

Background

We are looking to build a new recreation centre in southeast Winnipeg. The proposed Bonavista Recreation Centre would:

- Be located in Fraipont Park near the intersection of Evelyne Reese Boulevard and Warde Avenue
- Include a gymnasium and multipurpose rooms
- Give residents more chances to participate in activities, spend time together, and enjoy the park

Engagement

We reached out to residents to gather input on the programs and recreation amenities they would like to see at the proposed Bonavista Recreation Centre.

The input we received will help inform the draft design. The draft design will be shared for additional feedback in the next phase of public engagement.

Table 1: Public Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
September 23, 2024	Stakeholder meeting with Southdale Community Centre	1 organization
September 25, 2024 – October 30, 2024	Public survey	1,366 respondents
September 25, 2024	Webpage	3,034 visits

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- News release – September 25, 2024
- Five Facebook posts with over 41,000 followers – September 30, 2024 to October 28, 2024
- Five X posts with over 130,000 followers – September 30, 2024 to October 28, 2024
- Postcards delivered to 4,984 homes in the project area – September 30, 2024
- Digital ad display at Windsor Park Library, St. Vital Library, Maginot Arena, and Louis Riel Library – September 28 to October 29, 2024
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,672 recipients – September 25, 2024

Key findings

Survey respondents were asked what indoor sports they see themselves, friends, and family doing at the proposed Bonavista Recreation Centre. The top five indoor sports were:



1. Group fitness classes
49%



2. Yoga
43%



3. Basketball
38%



4. Pickleball
37%



5. Soccer
35%

Survey respondents were asked what indoor programs and activities they see themselves, friends, and family doing at the proposed Bonavista Recreation Centre. The top five indoor programs were:



1. Rent spaces for parties, such as reunions or birthdays
62%



2. Leisure or “learn-to” programs
42%



3. Arts and crafts, such as pottery or painting
36%



4. Dance
29%



5. Craft markets/fundraising sales
28%

Survey respondents were asked which additional outdoor activities they would like to see at the proposed Bonavista Recreation Centre. The top five outdoor amenities were:



1. Picnic and sitting areas
50.07%



2. Pleasure rink
50%



3. Basketball court
37.12%



4. Tennis courts
36.31%



5. Pickleball court
36%

What we heard

Table 2: What we heard and how it was considered

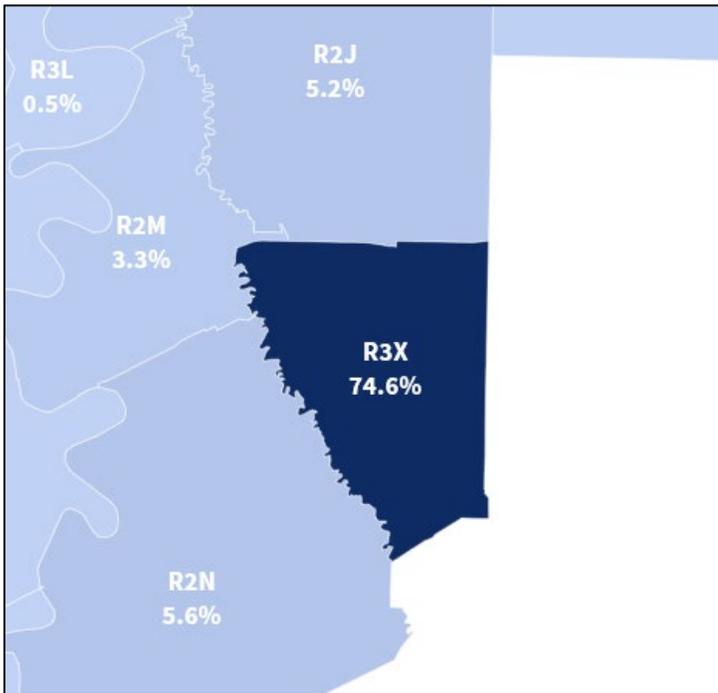
What we heard	How it was considered
Building amenities	
<p>Some respondents wanted an indoor pool at the recreation centre (145 comments).</p> <p><i>“Most definitely a proper aquatics facility similar to Bonivital which is hard to book kids for swimming and at capacity at other times.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>An indoor pool is not being considered as part of this project. A recreation centre with an indoor pool would not fit on the site and would exceed the project budget.</p> <p>The Winnipeg Recreation Strategy proposes a new regional recreation centre to serve the southeast area of the city. This future multi-use facility would serve a catchment area of 4-6 km and include an aquatic centre with leisure and lap pools.</p>

What we heard	How it was considered
<p>Some respondents wanted an indoor arena or outdoor ice rinks (104 comments).</p> <p><i>“There are no hockey rinks close by. This would be a huge asset to the community.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>An indoor arena is not being considered as part of this project. An indoor arena would not fit on the site and would exceed the project budget.</p> <p>Throughout the city there are approximately two pleasure rinks in each ward. Outdoor hockey/skating ice rinks are currently available at Southdale Community Centre and Dakota Community Centre.</p>
<p>Some respondents wanted a fitness/weight room (115 comments).</p> <p><i>“A full gym for exercise, there are currently no facilities nearby that can accommodate weight training or general fitness.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The recreation centre includes a gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms. The site is not large enough to also include a fitness/weight room.</p>
<p>Some respondents wanted an indoor walking/running track (20 comments).</p> <p><i>“Running/walking track to use at my own leisure (ie. not competitively) an indoor walking track would benefit the fitness of the whole area.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The recreation centre and site are not large enough to include an indoor walking/running track.</p>
<p>Respondents shared their interest in having pickleball courts at the recreation centre (59 comments).</p> <p><i>“With the rapidly increasing interest in Pickleball, I think it is absolutely critical for this rec centre to have pickleball facilities that make people want to go there, and are the envy of other centres.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The recreation centre proposes four outdoor pickleball courts and a gymnasium with lines for indoor pickleball.</p>

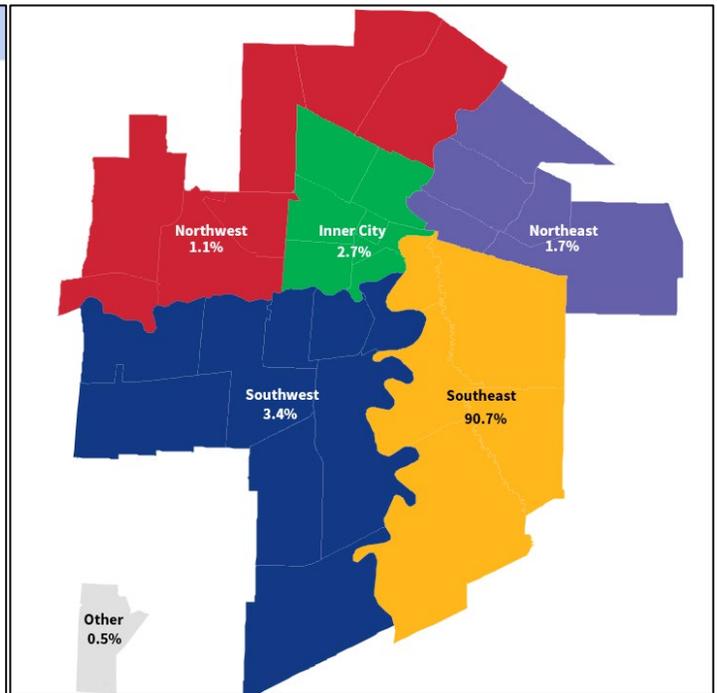
What we heard	How it was considered
<p>Some respondents would like to see a child care centre or a community gathering space (80 responses).</p> <p><i>“We need more daycare and/or preschool/nursery programs! If there was space for childcare it would absolutely be used.” – Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The recreation centre includes a gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms. The site is not large enough to also include a child care centre.</p>
<h3>Outdoor amenities</h3>	
<p>Some respondents would like to see a dog park (11 responses).</p> <p><i>“It would also be good if there was a fenced dog park.” – Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>Requests to consider the installation of an off-leash dog area are vetted through the Off-Leash Area Master Plan process. The size of the site is not ideal for an off-leash dog area. It is also too close to other outdoor sport and leisure activities.</p>
<h3>Site concerns</h3>	
<p>Some respondents were concerned with the availability of parking (20 comments).</p> <p><i>“There is no street parking, so where will people park? A parking lot will need to be in place, but that means more lost green space.” – Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>There is a 114-stall parking lot proposed for the site. This will reduce potential parking issues.</p>
<p>Some respondents were concerned that traffic will increase (9 comments).</p> <p><i>“The traffic is already terrible at the 4 way stop and this will just worsen it.” – Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The parking lot entrance is proposed along Evelyne Reese Boulevard across from Bonaventure Drive West. Future road improvements are planned for the area but are not part of this project.</p>
<p>Some respondents were concerned with the loss of greenspace and impacts to trees (46 comments).</p> <p><i>“The green space is very limited in the area and I think it all should be preserved. I want the city to leave our park alone so our children and family can enjoy the green space that we have right now.” – Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The recreation centre would have a limited impact on the existing park. The toboggan hill, play area, boardwalk, retention pond, and lookout would not be affected. The site plan also proposes planting more trees and landscaping around the site.</p>

Who we heard from

Of the 1,301 survey respondents who provided their postal code, 75% were located in the R3X area, which encompasses the proposed Bonavista Recreation Centre. The next most common postal area was R2N, with 6% of respondents residing in this region.



Map 1. Survey respondents by postal code.



Map 2. Survey respondents by area.

A majority of survey respondents (59%) identified as a parent or guardian, and 61% were between the ages of 35 and 54. This demographic insight highlights that a significant portion of the survey participants are likely to have young or school-aged children, which may influence preferences for family-friendly and age-appropriate amenities at the recreation centre.

Next steps

Feedback received through Phase 1 public engagement will help us design the proposed recreation centre. Phase 2 public engagement is planned for spring 2025 and will show the building and site plans for public feedback. Council approval and funding are required before the next stage of design and construction.

Appendices

Appendix A – Promotional materials

Appendix B – Online survey results