



COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 6 May 2025

Subject: SW Recreation Centre Site Master Planning –
Public Engagement Results

Directorate: Community Services

Issue:

GGA Architecture is presenting a summary of the public engagement results that will inform and refine the SW Recreation Centre site master plan options.

Policy / Council Direction:

The planned SW Recreation Centre is a key deliverable within Airdrie City Council's strategic focus area of leisure, recreation and culture.

Background:

As presented to Council in February 2025, GGA Architecture is in midst of developing a site master plan and functional report to be endorsed by the end of Q2. These reports, and recommended option presented to Council, will consider the prioritized community needs, public engagement, financial parameters, and site conditions. The option ultimately endorsed by Council will dictate both the short and long-term future of the site and facility amenities, serving as the basis for design of the SW Recreation Centre. Today, Administration deemed it important to present Airdrie Council with the findings of the comprehensive public engagement exercises as the findings will serve as foundational inputs into the site master plan options brought forward next. Careful consideration and conversation on these findings are demanded prior to the final options being drafted.

Public Engagement:

The public engagement process built upon the previous engagement results from the *Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment Study* and the *Arena Feasibility Analysis Report*. While components like phasing, site location, and overall thematic direction had previously been decided, the engagement within the site master plan work aimed to receive direction from the community on aquatic amenities, capacity of the arena to accommodate semi-professional sports and entertainment events at the expense of a

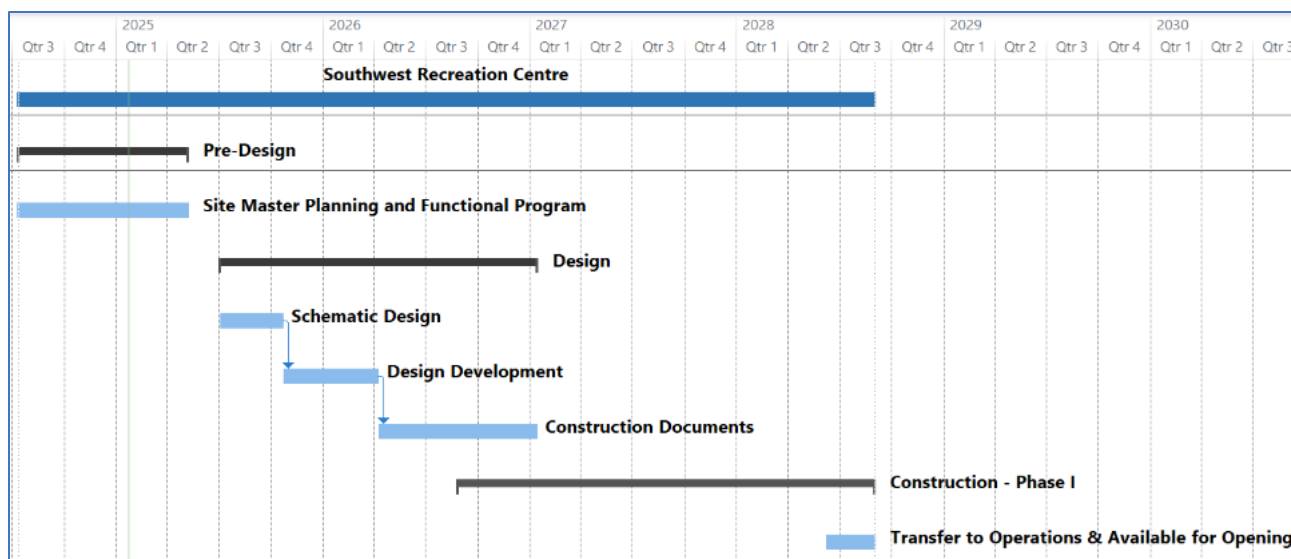
third sheet, and how other supporting amenities (e.g. changerooms, food services, fitness spaces, play structures) could best address the broadest needs.

From November-December 2024, GGA conducted interviews with over 17 of the largest sport user groups within Airdrie, covering most users of a planned recreation facility. Engaging with sport user groups defined their anticipated membership growth, amenity preferences, and supporting infrastructure needs. In practice, this understanding will inform design features, spectator seating, change spaces, refine the total building area, and link to sport performance building standards. During February-March 2025, all City of Airdrie residents were asked to “share your voice” by providing feedback and thoughts on the SW Recreation Centre site master plan. An open house (March 5) was attended by over 200 individuals and an online survey open (Feb 24 – Mar 12) saw approximately 1400 responses. The information collected from the broader public helped to qualify the usage statistic and preferences gathered from the community needs assessment and be weighed against the input from the sport user groups for key differences or similarities.

Several key themes emerged from the overall public engagement exercises and are contained in detail within the [What We Heard](#) report. Detailed below are high-level considerations that both Administration and GGA Architecture will reflect on and utilize in the current and future work phases of the project.

- Public support of the project and an enthusiasm to accelerate the current phased construction timeline.
- Aquatic option that caters to diversity of interests and activities, maximizing the possible number of swimming lanes and swim lesson availability.
- Prioritization of the availability of ice sheets over the number of spectator seats.
- Importance of accessible, inclusive, and family-oriented change room spaces.
- Adequate parking and circulation space for users before/after activities.

Building on the key takeaways from the public engagement inputs, GGA Architecture will be refining the site master plan options and building a recommended option to be presented to Council for adoption prior to the end of Q2 2025. Alongside the consideration of public input, the options will also be crafted to address the previous studies, environmental and traffic impact assessment, and Rocky View School’s adjacent high school plan.



Council Committee Routed Through:

This presentation was made to the Community and Corporate Services (CCS) Standing Committee on April 22, 2025. The CCS Committee received the report and presentation for information.

Administration Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Alternatives/Implications:

Council could choose to request that further and/or specific information return to Council prior to the site master plan options and recommendations come forward.

This would delay the SW Recreation Centre project timeline as the requested information most likely would not return until after the summer break, pushing back the overall timeline by 3 to 6 months.

Budget Implications:

N/A

Communications and Engagement:

The [What We Heard](#) report will be communicated out to the public and made available on the City's public engagement platform (<https://involve.airdrie.ca/>).

Recommendation:

That Council accepts the presentation of the “SW Recreation Centre – What We Heard” report, for information.

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Staff Presenter:	Brad Anderson
External Presenter:	David Wittman GGA Architects
Department:	Community Services
Reviewed by:	Michelle Lock
Attachments:	#1: SWRC What We Heard Report - FINAL