

Appendix 1 - Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy

Background Reports - Summary

The *Indoor Recreation Facility Strategy 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 indoor recreation facilities. These reports highlight the current market context applied to the existing inventory of facilities as well as contemporary considerations related to the communities that use them. The following summarizes key findings of both background reports. Full reports can be accessed using the links above.

Currently, Kelowna has a robust and healthy level of recreation facility provision. However, there are certain gaps or opportunities for enhanced facility investment.

Gaps

- Several types of Kelowna's indoor recreation facilities are at or near capacity while others are reaching the end of their functional lives.
 - Highly utilized facilities that are challenged to meet existing or future demand include indoor ice arenas, aquatic centres, and fitness/wellness centres.
- The City has apparent geographic gaps in facility provision. Indoor facility types are lacking in certain jurisdictions as well as in areas where significant

population growth has occurred (or is anticipated). It is noteworthy however, that select facility types are "destination facilities" and therefore it is less important that users reside near their locations. An example of this situation is the 50m pool at H2O that is popular with competitive swimmers and other organized groups that rent pool time regardless of their residential locations.

What we heard

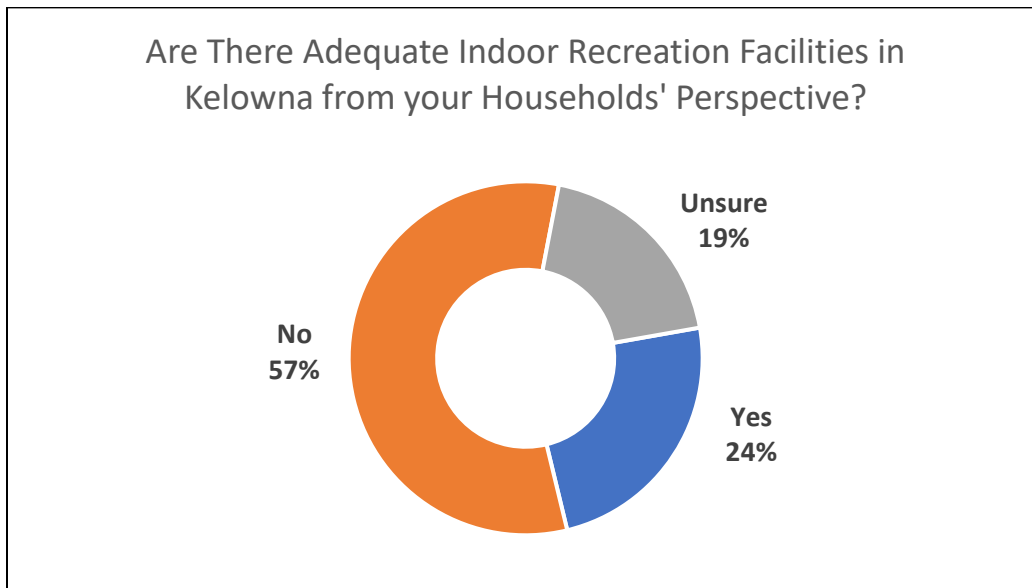
There is general dissatisfaction with the availability of indoor recreation facilities in Kelowna for both households and organizations. Specific attention should be focused on ensuring geographic accessibility and responding to population growth, for example in Glenmore. Other barriers identified include facility overcrowding, costs related to admission fees, and lack of awareness of opportunities.

Less than a third of respondents say there are adequate facilities in Kelowna. Facilities and spaces identified for enhancement or development include fitness facilities, gymnasiums, indoor field spaces, 25m pool, walking/running track, activity centres, and before and after school care.

There is need for more space that can accommodate sporting and special events, while also creating community recreation opportunities. Organizations specifically mentioned a lack of high-level competition and training space within Kelowna. Household respondents would also like to see new facilities be developed, but the facilities should also prioritize recreation opportunities for residents as well as for training and competition.

More than two-thirds of respondents support a property tax increase to support the development of new facilities. More than half are also supportive of a tax increase to support the enhancement of existing facilities.

- Facility types where geographic service provision gaps exist include ice arenas, aquatic centres, gymnasiums, indoor artificial turf/multisport courts and fitness/wellness facilities.
- Geographic areas with more limited access or greater need include the Central City, Glenmore-Clifton, McKinley Landing, Rutland, Pandosy-KLO, South East Kelowna, Black Mountain, and areas of Rutland.
- The physical condition assessment of certain of the City’s existing recreation facilities is “fail” or “poor”. This suggests that these facilities will require significant reinvestment to ensure that existing service levels can be sustained in the future.
- It is likely that vulnerable populations, including low-income households, would benefit from reinvestment in indoor recreation facilities within core/mature areas. This is particularly true if programming and affordability are ensured through either municipal facility ownership or protected through contracted obligations of third-party providers.



- For many years, Kelowna’s recreation facility development has not kept pace with population growth. Over the past decade or so, the facility provision gap has been exasperated by residential growth beyond forecasted levels. Going forward, additional growth will further hinder the City’s ability to offer an adequate supply of indoor recreation facilities. Falling behind in providing a suitable facility inventory could result in a degradation of services, reducing the positive community benefits and other outcomes normally associated with satisfactory levels of facility provision.

Community profile

Kelowna has experienced rapid growth in recent decades; more investment will be needed to accommodate projected population growth.

Kelowna's population is aging and will skew older in the future

Reconciliation with the syilx/Okanagan people is an important priority for the City.

Equity is also an important consideration for indoor recreation facilities, including affordability, accessibility, safety for all users, and providing inclusive spaces for those of all ages, abilities, and identities to connect and participate.

Popular indoor recreation activities for residents include team sports like basketball and ice hockey, individual pursuits such as climbing, walking, and yoga (source: Environics)

Benchmarking Against Comparable Communities

Except for ice arenas and gymnasia, Kelowna compares favorably in the provision of indoor recreation facilities

Financially, Kelowna is comparable with other municipalities in terms of cost recovery and per capita funding allocations.

There are few policy gaps in terms of how Kelowna approaches recreation when compared to other municipalities.

Asset management is important to the City of Kelowna, as is the case with other municipalities examined.

Who Are We Planning For?



2021 estimated population of **143,148** in **59,332** households



Median household maintainer age of **53**



49% of households in Kelowna are couples without children at home



22% of Kelowna's population is between the ages of **25** to **39**



Around **2/3rd** of Kelowna households own their own home, with **1/3rd** as renters



The average household income in Kelowna is around **\$108,000**. However, around **20%** of households earn less than **\$40,000** per year.



More than **3/4** of households use a car to get to work



The **top 5 occupations** in Kelowna are in sales and service (**18%**), trades and transport (**11%**), business and finance (**11%**), management (**7%**) and the social sciences (**7%**)



Around **1/10** residents of Kelowna belong to a minority group and **14%** of residents were born outside of Canada



More than **60%** of residents participate in swimming either regularly or occasionally, including both at a recreation centre and swimming outdoors



The **most popular attractions** and destinations for residents include national or provincial parks (**38%**), historic sites (**21%**) and music festivals (**11%**)*



The **most popular individual sport** activities include golf (**28%**) and adventure sports like climbing (**15%**)*



Around **22%** of residents have visited a health or fitness club in the previous month; **18%** are members of a health or fitness club



More than **30%** of residents (**33%**) attend fitness classes, more than half (**54%**) participate in fitness walking activities, and **30%** in health club activities.



The **most popular team sports** are basketball (**14%**) and hockey (**14%**)*



Popular outdoor activities include gardening (**69%**), fishing/hunting (**25%**), and power boating (**16%**)*



Yoga and Pilates are also popular activities, with around **27%** of residents participating.



Racquet sports (**16%**) and basketball (**15%**) are other popular indoor recreation activities.



More than half of residents regularly or occasionally volunteer (**54%**)



Top fitness activities include walking (**54%**), hiking (**51%**), and pilates/yoga (**27%**)*

Popular Activities for Kelowna Residents

** for the population above the age of 12, or 124,738 people*

Opportunities

- Many of the City's existing indoor recreation facilities are strategically located in central areas where population growth has been significant. Facilities in these areas include the PRC, CNC, and Mission and Rutland Recreation Parks. Redevelopment of these facilities and sites is particularly advantageous in that the land is already municipally owned and the public is predisposed to frequent these sites to partake in their preferred sport or recreation activities.

- Not surprisingly, the amenities at the above sites experience the most pressure to accommodate existing demand. For a variety of reasons (adjacent to residential areas, proximity to transportation corridors, etc.) it is anticipated that future demand will intensify for aquatic centres, fitness and wellness, and gymnasium space at the PRC and indoor ice arenas at the CNC. As was investigated during functional space planning work for the PRC, opportunities exist for an expanded facility program at the CNC to address ice supply constraints and to expand delivery of other recreation services in this growing area of the City.
- The City's policy and planning principles directly support investment in indoor recreation facilities. Further, these foundational planning elements play a role in thoughtful planning for Kelowna's future growth. Public input to this study revealed that Kelowna's residents support recreation facility investments and the public has wants see new amenities developed and/or existing facilities enhanced.
- As reinvestment is required in existing facilities, the City will also have an opportunity to expand or enhance service levels.
- The City's service delivery strategy involves a blend of municipal (self) management of facilities plus operating agreements with third-parties such as community organizations, the YMCA and private operators. There are strengths and weaknesses to this approach and consideration should be given to how agreements can be improved to achieve superior public benefits and other positive outcomes. One important area for improvement would be the establishment of common data collection methodologies and uniform annual reporting requirements of contracted managers/operators.

