

What We Heard Report

Rollie Miles Recreation Centre

Public Engagement Phase 2

May 2023

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SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

ADVISE



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Public Engagement

Summary and Approach

Project Overview

The Rollie Miles Recreation Centre will be a small recreation facility that responds to city-wide recreation facility requirements, demographics and community needs. It will be a vibrant community hub, inspire local recreation participation and showcase how a new facility can respond to climate change pressures. The project is funded for planning and preliminary design, but detailed design and construction are currently unfunded.

PROJECT HISTORY (2013 – 2022)

Extensive public engagement was completed during the initial phases of the Rollie Miles Athletic Field District Park Renewal Project. At that time, the preferred location and park amenities were defined. The Rollie Miles Park Master Plan, approved by City Council in 2019, described the program for this new facility. In June of 2021, City Council approved funding from the Facility Planning and Design Growth Composite to complete the preliminary design of the Rollie Miles Recreation Centre.

While this project is separate from the [Rollie Miles Athletic Field District Park Renewal](#) project, the projects will be closely coordinated to ensure design alignment, community engagement and overall project success. Following public and stakeholder engagement in the spring, the preliminary design plan was completed in September 2022. This project is not currently funded for construction.

Please visit edmonton.ca/RollieMilesRec for a detailed project timeline.

ENGAGEMENT PHASE 1 (2022)

The first round of public engagement for the Rollie Miles Recreation Centre project was conducted between October 31 and November 14, 2022. The objective of the first phase of public engagement was to collect feedback on the Concept Design Phase of the project.

During this phase, the community was engaged on the programming, design concepts and vision for the facility. The public provided their input on the project vision by evaluating how successfully each of the three proposed design concepts met the community's needs.

The preferred design option, the 'Powerbar', was chosen based on the technical requirements of the project, City policies and programs and the public input gathered and summarized in the first [What We Heard Report](#).

Public Engagement Approach

Public engagement is an important part of generating and developing the design for the new facility. Our approach was informed by City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Framework.

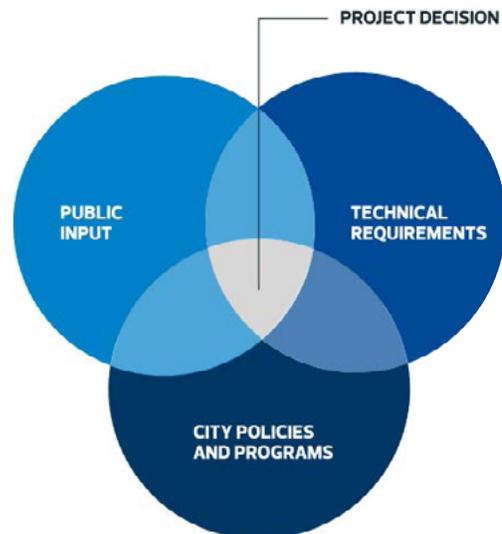
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECTRUM

Phase 1 Engagement was conducted at the **Refine** level of the City of Edmonton's [Public Engagement Spectrum](#). Phase 2 Engagement was conducted at the **Advise** level. During this phase of engagement, the public was consulted to share feedback and perspectives that will be considered as the design of the new facility is developed.

PROJECT DECISION MAKING

In all phases, project decisions are made based on three components:

- + **Technical Requirements** – what infrastructure best meets the area's needs, what can fit on site, and what impacts the facility will have on the immediate and surrounding areas.
- + **City Policies and Programs** – how City initiatives and activities are implemented.
- + **Public Input** – general public engagement, local knowledge and feedback from community stakeholders.



How We Engaged

The tactics and tools used to promote engagement opportunities during Phase 2 were varied and widespread to reach a diverse demographic of people. In line with current City public engagement policies, digital engagement opportunities were prioritized, with additional targeted in-person engagement for harder-to-reach groups.

COMMUNICATION TACTICS

To promote the project and the engagement opportunities, the following communication methods were used:

Website

- + The project's webpage was regularly updated with information.

Postcards

- + Postcards with information on the public event, survey and project page were mailed to surrounding neighbourhoods.

Road and Yard Signs

- + Temporary road and yard signs with information on the public event and survey were placed in key locations.

Online Advertisements

- + Social media posts and advertisements were posted on the City of Edmonton's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator Updates

- + Updates and communications were sent out to the following communities: Queen Alexandra, Garneau, McKernan, Belgravia, Windsor Park, Strathcona, Allendale, Parkallen, Ritchie and Hazeldean.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT REACH



A social media advertising campaign ran from March 16 to 29 to spread the word and promote participation in the public engagement survey. A total of 144,706 impressions were delivered and 49,522 unique individuals were reached over the course of the campaign.



The campaign generated a total of 3,812 clicks that directed people to the project site.



Global TV interview with the Project Manager, promoting the online event and survey.

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee was established during the Rollie Miles Park Athletic Field Redevelopment Project to provide expertise, advice and feedback at critical points in the project's development. The committee is made up of representatives from surrounding Community Leagues, Friends of Scona Recreation and Strathcona High school.

Advisory Committee meeting for this phase was held in February. Committee members advised on the Public Engagement Plan and provided their feedback on the development of the preferred design option.

Online Public Engagement Session

An online public engagement session was held on March 15, 2023. The project team presented a detailed update on the project's progress and introduced the schematic design for the preferred option that was chosen after the first phase of engagement.

The online public engagement session had 47 attendees. A total of 57 questions and comments were received during the session, which were answered live by the project team. A link to the video recording of the public meeting was posted on the project website.

Online Survey

An online survey was launched the same day as the Public Engagement Session; it was open to the public for two weeks between March 15 and March 29, 2023. Hard copy surveys were available upon request. The survey provided information on the development of the preferred design option and posed a series of questions intended to gather feedback on the schematic design and input on future facility use.

A total of 631 responses were received. The results are summarized in the following section of this document.

Pop-Up Events

Youth Pop-Up Event – Targeting a typically underrepresented youth demographic, the project team provided students with an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the schematic design during a pop-up event at Strathcona High School.

Older Adult Pop-Up Event – Recognizing that digital literacy limitations and access issues among the older adult demographic may be barriers to participation, the project team hosted a pop-up event at the Strathcona Place Society, offering hard-copy surveys to patrons.

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

SPRING 2023

47

Online Public
Information Session
Attendees

57

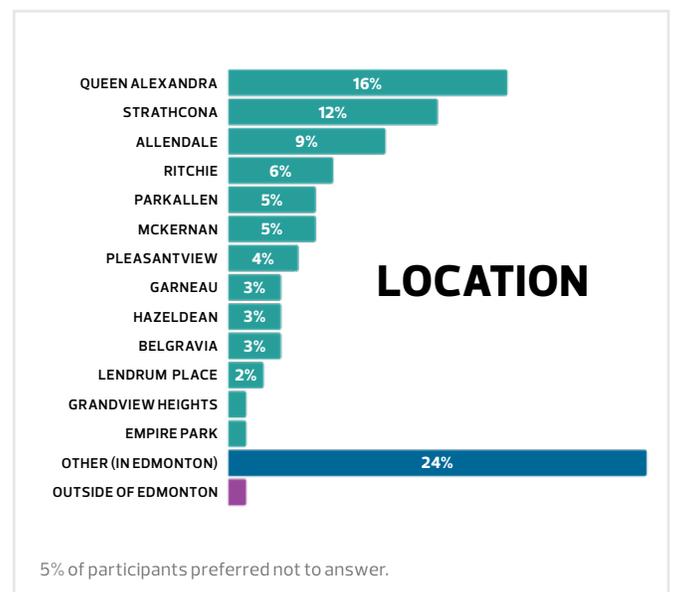
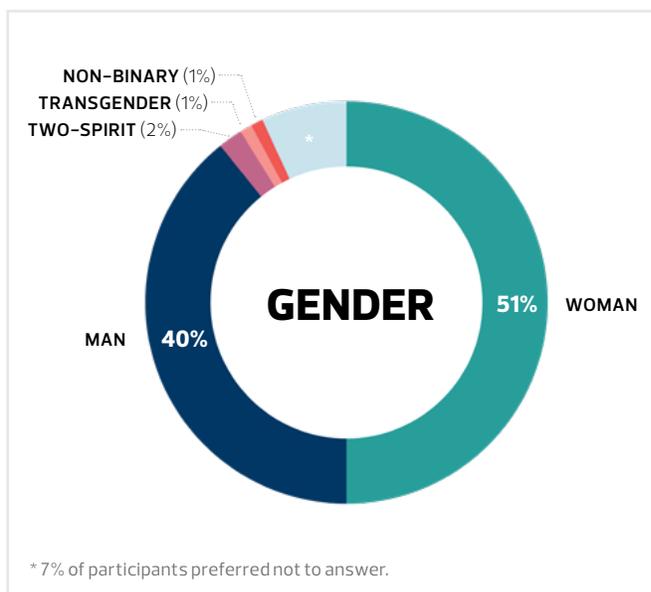
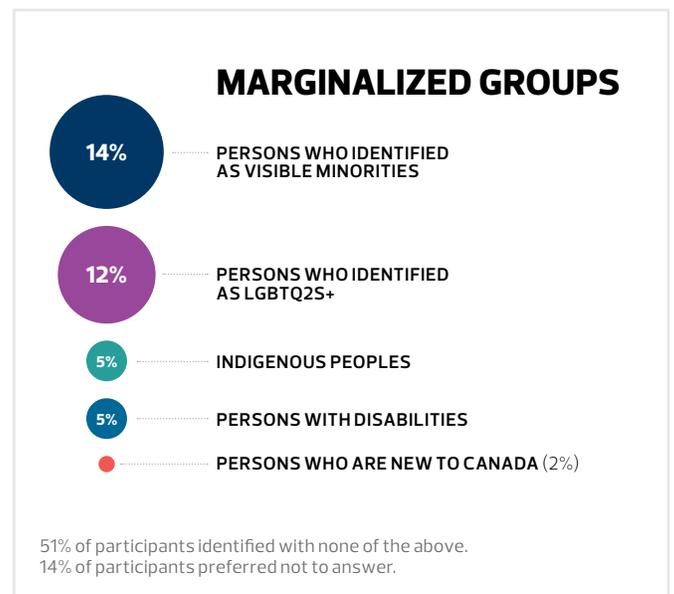
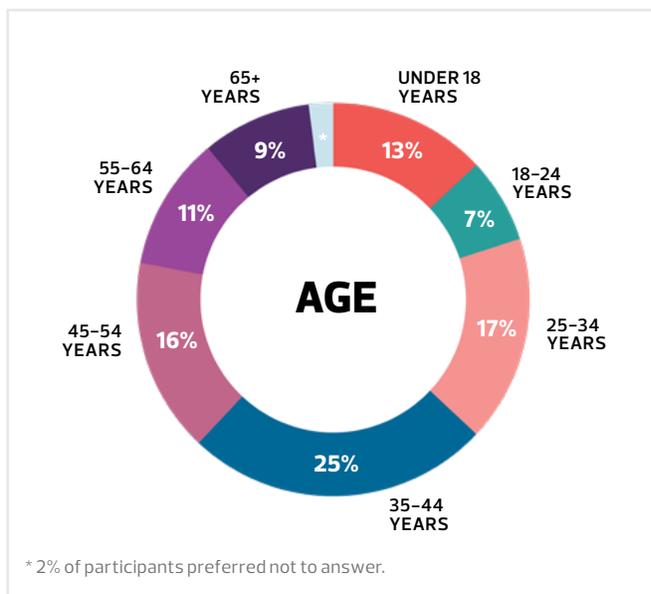
Questions Submitted
at the Online Public
Information Session

631

Survey Participants
(Online and hard-
copy responses)

Who Was Engaged

Community members surrounding the site were notified about engagement opportunities through various communication methods. Hard-to-reach groups were targeted, including the youth demographic and older adults. The Advisory Committee was involved to advise on the engagement plan and help promote the engagement opportunities among their networks. The following are the demographic results from the online survey.



What We Asked

During this phase of engagement, the project team collected feedback on the development of the preferred design option. The public survey was developed to outline key components of the updated park and building design, prompt the respondents to provide feedback on the schematic design and provide input on the types of activities that were most important to them.

→ SCHEMATIC DESIGN FEEDBACK

The survey featured a series of graphics, text and architectural renderings that introduced the schematic design to respondents. The survey outlined the programming, key features and priorities of the park and building design and asked respondents to evaluate how well the design meets their needs. Respondents were then asked to comment on what components they liked most about the proposed design, what concerned them and what they think the project team should consider as they continue to develop the design.



→ PROGRAMMING INPUT

The participants were then provided floor plans with the building program identified. The questions that followed sought to gather input on how respondents would like to use the future multi-purpose room, the gymnasium and the aquatic centre.



→ ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

Finally, the survey provided participants with the option to provide additional feedback to the project team.

Public Engagement Results

What We Heard

This section outlines the results and summarizes feedback from the public survey and in-person events.

Public Survey Results

The park and building designs received mostly positive feedback from respondents. The skating and walking loop features, green space and variety of uses offered were liked, but some had concerns about amenities, parking, safety and funding. Top activities in the multi-purpose room, aquatic centre and gymnasium were also identified, with some variations based on age groups.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Park Design

The park design received a positive response, with 82% agreeing that the design met their needs. The survey asked what respondents liked most about the proposed park design. The most common themes were the skating and walking loop features, green space and retention of trees, variety of uses offered and sports courts. Concerns included a lack of specific amenities such as a skatepark, parking provisions, safety concerns, traffic issues and cost/funding.

Building Design

83% of respondents thought the design of the building met their needs. The inclusion of aquatics and sustainable aspects were among the most liked features. Pool-related amenities were a common concern, particularly the need for more lanes/a competition pool and more kid-friendly elements in the leisure/training pool, as well as a perceived lack of space in the building. Other suggestions included child-friendly features, art displays and comfortable seating areas.

PROGRAMMING FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Multi-Purpose Room Activities and Uses

The top five multi-purpose room uses and activities among all respondents were yoga, aerobic exercise, meeting/gathering space, birthday party rentals and craft/art projects. Those aged 18 and under showed the most interest in table games, music, crafts/art, sharing meals and learning/tutoring.

Aquatic Centre Activities and Uses

Public swim, hot tub, lane swim, steam room and children's/youth swimming lessons were popular among all age groups, with children and youth showing more interest in waterslides. Respondents aged 55 and over were also interested in aquafit classes.

Gymnasium Activities and Uses

Among all respondents, badminton, basketball, pickleball, volleyball and social gathering/event space were the top 5 activities for the gymnasium. Respondents aged 18 were also interested in dodgeball, soccer/futsal and gymnastics, while those aged 55 and over were more interested in pickleball and social gathering/event space. Those 18 and under favoured activities at a higher rate, suggesting greater interest in gym-related activity participation.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN PLAN

- 1 ROLLIE MILES RECREATION CENTRE
- 2 PARKING
- 3 COMMUNITY LAWN
- 4 WALKING LOOP
- 5 EAST GARDEN
- 6 WEST GARDEN
- 7 MULTI-PURPOSE COURT
- 8 TENNIS & PICKLEBALL COURTS
- 9 NORTH ENTRY PLAZA
- 10 SOUTH ENTRY PLAZA
- 11 SOUTH-WEST ENTRY PLAZA
- 12 LID (LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT)
- 13 SNOW STORAGE



Park Design

Question: Based on the description and images presented, how much do you agree or disagree that the proposed park design meets your needs?

- 82% of respondents agreed that the park design meets their needs.
- 7% of respondents were neutral.
- 8% of respondents disagreed that the park design meets their needs.

3% of participants selected "I don't know."

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Question: What do you like most about the proposed park design?

74% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.



23% liked the **skating and walking loop** features of the park.

19% liked the **amount of green space** as well as the **retention of mature trees**.

14% commented that the **variety of uses** offered within the park space is a good thing.

12% liked the **sports courts**, whether it be tennis, pickleball or the multi-sport court.



Other, less frequently noted, themes included:

- Support for the year-round nature of the amenities on site.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

- + "Natural elements, space for community, and recreation/organized activities. I could see this bring a great gathering space for people of all ages."
- + "Good measure of green space incorporated in design."
- + "Sounds like a wonderful mixed use park, addressing needs for all seasons and interests."
- + "It separates the busy and loud road from the users of the park. Noise mitigation is key to making the park usable and desirable."
- + "It is beautiful, fits into the neighbourhood, keeps the trees and includes parking."
- + "Maintaining a green space in a community. Use in both summer & winter seasons."
- + "A large variety of services available in a perfect spot in the city."
- + "The interplay between indoor and outdoor uses and the all season functionality."
- + "Prioritizing green space and the preservation of old growth, as well as planting new."

Question: What concerns you about the proposed park design?

66% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.



23% of respondents commented on **parking and traffic**.

- 10% felt there was not enough parking provided.
- 6% felt there was too much parking.
- 7% felt traffic in/out of the south parking lot would be problematic to the neighbouring community.



14% of comments were concerns that some **amenity that was lacking** in the scheme.

- Among amenities identified as lacking were a skate park (17 comments), running track (7) and off-leash dog park (4).



8% cited **safety as a concern** with a need to provide good lighting and promote safety.

7% of respondents voiced concern regarding **cost and funding**.

Other, less significant, themes included:

- Increase the natural spaces provided within the park.
- Provide adequate, secure bike parking.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

- + "Ensure it is accessible by transit and bike/walking. We don't need more car traffic in the neighbourhood."
- + "Older established trees being removed."
- + "Access the parking lot from Calgary Trail instead of the residential street. As proposed, it will create a bottle neck for parking lot & neighbourhood."
- + "Connection to history, Indigenous, Rollie Miles, early settlement past. Ensuring a safe, welcoming space and crime prevention."
- + "Making sure there is sufficient sound separation from Calgary trail to park and park to neighbourhood."
- + "I'd like to see tables and other outdoor furniture arrangements where groups can gather and socialize--picnic tables, clustered seating."

Question: Is there anything else you'd like us to consider for the design of the park and outdoor spaces?

58% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

- + "Less infrastructure, more green space."
- + "Signage educating users about garden design (especially if it has native plants) and LID."
- + "Keep as much green space as possible."
- + "Bike parking can't be an afterthought. Parking lot should be designed to prioritize safety of people walking and wheeling through it."
- + "Picnic tables, benches, water fill stations, public washroom access, wind protection for winter, increased lighting for park safety and access."
- + "Lighting. Ample lights. Space for a community garden. A track inspired playground or ninja course."
- + "Lots of space for benches and picnic tables. This space has the potential to become a wonderful meeting area."
- + "Ensure the high school is included in the facilities purpose to help benefit the kids."
- + "A skateboard park! Even small features would get a ton of use and give youth in this area a safe recreational place to go."
- + "Places to sit and visit and enjoy the outdoor elements. Meeting places outdoors is beneficial for groups."
- + "Sound protection along Calgary Trail is important to make the park enjoyable to use."
- + "Needs to be more than just sport recreation. People centred design requires a broader vision and mission for bringing community together."



Building Design

Question: Based on the description and images presented in the survey, how much do you agree or disagree that the building design meets your needs?

- 83% of respondents agreed that the design meets their needs.
- 5% of respondents were neutral.
- 9% of respondents disagreed that the design meets their needs.

3% of participants selected "I don't know."

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



Question: What do you like most about the proposed building design?

66% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.



24% of comments appreciated the inclusion of **aquatics** in the facility.

21% liked the **sustainable aspects of the building**.

11% cited the **multi-use nature of the facility** and the variety of amenities.



Other themes included :

- The use of natural light.
- Views between the park and facility as well as the openness of views within the building.
- The compact and spatially efficient design of the building which aids in accessibility and walkability.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

- + "Compact, sustainable design; short paths to walk/connect between uses."
- + "Mass timber structure to reduce embodied carbon. Natural light from north & exterior screens to filter light."
- + "The aquatic center looks amazing. I also greatly support the inclusive change area."
- + "Sounds inviting and I appreciate having more than just a pool (ie, Scona Pool) in one location."
- + "It can accommodate students from the nearby school, while still having enough space for public use."
- + "Openness, natural light, environmentally conscious design."
- + "The presence of a community gym in this part of the city, which needs it."
- + "Well situated and compact. Connected to the larger park site."
- + "Efficient use of space that covers popular recreational activities."

Question: What concerns you about the proposed building design?

66% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.

21% responded that they had **no concerns**.

14% of comments regarded **pool-related amenities**.

- Particularly the need for more lanes and more kid-friendly elements in the leisure/training pool.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

- + "Ensure the leisure pool being designed for young children, babies, and people of all abilities."
- + "I want to make sure it is scaled to a neighbourhood size."
- + "The allotted swimming area seems small compared the gymnasium areas."
- + "Increased pool capacity for additional lane swimming, swim clubs, and family/leisure swim would be beneficial. Space for sufficiently large change room."
- + "I would like to see more arts/music amenities integrated into this space so that one facility best serves all recreation needs."
- + "Too small. The city needs more aquatic space and more ice sheets. Make the facility bigger and add more amenities to it."
- + "My concern lies with using building materials to keep operation costs low for years to come."

There was a pretty clear polarity between those that felt the building design meets their needs and those that didn't.

For those that thought the overall design **does not** meet their needs, concerns included:

26% - None

14% - Pool amenities

9% - Size of amenities

For those that thought the overall design **does** meet their needs, concerns included:

28% - Pool amenities

15% - Aesthetics

11% - Lack of ice rink

9% - Cost & construction



Question: Is there anything else you would like us to consider for the design of the building?

48% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

- + "Ensure that the facility is child friendly – toys, pool etc."
- + "Have select walls with murals/art. Have a display of Indigenous history of site location."
- + "Safety and lighting is important to make sure it remains a comfortable place to go."
- + "Places to relax and have a coffee with neighbours or read a book, comfortable seating."
- + "Create visually stunning architecture that celebrates the prairies."
- + "Zero entry pool. There are very few places in the city shallow enough to take small children."
- + "Dedicated space for outdoor/indoor animation of the facility – to truly make it welcoming for all"

Multi-Purpose Uses and Activities

Question: What multi-purpose room activities would you be interested in participating in?

On average, each respondent indicated 4.3 activities with the majority of respondents indicating between 2-4 activities.



Top 5 among all respondents:

- 50% – Yoga / Meditation
- 44% – Aerobic exercise
- 39% – Meeting/gathering space
- 36% – Birthday party rentals
- 35% – Crafts/art projects

Top 5 among respondents 18 and under:

- 47% – Table games (+1%)*
- 45% – Music (+13%)*
- 30% – Crafts/art projects (-5%)*
- 29% – Sharing meals (+9%)*
- 28% – Learning/tutoring (+2%)*

Top 5 among respondents 55 and over:

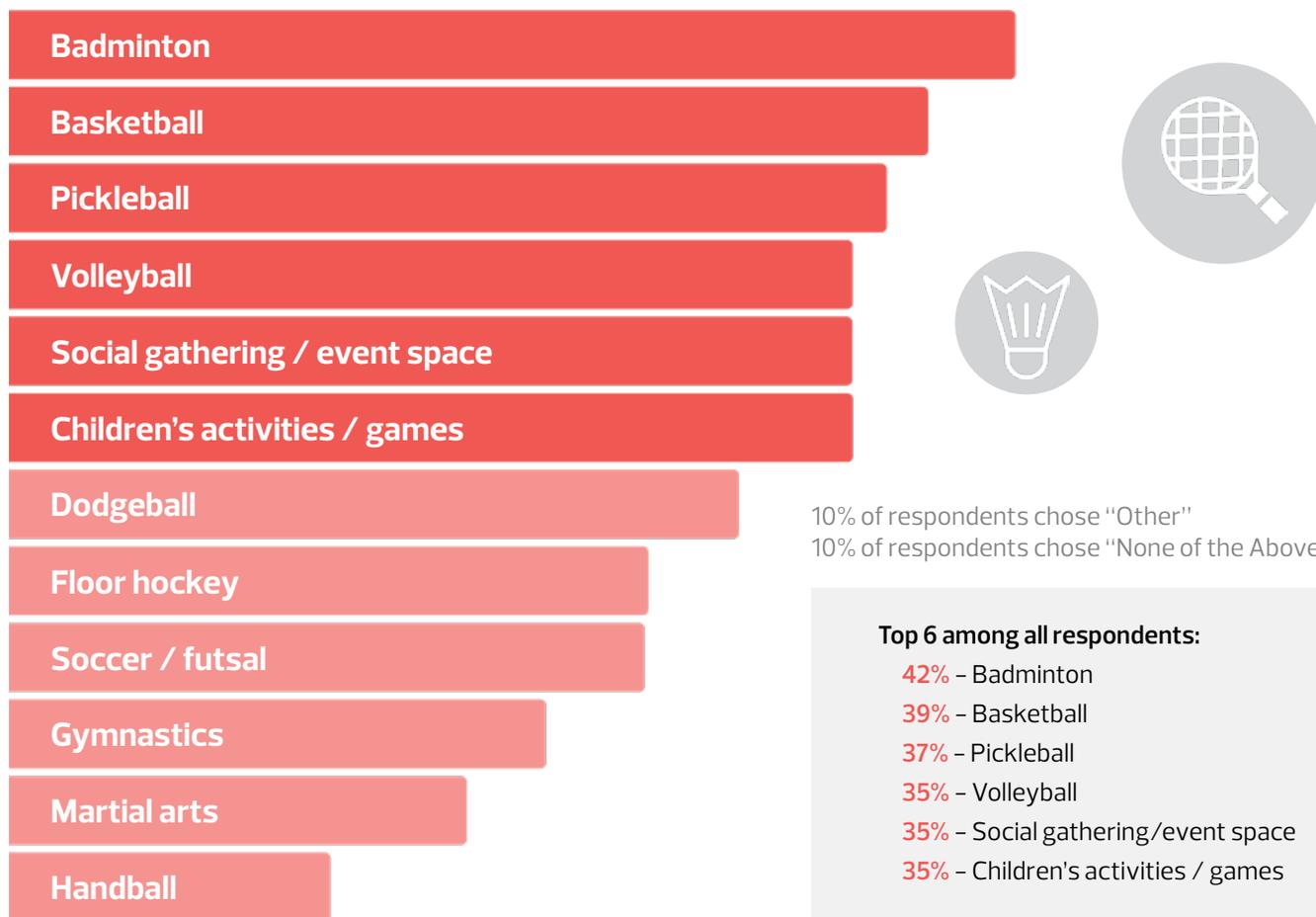
- 54% – Yoga/ Meditation (+4%)*
- 45% – Meeting/gathering space (+6%)*
- 40% – Aerobic exercise (-4%)*
- 38% – Crafts/art projects (+3%)*
- 30% – Music (-2%)*

*% Difference from general response.

Gymnasium Uses and Activities

Question: What type of gymnasium uses or activities would you be interested in?

On average, each respondent indicated 3.7 activities with the majority of respondents indicating between 1-3 activities.



Top 6 among all respondents:

- 42% - Badminton
- 39% - Basketball
- 37% - Pickleball
- 35% - Volleyball
- 35% - Social gathering/event space
- 35% - Children's activities / games



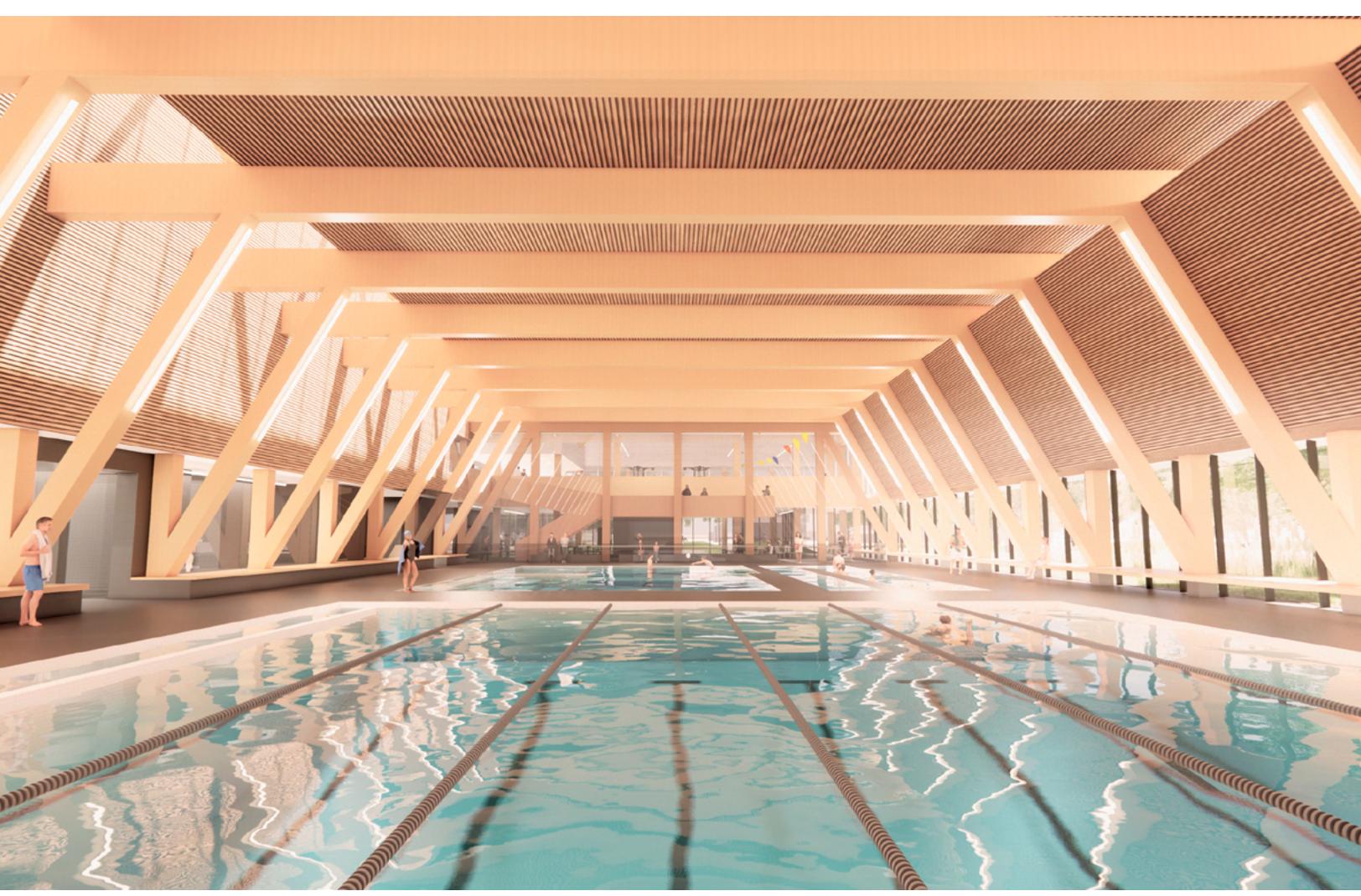
Top 6 among respondents 18 and under:

- 58% - Basketball (+19%)*
- 57% - Dodgeball (+27%)*
- 57% - Volleyball (+21%)*
- 55% - Badminton (+13%)*
- 36% - Soccer/futsal (+10%)*
- 36% - Gymnastics (+14%)*

Top 5 among respondents 55 and over:

- 48% - Pickleball (+11%)*
- 39% - Social gathering/event space (+4%)*
- 35% - Badminton (-7%)*
- 24% - Volleyball (-11%)*
- 23% - Basketball (-16%)*

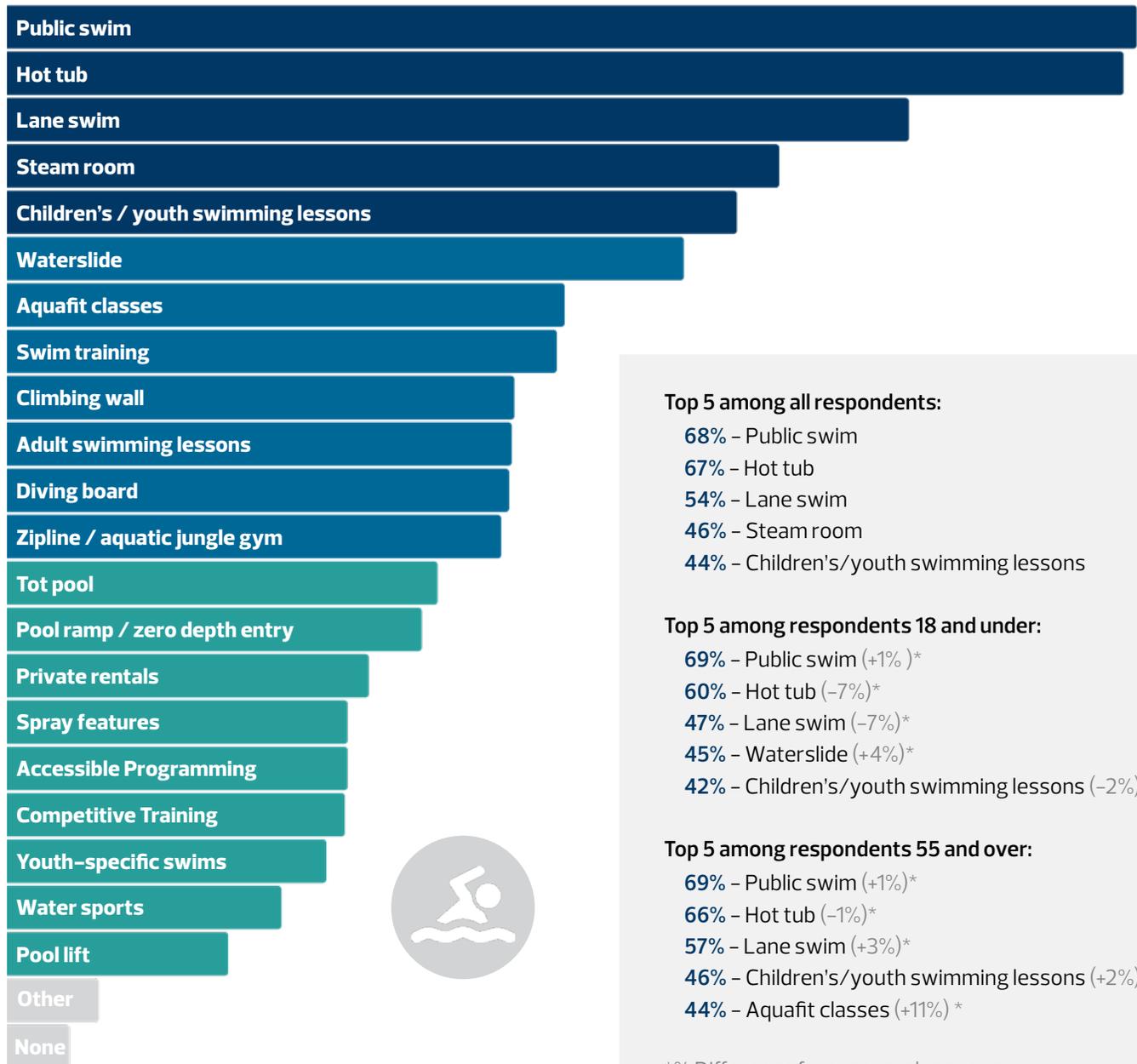
*% Difference from general response.



Aquatic Programs and Amenities

Question: What aquatic programs or amenities are important to you?

On average, each respondent indicated 7 uses with the majority of respondents indicating between 4-7 activities.



*% Difference from general response.

Additional Input

Question: Based on all of the concepts presented in this survey, do you have any other feedback you would like to share with the project team?

39% of respondents provided comment(s) for this question.

26% of comments were statements of **support** for the project.

12% of comments were statements of **critique**.

14% referenced **aquatic-related** needs.

- Most of which repeated either the desire for more lanes/competition pool or the desire for kid-friendly pool elements.

12% of comments regarded **park amenities**.

- Particularly the desire for a skatepark, off-leash dog park, and playground equipment.

Other comments themes include:

- The desire to see partnership between facility and community/school groups.
- The desire for a fully accessible facility.
- The desire to see all modes of transportation addressed.

VERBATIM COMMENTS

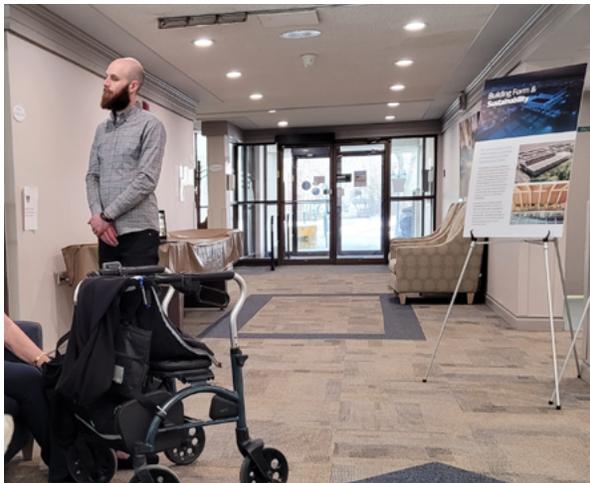
- + "There needs to be a partnership with Scona High School for use with the swim team, work experience, volunteer opportunities and student involvement."
- + "Involve equity-seeking organizations in the overall design and concept. How can this space be more welcoming to newcomers in our city? Be a community building space?"
- + "Make sure that the surrounding neighborhood isn't too congested with traffic. It's already busy during school hours and hockey games."
- + "Family friendly is key! Many young families now in this Community and would love a tot/child friendly pool and indoor play ground / play place. Also swimming lessons for kids to be offered here!"
- + "I am so looking forward to being able to use this facility! I have been in the support mix at the beginning of 'save Scona pool' and this would be a fabulous facility to transition into. Our community along with neighboring communities can support it."
- + "This is a community build, and people will come from the community by foot and by bike first. Please please prioritize these modes."
- + "Ensure that seniors are considered in the design of the facility. Need to include this growing demographic somewhere in the south [side of city]."

Pop-Up Events

High School & Senior Centre

Pop-up events were held at Strathcona High School and Strathcona Place Society to reach underrepresented demographics. Participants were shown project information boards, a monitor showing the project model fly-through and project team members walked them through the updated designs and encouraged them to complete the live survey.

Strathcona Place Society



Strathcona High School



The percentage of surveys completed by those 18 and under rose from 0% of respondents to 18% of respondents after the youth pop-up event.

What Happens Next?

Next Steps

The project team will take the feedback gathered during this phase of engagement and use the input to inform the development of the design during the next phase of the project. The decision-making process will be based on the technical requirements of the project, City policies and programs, as well as the public input outlined in this What We Heard Report.

PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT

A third phase of engagement will run in parallel with the Design Development Phase in 2023. Once the design is developed further, the project team will be asking the public to provide input on how well the designs meet the community's needs.



Fall 2022
Phase 1 Engagement:
Concept Design

Procurement of a consultant team to lead the design.

Public engagement on three proposed design options.



Winter/Spring 2023
Phase 2 Engagement:
Schematic Design

Public engagement on the preferred design option.



Fall 2023
Phase 3 Engagement:
Design Development

Public engagement on the developed design.

ADVISE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit [edmonton.ca/RollieMiles Rec](http://edmonton.ca/RollieMilesRec)

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