

Background

We are looking at building a new recreation centre in southeast Winnipeg to meet the needs of the growing community. A future Bonavista Recreation Centre would include a gymnasium and multipurpose rooms. It would be located in Fraipont Park near the intersection of Evelyne Reese Boulevard and Warde Avenue.

Engagement

In Phase 1, we reached out to residents to gather early input. We asked what programs and recreation amenities they would like to see in a recreation centre. More information is available in the [Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary](#). This input guided the design.

In Phase 2, we shared the design with residents and stakeholders. We asked if the amenities included in the design would meet the community’s needs and if the draft design works for the community.

Table 1 provides an overview of all public engagement opportunities.

Table 1: Public Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Details
March 17, 2025	Stakeholder meeting with Southdale Community Centre	1 organization
March 20 & 21, 2025	Stakeholder meetings with resident associations/groups	6 organizations
June 4 – 30, 2025	Webpage	Over 5,200 visitors
June 4 – 30, 2025	Survey	890 respondents
June 18, 2025	Open house	77 attendees



Figure 1: Comments at the open house



Figure 2: Comments at the open house

Promotion








We promoted public engagement opportunities using the following methods:

- News release – June 4, 2025
- Email update to 131 project subscribers – June 4, 2025
- Media coverage in the Free Press Community Review, Winnipeg Sun, and CTV News – June 4 – 11, 2025
- Instagram posts with over 15,000 followers – June 4 – 18, 2025
- Facebook posts with over 45,000 followers – June 4 – 30, 2025
- X posts with over 131,000 followers – June 4 – 30, 2025
- Posters in three nearby libraries – June 4 – 30, 2025
- Postcards sent to 7,021 households – June 5, 2025
- Public Engagement Newsletter with over 5,600 recipients – June 5 & 16, 2025
- Digital display ads at four nearby arenas and libraries – June 5 – 29, 2025

Examples of promotional materials are included in Appendix A.

Key findings

Survey respondents were shown the proposed design and asked if the **site layout and features** would meet their/their family's needs into the future. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed changes would meet their needs. **New paths and connections to the park** had the most support.








	Amenity	Agreed
	New paths/connections to the park	79%
	The location of the recreation centre building	76%
	The amount of greenspace remaining on the site	76%
	The new location of the soccer field	72%
	The number of new parking stalls provided	70%
	The location of the new parking lot	68%
	The parking lot entry/exit from Evelyne Reese	65%

Bonavista Recreation Centre





Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary



We also asked whether the **outdoor amenities** would meet their/their family's needs into the future. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed outdoor amenities would meet their needs. The **multi-use greenspace** had the most support.

	Amenity	Agreed
	Multi-use greenspace	80%
	Picnic shelter	79%
	Outdoor plaza	73%
	Multi-use paved outdoor space	71%
	Outdoor basketball court	70%
	Soccer field	68%
	Outdoor pickleball courts	67%

Survey respondents were shown the proposed design and were asked whether the **indoor amenities** would meet their/their family's needs into the future. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed indoor amenities would meet their needs. The **gymnasium** had the most support.

	Amenity	Agreed
	Gymnasium	79%
	Multi-purpose rooms	67%
	Kitchen	66%
	Meeting room	62%

Survey respondents were asked whether the proposed design fits well with the current amenities in Fraipont Park, and whether the design would make Fraipont Park usable year-round (in all seasons). Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed (figure 3 and figure 4):

Figure 3: Do you think the proposed indoor and outdoor amenities fit well with the current amenities in Fraipont Park?

(815 responses)

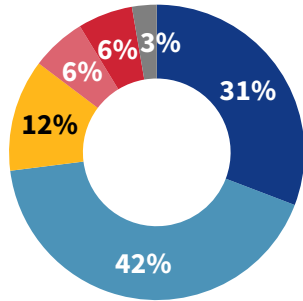
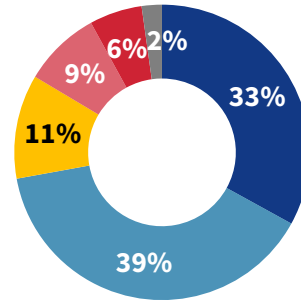


Figure 4: Do you think the proposed indoor and outdoor amenities will make Fraipont Park usable year-round in all seasons?

(815 responses)



What we heard

Table 2 provides examples of feedback received and how it was considered.

Table 2: What we heard and how it was considered

What we heard	How it was considered
Indoor recreation	
<p>An indoor pool (162 comments) and an indoor rink/arena (48 comments) should be included.</p> <p><i>“A pool is very much needed in the south end of the city to meet the growing community.”</i> - Survey respondent</p> <p><i>“There is a lack of indoor arenas in the south end of the city.”</i> - Survey respondent</p>	<p>The Bonavista Recreation Centre is intended to be a community recreation centre with park space for the neighbourhood. A pool, arena, and associated parking would not fit on this site.</p> <p>We are proposing new indoor pools as part of two regional recreation centres on larger sites: the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus (southwest Winnipeg) and the East of the Red RecPlex (northeast Winnipeg).</p> <p>Southdale Community Centre and Dakota Community Centre have indoor arenas with multiple ice sheets. Dakota Community Centre also has an outdoor hockey pen/skating rink. There are also pleasure rinks provided at Parc De La Seigneurie and Royalwood Park.</p>

What we heard	How it was considered
<p>A gym with cardio and weightlifting equipment (50 responses) an indoor walking/running track (32 responses) should be included.</p>	<p>This would require a much larger building and parking lot. This would leave less green space and fewer park features. Survey results showed that keeping green space is very important to respondents (65 comments).</p> <p>Fitness areas with indoor tracks are included in the draft design for two regional recreation centres on larger sites: the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus (southwest Winnipeg) and the East of the Red RecPlex (northeast Winnipeg).</p>
<p>A childcare centre should be included (11 responses).</p>	<p>This would require a much larger building and parking lot. This would leave less green space and fewer park features. Survey results showed that keeping green space is very important to respondents.</p> <p>Childcare centres are included in plans for two regional recreation centres on larger sites: the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus (southwest Winnipeg) and the East of the Red RecPlex (northeast Winnipeg).</p>
<p>An indoor turf facility should be included (10 responses).</p> <p><i>“An indoor turf field would be much more desirable.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The Bonavista Recreation Centre is intended to be a community recreation centre with park space for the neighbourhood. A turf facility and associated parking would not fit on this site.</p> <p>The Winnipeg Recreation Strategy guides how different types of recreation centres are built. We don’t build or run indoor turf facilities. Instead, we support their development through partnerships with sport organizations that manage and grow their sports. An example of this type of indirect support includes the two indoor soccer complexes (Soccer South & Soccer North) developed by the Winnipeg Soccer Federation.</p>
<h3>Outdoor recreation</h3>	
<p>An outdoor hockey rink or pleasure skating rink should be included (167 comments).</p> <p><i>“Outdoor hockey rinks are needed in this area. Whether City or community run, we need to find a way to ensure access to a rink for our youth. ”</i> - Survey respondent</p>	<p>The design allows for a future pleasure skating rink. The draft plan includes water hookups for a hose to support this. We are still considering adding an outdoor rink based on public feedback, ongoing community needs, and how the facility will operate.</p> <p>In the meantime for people looking to skate, our outdoor rinks can be found here: Arenas & rinks City of Winnipeg</p>
<p>A dog park should be included (11 responses).</p>	<p>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>

What we heard	How it was considered
<p>The location and orientation of the soccer field should be moved to reduce conflicts with Warde Avenue (8 comments).</p> <p><i>“Rotate the soccer field 90 degrees, add berms and trees to the ends for viewing and shade and to help prevent balls from rolling into the street.”</i> - Survey respondent</p>	<p>We designed the layout with safety in mind, especially near Warde Avenue.</p> <p>The soccer goals face away from the street, and the field is placed as far from Warde Avenue as possible. A short decorative metal fence would be installed next to the field to help keep soccer balls from rolling into the street.</p> <p>The draft design includes a row of new trees on the south side of the field to create a buffer between the field and a new gravel walking path. On the north side, there’s extra space between the goal and the existing path.</p>
<p>A spray pad should be included (4 responses).</p>	<p>Spray pads are meant to serve a 2 km area as per the Winnipeg Recreation Strategy. Since there is a spray pad at Lindsay Wilson Park just over 1 km away, another one is not needed here.</p>
Site Concerns	
<p>Traffic flow/traffic increases around the project site is a concern (68 comments).</p> <p><i>“I am concerned regarding the level of car traffic it will bring to the two intersections nearby (Warde/Evelyne Reese and Warde/De la Seigneurie). The backups in this area are already concerning and excessive during rush hour.”</i> - Survey respondent</p>	<p>We will do a traffic study and parking management plan during the next design phase.</p> <p>Future road improvements are planned for the area but are not part of this project. These include twinning Warde Avenue and enhancing the intersection of Evelynne Reese Boulevard and Warde Avenue. There is not yet a timeline for these improvements.</p>
<p>The loss of greenspace is a concern (65 comments).</p> <p><i>“I have concerns about the amount of greenspace that will be removed with the construction of the rec centre.”</i> – Survey respondent</p>	<p>The 2014 plan for Fraipont Park included greenspace with a recreation centre. The greenspace was installed in 2019. We started planning the recreation centre in 2024. The 2014 plan is available here: http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/DMIS/bylaw.asp?id=48-2014O.pdf</p> <p>The draft design does not affect the existing toboggan hill, play area, boardwalk, retention pond, and lookout. Our design includes more trees and landscaping around the recreation centre.</p>

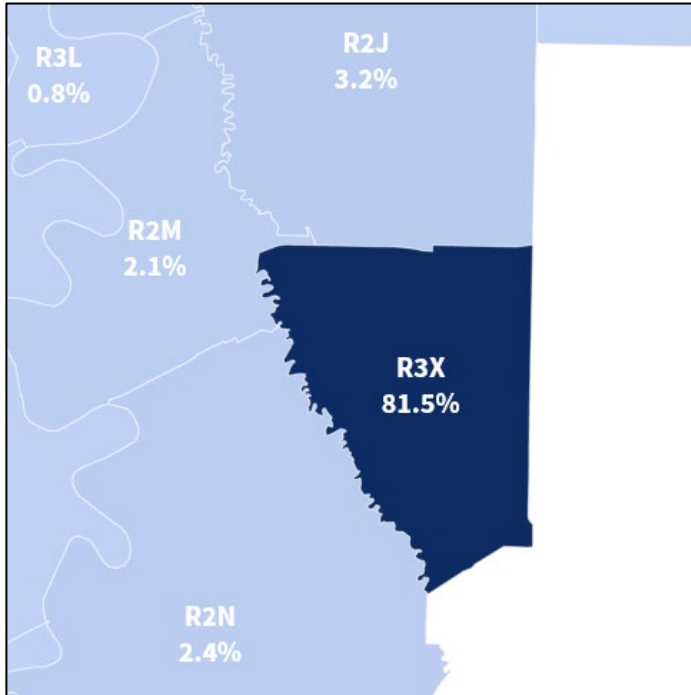
What we heard	How it was considered
<p>There are concerns about the amount of parking proposed, the possibility of visitors using up street parking, and the possibility that the parking lot could be used by visitors to nearby multi-family housing. (38 comments).</p> <p><i>“Less parking would be nice. More space for other amenities.” – Survey respondent</i></p> <p><i>“There are not enough parking stalls as there will be residents from Island Lakes and Sage Creek communities attending.” – Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The design includes a parking lot with 114 stalls. We chose this number to provide enough parking for people driving, which helps reduce the need for street parking, while also limiting the impact on the existing green space.</p> <p>We could add a gate at the entrance to the parking lot to limit overnight and visitor parking access if needed.</p>
<p>The single entrance/exit into the parking lot and the parking lot access from Evelyne Reese Boulevard is a concern (24 comments).</p> <p><i>“It might be ideal to have a secondary point of vehicle egress to the parking lot.” - Survey respondent</i></p> <p><i>“I don’t like the entrance to the facility on Evelyne Reese as it will increase the traffic on a street that many children use to cross into the park.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>We explored different parking lot layouts and decided that the entrance and exit should as far away as possible from the Warde Avenue and Evelyne Reese Boulevard intersection for safety reasons.</p> <p>In the future, we expect Warde Avenue to become a four-lane road that extends to St. Anne’s Road, which will likely lead to more traffic. Because of this, drivers heading east on Warde won’t be allowed to turn left into the parking lot. Adding a second entrance or exit on Warde Avenue would also take away a large amount of greenspace.</p>

What we heard	How it was considered
<p>This is not the right location for the new recreation centre (16 comments).</p> <p><i>“The location of this facility will cause major traffic issues to a small intersection and will cause parking issues in the area. This area of land was not the originally designated space for this facility.” - Survey respondent</i></p>	<p>The 2014 plan for Fraipont Park included greenspace with a recreation centre. Construction of the greenspace and existing amenities finished in 2019. We started planning the recreation centre in 2024.</p>
<p>The outdoor pickleball courts might make too much noise (5 comments).</p>	<p>The pickleball courts would be centrally located on site to reduce noise on for adjacent residents. Proposed landscaping and trees around the courts would help dampen noise.</p>

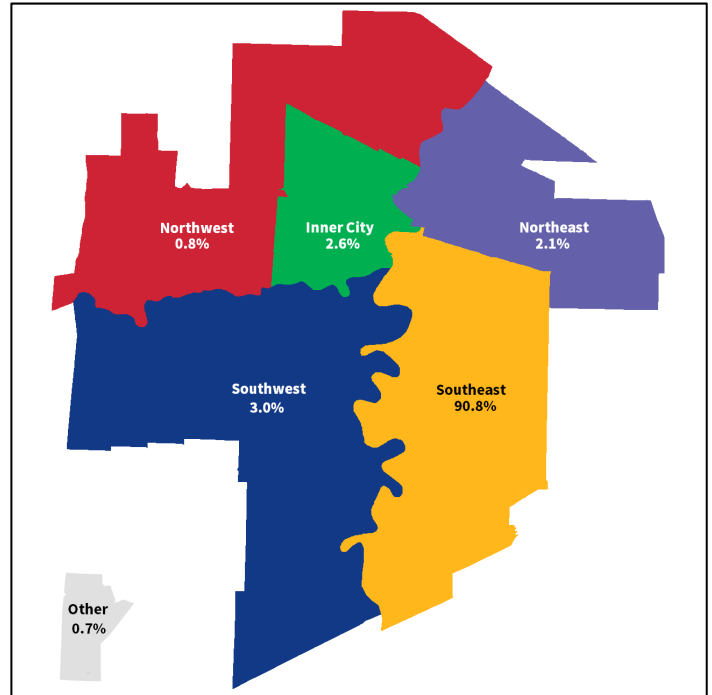
Who we heard from

Of the 763 survey respondents who shared their postal code, 82% were in the R3X area. The next most common postal area was R2J, with 3% of respondents living there.

Most survey respondents (61%) were between the ages of 35 and 54.



Map 1: Survey respondents by postal code.



Map 2: Survey respondents by area.

Next steps

We used feedback from the public to improve the design before estimating the cost. The project and its funding are now being reviewed as part of the City's yearly budget planning. More design work still needs to be done before construction can start.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Promotional materials
- Appendix B – Open house presentation boards
- Appendix C – Survey results