



**CITY OF CALGARY
+
CALGARY MINOR
SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

**GAMEPLAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGY**

**FIELDS
FOR OUR
FUTURE**

WHO IS CMSA

- THE LARGEST NON-PROFIT YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION IN ALBERTA, SERVING PLAYERS AGED 6 TO 19.
- ESTABLISHED IN 1974, WE ARE COMPRISED OF 31 MEMBER CLUBS – 23 BASED IN CALGARY AND 8 IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES (AIRDRIE, CANMORE, CHESTERMERE, COCHRANE, LETHBRIDGE, OKOTOKS, SPRINGBANK, AND STRATHMORE).
- THE GOVERNING BODY FOR YOUTH SOCCER IN CALGARY, REPRESENTING THE SPORT AT ALL LEVELS. AFFILIATED WITH ALBERTA SOCCER, CANADA SOCCER, AND FIFA.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH SOCCER IN CALGARY, DEDICATED TO FOSTERING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SPORT.



**FIELDS
FOR OUR
FUTURE**

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

- **30,000 KIDS** PARTICIPATE IN SOCCER EACH YEAR AND WE ARE ENGAGED WITH **50,000 FAMILIES**
- **2,100+ TEAMS** COMPETE ANNUALLY, PLAYING OVER **12,000+ MATCHES**.
- THE SPORT HAS EXPERIENCED **15% ANNUAL GROWTH** FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.
- ONLY **3 INDOOR FACILITIES** (SINGLE-FIELD DOMES) SERVE **30,000 KIDS**.
- CMSA SECURES **15,000 HOURS** OF GYMNASIUM SPACE ANNUALLY BUT REMAINS **8,000 HOURS SHORT** TO MEET PROGRAM NEEDS.
- **FIVE NEW FIELD HOUSES** ARE REQUIRED TO MEET CURRENT DEMAND, NOT INCLUDING ANTICIPATED GROWTH OR OTHER USER GROUPS.



**FIELDS
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PRESSURE ON THE SOCCER COMMUNITY

STEPS CMSA HAS TAKEN TO ADDRESS GROWTH

- REDUCED THE NUMBER OF GAMES
- REDUCED GAME LENGTHS
- REDUCED NUMBER OF TEAMS AND INCREASED ROSTER SIZES
- SHIFTED TRAINING TO HARDWOOD FLOOR GYMNASIUMS, RESERVING TURF FIELDS FOR GAMEPLAY
- OVERLOADED TURF FIELDS WITH 8 TRAINING SESSIONS/TEAMS ON A SINGLE FIELD

THE IMPACT ON THE PLAYERS

- DIMINISHED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR KIDS (PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW

- CAP REGISTRATIONS AND TURN KIDS AWAY



**FIELDS
FOR OUR
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WHERE WE ARE HEADING



SKYROCKETING IN POPULARITY DUE TO:

- IMMIGRATION INTO CALGARY
- AFFORDABILITY OF THE SPORT
- GLOBAL POPULARITY
- NATIONAL & LOCAL PROFESSIONAL TEAM SUCCESS

PARTICIPATION

- 2019 – 2024: 76% INCREASE (5 YEAR TREND)
- 2021 – 2024: 45% INCREASE (3 YEAR TREND)
- 2024: 10% INCREASE FOR INDOOR (CURRENT)
- 2025 – 2030: **5% YoY PROJECTED INCREASE** (BELOW CURRENT TREND)

CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF 5% YoY GROWTH OVER NEXT 5 YEARS WOULD LEAD TO A **45,000 PLAYER INCREASE BY 2030.**



**FIELDS
FOR OUR
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THE SOLUTION: GAMEPLAN – MAKING WAVES

- **GAMEPLAN** – THE FIRST SYSTEM-WIDE VISION AND STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC RECREATION IN CALGARY.
- THE **MAKING WAVES** SCENARIO INCREASES SERVICE STANDARDS EXPONENTIALLY, INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY, WHILE ALSO ENSURING EQUITABLE FACILITY DISTRIBUTION.
- **FIELDHOUSES ARE SELF-SUSTAINING** ONCE CONSTRUCTED AND DON'T REQUIRE FURTHER OPERATIONAL FUNDING – RATHER – THEY FUND THEIR OWN OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.
- **ECONOMIC IMPACT** – AT LEAST 8 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR HOSTING YOUTH SOCCER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR MUCH MORE!
- WE ARE FULLY BEHIND THE **MAKING WAVES SCENARIO AND PRIORITIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIELDHOUSES AND ATHLETIC FIELDS** WILL BE A GAME CHANGER!



**FIELDS
FOR OUR
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INVESTMENT = COMMUNITY

- **75,000 NEWCOMERS** TO CALGARY LAST YEAR.
- POPULATION **SURGING TO 2,000,000** BY 2030.
- FIELDHOUSES ARE SAFE, YEAR AROUND SPACES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES + SOCCER IS AN ACCESSIBLE, DIVERSE, AND **UNIFYING SPORT THAT FOSTERS SOCIAL CONNECTIONS.**
- SOCCER BOOSTS PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH – REGULAR PARTICIPATION REDUCES CHILDHOOD OBESITY, ENHANCES MENTAL WELL-BEING, AND **PROMOTES LIFELONG HEALTHY HABITS.**
- BY INVESTING IN FIELDHOUSES AND ATHLETIC PARKS NOW, CALGARY CAN **BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**



**FIELDS
FOR OUR
FUTURE**





THE GAMEPLAN



- We support GamePLAN's goal to improve sport and recreational facilities. The city faces a growing gap between available services and rising demand, especially in aquatic spots and recreation. Yet, there are concerns with this PLAN:
 - Supporting documents,
 - Research based on .004% of population of Calgary,
 - Lowered standard of service data,
 - Future for smaller facilities.

Aquatic recreation, including both sport and recreational swimming, is a low-impact form of exercise that is crucial for many Calgarians who cannot participate in high-impact sports like running, cycling, skating, etc. **For seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those recovering from injuries, swimming is essential for maintaining health and well-being. Or just simply a choice of exercise,** and it is not just a recreational activity but a necessary part of daily life.



Background and Previous Council Direction



- Concerns re: Attachment 2 to CD2025-0047:
- C2024 – 0415 – the Administration did not inform the Council, as evident from the video of the said Meeting. The Closure was wrapped up in a Briefing and was not announced.
- The Land Transfer – I respectfully ask that the land transfer to Matco Development Corp. remarks to be removed from the said document. The land transfer is not the first obligation under the Restrictive Covenant and should not be described as such.
- There are other conditions that must be fulfilled prior to the land transfer,
- The concern is that accurate and comprehensive information must be provided to the next Council to facilitate informed decision-making.

Restrictive Covenant with Calgary Brewing & Malting Co. Limited

RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

WHEREAS THE CITY OF CALGARY is, or is entitled to become, the registered owner of an estate in fee simple of and in:

Lot Three (3) in Block E of
Plan 2079 J.K.

Excepting thereout all mines and minerals, and

WHEREAS CALGARY BREWING & MALTING CO. LIMITED has transferred the above described lands to The City of Calgary for the development of a swimming pool only,

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS DEED WITNESSETH that The City of Calgary covenants as follows:

1. The City of Calgary shall not erect, or permit any person to erect, in and upon Lot Three (3) in Block E of Plan 2079 J.K. any building or any construction of any kind save only a public swimming pool for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Calgary and of dressing-rooms, ticket offices and other such ancillary installations for the operation and embellishment of such swimming pool.
2. If at anytime The City of Calgary or any voluntary association operating the said pool ceases to operate the development on the said Lot Three (3) as a swimming pool, then The City of Calgary shall upon written request of Calgary Brewing & Malting Co. Limited deliver up a registerable

DESCRIPTION APPROVED
DATE AUG 20 1964
SURVEYOR TO THE L.P.
PER [Signature]



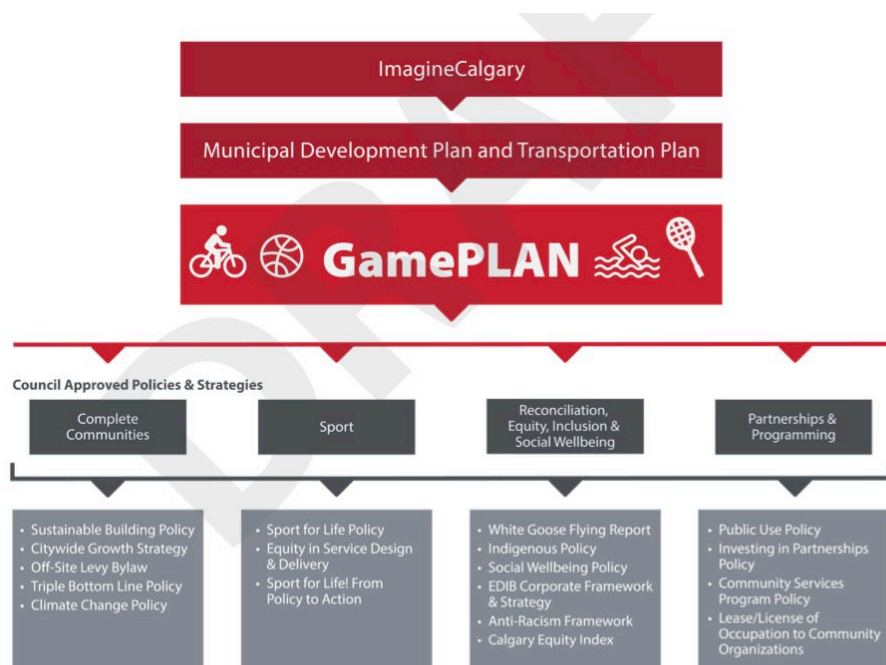
Background and Previous Council Direction



- The Inglewood Pool efforts showed the importance and critical need for community-based aquatic fitness centres.
- These facilities are vital for residents, offering accessible, local options for sport, fitness, recreation, health, community connections etc.
- They are even more crucial in neighborhoods that are being redeveloped aggressively, where affordable housing and increased density are changing the structure of the community.
- These facilities help to ensure that new and existing residents have essential services close to home. Especially, where the residents will be enjoying the benefits of walking distances to the facilities, or take advantage of transportation like LRT and BRT.
- Keep and invest in smaller facilities, they serve the people that Mega Center cannot.



MDP and GamePLAN



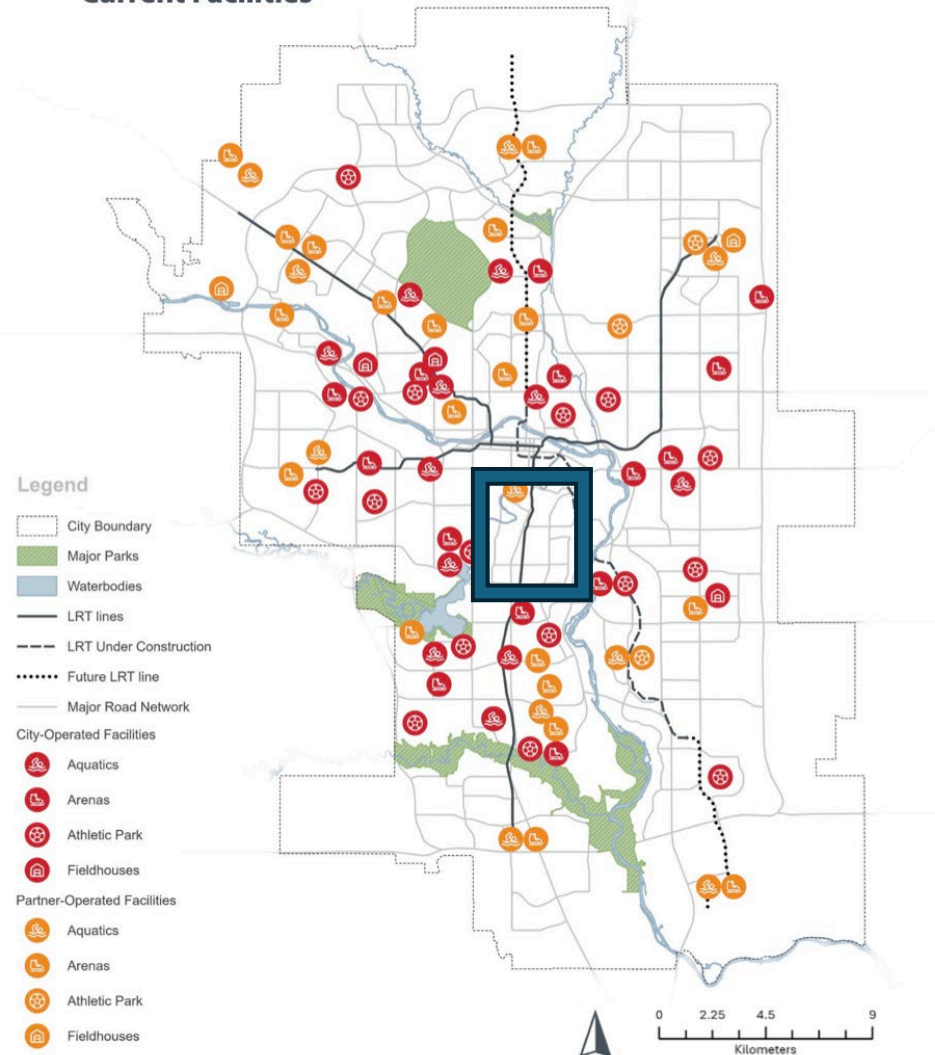
- The City’s Municipal Development Plan acknowledges that Recreation, which includes Sport, plays an important role in:
 - i. building complete, strong and great communities;
 - ii. adding to the cultural vitality of the city;
 - iii. contributing to economic development and prosperity;
 - iv. fostering active and vibrant neighbourhoods; and
 - v. sustaining healthy communities by promoting active living
- Currently The Calgary Plan is proposed to replace MDP and to guide how Calgary will grow and change over the next 30 years and set the direction for future land use and mobility decisions and inform servicing and investment decisions.
- The Calgary Plan is on pause, where does this leave the GamePLAN?



Density & Recreation

- It is almost everyday there is a number of developments being approved in the urban communities.
- These developments are designed to increase density and promote affordable housing, ideally situated near transit, with a focus on walkability, biking, and reducing the community's carbon footprint.
- Where are these new residents going to go for sport/recreational activities?
- The response from survey indicates that residents would want to see improved access to facilities using a variety of options and proximity to the facility, driving and sit in traffic is not a desired outcome.
- The GamePLAN argues that outdated facilities will prevent the City from achieving its net-zero emissions target by 2050. However, what will be the impact of increased traffic to larger, more distant facilities—will it truly support these sustainability goals, or will it contribute to higher emissions due to longer commutes?

Current Facilities





Service Standards 2018 vs. 2025



2018 Population of 1,267,344
Sports of Life Policy

Schedule 1 - Infrastructure Targets

The following infrastructure targets align with The City's facility development and enhancement studies. These targets support transparent, data driven conversations between Administration and the Sport Sector.

Infrastructure type	Population target
25 meter pool	72,000
12 meter x 20 meter deep water tank	72,000
court gymnasium	72,000 / pair
mac - multi activity court / field	72,000
twin ice rink	64,000
multi - purpose room	72,000 / pair
group exercise studio	72,000 / pair
50 meter pool	450,000
artificial turf field	353,000 / pair
class a / b field	22,100
class c field	14,600
class d field	1,600

These infrastructure targets must be considered within a sustainable strategy for recreation infrastructure which (i) promotes operational efficiency and site optimization; (ii) aligns with the Triple Bottom Line Policy and Access Design Standards; (iii) contributes to equitable distribution of infrastructure across the City; (iv) optimizes infrastructure by extending available play time; and (v) balances use by Organized Sport with public access.

2025 population of 1,523,000
Game PLAN policy

Service standards provide a baseline to measure current service levels in Calgary.

In addition to the primary indicators above, service standards consider multiple other factors, including:

- community planning considerations,
- previous studies on amenity access, participation trends and market demands (e.g., *Arenas Facilities Study, 2021*) and
- existing policies (e.g., *Sport for Life Policy, CP2018-03*).

For the purpose of GamePLAN, service standards use the most universally applicable and understandable indicator to propose service level scenarios to which Calgary should aspire: per capita service provision.

Facility type	Per capita service standard*
Aquatics	1:75,000
Ice Sheets	1:32,000
Fieldhouses	1:150,000
Athletic Park Fields	1:22,000**

*Ratios are based on the number of recreation facilities per service population.

**Class A/B & artificial turf fields.



Service Standards 2018 vs 2025

- If the service standard for aquatic facilities changes from 1 x 72,000 residents to 1 x 75,000 residents, it effectively reduces service levels by increasing the number of people served per facility.
- Key Differences:
 - 1 x 72,000 → More facilities relative to population, better access, lower crowding.
 - 1 x 75,000 → Fewer facilities relative to population, increased crowding, reduced availability of programs and swim times.
- While a difference of 3,000 people per facility may seem small, it has a cumulative impact as Calgary's population grows. For every 300,000 new residents, this change means four fewer facilities compared to the previous standard.
- At a time of rapid urban densification and increasing demand for accessible recreation, service levels should be improving, not declining.
- The 2025 service standards reflect the current situation and should not be used as a baseline for determining future service capacity, especially given that aquatic facilities are already in a critically underserved state.



Current State of Aquatics Fitness



Service level scenario comparison

In 2024, there were more than 24 thousand waitlisted swim lesson registrations at City-operated facilities (*Note: a participant can be on more than one waitlist*). This means The City would have to increase swim lessons by 50 per cent to meet current demand. As a result of their limited functionality and capacity constraints, these facilities can be underutilized as people move to newer facilities that can better meet their needs. This puts pressure on newer recreation facilities that are quickly finding themselves at capacity.

GamePLAN 5.1.3

	Going Under	Staying Afloat	Making Waves
Facility distribution	Gaps in service	Improved	Equitable across the city
Swim lessons (per capita)	30% fewer	10% more	40% more
Ice sheets	40% fewer bookable hours	Same bookable hours	25% more bookable hours
Fieldhouses/athletic parks	Same bookable hours	2X bookable hours	2.5X bookable hours
Overall service	↓	↔	↑
Annual capital investment*	\$0-30M	\$100-150M	\$200-250M

- While service standards for other sports and recreational activities have been enhanced, the standards for aquatic facilities have been reduced, failing to accommodate the increasing and future demand.

Larger Facilities are just as welcome as Community based facilities



- The reason why established communities place high priority on smaller, community-based facilities is because they have proven to fulfill the needs of the local and surrounding communities.
- Yes, some facilities need upgrades, retrofitting, basic upkeep work and it is expected from the City administration to implement those as it is implied in a “social contract” between the residents and administration.
- Simply shutting pools because of maintenance or required upkeep is irresponsible. Planning to spend millions on demolishing as opposed to lower cost to keep the pools just as irresponsible.
- Larger facilities are to be built, but not at the expense of changing people’s lives, habits and commitments.



GamePLAN

Aquatic Community Feedback

Need for GamePLAN is accepted – and to be encouraged.

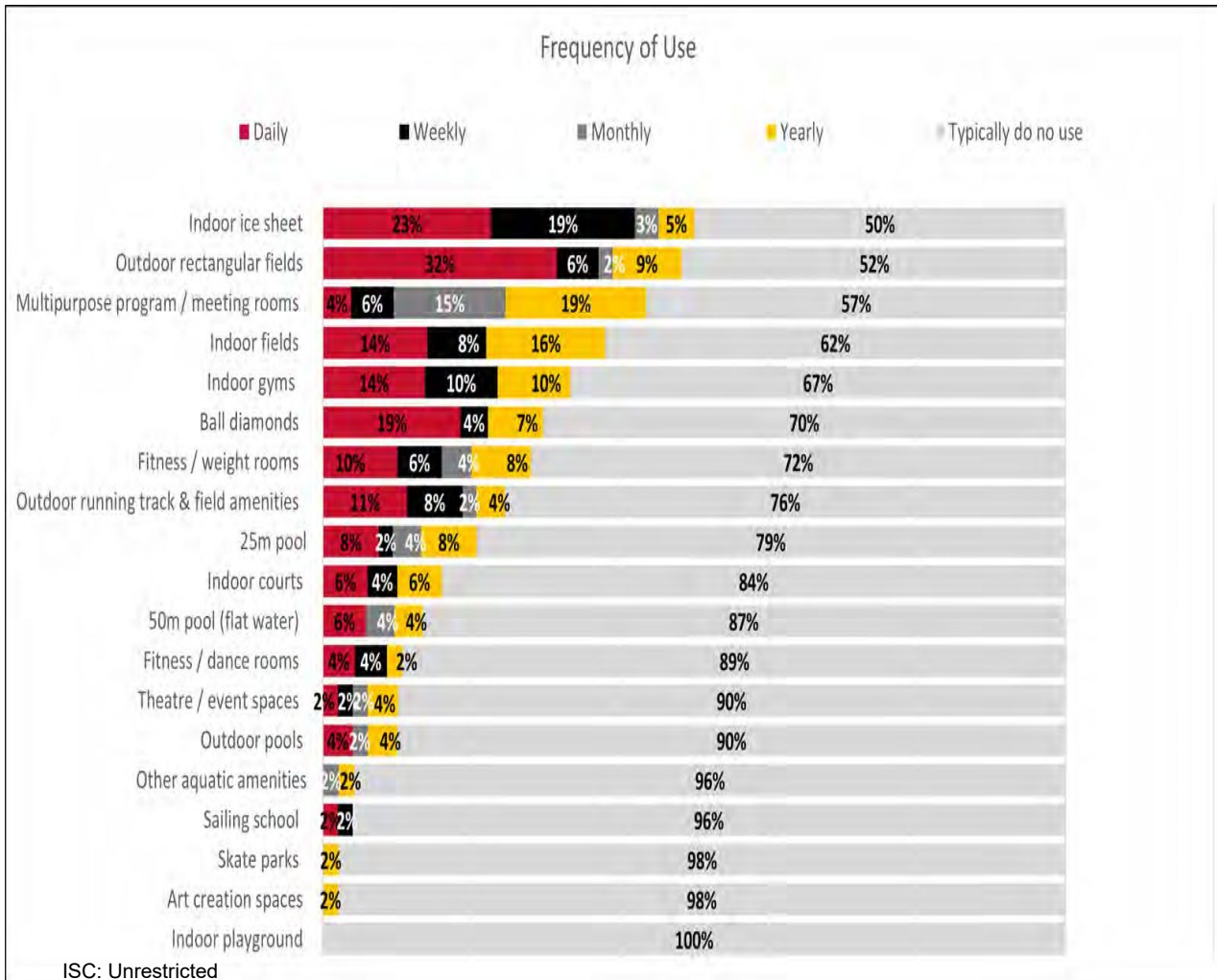
However, this GamePLAN can be better.

Ask yourself: does it set the vision Calgary wants for recreation? For aquatics? For the inner city?

WE CAN DO BETTER!



Research Observations



Research and Outreach appear lacking

- Only 5 /93 consulted groups were aquatic user groups (WWH: p. 2, 7, 11)
- 5/5 aquatic user groups said more 25 m pools needed (WWH: p. 15)
- 80 % of user groups did not typically use a flat water pool in a year
- Research very much focused upon youth activity, not Active for Life or safety
- Were inner city concerns caught?

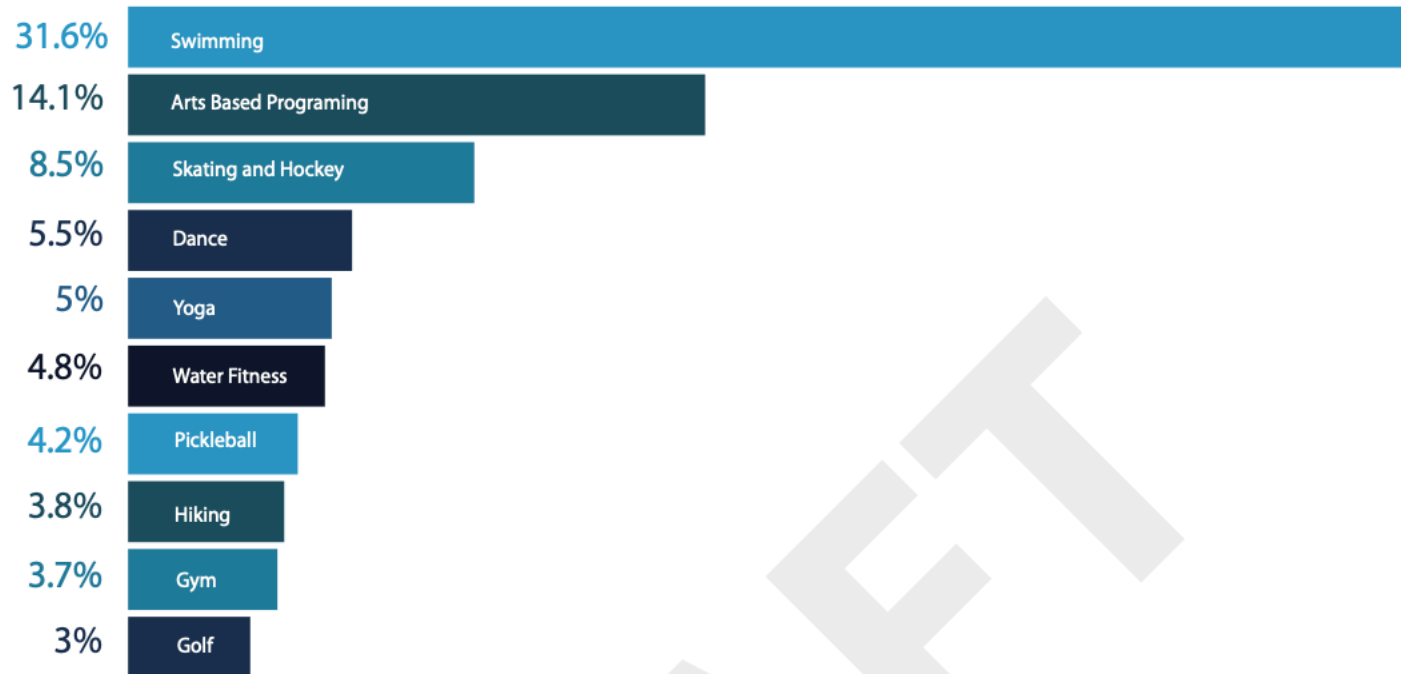


Even with these slights – Plan does not reflect the data!



Programming and Activities

Programming and activities mentioned most frequently by respondents.



Swimming and Water fitness together are 36.4 % - about 2.5 times more than next highest

From page 120

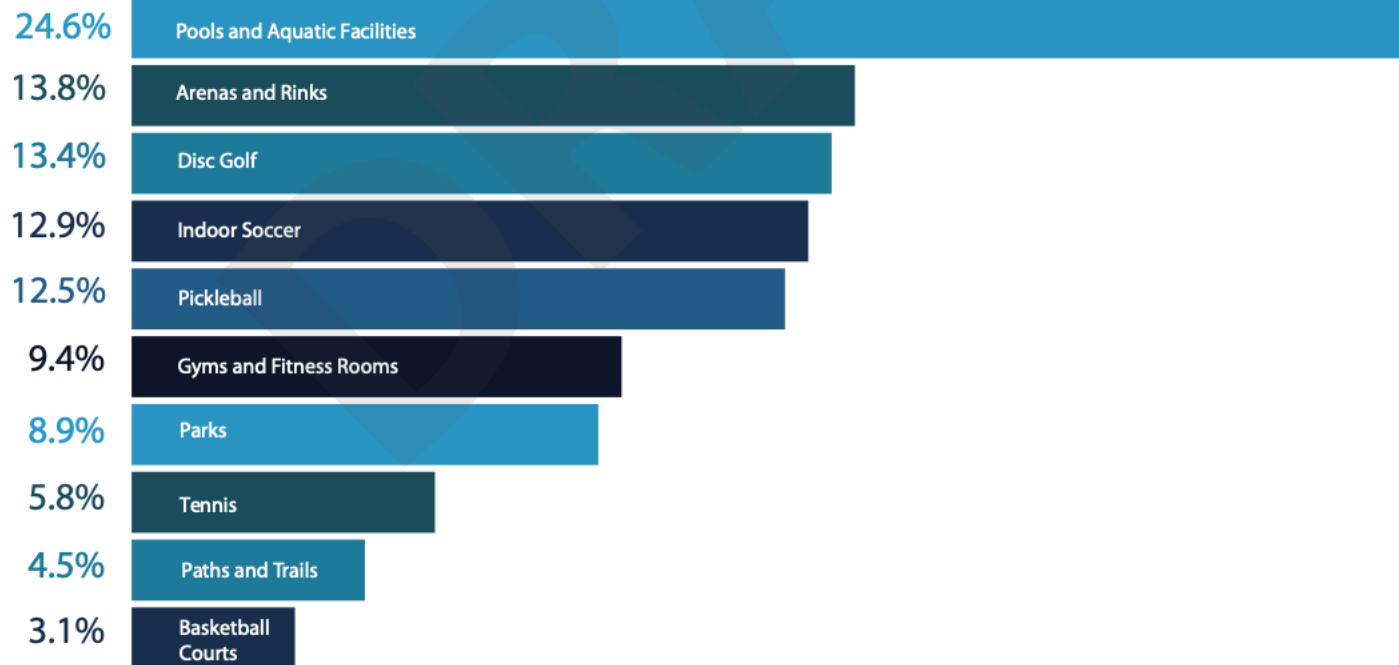


Even with these slights – Plan does not reflect the data!



Facilities and Amenities

Facilities and amenities mentioned most frequently by respondents.



From page 120

**Almost Double
Why then are arenas and rinks
higher increase than aquatic
lanes in the plans?**



Even with these slights – Plan does not reflect the data!



Survey Question #8: What recreational programs and services would you like to see more of?

This question was asked to all respondents. The most frequently mentioned requests are provided below.

Active Recreation Programs

- Swimming (including alternative programs like aquafit or diving)
- Yoga
- Dance (including Zumba)
- Soccer
- Skating
- Pickleball
- Walking groups

Other active recreation programs include: basketball, volleyball, tennis, cricket, hockey, martial arts, spinning, pilates, golf, rock climbing and more.

Active Recreation Facilities and Amenities

- Pools (additional swimming facilities, including outdoor pools)
- Skating rinks (additional arenas, including outdoor rinks)
- Running tracks (allow for running and walking indoors)

Other active recreation facilities include: tennis courts, pickleball courts, gyms and weightlifting amenities, fieldhouses, outdoor exercise equipment, golf courses and more.

Leisure, Arts, and Community Programming

- Arts classes (such as pottery and painting)
- Cooking classes (including nutrition programming)
- Drama / musical theatre
- Music classes

Other leisure programs include: woodworking, paint nights, and community events.

Program Types

- Drop-in program slots (to alleviate challenges with registration and booking)
- Alternative program times (daytime programs, outside of 9-5 hours, evening programs)
- Outdoor programming (sports and active recreation provided outdoors, as well as nature education and outdoor skills)
- Women-only / girls-only programs
- Seniors programs (including older adults, e.g., 50+)
- Teen programs (e.g., learn to lift weights, sport-specific and social activities)
- Disability-friendly programs (including sensory-friendly or physical limitations)
- "Learn to" programs to learn a new sport or skill, including programs for seniors and adults (e.g., learn to swim, learn to skate)
- Trial classes (opportunity to try a class or activity once before deciding whether to commit to a full program)

While many of these programs are currently available, respondents' lack of awareness and difficulty with registration platforms may be contributing to the overlap in existing recreation opportunities and future program requests.

- **All Aquatic user groups indicated need for more 25 m pools**
- **Swimming (+aquafit, diving) was most frequently mentioned request for more programs**
- **Pools most frequently mentioned request for more facilities**

No link between data and outcome

- 1:75000 target for aquatic facilities
 - Way below other cities
 - Considerably below current state
 - ignores data seeking more aquatic facilities
 - Fails to account for geography
 - Fails to measure what is important
- Swim lane targets (app 2)
 - Where is data? Where is comparators?
 - Will this fill the gap?
 - No Geography again



Amenities	Calgary <i>population* 1,491,900</i>		Edmonton <i>population 1,010,899</i>		Toronto <i>population 2,794,356</i>		Medicine Hat <i>population 63,271</i>	
	Number	Provision	Number	Provision	Number	Provision	Number	Provision
Indoor Aquatics Facilities	24	1:62,000	21	1:48,000	59	1:47,000	3	1:21,000
Ice Sheets	54	1:28,000	31	1:32,000	65	1:43,000	5	1:13,000
Fieldhouses (Open Span Facilities)	5	1:298,000	9	1:112,000	9	1:310,000	2	1:32,000
Athletic Park Fields (Class A/B or AT Field)	30	1:50,000	39	1:25,000	119	1:23,000	1	1:63,000


**Based City of Calgary 2024 Mid-Year Progress update Estimate*

No link between data and outcome

- Swim Lesson targets
 - Even gold-standard fails to meet current gap
 - 50% increase in 2024 to accommodate waiting list; yet goal is 40% improvement by 2050!
 - Measuring wrong thing – measure swim lesson capacity
- Swimming can save lives – for the City at the confluence of the Bow & Elbow rivers!



In 2024, there were more than 24 thousand waitlisted swim lesson registrations at City-operated facilities (*Note: a participant can be on more than one waitlist*). This means The City would have to increase swim lessons by 50 per cent to meet current demand. As a result of their limited functionality and capacity constraints, these facilities can be underutilized as people move to newer facilities that can better meet their needs. This puts pressure on newer recreation facilities that are quickly finding themselves at capacity.

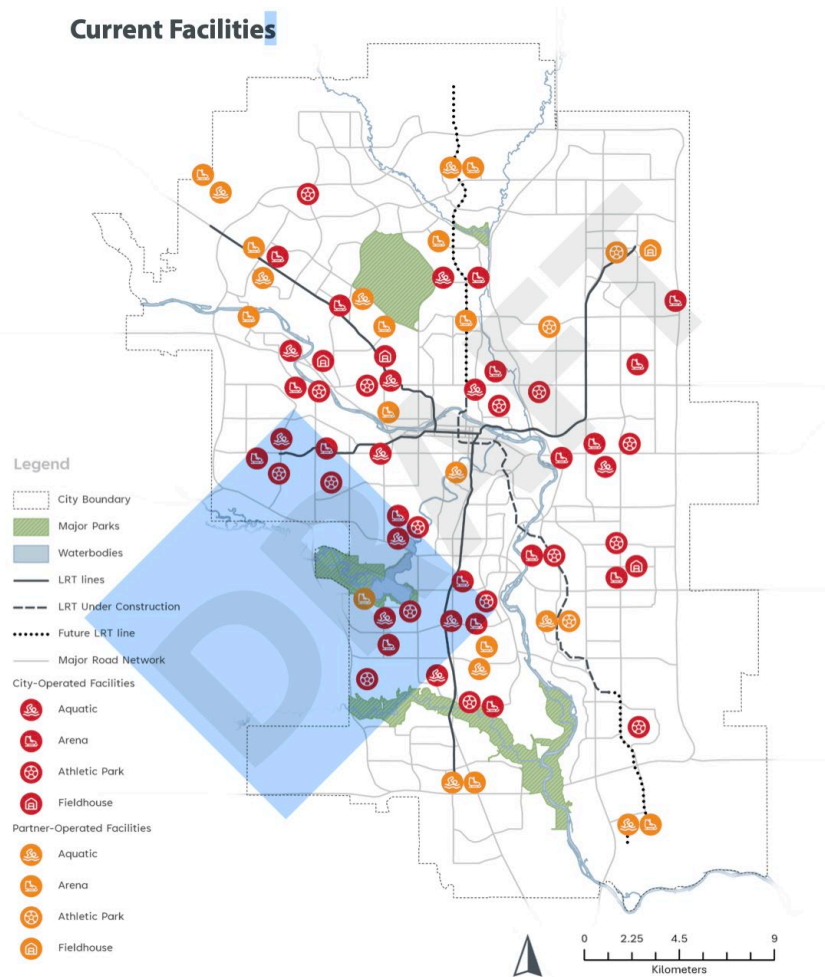
Calgary  **Service level scenario comparison** CD2025-0047
Attachment 4

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Annual capital investment*	\$0-30M	\$100-150M	\$200-250M



Geography? Inner City?

Current Facilities



Plan appears very car-centric

- 5-10 km travel goal (compare to data)
- Plan foresees closing older/inefficient facilities in favour of larger multi-purpose
 - BUT: those closures are inner city
 - No requirement to replace in proximity
 - Space constraints in inner city make multi-purpose more difficult...

Survey Question #7: Please tell us more about why you or your family don't currently attend a recreation program, facility, or participate in sport.*

*This question was only asked to those who identified as non-recreation users.

- There are no facilities nearby / I'm not sure of where my nearest facility is located / Facilities are not accessible without a car
- Facilities are too busy / Programs are full
- Programs are too limited / They do not have what I would like to participate in / I'm not sure what programs are available
- Programming does not meet the needs of me and/or my family (e.g., seniors, children with disabilities)