

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Recreation & Community Facilities Master Plan

Welcome to the Open House

Please walk around the room, view the presentation boards and share your thoughts:

- Use sticky-notes to comment on specific ideas in the Plan
- Talk to us: we're on hand to help answer your questions
- Fill out a feedback form to leave us any additional comments or ideas



BACKGROUND

Why are we creating a Recreation Master Plan?

The City of Brandon's Department of Community Services is developing a recreation master plan to:

- Provide a 20 year vision and framework for planning recreation and community facilities
- Update the existing Brandon Recreation Facilities Master Plan created in 2007
- Create guidelines to support the development of new recreation programs and services
- Determine priorities for future investment and renewal of recreation facilities
- Support greater recreation and leisure opportunities in the community well-being

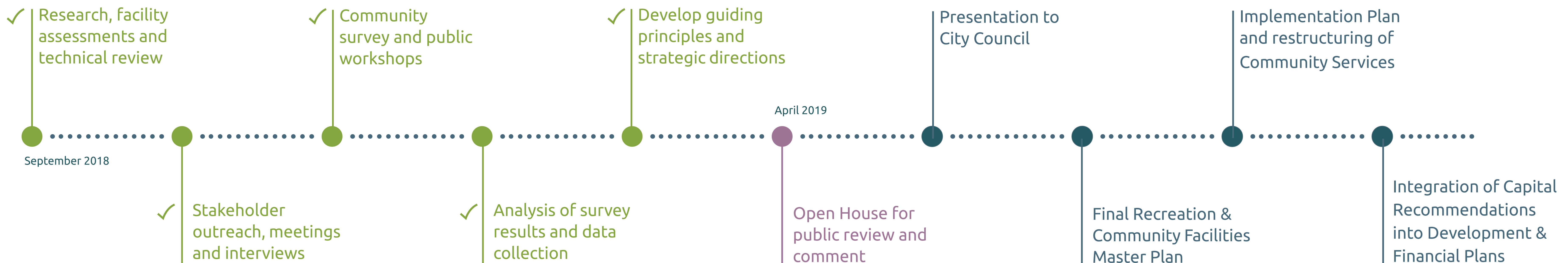


Brandon is changing, and so is the need for quality facilities and programs that are responsive, current and forward-thinking.

A number of social and cultural shifts are transforming Brandon, along with changing trends in recreation and leisure that include:

- Steady and healthy population growth with increased cultural diversity
- An aging population with increased health needs
- New residential growth areas in the city
- Changing sport participation levels and preferences
- Expanded vision of recreation to include leisure, arts, culture and multi-generational learning
- New partnership models for recreation delivery
- Aging, outdated infrastructure
- Increased emphasis on the importance of municipalities supporting and building healthy, vibrant communities

How are we doing this?



WHAT WE HEARD

YOUR TOP 5 RECREATION PRIORITIES:

TOP 5 FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Walking
- 2 Cycling
- 3 Swimming
- 4 Skating
- 5 Fitness

TOP 5 FAVOURITE INDOOR FACILITIES:

- 1 Keystone
- 2 Sportsplex
- 3 BU Healthy Living Centre
- 4 YMCA
- 5 Community Centres

TOP 5 FAVOURITE OUTDOOR FACILITIES:

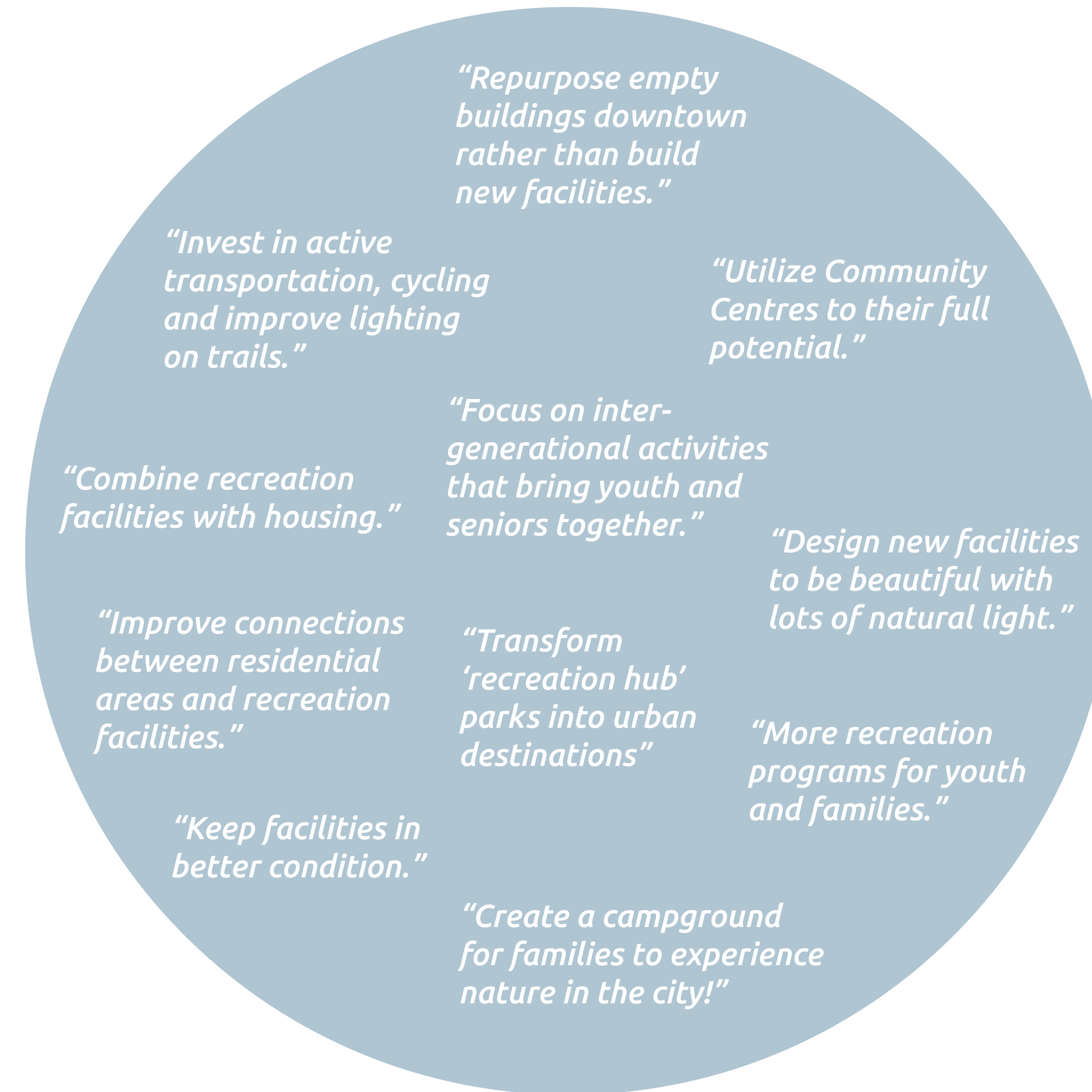
- 1 Riverbank Discovery Centre
- 2 Local Parks
- 3 Playgrounds
- 4 Skating Oval
- 5 Splash Pad Spray Park

TOP 5 FACILITIES YOU WANT TO SEE IN BRANDON

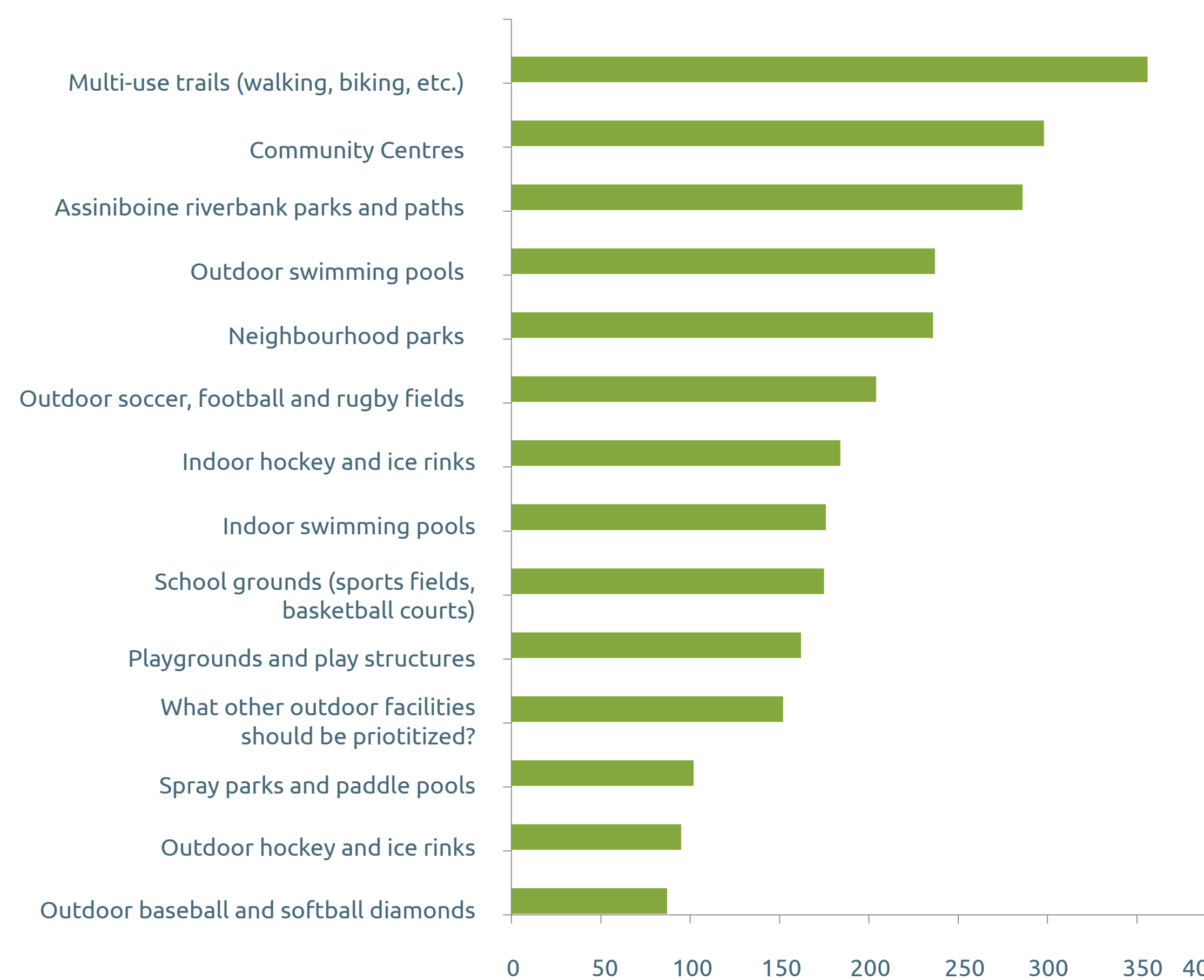
- 1 Indoor Multiplex
- 2 Walking Trails
- 3 Indoor Turf Facility
- 4 Arena Ice
- 5 Outdoor Swimming Pools

1214 people completed the Brandon Community Recreation Survey.

YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF RECREATION IN BRANDON:



YOUR PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT:



REASONS YOU PARTICIPATE IN RECREATION & LEISURE ACTIVITIES:

75% 75 per cent of respondents said one of their top reasons for participating in recreation was to keep active for personal health & well-being

44 per cent of respondents said one of their top reasons for participating in recreation was to spend time with family **44%**

36% 36 per cent of respondents said one of their top reasons for participating in recreation was to be social and make friends.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, COMMUNITY & REGION?

NEIGHBOURHOOD accessible by walking 5-10 minutes



COMMUNITY accessible by walking, biking or driving 10 minutes



REGIONAL accessible by car or transit, serving the city and wider region



A NEW VISION FOR RECREATION IN BRANDON



Recreation is an **essential public service** for growing healthy, vibrant and connected communities

Investing in recreation is an effective way for the City of Brandon to advance a number of different municipal objectives:

- Quality of life
- Public health
- Community development
- Neighbourhood leadership
- Culture and heritage
- Tourism, festivals and events
- Sports and athletics
- Greenspace enhancement
- Business development
- Economic growth

*“Recreation is about the **health and wellbeing of people, families and the whole community.** The City of Brandon has an important role to play, not only as a provider of recreation services, but to **support and build partnerships** with the community to ensure recreation is available **for the benefit of all.**”* - Rick Chrest, Mayor, City of Brandon



ENHANCED ROLE OF THE CITY

The City of Brandon is committed to playing an **enhanced leadership role as a partner** in the delivery of recreation services and facilities into the future.

The City recognizes its role in optimizing and maintaining recreation facilities in a financially sustainable manner, and supporting volunteers who are looking to make a difference in their communities as an active partner in the delivery of recreation services. The City will achieve this in the following ways:

Invest in the renewal of municipal recreation facilities and plan for future growth

- **Strengthen asset inventory**, oversight and management tools to track the condition and utilization of facilities over time.
- **Identify facilities in need of renewal** and set priorities for targeted upgrades.
- **Plan for future growth** and the provision of new facilities to meet changing community needs and interests.
- **Commit to maintaining City-owned assets** and outdoor public recreational areas with municipal resources.
- **Allocate funding in the form of municipal grants** as part of annual budgeting for community use that individuals, groups and organizations can use for facilities up-keep.

Enhance municipal operational practices in the delivery of recreation services

- **Provide a renewed sense of civic leadership** at the highest level within the City of Brandon to champion Recreation as a vital service and effective way to build and serve community.
- **Work collaboratively** with neighbouring regions, internal municipal departments and external organizations and agencies to plan, develop and deliver recreation services in a responsive and sustainable way.
- **Create new staff roles to develop and manage relationships** with recreation providers in the community and support their efforts to deliver recreation programs and services at a local level.
- **Develop a communications strategy** to enhance the knowledge and delivery of recreation opportunities for Brandon residents.

Strengthen partnerships with recreation providers in the community

- **Develop resources and tools to support** recreation providers in areas such as volunteer recruitment and training, board development, fundraising, planning and community engagement.
- **Jointly identify opportunities and risks** in the delivery of recreation services and explore mutual ways to enhance service delivery for the benefit of residents and the City.
- **Create partnerships with sport development organizations** such as leagues, clubs and associations that are creating increased access and opportunities for young people and building the next generation of athletic talent in Brandon.
- **Create a partnership framework** with guidelines for developing, managing and evaluating partnerships.



Improve public access to recreation programs and services

- **Make it easier for people to discover** what recreation opportunities are available in the community by publishing an Active Living Guide.
- **Ensure access to entry level programs** such as “Learn to swim” and “drop in” programs are available and financially accessible for individuals and families in need.
- **Develop new recreation and leisure programs** that reflect community priorities such as:

Outdoor Programs	General Interest	Sports
Canoe/Kayak Gardening Birding Nature walks/hikes Cross country skiing/ snowshoeing Walking for seniors	Cooking classes Preserving and canning food Music classes Intro to theatre/acting Drawing classes Photography Arts and crafts lessons	Dodgeball Badminton Pickleball Soccer Hockey Flag football Baseball
Fitness	Learn to ...	Other
Physical Literacy Martial arts Yoga Dance	Learn to swim Learn to skate Learn to ski	Family activities Reading groups Volunteer opportunities

* Ideas generated by community members at the Recreation Workshop



RENEWING FACILITIES & PLANNING FOR FOR THE FUTURE



Brandon is home to an outstanding network of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

The following boards outline proposals and recommendations for ensuring this network remains vital into the future.

The overall future direction for recreation facilities in Brandon is to:

- Maintain city-owned assets to a high standard of repair.
- Identify gaps in current supply levels and plan for future investment.
- Ensure facilities are accessible and adequately distributed across the city.
- Improve visitor and customer experiences within facilities.
- Enhance community participation in recreation and leisure programs.



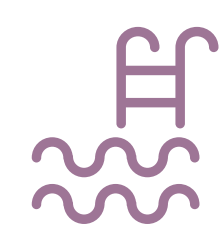
AQUATICS

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Brandon has two outdoor pools, both of which are 25 metre concrete tanks with shallow lane swimming and deep ends. The Kiwanis Pool (1979) on the Keystone Centre grounds and Kinsmen Pool (1967) at Rideau Park have aged well past their best-before date and are no longer serving the needs of the city. Many residents of Brandon choose to drive 45 minutes or more to surrounding communities to find quality outdoor aquatic facilities in the summer.

WHAT WE HEARD

"We desperately need an up-to-date outdoor pool facility with graduated entry, slides, water features and protection from the sun. A community of this size should have had a facility like this long ago. I take my child all the way to Souris two ENTIRE weeks a summer for outdoor lessons in an outdoor pool that is up-to-date." - Anonymous survey comment



Outdoor Pools ranked in the **top 5 most desired** facilities survey respondents want to see in Brandon, and the **top 5 priorities for future investment**.

CHALLENGES

Existing outdoor pools are showing their age and do not include the amenities and attractions that families and children are looking for.

Outdoor pools are not accessible and do not include family-friendly amenities such as children's splash areas or shade.

Families travelling outside Brandon to visit outdoor aquatic facilities in other towns are a potential source of lost revenue to the city both in terms of visitor fees and spending on other goods and services.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Explore options to **build an enhanced outdoor aquatics complex** to replace Kiwanis and Kinsmen pools. This enhanced facility should include a **mix of amenities** such as water slides, splash areas and lane swimming, and **meet a high standard for accessibility and comfort** including zero entry access, shaded grassy areas and expanded changing rooms and canteen building.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS?

- 1 Undertake a feasibility study** to explore options for the design and location of a new outdoor aquatics complex.
- 2 Plan for the phased decommission of existing outdoor pools** at Rideau Park and Keystone Centre and redirect resources towards the new facility.
- 3 Ensure a wide range of aquatics programs** are available for the public such as swimming lessons and lane swim delivered in a cost effective way.



CASE STUDY: SOURIS GLENWOOD POOL, MB

Souris Glenwood Pool is a heated outdoor aquatics facility with four slides, lazy river, splash areas and beach-like entry. The Souris pool is a draw for locals from around the region and offers a variety of programming including: aquasizes, lap swimming, Red Cross, Life Saving Society, Swimming Lessons, Life Guard Training and public swimming.

INDOOR POOLS

Current supply: Two indoor pools, one at the Sportsplex and one at the Downtown YMCA.

Need: Our review of facilities suggests that the current supply is meeting present demand. Recent renovation to the Sportsplex pool mechanical systems and foundations has extended the life-span of that facility, and the pool at the YMCA is in good condition.

Future direction: While building a new indoor pool is not a priority for the City in the coming decade, there is a need to invest in the expansion and accessibility of of change rooms at Sportsplex.

SPLASH PARKS & PADDLE POOLS

Current supply: Five spray parks located at Westridge, Valleyview, Stanley Park, Rideau and Kin Park.

Need: Acting on a recommendation made in the 2007 Recreation Master Plan, the City of Brandon has been slowly upgrading older paddle pools into more engaging splash parks with a variety of play experiences and improved washroom facilities at key 'recreation hub' parks across the city. Current supply levels are adequate.

Future direction: The City should carry on with plans to upgrade the spray park at Stanley Park and build a new splash park at Sir Winston Churchill Park in keeping with current Capital plans. Future investments should ensure splash parks provide shaded areas for the public.

ARENA ICE

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Conversations with hockey and skating groups in Brandon suggests a shortage of available ice time in the city. Brandon has four indoor arena ice sheets. While this number is in keeping with standard supply, the total amount of bookable ice time is reduced as a result of ice sheets at Keystone being taken out of commission to accommodate events such as the Winter Fair. As a result, groups have resorted to booking ice time for games and tournaments in towns outside of Brandon.

WHAT WE HEARD

"There is a misconception that Brandon has lots of facilities available for ice skating sports but this is not true for a large portion of the time." - Anonymous survey comment

"Hockey teams are fighting for ice time in Brandon. Hockey teams are going to surrounding towns to play so they can get ice time!" - Anonymous survey comment

"We need ice time for public skating for kids too... public skating in the morning during the week is not convenient for families. Not everyone plays hockey." - Anonymous survey comment

CHALLENGES

Limited availability of ice time for hockey during peak periods of the season due to facilities being used for alternative events.

Competition for ice time makes it difficult for skating groups and the general public to access ice during peak periods.

Hockey teams take their business outside of Brandon to arenas in surrounding towns that offer ice at a more affordable rates.

Lack of a clear picture about the ice supply picture in Brandon and need for further study to determine actual need and best solutions.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The City of Brandon will conduct a **comprehensive ice study** to identify supply demands and explore options for the development of new indoor ice sheets. The ice study should **consider suitable locations** for additional ice, such as building a new ice pad at Sportsplex or bundling ice within a new multi-use sports complex development. The study should also explore options for **regional cooperation** between ice providers.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS?

- 1 **Conduct an ice study** inclusive of hockey, figure skating, ringette and speed skating communities to determine utilization, demand and supply levels and future needs in the context of a growing city.
- 2 **Determine suitable location** for building new ice sheets, as part of an expanded Sportsplex, in partnership with other providers or organizations in the city, or as part of a possible future multi-use recreation facility.
- 3 **Explore the viability of regional coordination** of booking and shared use agreements with arenas in neighbouring communities.
- 4 Ensure any new ice development includes provision for **access by community groups and families** for public skating and skating lessons.

CASE STUDY: COVERED ICE SHED, CAMP MANITOU, MB



Developed as a joint partnership between True North Youth Foundation and the National Hockey League Players' Association, the ice shed at Camp Manitou (\$1.8 million) is the only rink in Manitoba that is enclosed by a roof and open on four sides. This innovative design keeps out snow and minimizes the impact of the sun on ice melt in the fall and spring, allowing the rink to be operational for upwards of six months of the year between early October and early April. Plastic pipes are laid on top of an asphalt base in the fall and are sprayed with water that freezes through the power generated by the ice plant. The pipes are then removed each spring allowing the surface to be used for other activities.

OUTDOOR SPORTS FIELDS

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Brandon is currently planning for the development of an Outdoor Sports Field Complex at 1st Street and Veterans Way to replace soccer fields that were lost at Optimist park due to flooding in 2011 and 2014. The selection of this site was determined by a feasibility study conducted in 2016. In the absence of usable outdoor fields, sports groups are booking school fields, resulting in overuse and degradation of these facilities. At the time of this Open House, the City is awaiting the results of a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment to inform next steps.

WHAT WE HEARD

"Lots of people aren't playing these sports because of limited or no suitable outdoor soccer fields. Out of town teams won't come to play in Brandon because we lack facilities." - Anonymous survey comment

"There is simply too much traffic on high school fields, which doesn't give them adequate time to recover. The city badly needs a complex/centre for soccer including outdoor fields and potentially an indoor facility. That would keep some of the traffic off of the fields at high schools."

- Anonymous survey comment

CHALLENGES

Brandon lacks a high-quality outdoor sports field complex that can run tournaments and attract games from out of town.

Risk of flooding can be mitigated with proper diking and drainage systems to ensure fields are protected.

The use of school athletic fields is not a long term solution and causes increased wear and tear on School Division property.

DESIGN CONCEPT FOR PROPOSED OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX AT 1ST & VETERANS WAY



LEGEND

	GRAVEL TRAIL / PATH		11 v 11 SOCCER FIELDS (COMBINED CRICKET PRACTICE PITCH)
	ASPHALT ROADWAY		DEDICATED CRICKET PITCH
	CLUBHOUSE BUILDING		BERM
	MAINTENANCE FACILITY		RETENTION POND & WETLAND BORDER
	TRAIL HEAD / SHELTER		EXISTING TREES
	GRAVEL PARKING		PROPOSED TREE PLANTING
	DEDICATED 9 v 9 SOCCER FIELD (42 x 60m)		
	11 v 11 SOCCER FIELD (46 X 92m) (SUBDIVIDED INTO 5 v 5, 7 v 7, & 9 v 9)		
	FIFA SOCCER FIELD C/W SPECTATOR BLEACHERS		

PRECEDENT IMAGES



FUTURE DIRECTION

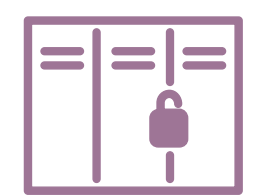
It is recommended that the City of Brandon **carry on with plans** to develop the proposed Outdoor Sports Field Complex at 1st Street at Veterans Way. This new facility would include a range of new amenities including **new multi-use athletic fields**, three cricket pitches, extensive trails and greenspace, a disc golf course, one ball diamond and new change / washroom facilities in addition to **drainage and diking to protect against flooding**.

SPORTSPLEX

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Built as a venue for the 1979 Canada Winter Games (and expanded in 1997 with outdoor track for the Canada Summer Games), Brandon's Sportsplex is a purpose-built competition facility that is a jewel in the City's portfolio of recreation venues. Unfortunately, the small size of the Sportsplex limits its ability to offer a wider complement of leisure services. Future investments into the Sportsplex will need to address these challenges to allow the Sportsplex to serve the community for the next 20 years.

WHAT WE HEARD



The most frequent comment expressed frustration with the size and condition of changing rooms for both the pool and ice sides of the Sportsplex.

"Although they updated the pool at sportsplex, there's no indoor gym or indoor play area for kids, the outdoor park is small and the times for public skating are so scarce."

- Anonymous survey comment

CHALLENGES

Sportsplex is a purpose-built competition facility that struggles to serve as a community recreation centre.

Undersized and inaccessible changing rooms is a makes it difficult for families and is a deterrent to booking competitions.

Lack of flexible multi-purpose space limits the City's ability to offer recreation programs and leisure services that can generate revenues.

Small building with limited options for internal reorganization of entrance, circulation or common areas without an extension.

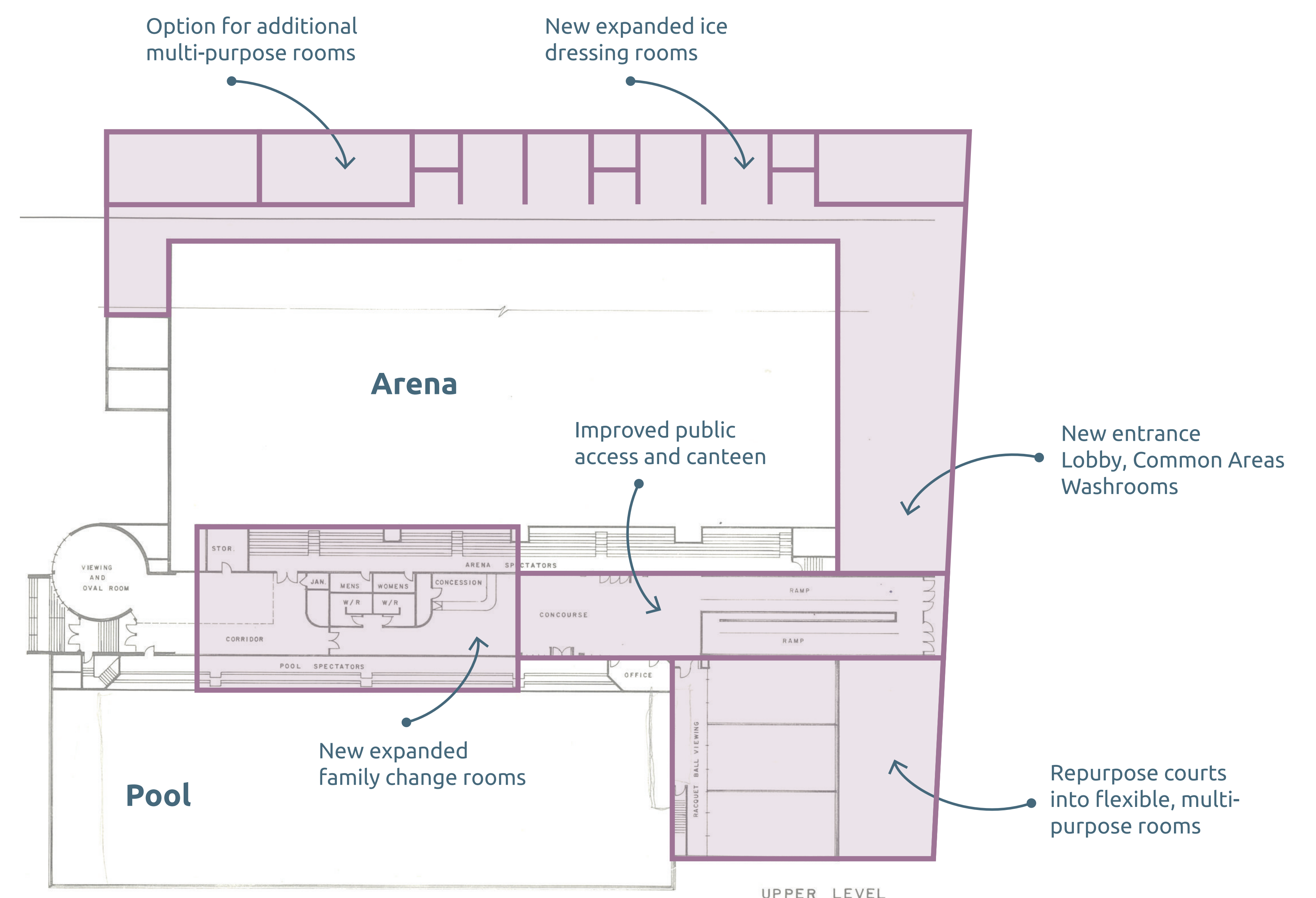
FUTURE DIRECTION

The Sportsplex requires an **expansion and diversification** of facilities and program offerings in order to become Brandon's flagship community recreation and leisure centre. The City of Brandon will **undertake a design study to detail options** for an expansion that includes, at a minimum, **renovated and expanded arena and poolside changing rooms**, enhanced entrance areas and flexible multi-purpose rooms for leisure programming.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS?

- 1 **Develop a basic renewal and expansion plan** that incorporates an enhanced entrance area and internal circulation, renovation and expansion to change rooms, and addition of multi-purpose rooms.
- 2 **Re-organize parking and circulation** around an enhanced facility.
- 3 **Conduct an ice study** to explore the feasibility of developing additional ice supply at Sportsplex.
- 4 **Strengthen community use policies** to ensure public swimming and leisure skating is offered at convenient times.
- 5 **Refresh the facility name** to signal a transition towards more recreation and leisure offerings.

CONCEPT DRAWING FOR A PROPOSED SPORTSPLEX EXPANSION



COMMUNITY CENTRES

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Established in the 1960s, Brandon's Community Centres once served as vibrant local gathering halls with active outdoor rinks. However, changing community priorities combined with the wear and tear on buildings have challenged Community Centres to remain relevant today. Renewed investment in buildings, combined with creative thinking about programming and community engagement can help Community Centres play a more vital role in local recreation delivery.

WHAT WE HEARD



Community Centres ranked second in a list of facilities survey respondents want to see Brandon prioritize for **future investment**.

"I frequent a few Community Centres and service delivery from volunteers is great, however some buildings could use a refresh and expansion to provide more programming."

- Anonymous survey comment

"I love Brandon's Community Centres, but the facilities need to be updated (better kitchens, equipment, etc.), and I'm not sure how to volunteer. The cost to book a facility is prohibitive."

- Anonymous survey comment

CHALLENGES

Community Centre buildings face increased maintenance challenges due to age, condition and limited investment over the years.

Small building sizes restrict the types of recreation and leisure activities that can be programmed.

Community Centre buildings do not meet contemporary standards for accessibility or public expectations of service or comfort.

Challenges with volunteer recruitment and lack of consistency in terms of capacity and programming between Community Centres.

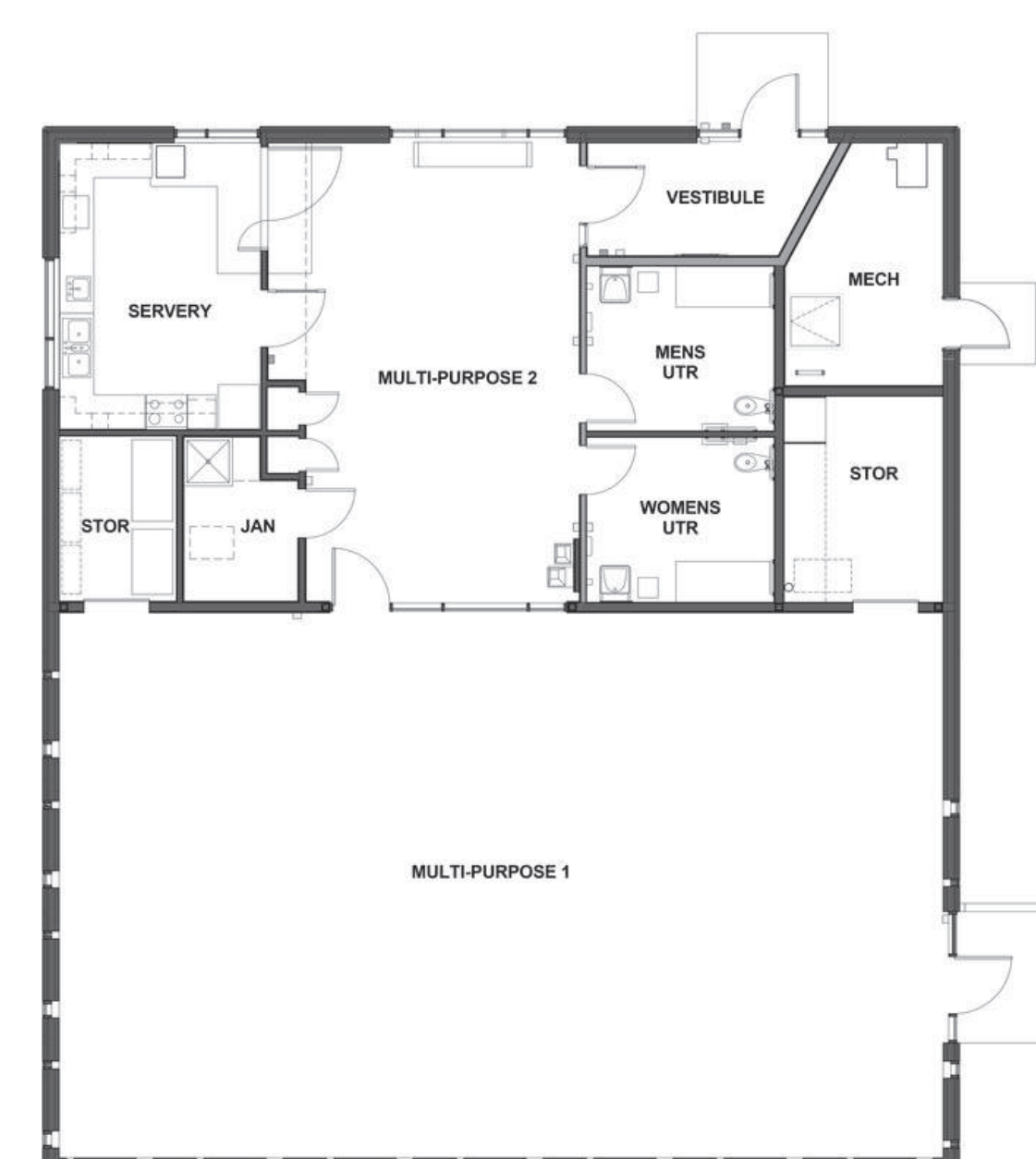
FUTURE DIRECTION

The City of Brandon will work with Community Centres to transform them into **neighbourhoods hubs for recreation and leisure services**. Achieving this vision requires focused investment into the **renewal of key Community Centre buildings and supporting volunteer boards** to play a more active role in developing and delivering recreation and leisure programs in the community.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS?

- 1 **Commit to oversee the repair and upkeep** of Community Centre buildings and grounds as part of regular municipal facility maintenance.
- 2 **Begin capital planning to replace key Community Centre buildings** with new larger multi-purpose facilities that provide functional space for expanded recreation programming.
- 3 **Support community centre boards with resources and toolkits** in areas such as volunteer recruitment and training, board development, fundraising, planning and community development.
- 4 **Increase recreational and leisure programs** and opportunities for the public to access at Community Centres.

CASE STUDY: MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD RECREATION CENTRE



The Mayfair Recreation Centre is a 3500 square foot neighbourhood recreation facility that includes a half-court gym, multi-purpose room, learning kitchen and restrooms. This simple "box" integrates well with surrounding park, splash pads and tennis courts/skating rink, creating a focal point and destination for the community. A facility of this size and mix of amenities would be an appropriate scale investment to replace key Community Centre buildings in Brandon and provide functional space for enhanced program offerings. The Mayfair was designed by Bridgman Collaborative.

GREENSPACES & TRAILS

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Greenspaces are an important recreational amenity in the city providing space for both organized sport, self-directed activities and relaxed leisure. However, Brandon's greenspaces are not being utilized to their fullest potential as recreational assets. The City's Greenspace Master Plan and the Brandon River Corridor Master Plan include recommendations that can help the City enhance recreational uses of greenspaces by making it easier for communities to discover, access and use greenspaces in all seasons.

WHAT WE HEARD



Greenspaces and trails ranked first in a list of facilities survey respondents want to see Brandon prioritize for **future investment**. However, there is a sense that trails and greenspaces are not being used to their full potential. Trails in particular need to be better connected, safely lit, and accessible.

"The lack of large parks is going to be a hindrance if Brandon wants to attract younger, active people. It feels like most parks in the city are just small parcels of grass. There are not many opportunities to walk amongst trees unless you are near the river." - Anonymous survey comment

CHALLENGES

Brandon's greenspaces and trails do not form a cohesive and connected network, making it difficult for people who desire Active Transportation options to get around.

Many amenities such as sports fields and diamonds in greenspaces are in poor condition due to flooding, overuse, or lacking maintenance.

There is no easy way for the public to book a greenspace or notify the City of an intention to use a greenspace for a large community gathering.

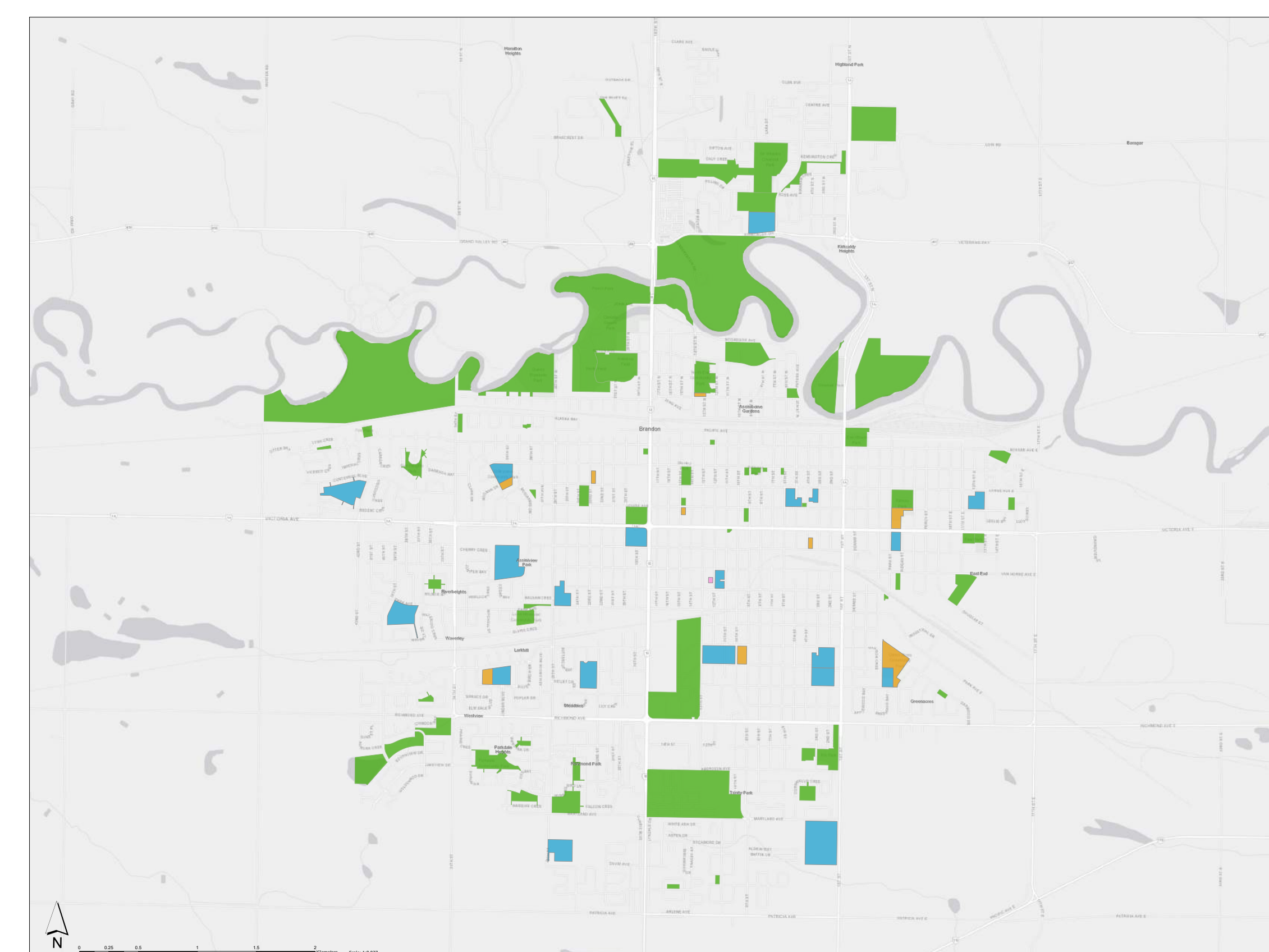
Many of Brandon's neighbourhood scale parks require more shade trees, paths and landscape improvements to create an inviting atmosphere and promote public use.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The City of Brandon will continue to follow the recommendations outlined in the Greenspace Master Plan, ensuring parks are utilized to their fullest potential as vital community and recreation amenities in the city. This includes ensuring parks are connected, discoverable, accessible and attractive spaces in every season.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO ACHIEVE THIS?

- 1 **Publish list of all publicly accessible parks, trails and greenspaces** online including guidelines for facility reservation or booking if applicable.
- 2 **Identify greenspaces in need of priority upgrades** and begin capital planning for phased investment.
- 3 **Increase the number of picnic shelters, barbecue pits and washrooms** in key greenspaces such 'recreation hub' parks and along the river corridor.
- 4 **Invest in landscape improvements** in neighbourhood parks to improve attractiveness and accessibility with trees, walking paths and benches.
- 5 **Develop an active transportation plan** to identify ways to create a city wide network of trails linking greenspaces and communities.
- 6 **Continue pursuing recommendations in the River Corridor Master Plan** for the revitalization of the Assiniboine river corridor.
- 7 Ensure recreational greenspaces are **incorporated into new residential areas**.
- 8 Encourage recreational uses of the river corridor **in all seasons**.



Brandon's Greenspace Network:

- Parks and Greenspaces
- School Grounds
- Community Centres

NEXT STEPS

This Recreation Master Plan gives guidance to the City of Brandon as it plans and invests in recreation services and facilities **over the next 20 years.**

- Planning for the future of recreation includes **extending the usefulness and lifespan** of existing facilities, renewing and repurposing underperforming spaces, and **planning for future new development** as the city grows.
- This will require **new partnerships** with recreation providers in the community, and in some cases, additional **community consultation** to inform decision-making.
- The recommendations presented in this Open House will require **additional refinements and integration** into the City's annual capital and business planning.

Some of the immediate and longer-term next steps include:

- 1. Develop priorities and timeframes** for recreation facility and service renewal that are both practical and achievable.
- 2. Develop an Implementation Plan** that offers tactical guidance and identifies the combination of internal and external funding sources to achieve Plan objectives.
- 3. Integrate capital recommendations** into development and financial plans that span the next 20 year period.
- 4. Identify opportunities to secure future land holdings** for long-term development of recreation facilities that will be integrated into the fabric of community life and serve Brandon for the next generation.

