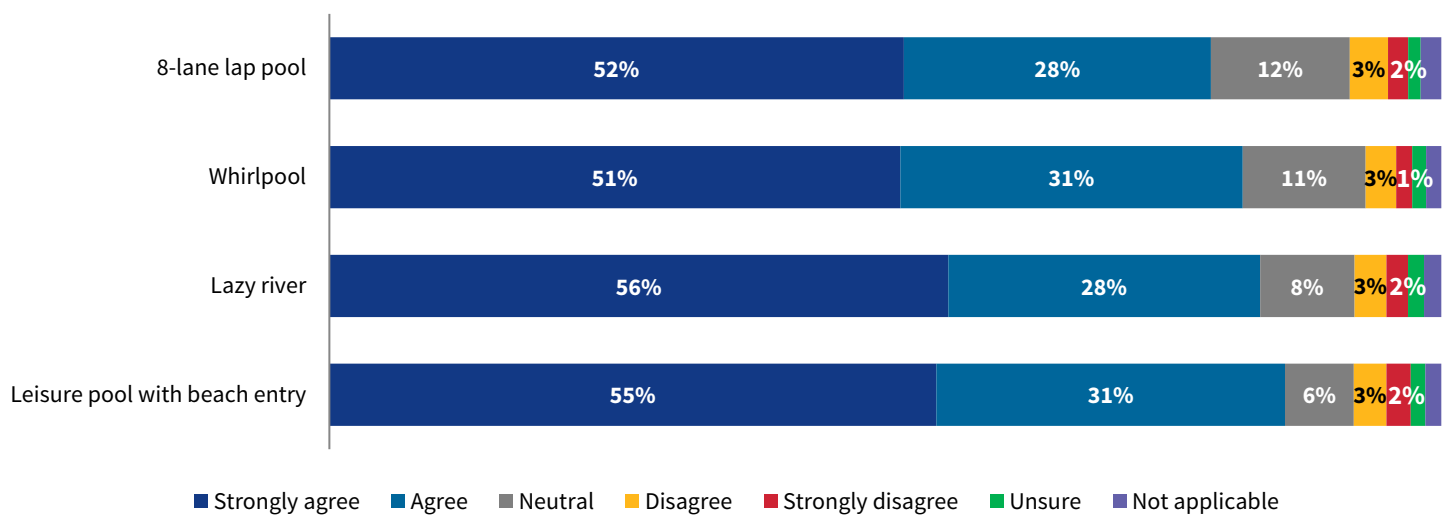


Figure 3: Do you agree or disagree that the proposed aquatic amenities will meet the needs of you and your family?

(1,601 responses)

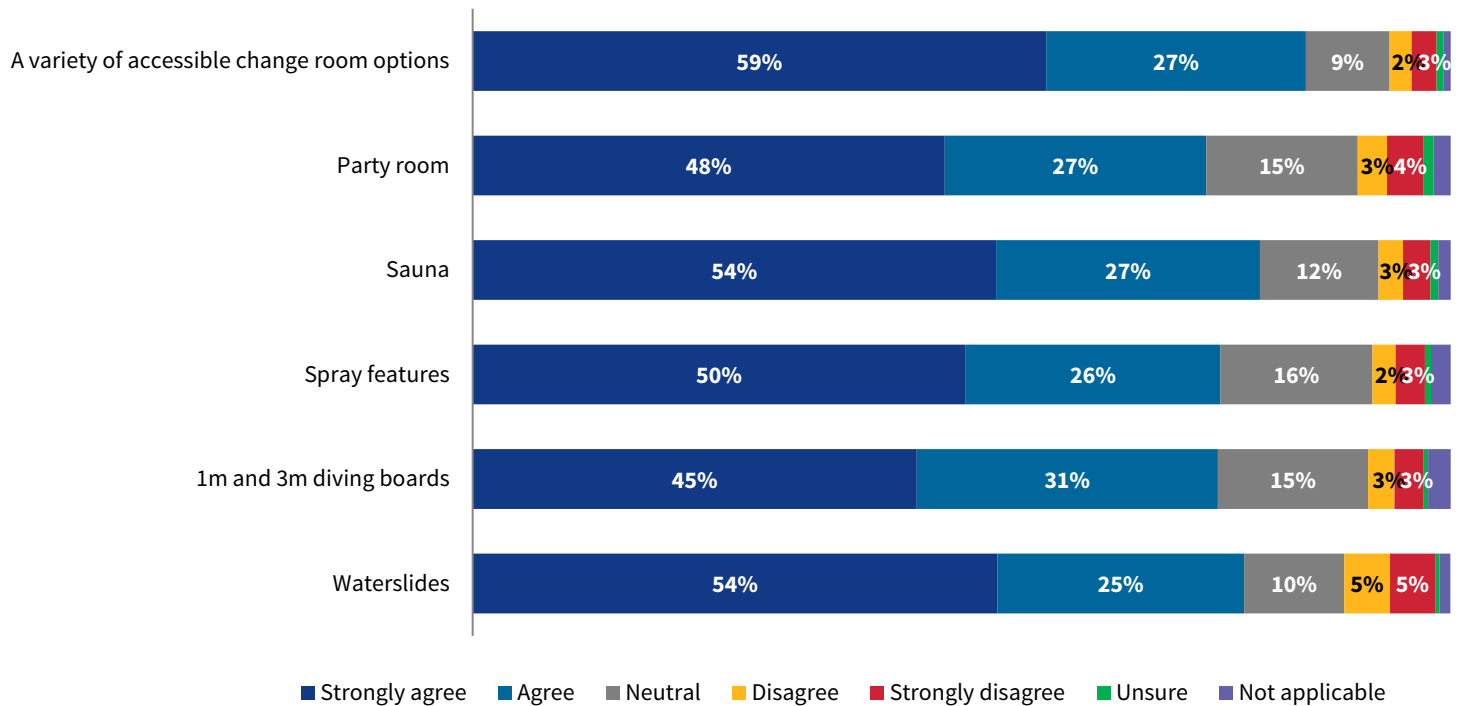
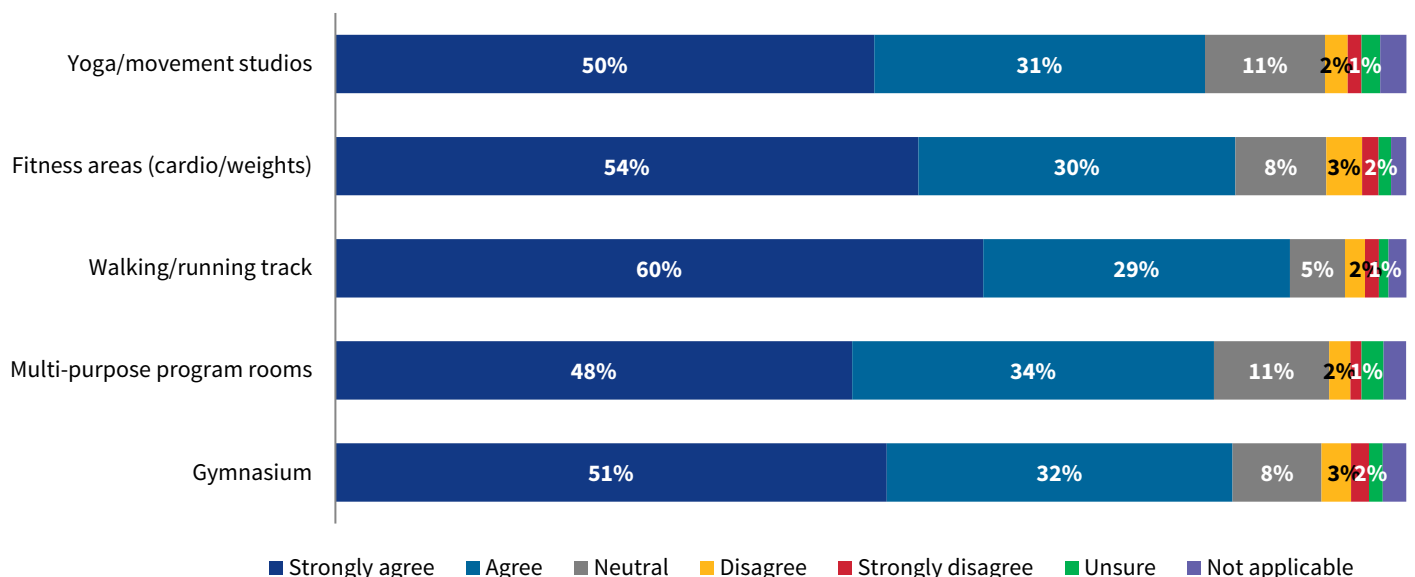


Figure 4: Do you agree or disagree that the proposed recreation spaces will meet the needs of you and your family?

(1,554 responses)



Respondents were asked if they had any comments about the proposed spaces or amenities. Four aspects of the proposed facility design that respondents had the most concerns with are:



Not enough parking
(98 comments)



The desire for more and bigger water slides
(65 comments)



The fitness and weight areas appear undersized
(55 comments)



Potential traffic congestion
(49 comments)



The lack of a wave pool in the aquatic area design
(46 comments)

How input was considered

Table 2 highlights some of the feedback received and provides a response to how it was considered.

Table 2: What we heard and how it was considered

What we heard	How it will be considered
Traffic and parking concerns	
The East of the Red RecPlex will make traffic worse. (49 survey comments)	A traffic engineer looked at anticipated traffic flow in and around the site. We plan to add new traffic signals at Transcona Boulevard and Chrislind Street. This will improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.
The Transcona Library does not have enough parking right now. Adding more amenities to the site will make parking worse. (98 survey comments)	We looked at parking needs for a recreation centre of this size. A total of 409 stalls are proposed for the whole site. Of those, 48 stalls are designated for the library, an increase from the current 40 library stalls. There are also drop-off/pick-up zones for the recreation centre and child care centre.
Aquatic centre	
Add a wave pool to the aquatic centre. (46 survey comments)	The aquatic centre is not intended to be a destination waterpark. However, the aquatic centre will offer a variety of fun and accessible activities. This includes a leisure pool with spray features, water slides, a lazy river, and a whirlpool.
Add more and bigger water slides to the aquatic centre. (65 survey comments)	The aquatic centre is not intended to be a destination waterpark. The proposed water slides will provide fun and accessible activities for residents of all ages.
Winnipeg needs new competition and training facilities for diving and swimming. (stakeholder meeting comment)	The lap pool and diving boards will support 'learn to' and developmental programs. High-level training is available at other pools in the city.
Recreation centre	
The fitness and weight areas seem too small. (55 comments)	The proposed fitness and weight areas will be the largest of any City of Winnipeg recreation centre. The movement and fitness studios will support fitness and weight training programs.
Add more gymnasiums to the recreation centre (15 comments).	The size of the gymnasium area and aquatic centre is supposed to balance a wide variety of needs, including use by children, families, and seniors.
Make the gymnasium area smaller so the aquatic centre can be larger. (21 comments)	The size of the gymnasium area and aquatic centre is supposed to balance a wide variety of needs, including use by children, families, and seniors.
Accessibility	
The needs of residents with neurodiversity challenges should be included in the design. (stakeholder meeting comment)	We have included a 'calm room' in the design to meet the needs of a range of users and will explore noise, light, and other design considerations as the design progresses.

EAST OF THE RED REC PLEX

Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary



What we heard	How it will be considered
The City should look to 'best practices' for washroom and change room designs to meet the needs of residents with disability challenges and their caregivers. (stakeholder meeting comment)	We will look to local and national precedents for well-designed washroom and change facilities to ensure the new facility meets the needs of all users.
Project timing	
The East of the Red RecPlex will not be open soon enough. (stakeholder meeting comment)	We will complete the current update to the design and cost estimates as quickly as possible to enable Council review in the 2026 Budget process and funding requests to other levels of government.

Next steps

We will use the feedback we received to finalize the preliminary design. We will also develop a cost estimate. Council will review the design and cost estimate later this year. The next stage of design and construction will need Council approval and funding before beginning. Funding requires participation from other levels of government.

Appendices

Appendix A - Promotion materials

Appendix B - Survey results

Appendix C - Open house storyboards