It’s time to refresh & recharge.

Winnipeg Recreation & Parks Strategies

Help shape the future of Winnipeg recreation and parks for the next 25 years.
Why are the Recreation & Parks Strategies needed?

Recreation and parks contribute to the enjoyment and quality of life for residents and visitors

As Winnipeg continues to grow and change, the need to make strategic, forward-thinking decisions to ensure the City can deliver high-quality recreation and parks services is essential. The strategies are needed to guide programs, services, policies, standards and procedures, and future investment in existing and new infrastructure.

The City of Winnipeg faces the challenge of balancing the maintenance of existing recreation and parks infrastructure with the investment in future needs.

Aging Infrastructure

Much of the City’s recreation and parks infrastructure is over 45 years old. Many facilities and their building systems are at, or near, the end of their useful life cycle.

What has been accomplished?

In 2015, three arenas that were between 40-50 years old and in poor condition were closed. New, more financially sustainable ice sheets were built to replace them at multi-pad arena sites.

Growing Infrastructure Deficit

Due to aging infrastructure, limited resources, and competing priorities, an additional $968 million is needed to maintain the existing recreation and parks infrastructure over the next 10 years.

Total Deficit for Existing Infrastructure (In Millions)

- Roads: $1,283
- Bridges: $643
- Parks and Open Space: $778
- Water Utility: $538
- Fire Prevention Services: $190
- Police Services: $137
- Information Technology: $104
- Total: $968 million

25% of total deficit
A Changing City
Winnipeg’s population is growing.
- From 2011 to 2016, Winnipeg’s population increased by 6% to over 700,000 people
- Winnipeg’s population is projected to increase by more than 200,000 people over the next 25 years.

Winnipeg’s population is becoming more diverse.
- From 1996 to 2011, the population of visible minorities doubled to 1-in-5 residents
- Winnipeg has the largest urban Indigenous population of any Canadian city (11% of the population)
- Over 100,000 residents, or 15% of the population, is 65 years or older which equals the number of residents aged 20-29.

Declining Volunteerism
Winnipeg’s 63 community centres are unique from other Canadian cities, as they are not staffed by the City, but are organized, operated, and programmed by volunteers.

However, volunteerism has been declining in Winnipeg and across Canada in recent years.

What has been accomplished?
14 Community Centres have chosen to amalgamate in order to strengthen program and facility offerings.

Evolving Trends and Preferences in Recreation, Sport, & Leisure
As Winnipeg’s population becomes more diverse, programs and services that strengthen community connections and create a sense of belonging are increasingly important.

Winnipegger’s have changing preferences in leisure and recreation interests and priorities. Certain activities are growing in popularity – such as spray pads, skateboard parks, cricket, pickleball, and ultimate frisbee.

What has been accomplished?
21 new accessible spray pads have been constructed to replace 18 wading pools at the end of their useful lifecycle.

Limited and Declining Resources
There are limited and declining resources available to address the often competing needs and desires of our developing city. As our city continues to grow, new parks and recreational spaces have been added with little to no increase in the operating budgets available to maintain them. Over the long term, this has resulted in declining service levels throughout the City as limited resources become more thinly spread.

What has occurred?
Resources have been reallocated to core services such as grass mowing and litter collection, resulting in service reductions in other areas. For example, between 1938 and 2011, floral displays in Fisher Park have been largely removed.
Why are recreation & parks services and programs important?

→ Support activities that keep people active, and contribute to physical and mental health
→ Support communities by providing space for people to gather and socialize
→ Boost tourism by acting as destinations and make our city a more attractive place to work and live
→ Contribute to inclusion, local culture and history, and economic vitality
→ Contribute to the revitalization of surrounding neighbourhoods

Additional benefits:

→ Provide a broad range of physical skill development from beginner to competitive
→ Support high profile sporting and athletic events that draw people from around the world
→ Promote social development which trains future leaders and maintains a strong, healthy, vibrant community
→ Provide outdoor spaces for all people to enjoy
→ Protect nature by providing wildlife food and shelter
→ Absorb rain and stormwater and clean the air

Can you think of other benefits?
Winnipeg’s Parks & Open Space

Winnipeg’s parks system, totaling more than 3,500 ha and comprised of almost 1,200 parks and open spaces, encourages and promotes healthy lifestyles, cleaner environments, civic pride and urban beautification.

Winnipeg’s parks system includes:

- **305,257 Boulevard & Park Trees**
- **3,757 Benches**
- **1,257 Floral Planters**
- **661 Athletic Fields**
- **499 Play Sites**
- **280km Trails & Pathways**
- **234 Garden Plot Rentals**
- **128 Tennis Courts**
- **25 Toboggan Runs**
- **15 Skateparks**

Hectares of Parkland per 100,000 People

- **Winnipeg**
  - 399 ha
  - 255 ha Maintained Parkland
  - 144 ha Natural Parkland
- **Toronto**
  - 281 ha
  - 153 ha Maintained Parkland
  - 128 ha Natural Parkland
- **Regina**
  - 741 ha
  - 674 ha Maintained Parkland
  - 67 ha Natural Parkland
- **Hamilton**
  - 495 ha
  - 267 ha Maintained Parkland
  - 228 ha Natural Parkland

Parkland in Winnipeg as a Percent of Total Municipality Area

- **6.2%** park area
  - 12.8% Toronto
  - 9.1% Regina
  - 2.4% Hamilton

Annual Operating Costs of Parks in Winnipeg

- **$9,905** per hectare
  - $23,642 Toronto
  - $10,731 Regina
  - $10,868 Hamilton

1 hectare is approximately the size of half a football field

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 (PRK5205; PRK5210; PRK5216)

winnipeg.ca/recandparks
Winnipeg’s Recreation Services

Winnipeg’s recreation services help people live active and healthy lives. The majority of recreation facilities pre-date the 1970’s and are now at or near the end of their useful lifecycle. Considerable growth in new areas of the city is also creating demand for new recreation facilities and services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs &amp; Participation</th>
<th>Winnipeg’s recreation facilities includes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annually</strong></td>
<td><strong>81 Wading Pools</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Paid Aquatics,</td>
<td><strong>21 Spray Pads</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Leisure Courses</td>
<td>101,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,889</td>
<td>11,641</td>
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<tr>
<td>11,623</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Learn to Skate Visits</td>
<td>59,774</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>57,354</td>
<td>63,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Visits to Indoor Pools</td>
<td>1.78 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.77 M</td>
<td>1.56 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free &amp; Subsidized Programs</td>
<td>128,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Visits to Outdoor Pools</td>
<td>101,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99,100</td>
<td>101,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Subsidies Provided for Visits &amp; Course Registrations</td>
<td>$725,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>725,734</td>
<td>827,770</td>
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</table>
| * Promotion of Fee Subsidy Program introduced in March 2016

Total Cost for Recreation Programs & Facilities in Winnipeg

$17.30 per participant visit

$7.60 Toronto | $23.90 Calgary | $13.30 Hamilton

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 (SREC310T)

Operating Cost of Recreation Programs per Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Windsor</th>
<th>Winnipeg</th>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th>Toronto</th>
<th>Ottawa</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$29.97</td>
<td>$35.46</td>
<td>$47.12</td>
<td>$55.86</td>
<td>$148.38</td>
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</table>

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2015 (SREC302)

Recreation User Fees as a Percent of Operating Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toronto</th>
<th>Ottawa</th>
<th>Winnipeg</th>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th>Windsor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>41.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2015 (SREC312)
What have we heard from you so far?

At three stakeholder workshops this past spring, key stakeholder and user group representatives have provided information about opportunities, ideas, and issues related to recreation and parks services.

Since April 20 over 5,500 people have completed the online survey and shared what they value most, how they currently use recreation and parks, and how they want to use recreation and parks in the future.

Initial Online Survey Results

Why do you visit parks and why do you participate in recreation?

What activity categories do you participate in?

Which outdoor leisure activities do you participate in?

Walking, Biking, Hiking, Cross-Country Skiing 45%
Playgrounds 19%
Connecting to Nature 12%
Swimming, Wading Pools, Spray Pads 10%
Picnicking, BBQing 6%
Tobogganing, Skating 6%
Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddling 1%
Community Gardening 1%

Which indoor leisure activities do you participate in?

Swimming 30%
Fitness Programs, Yoga, Zumba, Pilates 23%
Other Instructional Programming 14%
Weight Training, Individual Workouts 10%
Walking, Running 10%
Dancing, Music 6%
Creative Arts, Pottery 6%
Cooking 1%
How can I stay involved?

Over the course of the 18-month planning process, Winnipeggers are being asked what they want out of their recreation and parks services and infrastructure and where their priorities lie.

Have you completed our online survey?
Complete one today, or visit winnipeg.ca/recandparks

Want updates?
winnipeg.ca/recandparks
recandparks@winnipeg.ca
Thank you for attending & sharing your input!

We need to work together to envision innovative and inclusive solutions to the challenges our recreation and parks services and infrastructure face.

**Next Steps**

The project team will:

→ Compile a Discussion Paper or Background Document

→ Compile public input into a *What We Heard Report*, which will help shape the Strategies

→ Prepare the **vision statement, policies and priorities** for the draft Recreation Strategic Plan, the draft Parks Strategic Plan and the draft Regional Park Investment Strategy

→ Develop **strategies and decision-making tools** to guide future investments in recreation and parks infrastructure, programs and services

At the next public engagement opportunity you will be invited to:

→ Provide feedback on the draft Recreation & Parks Strategies and the draft Regional Park Investment Strategy

→ Contribute ideas about how the Strategies should be implemented