

**Community Services Report to
Multisport Fieldhouse Committee
2023 March 01**

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Multisport Fieldhouse Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Multisport Fieldhouse Committee recommend that Council direct Administration to bring forward amenity refinements that consider the vision, operational and event hosting requirements for the Fieldhouse to the Multisport Fieldhouse Committee in Q2 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Multisport Fieldhouse Committee was established by Council in 2023 February to pursue the vision for Calgary's first community-centered, competition-capable multisport fieldhouse.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? This landmark project will serve the community, provide needed year-round, indoor practice and play space for recreation and amateur athletes and act as a destination for training and competition in western Canada.
- Why does this matter? Calgary is the only major Canadian city without a dedicated indoor track competition and training facility. The Fieldhouse responds to a long-standing need for indoor practice and play space in Calgary and is envisioned as a community hub and world-class sport tourism destination that will raise the profile of Calgary, Alberta and Canada.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

Past to Present

The gap in indoor practice and play space has existed in Calgary for decades. Calgary is a well-established training hub for high-performance winter sport but lacks a dedicated indoor track and field facility. In addition to serving the broader community and a range of recreation and amateur sport uses, the Fieldhouse will provide training and competition for high-performance athletes beyond the winter sports Calgary has traditionally served.

The idea for the Fieldhouse was developed in 2010 as part of the Glenmore and Foothills Athletic Park Redevelopment Concept Plan. It was originally imagined as a multisport and training space that could accommodate concurrent uses with convertibility allowing for competitions and events. The 2010 concept included an indoor soccer field surrounded by an eight-lane 400-meter track, eight multisport court spaces, jumping and throwing areas and seating up to 10,000 (500 permanent).

In 2018, The City assessed operating costs and potential revenue based on projected usership of the 2010 concept. Since 2010, the sport and recreation landscape in Calgary has changed. Facilities have been built or decommissioned, design specifications have changed and sport needs and preferences have evolved.

Administration is currently conducting an Amenity Refinement Study to revise the amenity mix of the facility to ensure alignment with the original vision of the Fieldhouse as a year-round indoor practice and play space, a hub for community gathering and activity and a training and competition destination unique to Calgary and Canada. The concept will be reviewed against

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hosting requirements to position Calgary as a destination of choice for major competitions and events. The Fieldhouse will attract investment and refresh Calgary's brand on the international stage while building our local culture and contributing to community vibrancy.

Play, Compete, Train, Gather

The Amenity Refinement Study will:

- review the amenity mix of the Fieldhouse by evaluating the impact of new and planned indoor sport facilities in Calgary,
- reassess current and future needs based on market research, trends analysis and engagement, and
- develop an updated capital cost estimate and operating plan focused on equity, affordability and long-term sustainability.

Core functionalities (FIFA-sized field, track, gymnasias, fitness centre, multipurpose rooms) will be maintained and consideration will be given to hosting requirements, flexibility and design efficiencies to create a facility that is welcoming, inclusive and barrier-free.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

The project team is currently engaged in conversations with a cross-section of potential users, sport agencies and governing sport bodies to better understand needs, potential usership and event hosting requirements.

IMPLICATIONS

Social and Environmental

The Fieldhouse aligns with The City's Sport for Life Policy that recognizes the importance of sport in building a complete, strong, vibrant, healthy and active city. Investment in the Fieldhouse closes crucial gaps in the availability of practice and play space and aligns with The City's commitment to support and develop sport and people by providing sport opportunities.

The Fieldhouse will function as a hub for local community gathering and activity. Amenities and ancillary spaces will be designed to be welcoming, inclusive and barrier-free and will support onsite community services.

The Amenity Refinement Study includes a Social Return on Investment Analysis to evaluate the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of the Fieldhouse. The Study is intended to maximize social and economic benefits while minimizing required tax support and environmental impacts.

Economic

Council identified the Fieldhouse as one of four priority capital projects. It will enable Calgary to host national and international competitions, stimulating and diversifying the economy through increased sport tourism and job creation. It will contribute to a dynamic mix of athletics,

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education, business, research and entrepreneurship and catalyze future redevelopment of and investment in the area.

The Fieldhouse aligns with The City's Winter City Strategy, raising Calgary's profile as a world-renowned winter city and training and sport tourism destination. Through competition and event hosting, the Fieldhouse will showcase Calgary on national and international stages, further bolstering Calgary and Alberta's tourism sector.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

RISK

Without the Amenity Refinement Study, the original 2010 concept for the Fieldhouse is untested against evolving market demand and changes to the sport and recreation landscape over the last 10 years. There is a risk the Fieldhouse could be underutilized and costly to operate if assumptions around use, operations and affordability are not validated. The study will re-engage sport and community groups and partners to ensure the concept reflects nuances in recreation and sport, including standards for hosting competitions.

ATTACHMENT

1. Previous Council Direction, Background

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Approve