

Guiding Principles for the Permanent Operating Reductions

As part of the 2019 Budget Reductions, Administration considered possible reductions in light of the 13 guiding principles adopted by Council. The recommendation to stop services at two flatwater pools was aligned with Council's guiding principles, specifically:

- “Least harm approach”
 - The two flatwater pools are located in catchment areas with two nearby partner-operated facilities, providing recreation amenity access that is comparable to other serviced areas of the city. The catchment area population would not meet the threshold to trigger the provision of a new optimized facility. (See Attachment 2).
 - The aging configuration of the two flatwater pools no longer meet citizens' preferences or service level expectations for public recreation, resulting in limited and declining participation.
- “Preserve front line services, albeit, reductions may create a lower level or elimination of service”
 - In alignment with the Council-endorsed Calgary Recreation ZBR mandate, which recommends realigning operating hours with actual customer usage and shifting the emphasis from direct delivery to a more balanced delivery approach, including leveraging partner delivered services, the reduction of two pool facilities is a reduction in City-operated service. However, access to proximate and commensurate recreation amenities through City partner-operated facilities maintains a comparable level of service.
- “Reductions should not result in future additional costs that exceed the reductions”
 - The amount of tax support required to operate the facilities is significant. The closure of these two facilities will not result in additional costs and will mitigate ongoing operational costs and capital investment needs.
- “Continue to prioritize long term plans and policies”
 - The closure of these facilities aligns with the ZBR service delivery mandate and Recreation Master Plan: moving Calgary Recreation from a focus on direct delivery to a balanced approach leveraging partner service provision to increase systemic effectiveness and efficiencies.