

Background

The City of Winnipeg (City) is designing a new regional recreation centre called the East of the Red RecPlex. This proposed center will be a place where families and individuals can enjoy various activities all in one location. A feasibility study update was completed in fall 2023. The City is now starting the next stage of the design. The next stage includes a preliminary design and Class 3 cost estimate (accuracy of -20% to +30%).

Engagement

Phase 1 engagement gathered input on potential programs, community group uses, and accessibility needs. The City reached out to stakeholders from the following groups:

- Accessibility
- Social and health equity
- Community centres
- Recreation and leisure

A full list of stakeholders invited to participate is available in Appendix A. Feedback from the stakeholders and from the previous phase of public engagement in 2021 will help the project team update the design.

Accessibility: The City invited nineteen accessibility organizations to attend one of two workshops. The workshops focused on programming and community access. Captioning and American Sign Language (ASL) services were arranged for the workshops.

Due to low registration, the City met one-on-one with the two organizations that registered. One-on-one interviews were also offered to the other groups in a follow-up email. Organizations were also invited to complete a Sharekit with discussion questions.

Social and health equity: The City contacted seven organizations by email with fillable ShareKits and the option to schedule a one-on-one interview. Two organizations completed the ShareKits, and two organizations participated in interviews.

Community centres: HTFC Planning & Design gave a project overview and facilitated discussion at the District 4 Community Centre Board meeting. Eleven of the thirteen community centres from the northeast area of the City were at the meeting.

The community centres were also contacted by email with fillable ShareKits and the option to schedule a one-on-one interview. No further responses were received from the community centres.

Recreation, sport, school divisions, and museums: The City contacted nineteen organizations by email with fillable ShareKits with the option to schedule a one-on-one interview.

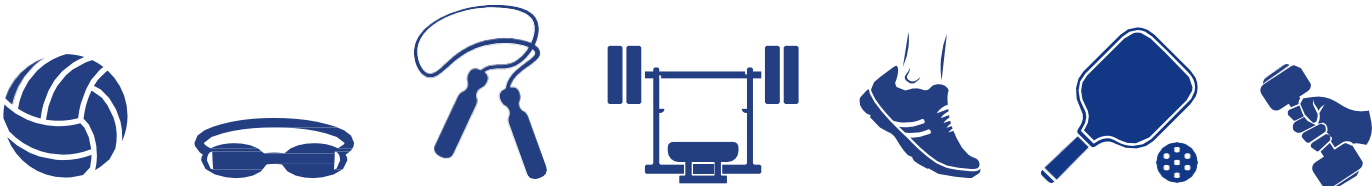
EAST OF THE RED RECPLEX

Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement Summary



Table 1. Stakeholder engagement

Date	Activity	Participation
May 8, 2024	District 4 Community Centre Board meeting	11 community centres represented: Bronx Park, East Elmwood, Oxford Heights, Gateway, Morse Place, East End Transcona, Melrose Park, South Transcona, Park City West, North Kildonan, and Chalmers
May 29, 2024	Interview with General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC)	1 representative
June 13 – July 8, 2024	ShareKits	4 submissions
June 25, 2024	Interview	1 representative
June 27, 2024	Interview	1 representative
July 18, 2024	Interview	1 representative
July 18, 2024	Interview	2 representatives



What we heard

Stakeholders were asked about the proposed amenities and activities, if there is anything missing, and accessibility considerations and features that should be considered. Stakeholders noted the following areas to consider for the next phase:

What we heard	How input was considered
Accessibility	
Put accessibility first, such as the Abilities Centre. Provide adult change tables and lockers of different heights. Include emergency alarm poles in accessible washrooms and showers.	The design includes universal dry change cubicles, universal dry family change cubicles, universal shower cubicles, assisted showers, and a stroller/wheelchair area.
Include a designated walking track lane for those with mobility aid devices.	Multi lanes are proposed for the walking/running track to better meet the needs of all ages and abilities.
Work with those with lived experience on accessibility topics.	The City will invite residents with lived experience to an accessibility-focused workshop in Phase 2

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Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement Summary



	engagement. The workshop will gather feedback on the design.
Offer space to store accessible equipment and provide accessible fitness equipment. Include space for micro-mobility devices, like bikes and scooters.	A large storage space is proposed next to the double gymnasium.
Social and health equity	
Include quiet spaces and a space for smudging.	The proposed recreation centre will be connected to the Transcona Library, which offers quiet spaces. Smudging will be allowed in designated areas.
Consider more multi-purpose rooms.	The design includes two multipurpose rooms, a community kitchen room, and a party room. The proposed recreation centre will be connected to the Transcona Library, which also includes one program room and two tutorial rooms.
Allow the facility to be used as a clean air and cooling shelter.	Residents are invited to cool off and access clean drinking water in recreation centres and libraries during regular operating hours, particularly during extreme heat events.
Offer healthy food options if there is a food vendor at the recreation centre.	The design includes a café or concession stand. A food vendor will be selected after there is funding for construction. Healthy food options will be considered when choosing a food vendor.
Include a community kitchen for residents to build food skills and community gardens, sustainable plantings, or a healing garden.	The design includes a community kitchen for residents and an outdoor plaza with different trees and plants.
Provide corporate rates through local seniors' groups and rehabilitation opportunities for those in the knee and hip replacement program.	Rates and programs will be determined after construction.
Community centres	
Difficult for some community centres to imagine how they fit into the model of a City-run gymnasium space.	The City will continue to work with Community Centres throughout the East of the Red RecPlex design.
Oxford Heights Community Centre and Park City West Community Centre were considering gymnasium expansion projects. Some of the previous demand for gym space was for community centre basketball teams through WMBA, which may now be provided by club teams.	The City will continue to work with Community Centres throughout the East of the Red RecPlex design.
Recreation, sport, school divisions, and museums	
Positive design for the community, especially the aquatic features.	The aquatic centre will include amenities for people of all ages and abilities. The design includes a lazy river, leisure pool with beach entry, waterslide, and a lap pool.
Interested in the court space to host volleyball events and tournaments.	The design includes two gymnasiums and would be suitable for volleyball events and tournaments.

Next steps

Feedback from Phase 1 stakeholder engagement and from the previous phase of public engagement in 2021 will help the project team update the design. The updated design will be shared with the public later this year in Phase 2 engagement.

Appendices

Appendix A – Stakeholder list

Appendix B – ShareKits