

Parks & Recreation

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Message from the Director



Perry Roque
*Director of Parks & Recreation
Services*

In 2025, the City of Brandon is proud to continue creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy our parks and recreation programs. Whether it's spending time with family, meeting new friends, or simply enjoying the outdoors, these experiences help build community pride and connection.

We're working hand-in-hand with local recreation providers to make sure programs reflect the diverse interests of our residents. From grassroots activities to city-wide events, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Our community groups and volunteers are the heart of this effort. They adopt parks and gardens, help keep our city clean, and operate sports facilities that bring people together. Their dedication shows just how much parks and recreation matter to Brandon's quality of life.

Together, we're building a healthier, happier, and more vibrant 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.

“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.”

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

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 17 full-time staff and 51 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 19 full-time staff and of 75 casual staff, Recreation offers a variety of services and programs in the areas of City-Wide Initiatives and Recreation Hub Programs.



Building Facilities in 2025



Canada Packers Sports Complex was operational



Keystone Lions Park



Wilnor Park



Sportsplex Arena Reopened in October



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)

Tree planting

In accordance with the Urban Forest Management Plan of the municipality, trees offer numerous environmental and social benefits. Planting trees is a crucial part of expanding our urban forest and restoring lost canopy. Trees are an essential part of public infrastructure.

Tree planting Reimbursement Program

This program supports homeowners who wish to plant trees on their own property, helping expand Brandon's urban canopy, improve air quality, increase biodiversity, and reduce summer energy use through natural shade.

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.



Facility Highlights

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

Laurence & Louise Park

The Kiwanis Club of Brandon's Laurence Louise Accessible Playground and Park in the east end has been designed to ensure it is fully accessible and wheelchair friendly.

With lots of sitting space, walking space, shaded space, picnic tables and plenty of accessible play areas. Children of all abilities have a place where they can play together and feel included at Laurence-Louise.

Hanbury Hill

Hanbury Hill is a toboggan hill that all ages can enjoy for some winter fun. The hill provides a long enjoyable run for the older ages and a smaller run on the backside of the hill for the younger children.

Brandon's Community Sportsplex

Brandon's Community Sportsplex, located at 30 Knowlton Drive, offers a variety of recreational facilities including a pool, arena, and racquetball courts. It's a hub for community activities, providing programs for all ages and skill levels.



Parks Stats



293

Hanging Baskets



465

Trees Planted



280

Large Baskets



12,000+

Total Plants



75+

Parks & Playgrounds



50KM'S

Paved Pathways



45+

Sports Fields &
Recreation Facilities



212

Nursery Pots

*(smaller black ones in concrete
boulevards and around the city)*



53 **780 acres** *(Riverbank Area)*
Acres of Grass Cut



2,550 pieces
(25,500 square meters)
Sod Laid

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-meter outdoor track. The Sportsplex offers a welcoming space for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to engage in sports, recreational activities and programs.

Aquatic Facility

The Sportsplex aquatic facility has a 50 meter pool along with 1-meter, 3-meter diving boards and a water slide.

Upgrades for 2025 included replacement of the aquatics timing system that is used during swim meets and competitions. This project will continue into 2026 with the replacement of the starting blocks.

The aquatics facility focuses on providing a positive and safe environment for people to enjoy the pool. We offer swimming lessons for infants, children, youth and adults from beginners to becoming a lifeguard.

Arena

Renovations of the Sportsplex arena started in September of 2024 and continued into 2025. The renovations saw the installation of a new ice plant, new arena slab (floor), and new arena boards and glass.

With the arena reopening in October of 2025, the facility was able to welcome its regular users back to the Sportsplex along with some new ones. The return of public programming for the arena facility was well received and very popular.

Track Facility

In 2025, the Sportsplex was the home track facility for all local Brandon School Division track meets. The regional zone meets for communities in the Westman area were also held at the Sportsplex. The track is available for public-use and many registered programs are held at this facility. During the spring and summer, the track is often a hot spot for recreational activity at the Sportsplex.



Racquetball

The Sportsplex has three racquetball courts and is the location for many local tournaments as well as club and drop-in play. The Sportsplex teams up with the local racquetball association to offer introductory lessons to anyone interested in learning the sport.

North Hill Outdoor Rink

In 2025, the North Hill Outdoor Rink was moved from its previous location on the Sportsplex track in-field, to the overflow parking lot north of the building. This move was possible due to the completion of the indoor arena construction and allows greater access to the facility for our outdoor skaters. This free outdoor facility provides an enjoyable space for residents to gather, skate, and stay active in the winter months.

Outdoor Aquatics

The City of Brandon has a number of outdoor aquatic options for the community during the hot summer months. These facilities are open from the beginning of June until the end of August annually:

- Outdoor Pool - Kinsmen Pool (located at Rideau Park)
- Spray Parks - Rideau, Westridge, Kin, Valleyview and Stanley Spray Park. Both Westridge and Rideau Parks each have a paddling pool which is supervised daily by qualified Recreation Leaders.

Sportsplex Stats

10,738
Drop In Program
Attendance



914

Pool Hour Rentals



2,698

Swimming Lesson
Registrations



2,370

Racquetball Rental
Hours



262

Track Rental Hours



378

Arena Ice Rental



79

Learn to Skate
Registrations

Recreation Projects

2025 has been an exciting chapter for Recreation as we celebrated the grand opening of the renewed Sportsplex Arena in October. The project brought significant improvements, including the replacement of the ice plant with a modern exterior outbuilding that meets industry and safety standards. A new ice slab and cooling lines were installed to maximize ice

performance and ensure longevity, while upgrades to dasher boards, lighting, and overall aesthetics created a welcoming and functional environment for all users. We were thrilled to welcome the community back into the Sportsplex Arena and look forward to many years of recreation, connection, and community pride in this revitalized facility.



Recreation programming has seen another year of growth and innovation. Our dedicated team of Programmers and Coordinators have continued to deliver a diverse range of programs that meet the ever-evolving needs of the community. We are proud of the continued growth in participation, the success of our expanded program offerings, and the ongoing positive impact we provide for our community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our programming and creating more opportunities for residents to stay active, engaged, and connected in the coming year.

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.

With funding from the Brandon Neighborhood Renewal Corporation, and in-kind support from several agencies, the Youth Centre hosted “Mindful Me: A Day for Youth Mental Health” in late October. Over +45 youth participants learned from engaging speakers, hands-on workshops and peer lead programming. Youth were provided with a care package at the end of the day containing local resource information, personal hygiene products, snacks, games and more!

Youth Centre Stats



571
Members



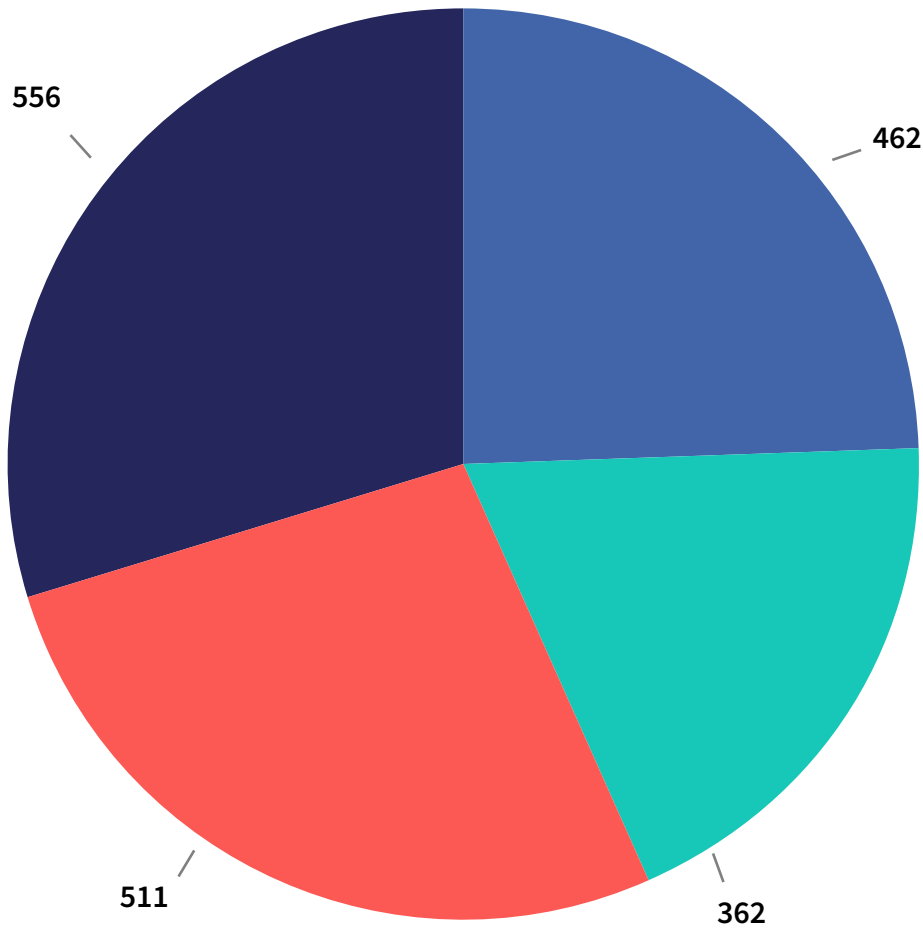
9,303
Attendance



17
Total Days Closed



Program Stats



PROGRAM	REGISTRATION
Arts & Culture	462
Educational Programs	362
Leisure	511
Sports & Fitness	556
Total	1,891

2025 Program Highlights

Sizzle & Stir

In 2025, the Recreation Department launched the Sizzle & Stir Culinary Program, offering participants a flavorful journey around the globe. Guided by a certified Red Seal chef, each class at the Bethel Brandon location was filled to capacity as attendees learned to craft authentic dishes from diverse cultures.

Learn to Skate

After a two-year hiatus, the Sportsplex's Learn to Skate program was welcomed back to the arena. The lessons are open to people of all ages who are interested in learning basic skating skills. Skaters can move from Level 1 to 4 increasing their skating skills and abilities as they progress. Adult classes are also available.

Sportsplex Day Camp

This program offers a fun and inviting environment for your aged 5 to 12 years. Day Camp is offered during Professional Development Days, Winter Break, Spring Break and the Summer Break. The camp has activities led by experienced and energetic Recreation Leaders. Daily activities include skating, swimming, indoor and outdoor games, along with arts and crafts.

Holiday Trivia Nights

Five Holiday Trivia Nights were held in 2025, on Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Halloween, and Christmas. Over 200 participants competed for great prizes, answering holiday themed trivia questions in categories such as Movies, Music, History, Sports, Science and Math. The events were hosted at our partner venues, the Eagle's Nest and T-Birds.

Multi-Sport Programs

Our multi-sport programs continue to be successful. Introducing youth to multiple sports at one time helps them develop a wide range of physical skills, improve coordination, and build confidence in a fun and engaging environment. From our very popular outdoor Soccer/T-Ball program to our numerous indoor programs, numbers continue to grow each season. This steady increase reflects the community's enthusiasm for diverse, accessible recreation opportunities. Families appreciate the variety and flexibility these programs offer, and we're proud to see more participants developing skills, building friendships, and staying active year-round.

Former Mental Health Centre Tours

Two former Mental Health Centre tours of the AC North Campus were held on October 4. The first tour ran from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and the second from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. In total, 75 community members registered, in addition to a combined waitlist of 25. These tours were facilitated in partnership with Assiniboine College and led by Laura Crookshanks, a former employee of the mental health hospital. Following the tours, there was a question-and-answer session, allowing participants to engage with and learn more about the history and operations of the centre.

City Wide Initiatives

Programs and Events Highlights

Canada Day

The City of Brandon, in partnership with the Riverbank Discovery Centre, hosted a highly successful Canada Day 2025 celebration at the Brandon Riverbank, attracting an estimated 18,000 participants. The event featured diverse programming including live music and cultural performances on the Fusion Credit Union Stage, a vibrant Kids Zone with free activities, market and food vendors, unique attractions such as RCAF and CATPM flyovers, and a dazzling fireworks finale. Strong collaboration with local organizations ensured safety and accessibility, while generous sponsorships and community partnerships enhanced the experience, fostering pride and engagement across Brandon.

Enhanced Youth Programming

In 2025, the City of Brandon received provincial funding through the Enhanced Youth Programming initiative to deliver free, accessible programs for youth. This funding supported drop-in activities at several community centres, offering a diverse mix of sports, arts and culture, leisure, and educational programming. Additionally, the Youth Centre introduced an Indigenous learning program, creating inclusive opportunities for cultural engagement and personal growth among local youth.

Winter Carnival

Winter Carnival (formerly Winter Fest) celebrated its fourth year at the Sportsplex! This year the event was attended by approximately 750 people. Free activities included music, pony rides, skating, snow painting, carnival games, snowshoeing and free hotdogs and hot chocolate. The Sportsplex Track Infield was transformed into an event space with bonfires, pony ride course and food areas. Winter Fest continues to bring the community together to get outside, have fun and celebrate the winter season!

Stats

YOUTH ATTENDANCE

Lighthouse	1,202
Youth Activity Centres	5,010
Youth Centre	7,675

ARTS & CULTURE ATTENDANCE

National Garden Day	~1,000
Adopt-a-Bed	20
Music in the Parks	~4,000
Open Garden Tours	~1,200
Doors Open Tours	~600

SPORT & FITNESS ATTENDANCE

Fresh Air Fitness	184
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EVENTS ATTENDANCE

City Wide Garage Sale	379
Community Tours	69
Winterfest	600

Youth Activity Centres (YAC)

YAC is a FREE, fun, active program for youth ages 7-15. Activities include sports, arts & crafts, themed days and pool days. Youth Activity Leaders support a safe, non-judgmental, confidential and inclusive environment that promotes youth to develop skills in leadership, cooperation, problem solving, positive relationships, responsibility and confidence.

The Youth Activity Centres were implemented in our community to provide healthy opportunities to youth during the summer months.

We offer 3 YAC centres, located in Community Centres around Brandon.

YAC LOCATION	NUMBER OF YOUTH ATTENDING	TOTAL VISITS
YAC East - East End Community Centre	242	1,403
YAC West - West End Community Centre	368	2,039
YAC Junior - Valleyview Community Centre	184	1,567
Total	794	5,009

Along with Council support and funds we received the following:

In-Kind Support

\$10,060

Sponsorship

\$59,021

Community Partnerships

Parks & Recreation Services 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
- Central Community Centre
- East End Community Centre
- Green Acres Community Centre
- North End Community Centre
- Park Community Centre
- Valleyview Community Centre
- West End Community Centre
- Westridge Community Centre

Sales & Marketing

Tree and Bench Celebration Program

This program has been designed to recognize a loved one, recall a momentous occasion, celebrate a unique occasion, or demonstrate a desire for improving our community!

In 2025, we have had 5 Benches and 2 Trees sponsored.



Social Media Marketing

Our residents made it very evident throughout the public consultation phases of the Recreation and Community Facilities Master Plan that they were not aware of the recreational options available in our neighborhood. Our voice in the community has grown as a result of our usage of social media.

2025 Social Media Stats



FACEBOOK

11,894
Followers

9.3M
Views



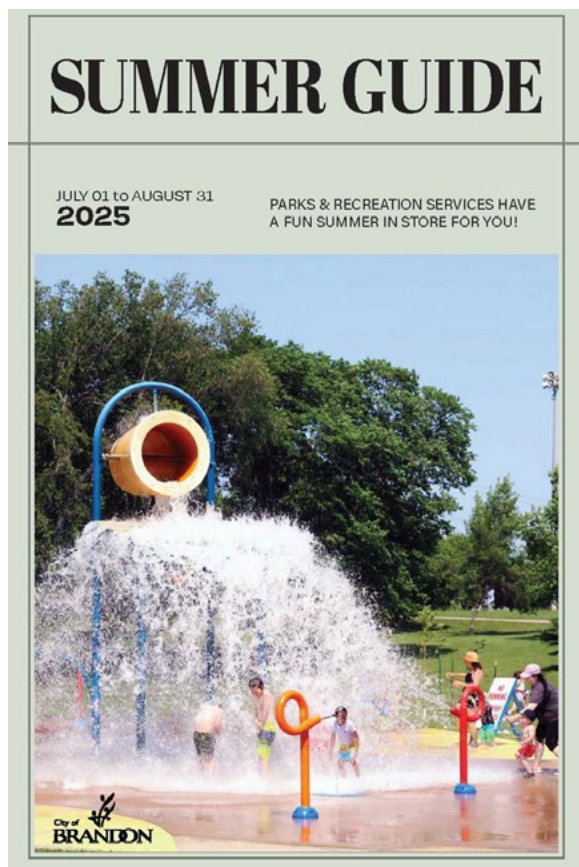
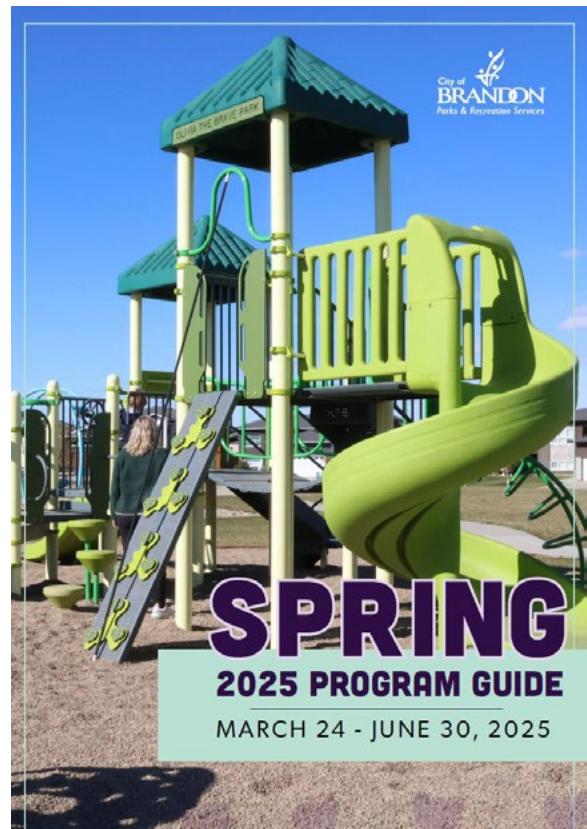
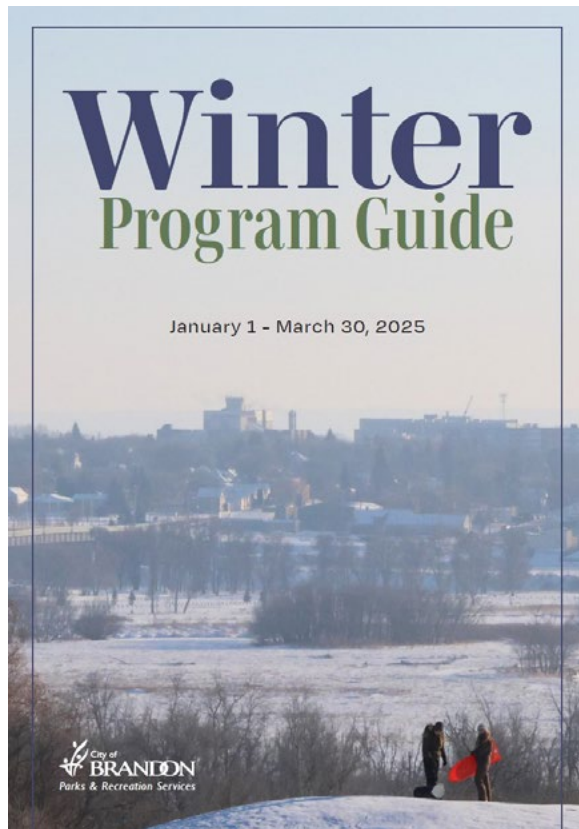
INSTAGRAM

2,769
Followers

821.1K
Views

Program Guides

We have created many program guides in collaboration with ITC; fresh guides are being presented in the Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall program sessions. These guides highlight the events and activities that Parks & Recreation is hosting.





 City of
BRANDON
Parks & Recreation Services