

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT





## Perry Roque

*Director of Parks & Recreation Services*

**In today's hectic world it's important to take time to enjoy each day for our health and well-being. Parks and Recreation services is committed to ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience recreational activities and parks, to build relationships with family and friends, for a sense of community pride.**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**City of Brandon Parks and Recreation Services is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Brandon residents, and plays a significant role in shaping the character of the City.**

Take a walk along our beautiful trails or riverbank, sign up for swim programs at the Sportsplex, skate on the oval, enjoy the Christmas lights or floral displays, golf at the Wheat City Golf Course, join us at the Youth Centre, or one of the many sports leagues that play at our facilities. Relax in a park under one of our many trees. Parks and Recreation Services has something for everyone and our volunteers make the difference.

By creating a sense of community Parks and Recreation Services connects residents, through a natural environment, recreational, leisure, and social activities. A department re-organization in 2020, at the onset of Covid-19 presented many challenges. Our focus has been engaging our customers, improving our programs, and planning for new facilities in the community. We strive to enrich the lives of individuals, families and cultural groups throughout Brandon by providing fulfilling recreational experiences.

The Parks & Recreation Services Mission and Vision, written through department wide collaboration, identified the needs of Brandon today and future generations, by building parks, programs, forestry and horticulture, community gardens, and facilities that benefit the community.

### **Mission Statement**

Parks & Recreation Services mission is to enrich the community through positive service that supports, engages and inspires the public.

### **Vision Statement**

Parks & Recreation Services strives to become an accessible resource, engaging a community that leads a healthy, green and positive lifestyle.

## WHO WE ARE

Parks & Recreation Services mandate is to improve the quality of life for our residents. Through programming, events, amenities and greenspaces our goal is to offer something for everyone. Our framework for service delivery is based on the Green Space Master Plan (2015), Recreation and Community Facilities Master Plan (2019), and Brandon's Assiniboine River Corridor Master Plan (2016).



Parks is made up of 2 sections, Forestry & Horticulture and Greenspace Maintenance, where a wide range of staff maintain and upgrade City parks, playgrounds, recreation facilities and greenspaces. Parks employs 15 full-time staff and 53 casual staff throughout the year who work out of the Parks Complex and Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Recreation Services focuses on facilities and programming. We believe recreation is an essential public service for growing healthy, vibrant and connected communities. We have a large portfolio of both free programming and paid programming available to the public, and oversee Brandon's Community Sportsplex, the Brandon Youth Centre and Outdoor Water facilities. With 18 full-time staff and 75 casual staff, Recreation offers a variety of services and programs in the areas of City Wide Initiatives and Recreation Hub Programs.

## BUILDING FACILITIES WITH PARTNERSHIP IN 2022

### Laurence & Louise Park:

This park was redeveloped in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Brandon. The park has been updated and includes many new features such as modern play sets, culturally inclusive elements, accessible play features, walking paths, shade structures and improved greenspace. The community gardens were kept as part of the project. This playground has something for everyone, and is sure to inspire a sense of play and adventure to those who visit.



### Community Centre Rink LED lights:

Community Centre Outdoor Rinks are a cornerstone of the Brandon Community, used for generations by avid hockey and leisure skaters. Parks & Recreation worked alongside the Central Council of Community Centres on the installation of new LED lights on all outdoor skating surfaces. In total 77 new LED lights were installed.

### BSD Joint Use Playground & Field Maintenance projects

Per the Brandon School Division and City of Brandon, each organization provides a maximum of \$30,000 for school field maintenance and equipment as well as a maximum of \$50,000 each for the supply and install of new school playground structure. In 2022 the new play structure was installed at JR Reid School.

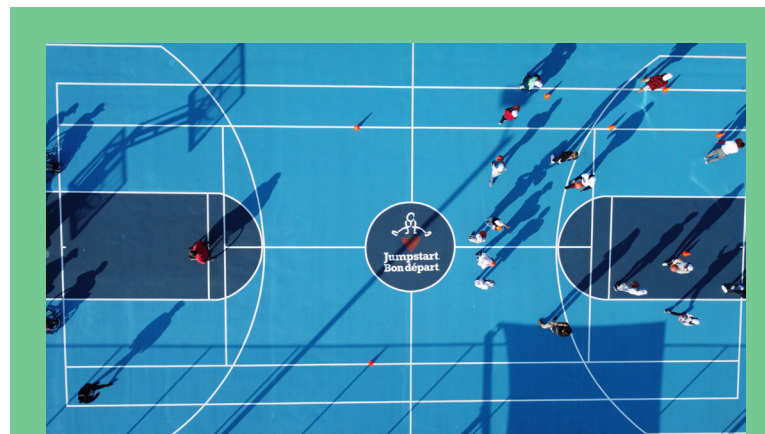
### Parkdale Park Rain Garden

A rain garden was constructed as part of a partnership with the Central Assiniboine Watershed District and the City of Brandon. The rain garden helps filtrate stormwater and spring runoff naturally. It reduces stress on the stormwater sewer system and the plants are pollinator friendly

### Canadian Tire Jump Start Multi Sport Court:

The City of Brandon was honored to build this multi-sport court in partnership with Canadian Tire Jump Start. Marked for a variety of sports and featuring adjustable equipment allows those of all ages and abilities can enjoy this facility. The facility is located at 510 Maryland Ave., next to Maryland Park School. It includes:

- Contrasting colours to support visual impairment
- Shaded double-wide benches for improved accessibility
- Wheelchair-accessible seating, shaded accessible bleachers
- 4 double-wide entry points
- 4 LED overhead court lights
- Court 1 features Sport/Para lines for basketball, tennis & hockey, 6 fixed-height & 2 adjustable-height basketball nets and tennis net
- Sensory play area, shade structure, 2 more fixed basketball hoops and a dedicated tennis court
- Primary pathways were added to connect the site to the neighbourhood



## AREAS OF FOCUS IN PARKS

### Forestry and Horticulture

Activities within the Forestry & Horticulture section include tree maintenance and pruning, tree planting, tree stumping, greenhouse activities, flower planting and maintenance and landscaping.



#### Dutch Elm Disease (DED)

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is an invasive fungus spread to American Elms via the native elm bark beetle. This disease has killed off many American Elms in urban forests but with the help of the Province of Manitoba it has been managed for a number of years. The Province of Manitoba's website provides, signs, symptoms, and the management program for Dutch Elm Disease.
- Dutch Elm Disease is managed jointly between the Province and the City of Brandon. This program has been very successful in limiting the loss of elm trees in our community from this deadly disease.

#### Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

- City placed 30 traps out to monitor our ash trees. The trap has a pheromone lure that would attract EAB. Traps are placed in high Ash populated areas, some in residential areas, parks and industrial.
- Parks staff place traps out in early to mid-June and monitor them through the summer (inspect the trap to see if there are any signs of EAB). They are removed and fully inspected in late August.
- City arborists also take branch samples from suspect Ash trees or from full Ash tree removals. They slowly peel back the bark to see if there are any signs/markings created by EAB.

#### Tree Planting Dinsdale Park

- Central Assiniboine Watershed District gave money towards tree planting at Dinsdale Park.

## AREAS OF FOCUS IN PARKS

### Greenspace Maintenance

Annual duties include grass mowing and clean up, maintenance of recreation facilities, playgrounds, parks and greenspaces, operation and maintenance of Brandon Municipal Cemetery, start up, maintenance and shutdown of all spray parks, pool, park washroom facilities and irrigation. Staff also administer the Mosquito Abatement Program alongside the Province.

### Mosquito abatement program

- The City of Brandon has been utilizing a Mosquito Abatement Program for many decades to aid in the control of nuisance mosquitoes during the height of the summer season. The control of mosquitoes is important because it:
  - reduces the nuisance effect of mosquitoes on the residents of Brandon and,
  - reduces the possibility of mosquitoes serving as vectors for diseases such as Western Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus.
- Parks staff monitor a control area of 102 square miles (264 sq. km) surrounding the city. The control area is rectangular in shape with the western boundary of 66th Street, the southern boundary at the Brandon Gun Club, the eastern boundary at 49th Street East, and the northern boundary at the Brandon Municipal Airport.
- The program relies largely on larval control methods, with standing pools of water closely monitored and then treated with larvicide based on an average of samples in a particular area of standing water.
- However, Ultra Low Volume adult mosquito control (fogging) is provided for IF: the City of Brandon's Adulticiding Factor Analysis Guidelines value falls into and remains in the high category for two consecutive trap counts; OR the average of any daily mosquito trap count is more than 1,000 nuisance mosquitoes; OR if any individual trap count is more than 2,000 nuisance mosquitoes.

### Brandon Municipal Cemetery

The Cemetery is located on 18th Street South and is open to the public seven days a week from dawn to dusk. Information on plot locations and plot/columbarium niche sales is available from the staff at the Cemetery by calling 204-729-2150, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

The Cemetery has five different sections available for the burial of your loved one:

- Regular
- Catholic
- Cremation
- Columbarium
- Lawn (flat markers only)



## AREAS OF FOCUS IN PARKS

### Community Partnerships

The Parks section works with several facilities in the City of Brandon through service agreements, providing support to:

Wheat City Golf Course  
Andrews Field and Sumner Field

Ashley Neufeld Softball Complex  
John Reilly Rugby Field

### Facilities Highlights

Parks & Recreation owns, operates and maintains a number of recreation facilities. Visit <https://www.brandon.ca/greenspaces> for a full listing of Parks & Recreation Services facilities. Highlight facilities include:

#### Pickleball Court

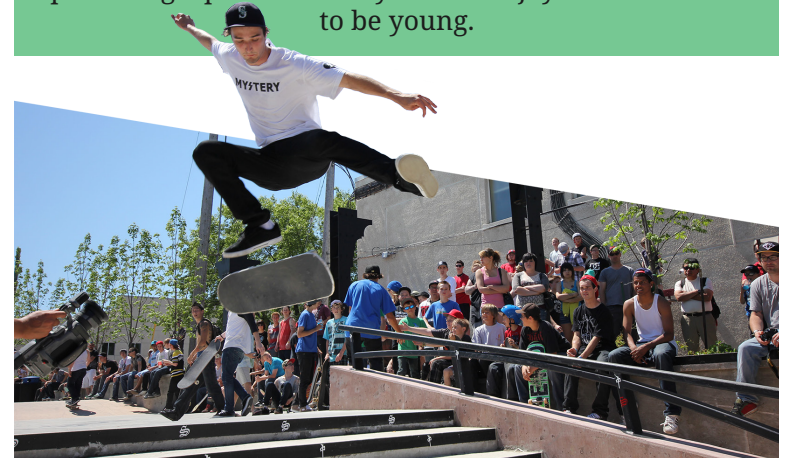
Pickleball has exploded in the City of Brandon, with a large group of avid players in our community. Located within Stanley Park, these outdoor courts are heavily used through the spring, summer and fall.

#### Skating Oval











The oval is developed each year by Parks staff and provides for warming shacks, portable washroom facilities, flood lighting, ambient music, and fire pits to cook on or warm up around. In addition, the Manitoba Hydro Power Smart Waterfall of Lights is also lit until 11 p.m. each evening so the public can skate around the oval and take in the brilliant, festive displays.

### Kristopher Campbell Memorial Skate Board Plaza

The skate plaza is the chance to marry the old with the new. Built on the corner of 9th & Princess at the old Prince Edward Hotel site, it commemorates the importance the railway has had on our history while providing a place for our youth to enjoy what it means to be young.



## Park Stats

 <b>Trees Planted</b> <b>410</b>	 <b>Large Planters</b> <b>258</b>	 <b>Total Plants</b> <b>10,000 +</b>	 <b>Parks and Playgrounds</b> <b>75+</b>	 <b>Area of Grass Cut</b> <b>711.49 acres</b> (2,879,304.31 square meters)
 <b>Nursery Pots</b> <b>212</b>	 <b>Hanging Baskets</b> <b>293</b>	 <b>Paved Pathways</b> <b>50 Km's</b>	 <b>Sports Fields &amp; Recreation Facilities</b> <b>45+</b>	 <b>Sod Laid</b> <b>2,000 pieces</b> (1920 square meters)

## AREAS OF FOCUS IN RECREATION

### Brandon's Community Sportsplex

This multipurpose recreation facility houses a 50 meter swimming pool, arena, 3 racquetball courts, a 400 m outdoor track and offers multiple recreation programs for the community.

#### Aquatic Facility

The Sportsplex has the only 50 metre pool between Winnipeg and Regina which is used for mainly public programming offered by the City.

This year saw the Canadian Red Cross organization step away from offering its Swimming and Water Safety program. Because of this change, the Sportsplex pool transferred their swimming lesson program to the Lifesaving Society's Swim for Life program. In a very short period of time, the Sportsplex Pool staff had to transfer their accreditations from the Red Cross program to the Lifesaving Society Program. This was accomplished within 5 short months.

#### Racquetball

Brandon's Community Sportsplex has the only racquetball courts available for rental within the City of Brandon. It currently has three regulation courts that anyone can rent.

The Brandon Racquetball Association has a strong member base and calls these courts their home. With a robust junior program in place, the club has seen their numbers growing since returning to play in late 2002 and early 2021

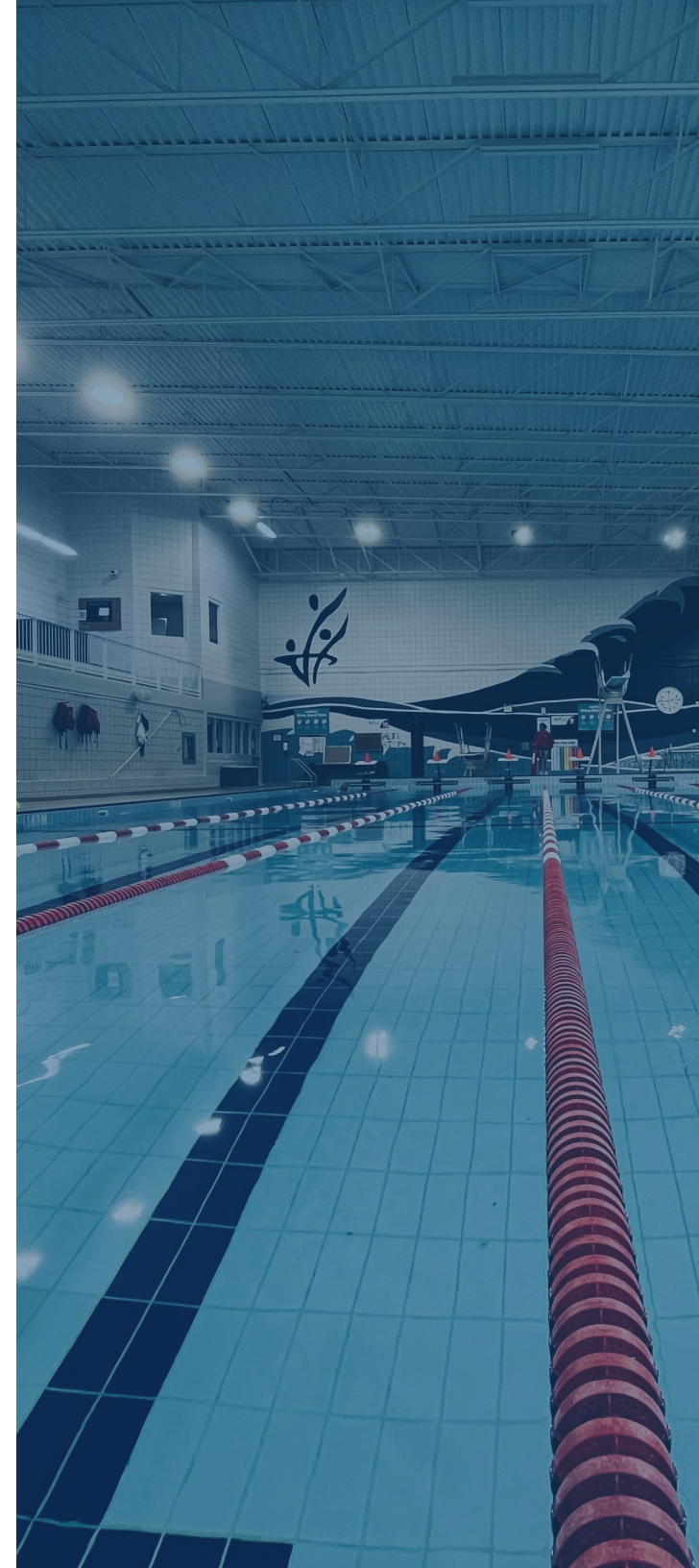
#### Facility Projects

- Roof replacement/resurfacing
- Accessible door openers
- New pool inflatable
- Release of RFP for Canteen renovation and operation
- Arena shutdown/overhaul

#### Sportsplex Drop-in Stats

Arena: **8.1k**

Pool: **11.8k**





## AREAS OF FOCUS IN RECREATION

### Track Facility

The Sportsplex outdoor 400 metre rubberized track was used extensively during 2022. Open for public use, youth track & field events and many registered programs, the track is often a hot spot of activity at the Sportsplex.

Due to the demand for soccer venues, the Sportsplex Track infield has been a temporary home to a number of soccer user groups. These groups include Prairie West Soccer Association, Brandon United Football Club and Assiniboine Community College Cougars. This year the 2022 Soccer Championships Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference was hosted at both Brandon's Community Sportsplex and the Healthy Living Centre.

### Arena

The Sportsplex has a full NHL sized arena that can have 500 spectators for events.

A shortage of available ice surfaces has been a concern for the community for many years. With the opening of a new privately-owned arena, the Sportsplex has been able to maintain its core users and has become the "go-to" facility for grass-roots level programs.

The arena is primarily rented by user groups and private rentals for a variety of different programs. Some examples are minor hockey, rec hockey, speed skating, and figure skating. The Sportsplex also has an extensive offering of public programming which makes the arena more accessible for all members of the community. These programs include Learn to Skate, Sticks and Pucks, Public Skate and Open Training.



## AREAS OF FOCUS IN RECREATION

### New Programing in Recreation

With a mandate to increase recreation opportunities in Brandon, Recreation staff introduced 42 new programs in 2022 in the areas of Arts & Culture, Educational, Leisure, Sport and Fitness, with registrations totaling 2027.

Programs to highlight included:

#### Language Programs

Spanish and French were offered in both introductory and intermediate levels. Conversation was the basis of this program, and participants improved their knowledge of their chosen language. Whether participants wanted to feel confident while travelling abroad, or to be able to converse with others in Brandon who speak the language, everyone came ready to learn and found great success.

#### The Explorers Club

This program is for the young adventurer who enjoys solving riddles and puzzles. Each week the treasure hunters uncover clues that lead the group to solving a mystery. Participants learn problem solving skills, outdoor survival skills, cartography and GPS reading. Each chapter of the Explorer's Club features a new story that has a connection to local history.

#### Tournament Series

This year we ran 3 tournament events: 3 on 3 Basketball, Flag Football, and Disc Golf. These tournaments received excellent turn out, with approximately 100 individual players, and very positive responses from participants. The entrants demonstrated impressive skills and athleticism, and there was a high level of competition on display, which made the events great for spectators and players alike.

#### Brandon Youth Centre

The City of Brandon Youth Centre provides a safe and inclusive space for all youth to grow, develop and discover their passion. Open seven days a week year-round, the centre is geared towards youth ages 8 to 17 years. The Centre offers a wide range of programming ranging from life-skills to educational to leisure.

#### Youth Centre Stats



Members

297



Attendance

11,978



Total Days Closed

12

### Program Stats (Registrations)

#### Leisure

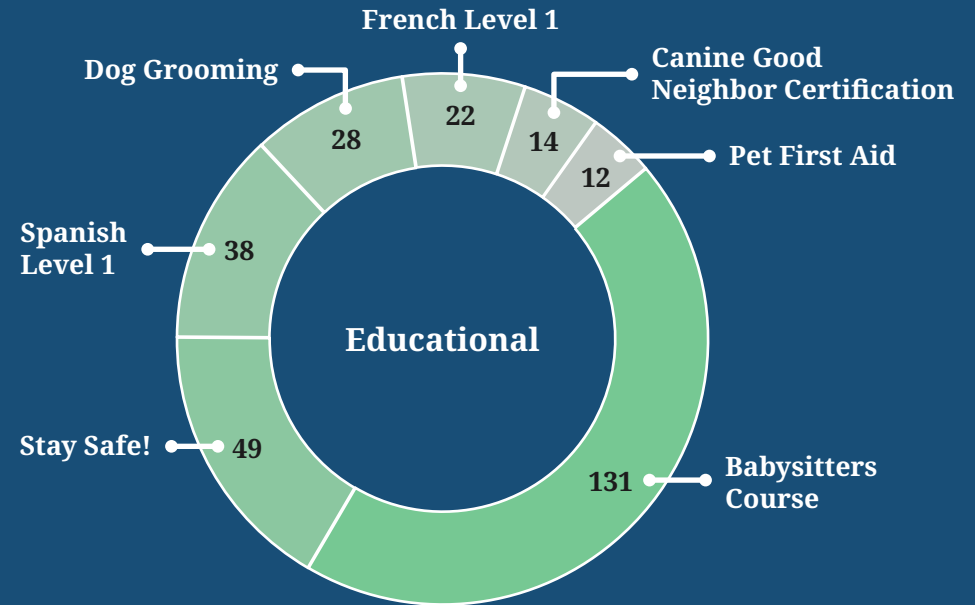
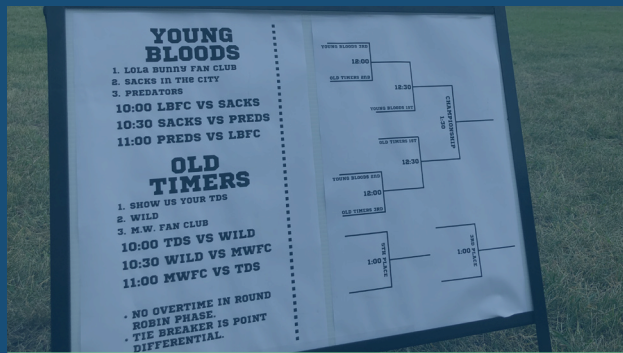
Brick Makerz	36
Cemetery Tours	51
East Egg Hunt	26
End of Summer Skate Party	30
Explorer's Club	25
Father's Day Event	16
Haunted Forrest Hike	95
Improv	12
Intro to Cross Country Skiing	10
Intro to Dungeons & Dragons	12
Paint the Ice	51
Parent & Tot Playtime	20
Preschool Birthday Parties	29
Spring Break Day Camp Daily	400
Spring Break Day Camp Weekly	251
Trivia Night (Teams)	18

# AREAS OF FOCUS IN RECREATION

## Program Stats (Registrations) *continued...*

### Sports & Fitness

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament	40
50+ Fitness	25
Couch to 5K	45
Disc Golf Tournament	13
Flag Football Tournament	54
Fundamental Movement Skills	9
Intro to Track & Field	16
Ninja Warrior Drop In	41
Ninja Warrior Training	48
Quidditch/Quadball	42
Roller Disco	57
Soccer/Tball for Youth	60
Youth Dodgeball	19
Youth Volleyball/Badminton	26



## AREAS OF FOCUS IN RECREATION

### City Wide Initiatives – Programs and Event

These programs and events are free to the public, with the goal of creating safe and healthy recreation opportunities in the areas of:

- Youth
- Arts, Culture & Events
- Sport & Fitness
- Community Support

### New in 2022:

#### Winterfest

On February 12, we held the first ever Winterfest to celebrate the cold weather and to encourage the community to fight dormancy and engage in outdoor activity. Held at Brandon's Community Sportsplex, the event featured live outdoor music, fire pits, hot dogs and hot chocolate. Some of the activities offered were snowshoe trials, sleigh rides, a winter hike lead by an indigenous storyteller, swimming and skating. The event was well attended, with approximately 600 attendees.



#### Fresh Air Fitness

Fresh Air Fitness was planned to utilize recreation facilities in our community and introduce people to a variety of sports and physical activities. Throughout the spring and fall we offered free drop-in activities such as; Yoga, Cricket, Zumba, Pickleball, High Intensity Training, Disc Golf, Pilates, Volleyball, Aquafit and Lawn Bowling. We collaborate with local sport groups to provide qualified facilitation for these sessions and have received funding from Healthy Brandon in Motion and Participation to offset equipment and facilitation costs. In 2022 we saw 200 participants.

#### City Wide Yard Sale

The Recreation department hosted the 1st Annual City-Wide Yard Sale which was a tremendous hit. With support from ITC and Geomatics, a website was created with online registration and digital maps. Each yard sale host received a yard sign, printed maps and pricing stickers. Yard signs were picked up after the event to be re-used for years to come. 2022 saw 379 registered sales.



#### National Garden Day

As a part of our 2022 Communities in Bloom participation, we joined communities across Canada in the Year of the Garden 2022 celebrations. We hosted a family day event in Stanley Park to mark National Garden Day on June 18th. This event featured a free bbq, a giveaway of pre-planted vegetables, live music, the painting of a mural, an indigenous gardening exhibit, face painting, bounce castles, splash park, lawn bowling, trade show, and more. We received funding to support the event from BNRC and other community groups. The event was well attended, and saw over 1,000 in attendance.

## AREAS OF FOCUS IN RECREATION

### Programs and Event Attendees

#### Arts & Culture

National Garden Day	1,100
Adopt-a-Bed	20
Tidy up Tuesday	61
Community Gardens	861
Music in the Parks	3,850
Open Garden Tours	500

#### Events

City Wide Garage Sales	379
Community Tours	69
Winterfest	600

#### Youth

Lighthouse	1,203
Youth Activity Centres	5,852
Youth Centre	11,978

#### Sports & Fitness

Fresh Air Fitness	192
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#### Community Support

Volunteer Support	145
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## SALES & MARKETING

### Tree and Bench Celebration Program

This program has been developed to commemorate a special occasion, remember a significant event, honor a loved one, or express a passion for enhancing our community!

In 2022 we have had 12 Benches and 8 Trees sponsored.

### Social Media Marketing

Throughout the public consultation pieces of the Recreation and Community Facilities Master Plan we heard loud and clear from our residents that they were unaware of recreation opportunities in our community.

Through the use of social media, we have expanded our reach, and our voice in the community. In 2022 we introduced an Instagram page to connect with different demographics.

### 2022 Visual for Stats



#### Facebook

Followers

**4700**

Reach

**293,726**



#### Instagram

Followers

**700**

Reach

**26,181**

### Program Guides

In partnership with ITC we have developed several programs guides, with new guides introduced in the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall program sessions. These guides showcase the activities and events taking place in Parks & Recreation.

### New Recreation Software

The transition from Fusion to PerfectMind software was completed in 2022. PerfectMind offers a simple and accessible platform for community members to search and register for recreation programming.

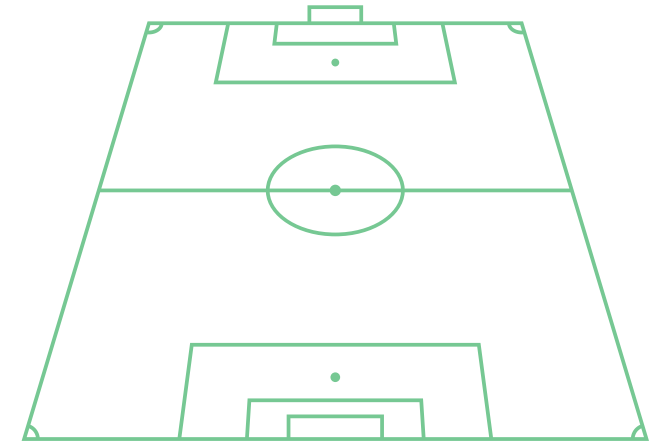
## WORKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

### Outdoor Sports Field Complex

Soccer is the number one growing sport in Canada and our community is in need of high quality fields. In 2022 we continued to finalize plans for this facility, and in 2023 we expect to see the construction of phase one. The City of Brandon's 1st and Veterans Way Outdoor Sports Complex project will include the construction of:

- one soccer field matching FIFA suggested dimensions;
- up to five 11 x 11 soccer fields (to accommodate two teams of 11 players) which will also accommodate youth and grouped mini soccer fields, one ultimate Frisbee field, one cricket field and 2 practice cricket bowl areas; and additional sports fields identified through stakeholder engagement.

Additional construction may also include a clubhouse with washrooms and change rooms, a maintenance garage, spectator berms, parking, granular trails and irrigation, and a retention pond to protect assets from overland flooding prone to the area. Upgrades to vehicle and pedestrian access into and out of the site will be included in the scope of the Project. Additional components will also include event / picnic / play and green spaces, disc golf infrastructure, wind and sun shelters, and unprogrammed space to allow for future expansions.



### Outdoor Aquatic Complex

In 2022, we took the first steps in planning for a new outdoor water attraction for Brandon. A feasibility study is being undertaken to determine the size, location and amenities to be included in a future build. A survey was launched late this fall to gain public input on the facility, and in early 2023 public engagement sessions will be held to review findings and conceptual plans.



*Parks & Recreation Services*

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