

Report to Council



Date: February 6, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy
Department: Sport & Event Services

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Active Living and Culture Division, dated February 6, 2023, regarding the background, findings and activities related to the development of an Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy;

AND THAT Council directs staff to report back with the final Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy for consideration of endorsement.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an overview of the Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy planning process, a summary of the findings from the research and engagement activities, and a review of the approach and directions.

Background:

Participation in community sport, recreation, physical activity, cultural, social, and creative pursuits helps to enhance community wellbeing and quality of life. Recreation provides multiple pathways to better health for individuals and communities and has the potential to address challenges and troubling issues such as increases in sedentary living and obesity, decreased contact with nature and inequities that limit recreation opportunities for some population groups.

The City of Kelowna recognizes that there is an undeniable connection between the availability of indoor recreation facilities and services and healthy people in vibrant communities. As one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada, more people are choosing to call Kelowna home because of the community's superb quality of life, its economic vibrance, as well as the wide range of active and engaged lifestyle options offered. The City invests in indoor recreation facilities to give residents and visitors the opportunity to be active, creative and connected to their community

To optimize investment in these important community assets, staff have been working closely with consultants from the JF Group and RC Strategies on the development of an Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy.

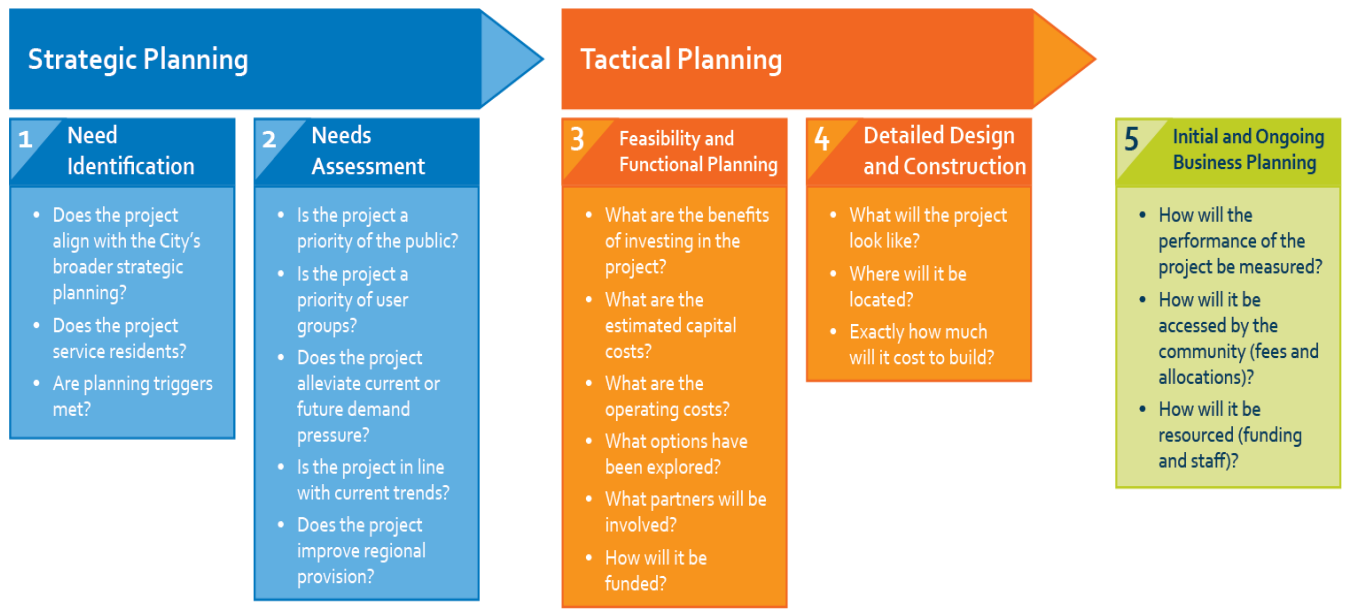
Discussion:

The Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy (IRFS) is part of a series of strategic facility plans that will help the City make informed decisions regarding new or renovated recreation facilities over the next 20 years. It is intended to bring clarity to the City's thinking about the future provision of indoor sport and recreation infrastructure and establish rationale for why and how the City will make investment decisions about important community assets. The Strategy will provide a consistent approach to planning and will help determine the most appropriate facilities to invest in, bringing direction to the decision-making and actions related to indoor recreation facilities.

The development of the IRFS has been informed by a considerable volume of research and public consultation undertaken specifically for this project. The *What We Heard* report and the *State of Indoor Recreation Facilities* report set the stage for strategic thinking about the City's approach for deciding what and how it will provide for indoor recreation facilities. These stand-alone reports highlight the current market context applied to the existing inventory of facilities as well as considerations related to their use. Key findings from those reports are highlighted in Appendix 1.

Based on the research, findings and information gathered, the IRFS addresses the following three key objectives:

1. **Establishes strategic directions and rationale for investment decisions about important community assets.** Decisions will be achieved by understanding how indoor recreation facilities help the City to better achieve Council's priorities while adhering to the City's Corporate priorities. Strategic directions will assist all stakeholders to understand the connection between broader community objectives and more focused thinking about recreation infrastructure.
2. **Offers a consistent approach to the planning and decision-making process for investment in indoor recreation facilities.** The IRFS planning process will involve two phases: strategic followed by tactical planning. Strategic planning includes service level (needs) assessment and project prioritization that are required to begin the process of determining the most appropriate solutions to fill facility provision gaps in City's infrastructure system. Tactical planning is more project specific and occurs when the City contemplates investment in a facility or site to achieve strategic intentions. Tactical planning focuses on costs and benefits of a specific investment. The following graphic depicts the process.



3. **Provides a method to assess need and prioritize limited resources.** The IRFS will use a three-step framework, as outlined below, for looking critically at the indoor recreation amenities that the City invests in. It will be based on community inputs as well as recreation and sport industry research and best practices. The framework provides a process to assess the needs, prioritize the amenities, and action the steps and considerations for each amenity. These actions should be reviewed and refreshed from time to time as the City's inventory of new and emerging types of facilities evolves and grows.



The following table summarizes the results of the service level assessment and prioritization exercise for Kelowna. Four identified amenity types – gymnasias, programmable/competitive aquatic environments and arenas – could warrant service level enhancement (ie. the relative number of amenities could or should be increased above existing provision levels). Service provision levels of the remaining amenity types are appropriate to meet current needs. However, as population increases or as future utilization trends change, demand may also rise, hence additional amenity investments will be required to meet the escalating demands.

Amenity	Service Level Direction	Score	Priority
Gymnasias	Enhance	101	1
Multi-sport courts	Enhance	88	2
Ice arenas	Enhance	82	3
Program / competitive aquatics	Enhance	72	4
Fitness and wellness	Maintain	72	4
Special event facilities	Maintain	72	4
Indoor artificial turf	Maintain	71	7
Leisure aquatics	Maintain	67	8
Program rooms	Maintain	67	8
Other indoor facilities	Maintain	58	10

Based on the assessment and prioritization, an Action Plan has been drafted to guide the City’s indoor recreation infrastructure focus over the next 5-10 years. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the action items identified in the IRFS and prioritizes the most impactful investment opportunities for indoor recreation infrastructure in our community. The strategy also considers asset management requirements to ensure the City’s inventory of facilities is physically capable of effectively serving City residents for the foreseeable future.

Conclusion:

Once finalized, the IRFS will aid with decision making and action planning related to indoor recreation facilities in Kelowna. The prioritization and assessment tools, along with the overall approach, will support the planning process for the Parkinson Recreation Centre project and other future sport & recreation projects in Kelowna.

As funding is dedicated to future indoor recreation facilities, the IRFS will continue to observe needs and trends as they arise to target the delivery of the amenities that will have the most positive impact for our City, ensuring that Kelowna’s future is healthy, connected, and active.

Internal Circulation:

- Active Living & Culture
- Communications
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure
- Parks & Buildings Planning

Partnerships & Investments

Considerations applicable to this report:

Existing Policy:

Imagine Kelowna called to create great public spaces and opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and identities, grow vibrant urban centres and limit sprawl, build healthy neighbourhoods for all, nurture entrepreneurship and collaboration, support innovation, and take action in the face of climate change.

2040 OCP sets a strategic course for the next 20 years as to how our city should grow.

The Kelowna Community Sport Plan provides a framework for the local sport system that will guide decision making and provide direction for strategic leadership.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by: D. Nicholas, Sport & Event Services Manager

Approved for inclusion: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

Attachments: Appendix 1 – IRFS Background Reports – Summary
Appendix 2 – IRFS Action Plan – Summary
PowerPoint Presentation – Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy