



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:

MANITOBA GRO - PROJECT RECOMMENDATION FOR APPLICATION

PRESENTER:

Troy Tripp

DEPARTMENT:

Finance

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:

10/7/2026

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

Dave Wardrop General Manager

Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the City of Brandon acknowledge support for the Outdoor Aquatic Centre project and approves the submission of an application through the Government of Manitoba's *Manitoba Growth, Renewal, and Opportunities (GRO)* program;

And further that the City of Brandon confirms the availability of funding sources to be used to deliver the Outdoor Aquatic Centre project.

BACKGROUND:

The Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for municipalities (Manitoba GRO), is a Municipal and Northern Relations-operated annual funding program that provides critical infrastructure funding for municipalities outside Winnipeg. Manitoba GRO remains application-based and guided by the investment themes of Renewal, Innovation, and Climate Resiliency.

- **Renewal** – To renew, renovate, expand, or replace existing infrastructure beyond its current service life
- **Innovation** – To build or enhance capital infrastructure that better responds to current and anticipated future needs, and utilize proven technology to increase efficiency and effectiveness
- **Climate Resiliency** – To build infrastructure to withstand or mitigate the effects of climate change, including severe weather events

Manitoba GRO is intended to align with municipal planning, design, and engineering efforts under a wide range of core infrastructure needs. Advancement of such projects will help municipalities address key capital projects that advance strategic planning including asset management to support growing and sustainable communities.

Manitoba GRO aims to provide targeted funding to advance municipally owned infrastructure projects under the following investment categories:

A. Public Safety – projects that support or build a safe and climate resilient environment

- o Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Climate Resiliency
- o Fire Stations and Major Equipment

B. Roads, Bridges and Active Transportation – projects that connect people and communities, and enhance the movement of goods, products, and services across municipalities

C. Community Infrastructure – infrastructure projects that will directly serve the health and wellbeing of the community.

D. Multi-modal Transportation – projects such as airports, bus and other ground transportation hubs to support the movement of goods, products and people

E. Solid Waste Management and Organic Diversion – projects that improve waste management and waste reduction to enhance environmental sustainability, including the effective diversion of organic materials and recyclable materials

*Water and wastewater projects are ineligible under Manitoba GRO.

The maximum provincial cost share that Manitoba GRO may contribute toward a project is **50% of the total eligible project cost, up to a maximum of \$5 million per project**. Manitoba GRO funding cannot be stacked with other Provincial funding.

Municipalities may submit a maximum of one application under any of the five investment categories. **Applications must be submitted by October 23, 2026.**

Project applications will be evaluated on their own merit based on the following criteria:

- Project readiness
- Strategic planning
- Regulatory compliance
- Regional benefits
- Leveraged funding
- Key outcomes

Any project funded through Manitoba GRO must be substantially completed within three years.

Joint Applications [not applicable to this application - for information only] - Projects demonstrating significant regional benefit and/or benefits to more than one municipality are highly encouraged and will be reflected in program evaluation criteria. As such, Manitoba GRO encourages the submission of joint applications.

Municipalities may submit a joint application in addition to their individual application. Issuing a letter in support of another municipality's project will not count towards the one application limit. Please note that joint applications must identify which municipality will be the funding recipient and enter into a contribution agreement if their project is selected.

ANALYSIS:

Project recommendations were requested from City Administration in early September following the opening of this year's Manitoba GRO intake. The two projects proposed were the Outdoor Aquatic Centre project and Southwest Road Network Improvements project (Construction of roundabouts at two intersections in the city's southwest corner: 34th Street and Manitou Drive, and 26th Street and Maryland Avenue). Both projects were recommended based on their readiness and alignment with the Manitoba GRO program's objectives. Following discussion between City Administration Leadership, the Outdoor Aquatic Centre was selected.

The Outdoor Aquatic Centre (estimated at \$6.5 million) previously completed a feasibility study including public engagement in 2023. Council gave first reading to By-law No. 7448 to provide for the borrowing of up to \$6,061,000 towards the construction of such a facility on March 16, 2026 and included this in the adopted 2026 Financial Plan. This facility will relieve the Kinsmen Centennial Pool, which has exceeded its asset life.

The Southwest Road Network Improvements project (estimated at \$10.25 million) was submitted through last year's intake of Manitoba GRO, but the application was not approved. While previous preliminary work has been completed for this project, it is considered less ready compared to the Outdoor Aquatic Centre. Additionally, the Outdoor Aquatic Centre will have a larger area of benefit compared to the Southwest Road Network Improvements project.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

This project will require a land lease agreement with the Keystone Centre to proceed with the proposed location.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

The Outdoor Aquatic Centre project aligns with the Recreation Master Plan, as per pages 51-54 of the Master Plan. The Outdoor Aquatic Centre will relieve the aging Kinsmen Centennial Pool and provide a replacement facility with modern features, increased occupant capacity, and enhanced accessibility.

The project also aligns with Council Priorities *Promote community well-being - Strategy #9: Define and implement a path forward for large community recreation and culture facilities; Strategy #11: Address recreation and service gaps in neighbourhoods*. This project will provide a large-scale amenity that will serve Brandon and area and address a recreation gap identified by the public.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Should the application be successful, the debt requirement would be reduced by \$3,250,000 over the project's lifespan. Additional grant funding opportunities for this project will be sought although, due to stacking rules, other Provincial funding sources cannot be used.

The project is currently estimated at \$6,500,000. Manitoba GRO will provide up to 50% of eligible total project costs, up to \$5,000,000. The City will request \$3,250,000 in the application, although the request may need to be reduced if ineligible expenses are identified. Furthermore, the Funder may provide less than the requested amount.

Ineligible costs include, but not limited to, any expenditures incurred prior to the notification of application approval as well as costs related to land purchasing or leasing.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

The Outdoor Aquatic Centre is a seasonal facility. Value-added opportunities are being reviewed to maintain use during the off-season, such as establishing a pop-up outdoor rink outside the Centre during the winter and using the facility's change rooms for skaters.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

City of Brandon to comply with communication requirements as stated in the funding agreement.

CONCLUSION:

Between the two project options reviewed, the Outdoor Aquatic Centre was determined to have the highest chance for a successful application. As such, we recommend that Council acknowledges support for the Outdoor Aquatic Centre project, authorizes submitting an application through Manitoba GRO in support of the Outdoor Aquatic Centre project, and confirms funding commitments to support the project to its completion.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE PROJECT OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

Develop a feasibility study to direct the development of an outdoor aquatic facility

FOCUS:

1. Integrate public input in the process to guide design in order to meet community needs and expectation
2. Select a preferred site using mutually agreed criteria to maximize benefit from the facility
3. Learn from comparable facilities to both inform the appropriate amenities mix and to understand leading practices in terms of management and operations
4. Conduct analysis and prepare recommendations to support the long-term financial and operational sustainability of the complex.

Open House Boards:

Board 1 - Project Overview

Board 2 - Survey Results (Question 1)

Board 3 - Survey Results (Questions 2 & 3)

Board 4 - Survey Results (Questions 4-6)

Board 5 - Survey Results (Questions 7-9)

Board 6 - Survey Results (Questions 10-11)

Board 7 - Survey Results (Question 12)

Board 8 - Site Ranking & Selection Process

Board 9 - Potential Sites and Rankings (City Owned Properties)

Board 10 - Preliminary Concept Bubble Diagrams

Board 11 - Preliminary Concept Bubble Diagrams

Board 12 - Preliminary Concept Bubble Diagrams

Board 13 - Comparable Facility Images

Board 14 - Comparable Facility Images

Board 15 - Preliminary Building Concept

Board 16 - Preliminary Building Concept

Board 17 - Alternate Building Concept

Board 18 - Alternate Building Concept

Board 19 - Alternate Building Concept

Board 20 - Alternate Building Concept

Board 21 - Next Steps

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1:

The Brandon Aquatic Centre may include a number of amenities. Please select your top four (4) aquatic amenities and rank them in order with one (1) being the most important



SURVEY RANK	AMENITY
1	Waterslide(s)
2	Lazy River
3	Accessible Beach/ Ramped Entry
4	Tidal/ Wave Pool
5	Shallow Social Pool/ Kiddie Pool
6	Hot Pool
7	Water Play Structure
8	Obstacle Course
9	Lap Pool
10	Spray Pad/ Spray Features
11	Diving Boards
12	Climbing Wall
13	Wading Pool

There are other factors being reviewed in determining the amenities to be included in the outdoor aquatic facility. These include:

- Cost of construction
- Cost and ability to staff facility features
- Cost of Maintenance

Each of these are shown with a ranking based on analysis done by the team.

Construction Cost Ranking

- 1 - low cost
- 2 - low to moderate cost
- 3 - moderate cost
- 4 - moderate to high cost
- 5 - high cost
- 6 - high to very high cost
- 7 - very high cost

Staffing and Maintenance Cost Ranking:

- 0 - No material difference
- 1 - small additional cost
- 2 - moderate additional cost
- 3 - major additional cost

FINAL RANK	AMENITY	CONSTRUCTION COST RANK	STAFFING COST RANK	MAINTENANCE COST RANK	SURVEY RANK
1	Accessible Beach/ Ramped Entry	3	0	0	3
2	Waterslide(s)	4	1	2	1
3	Lazy River	6	2	2	2
3	Shallow Social Pool/ Kiddie Pool	4	1	2	5
3	Obstacle Course	1	1	2	8
3	Diving Boards	1	0	0	11
4	Water Play Structure	2	2	2	7
5	Spray Pad/ Spray Features	2	1	1	10
6	Hot Pool	5	2	2	6
6	Climbing Wall	1	1	1	12
7	Lap Pool	5	1	2	9
7	Tidal/ Wave Pool	7	3	3	4
8	Wading Pool	4	1	2	13

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 2:

The Brandon Aquatic Centre may include a number of facility amenities. Please select your top four (4) facility amenities and rank them in order with one (1) being the most important.



SURVEY RANK	AMENITY
1	Shaded Picnic Areas
2	Concession Stand
3	Lounge Chairs
4	Open Lockers (outside of change rooms)
5	Outdoor Showers
6	Lounge/ Waiting Area
7	Sod/ Artificial Turf Area
8	Sun Deck/ Tanning Ledge
9	Sauna/ Steam Room

Facility amenities will be reviewed during detailed facility design with consideration to cost and space requirements

Question 3:

The Brandon Aquatic Centre may include a number of programming opportunities. Please select your top three (3) proposed programs and rank them in order with one (1) being the most important.



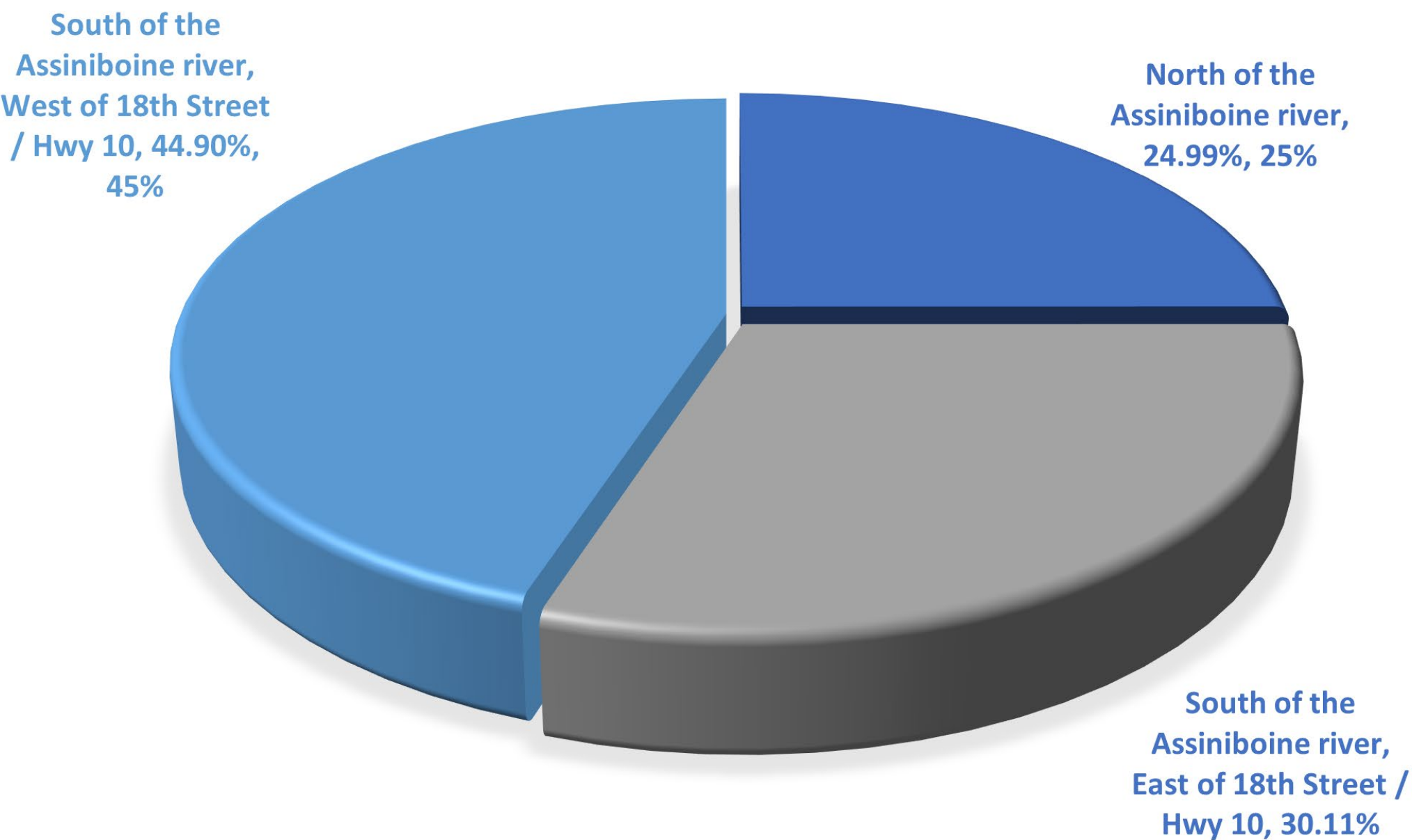
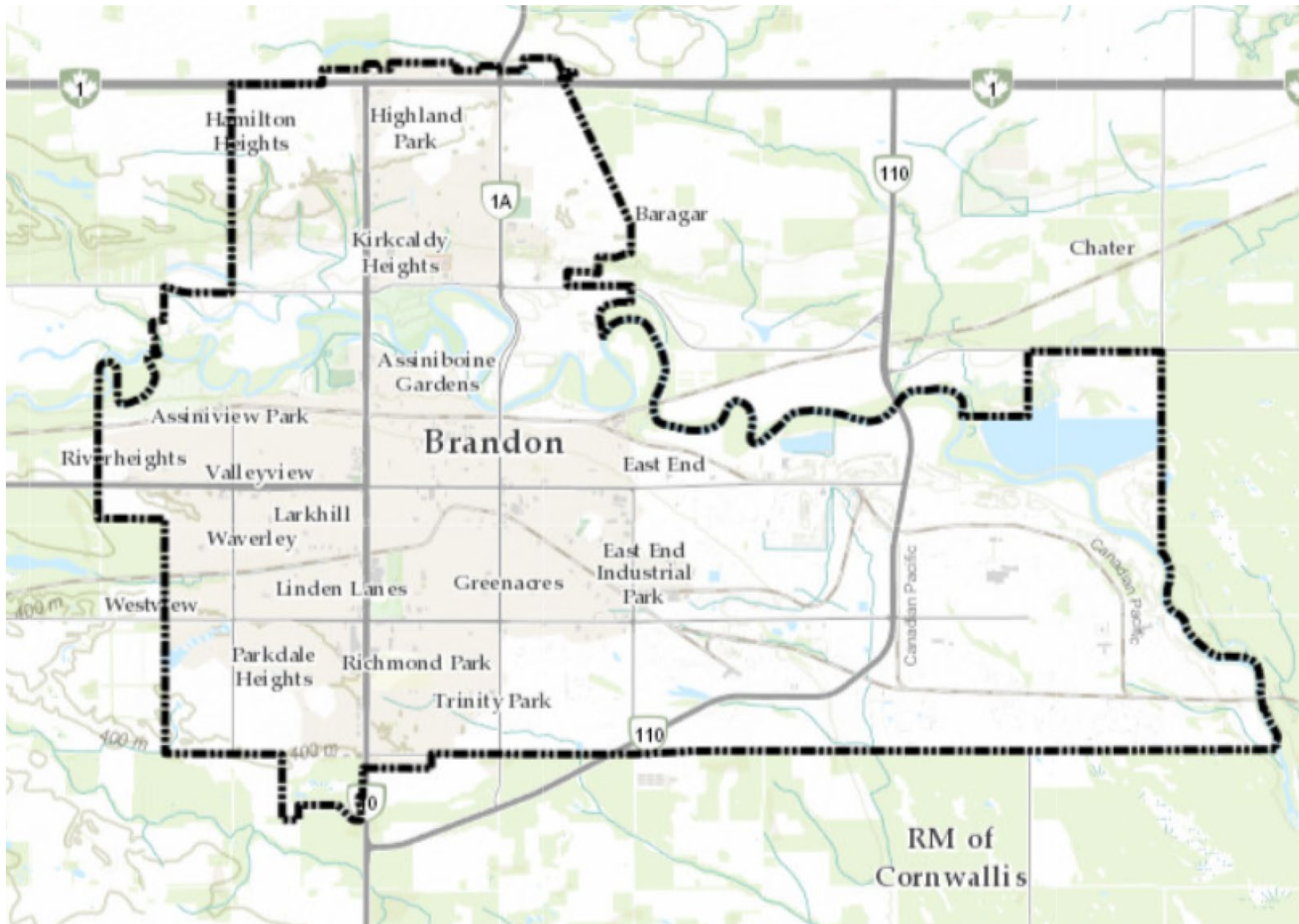
SURVEY RANK	AMENITY
1	Public Swim
2	Swimming Lessons (Learn to Swim)
3	Family Swim Time
4	Aqua Fit Classes
5	Facility Rental/ Private Bookings
6	Day Camps
7	Swimming Lessons (Advanced)
8	Senior Swim
9	Lap Swim

Programming opportunities noted above are the highest priority programs but do not exclude other programming changes. All programming opportunities will be reviewed during detailed facility design with consideration to cost and space requirements.

SURVEY RESULTS

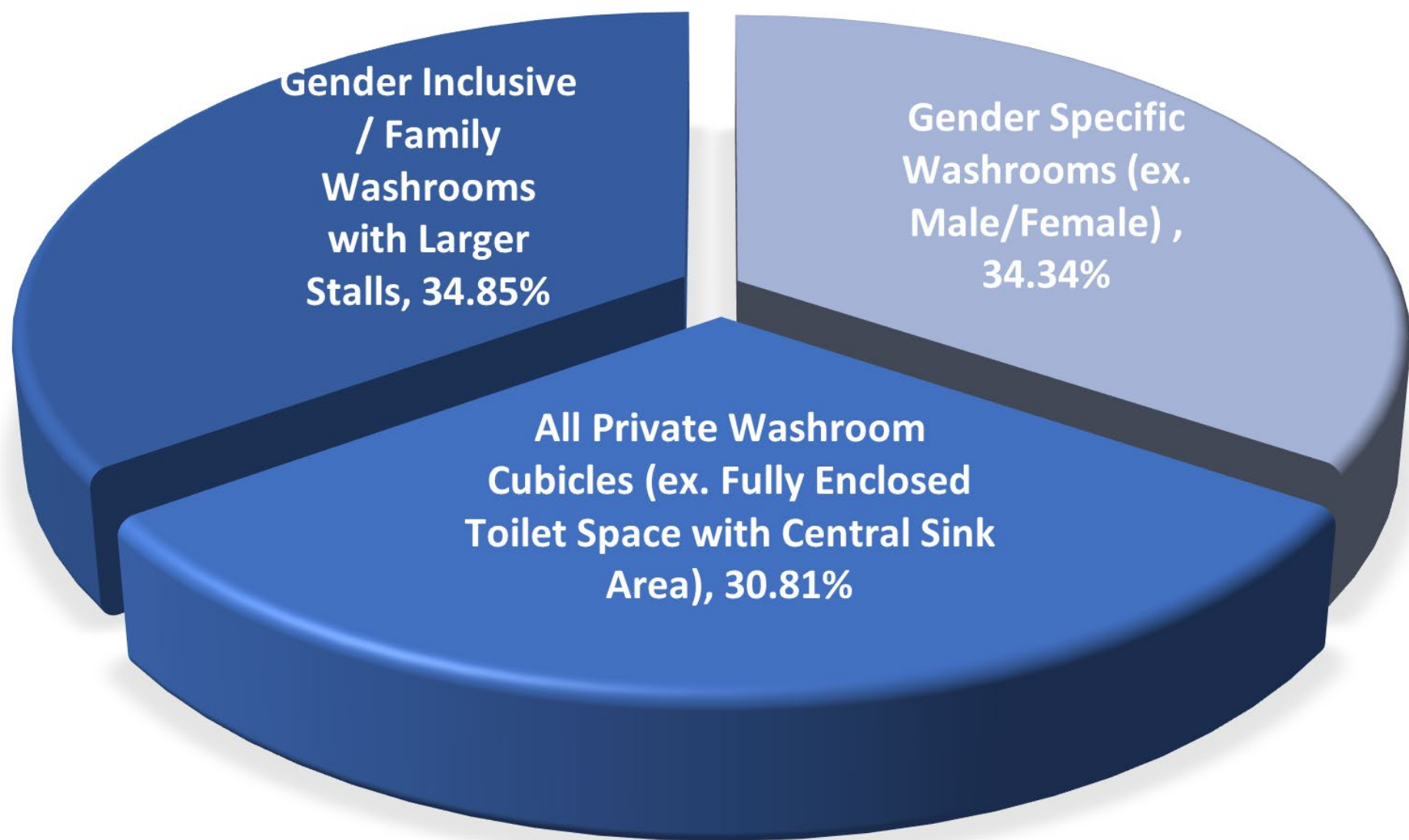
Question 4:

We are looking at a number of sites throughout the City of Brandon.
What area do you feel would be the best location for a future Aquatic Centre?



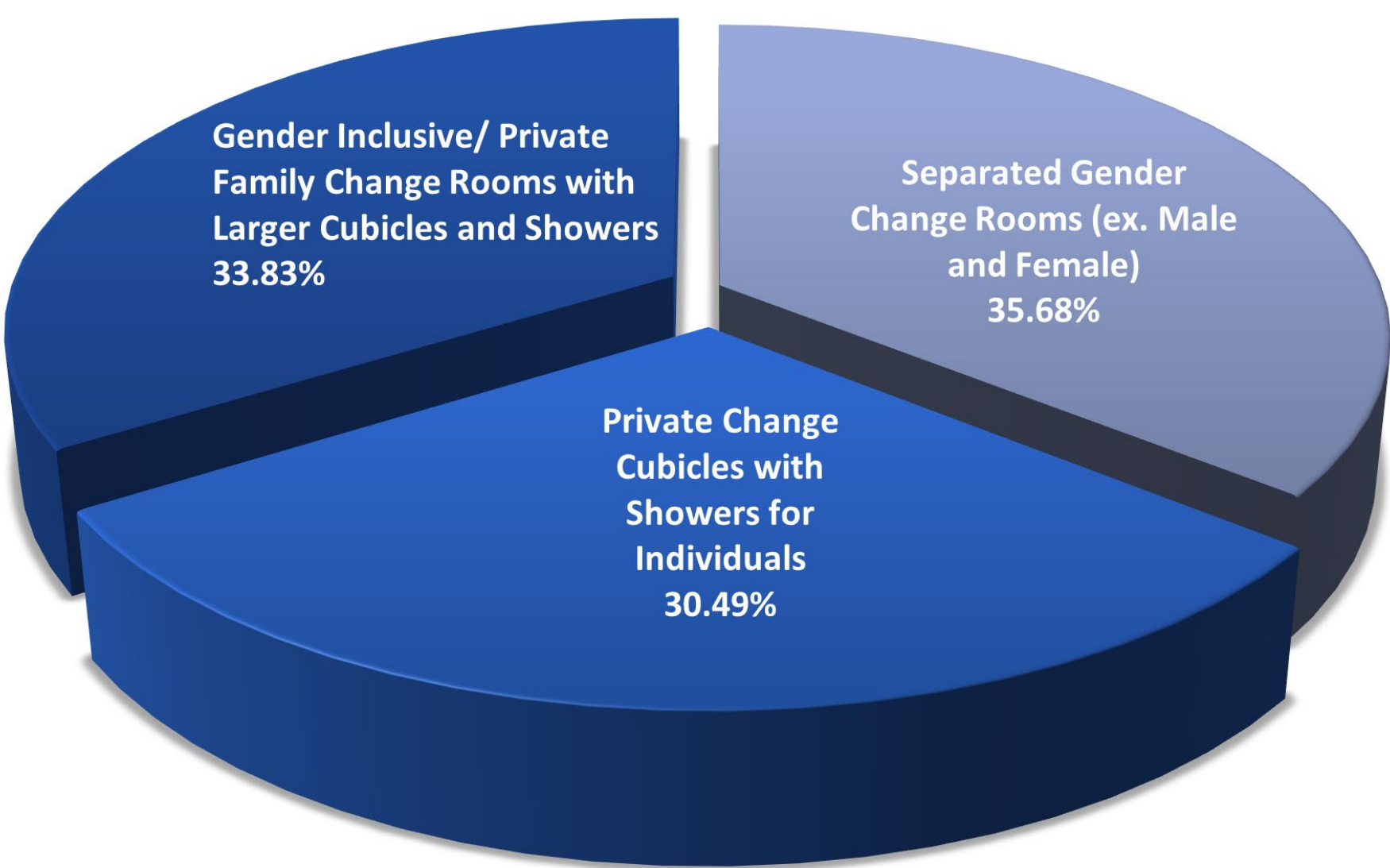
Question 5:

Please indicate your preference for washroom facilities
(select all that apply)



Question 6:

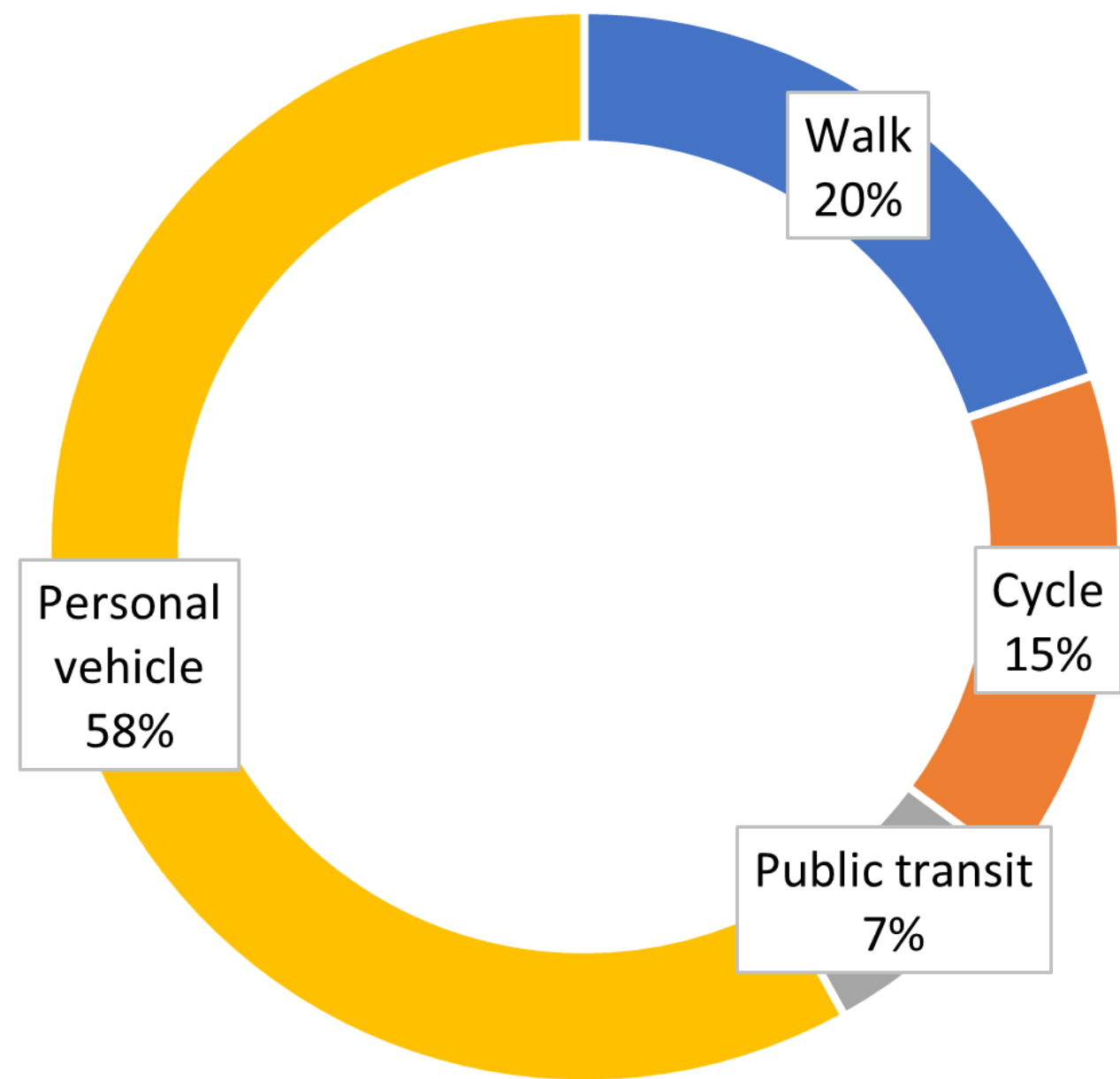
Please indicate your preference for change room/ shower facilities
(select all that apply)



SURVEY RESULTS

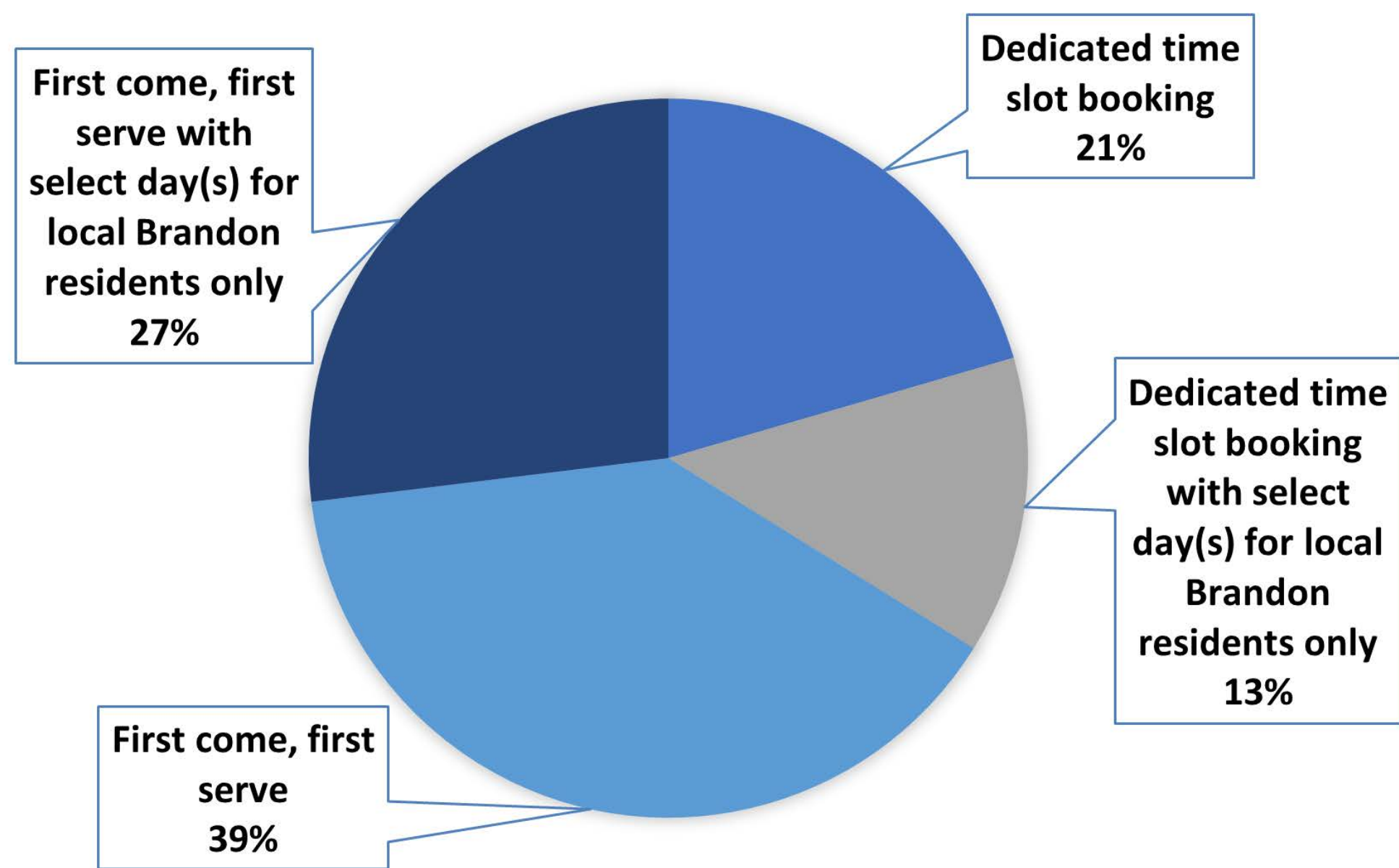
Question 7:

How would you travel to the facility?
Please check all that apply.



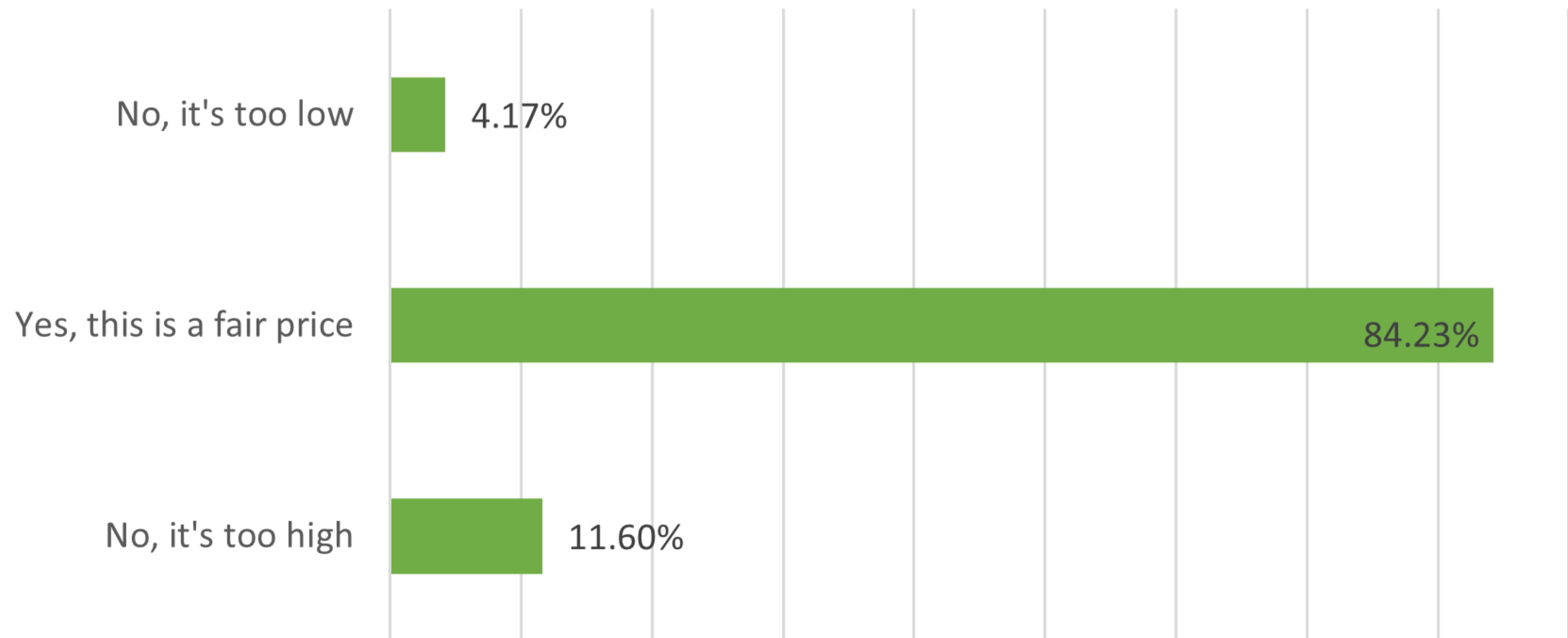
Question 8:

Please choose your preference for facility operation scheduling (pick one)



Question 8:

The average entry fee for similar aquatic facilities is approximately \$9 per person. Do you feel this is a fair rate to pay for a high-quality aquatic centre?

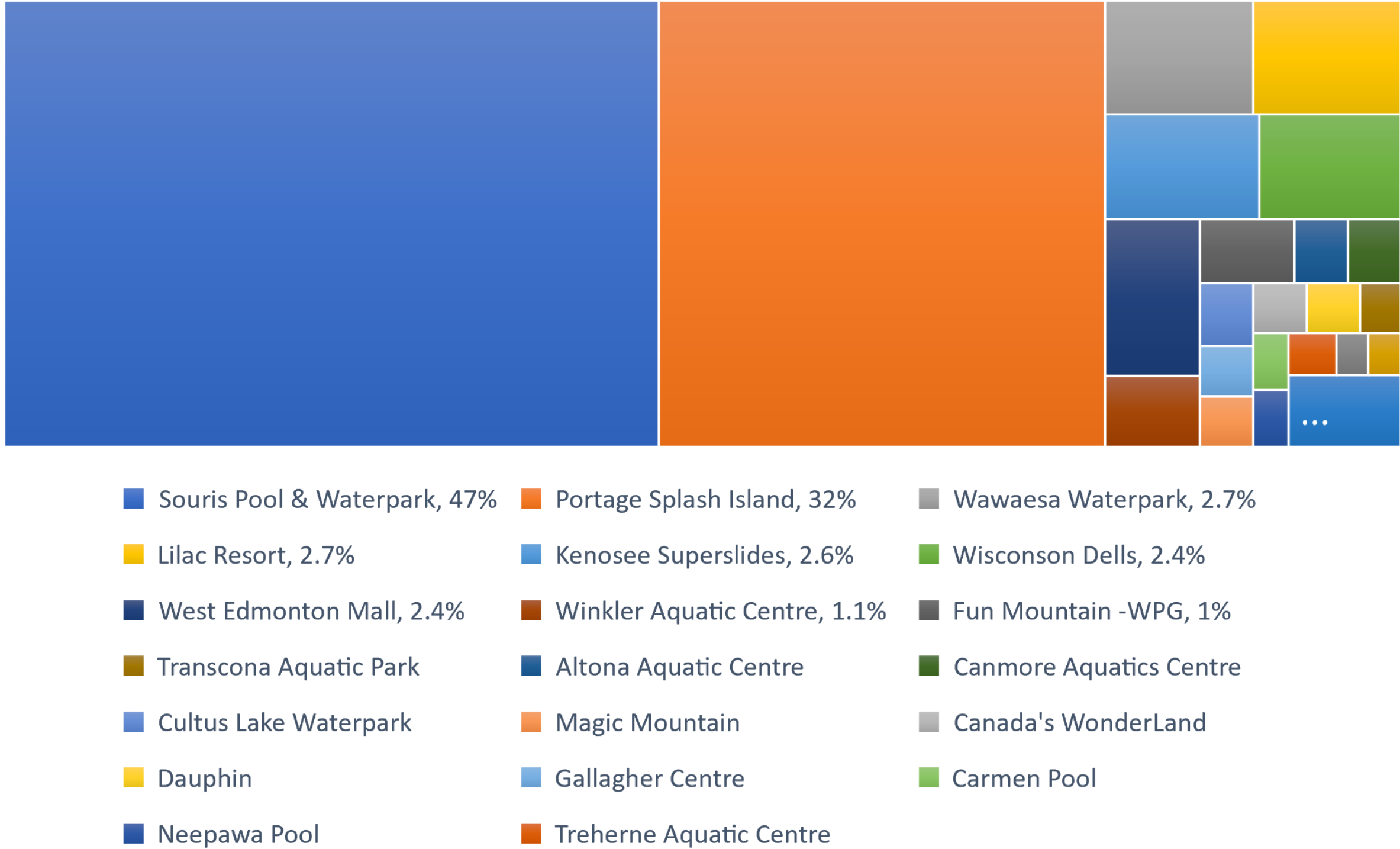


SURVEY RESULTS

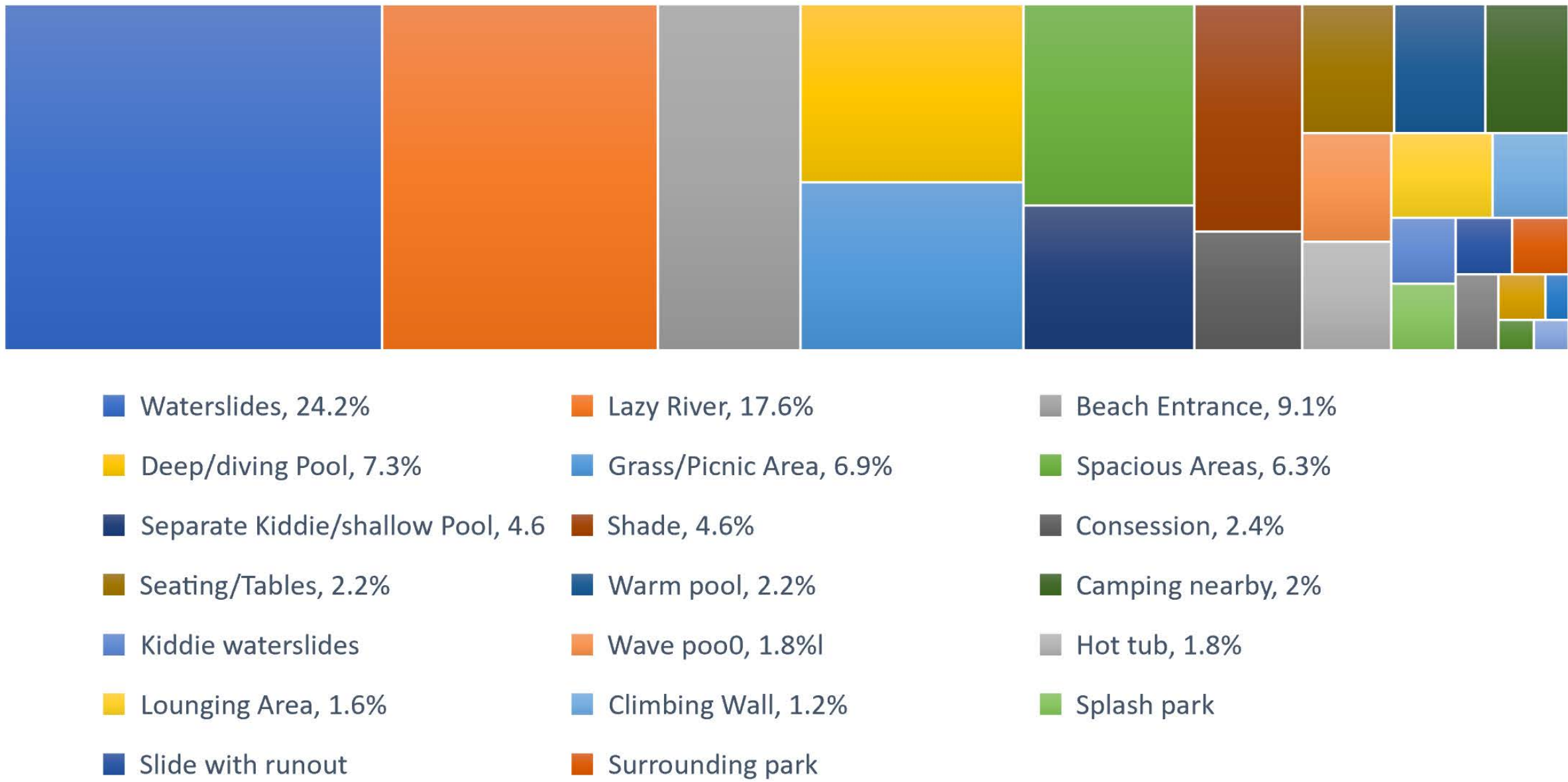
Question 10:

Is there an outdoor aquatics facility you have visited that would be a good example for a new facility in Brandon? Where was it located and what did you like about it?

Facilities Visited

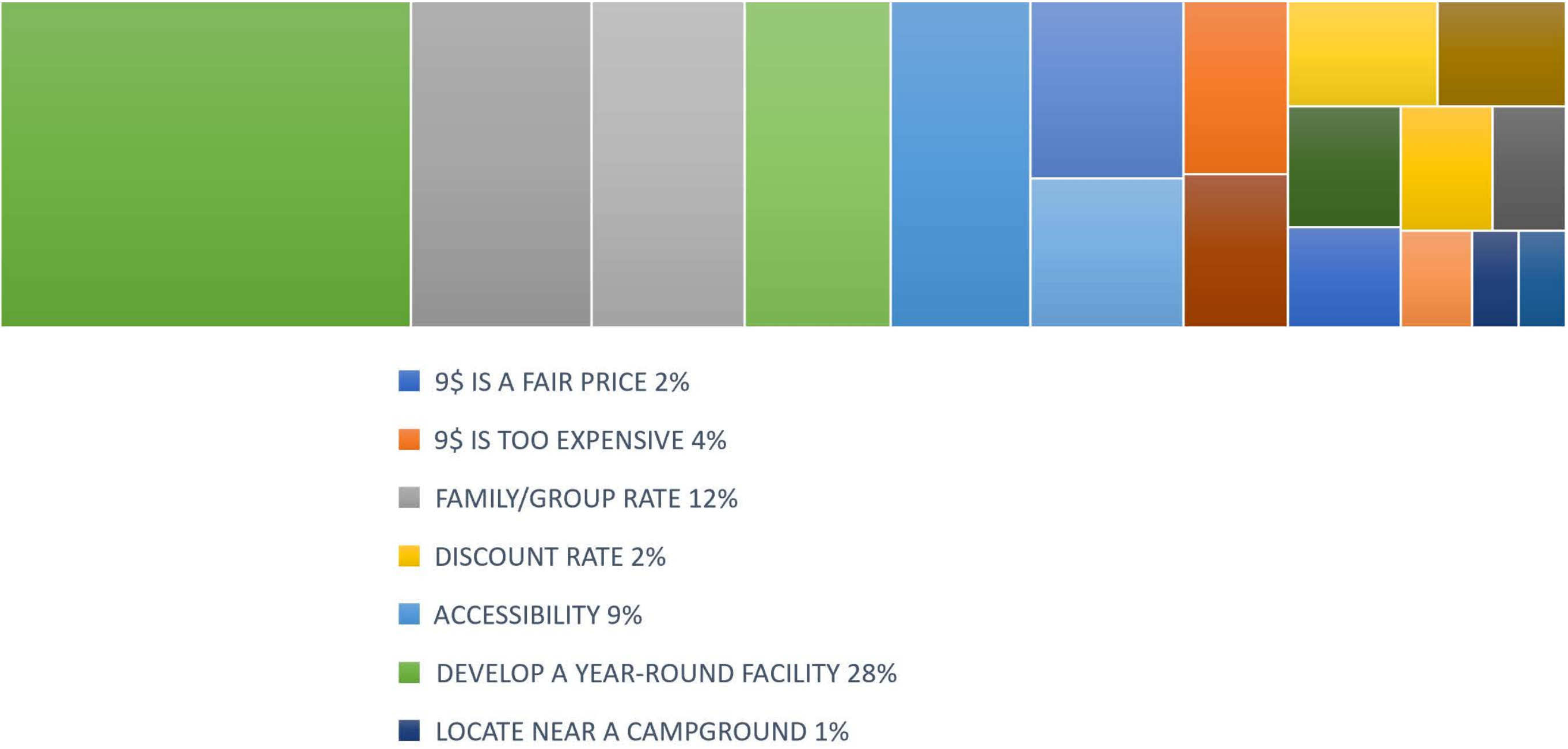


Popular Features



Question 11:

Are there any additional comments or questions you would like to share?



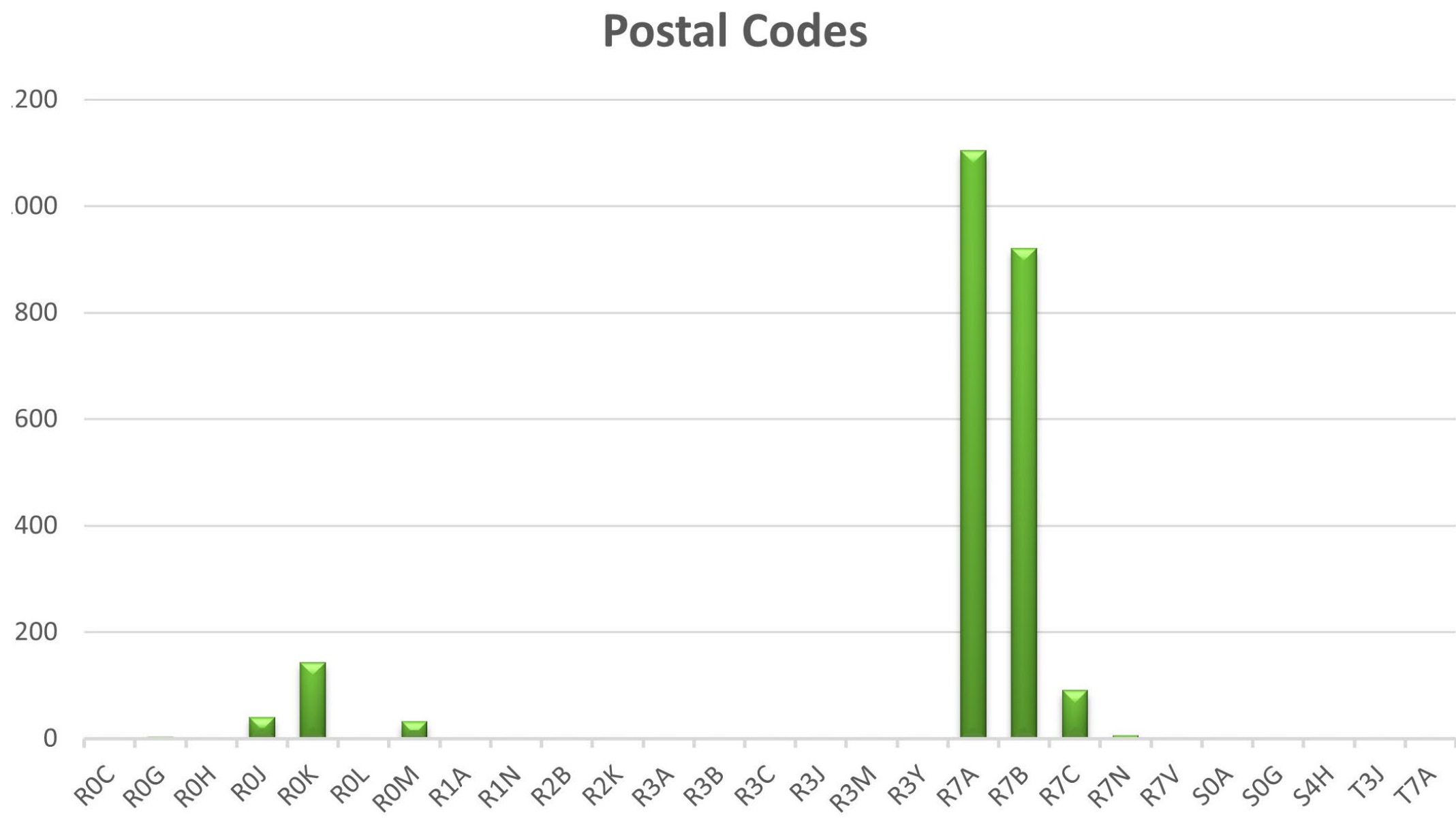
630 comments were provided for question 11. Out of the comments, 6 categories were noted most frequently:

1. Cost
2. Seasonal Usage
3. Location
4. Accessibility
5. User Types
6. Amenities

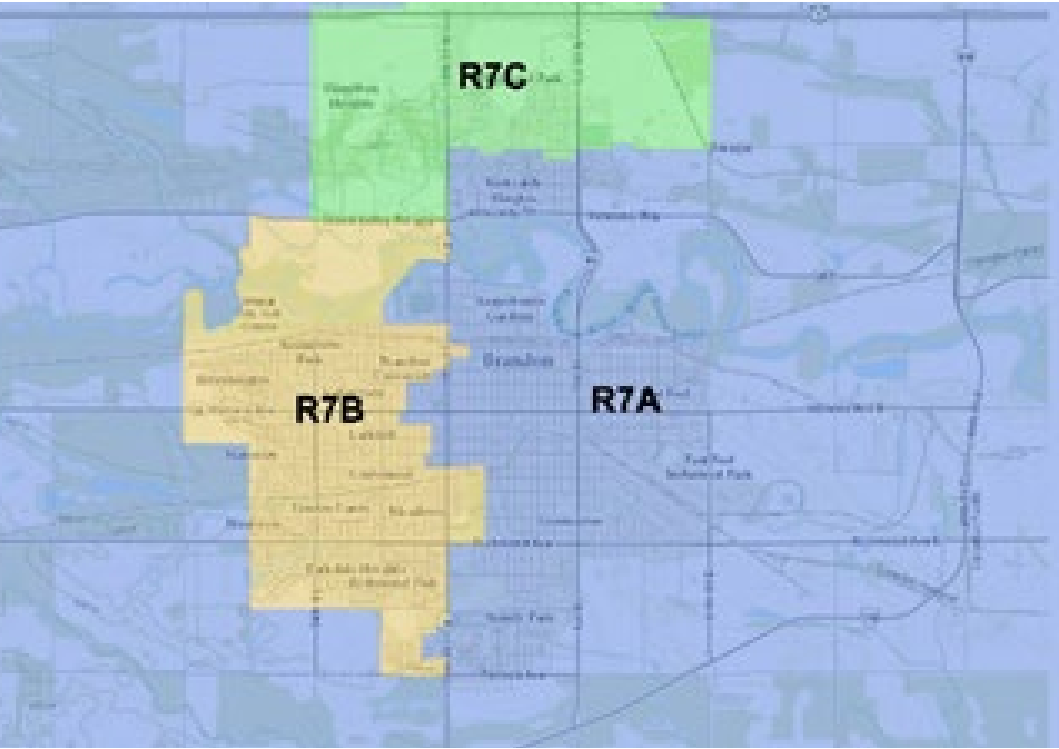
SURVEY RESULTS

Question 12 a:

Please provide the first three characters of your postal code

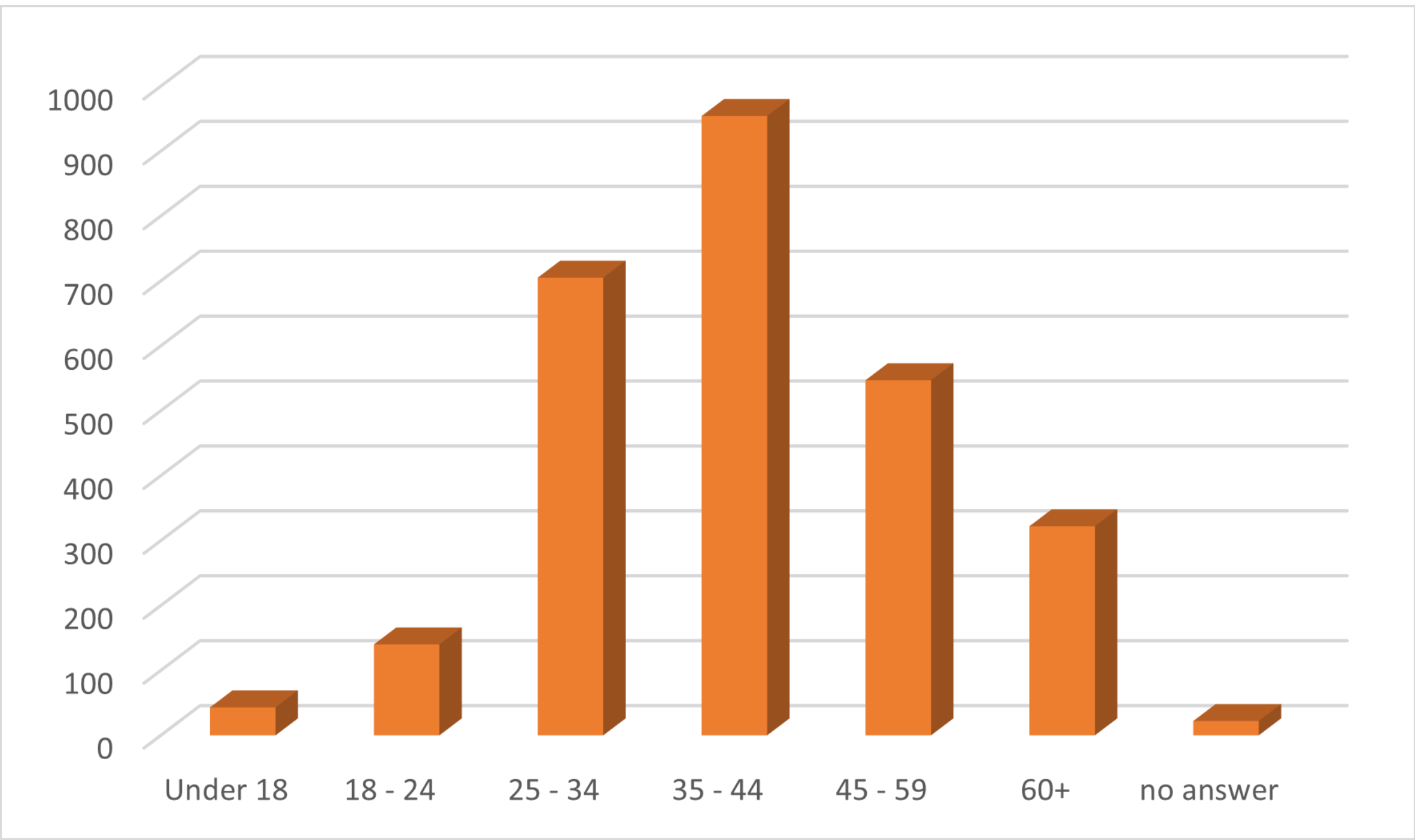


R7A: 47%
R7B: 39%
R0K: 6%
R7C: 4%



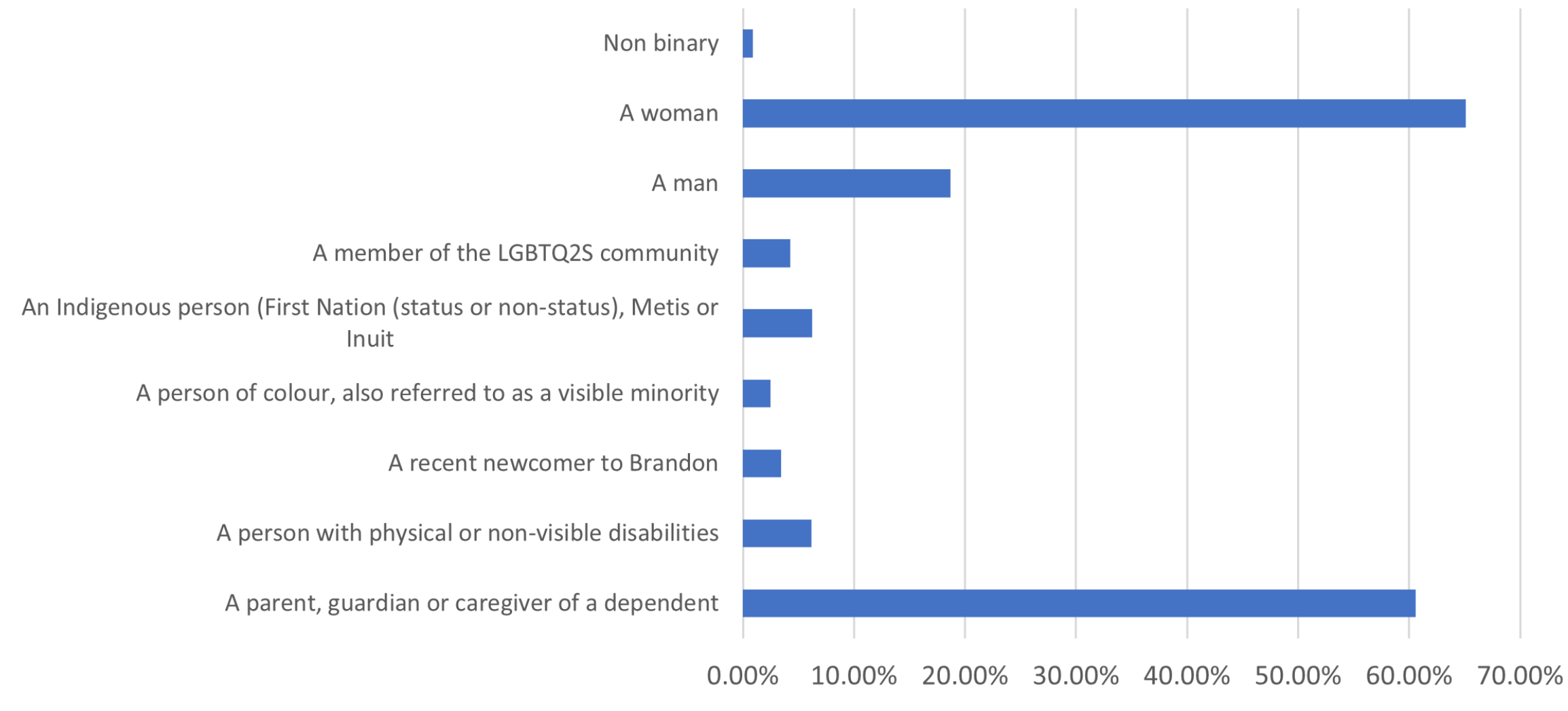
Question 12 b:

What is your age?



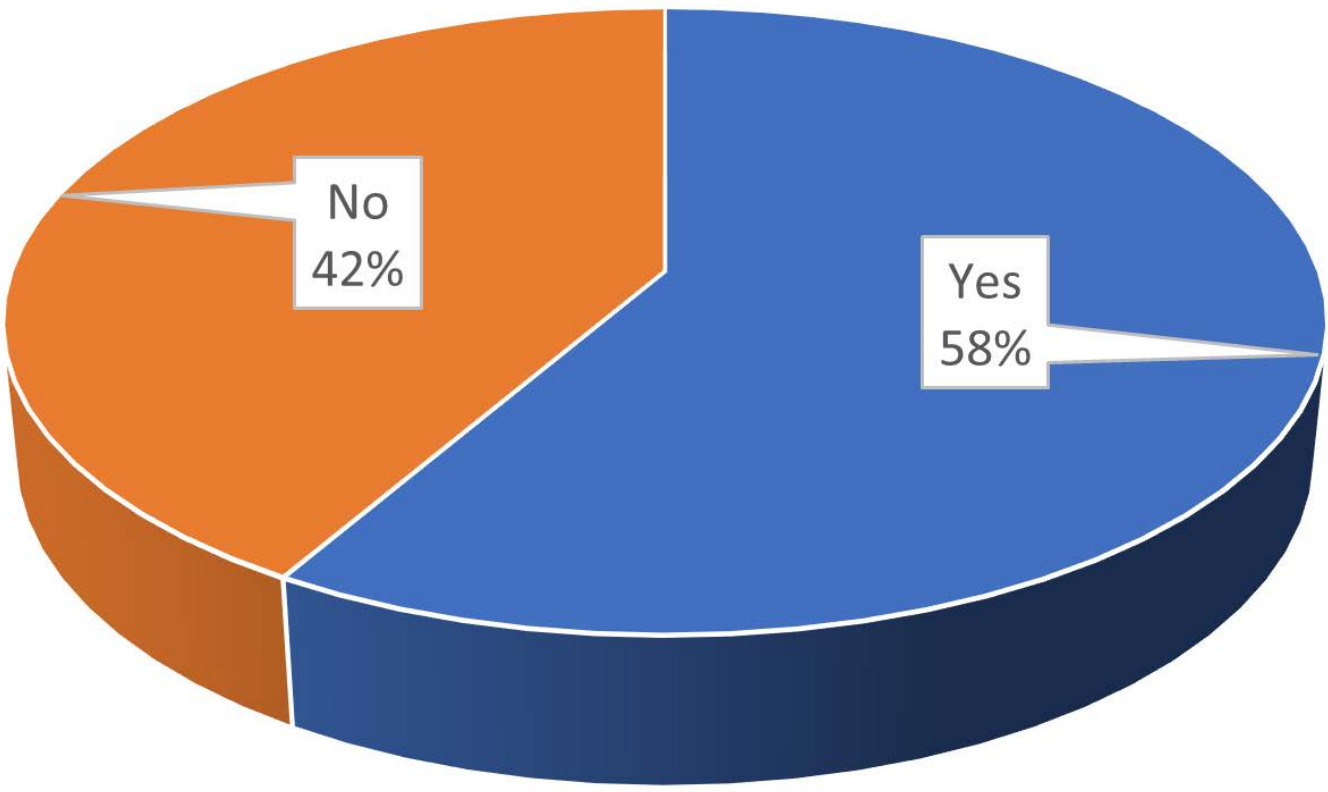
Question 12 c:

Please self-identify as you feel comfortable.
(Check all that apply)

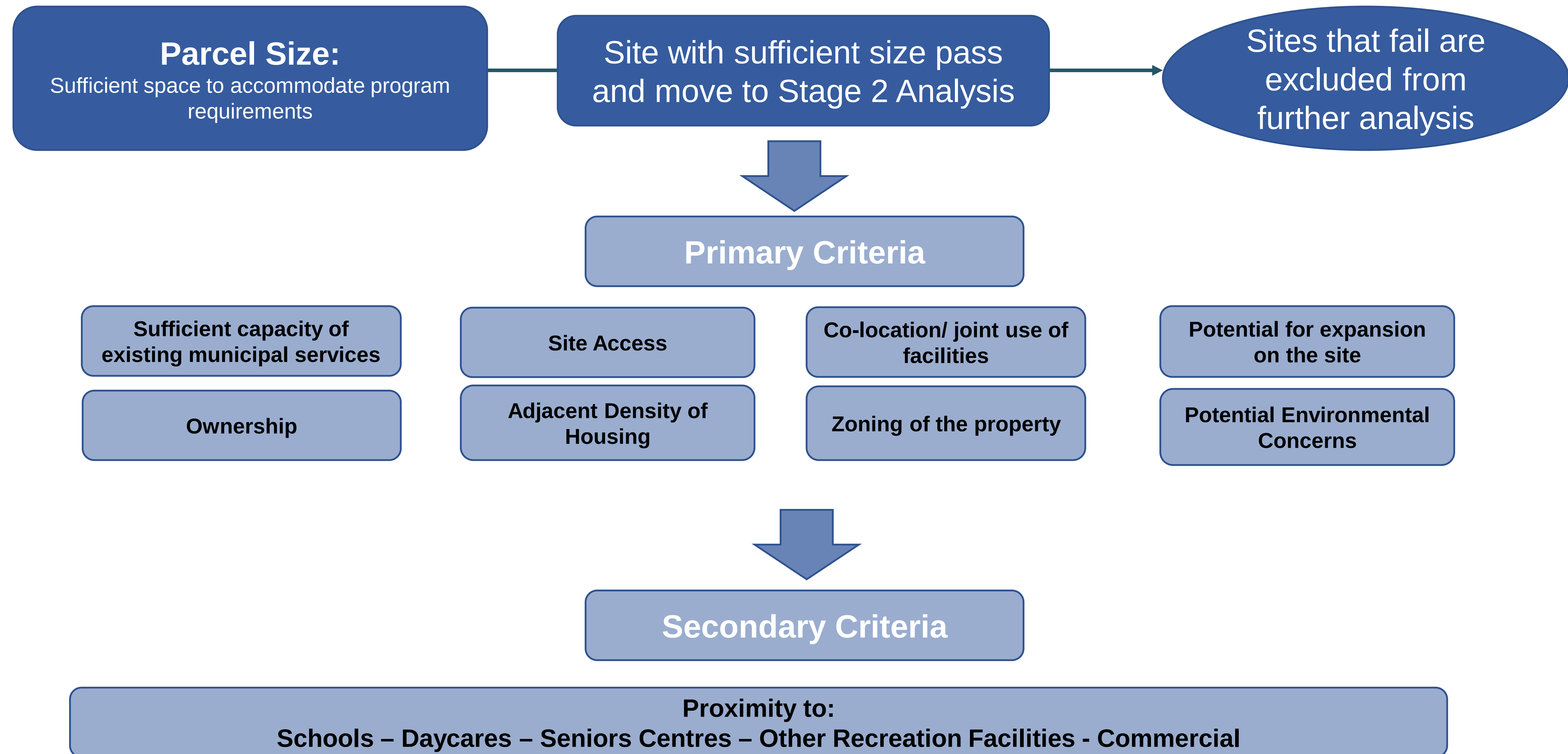


Question 12 d:

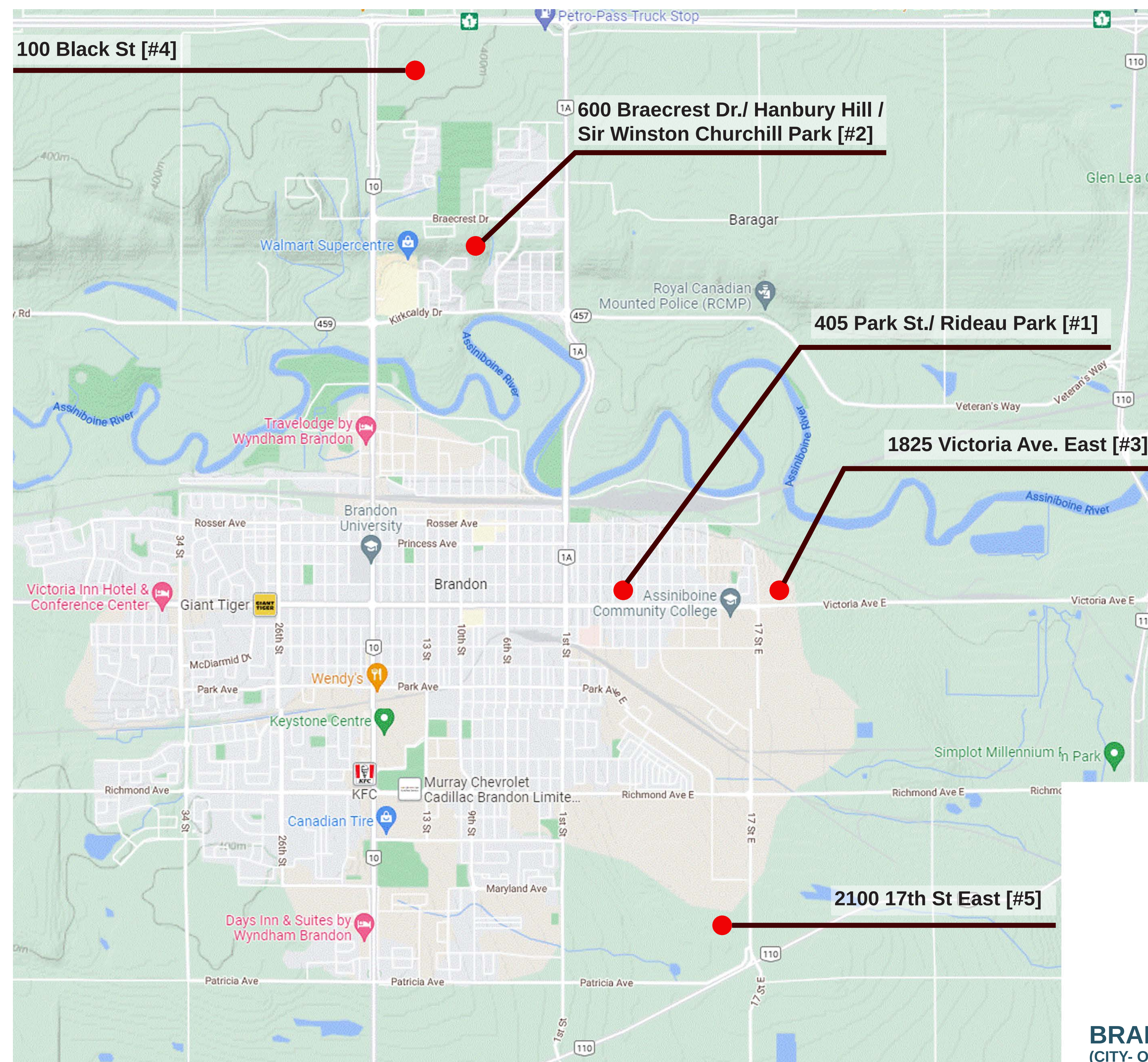
Do you have children (16 or under) living at home?



SITE RANKING & SITE SELECTION PROCESS



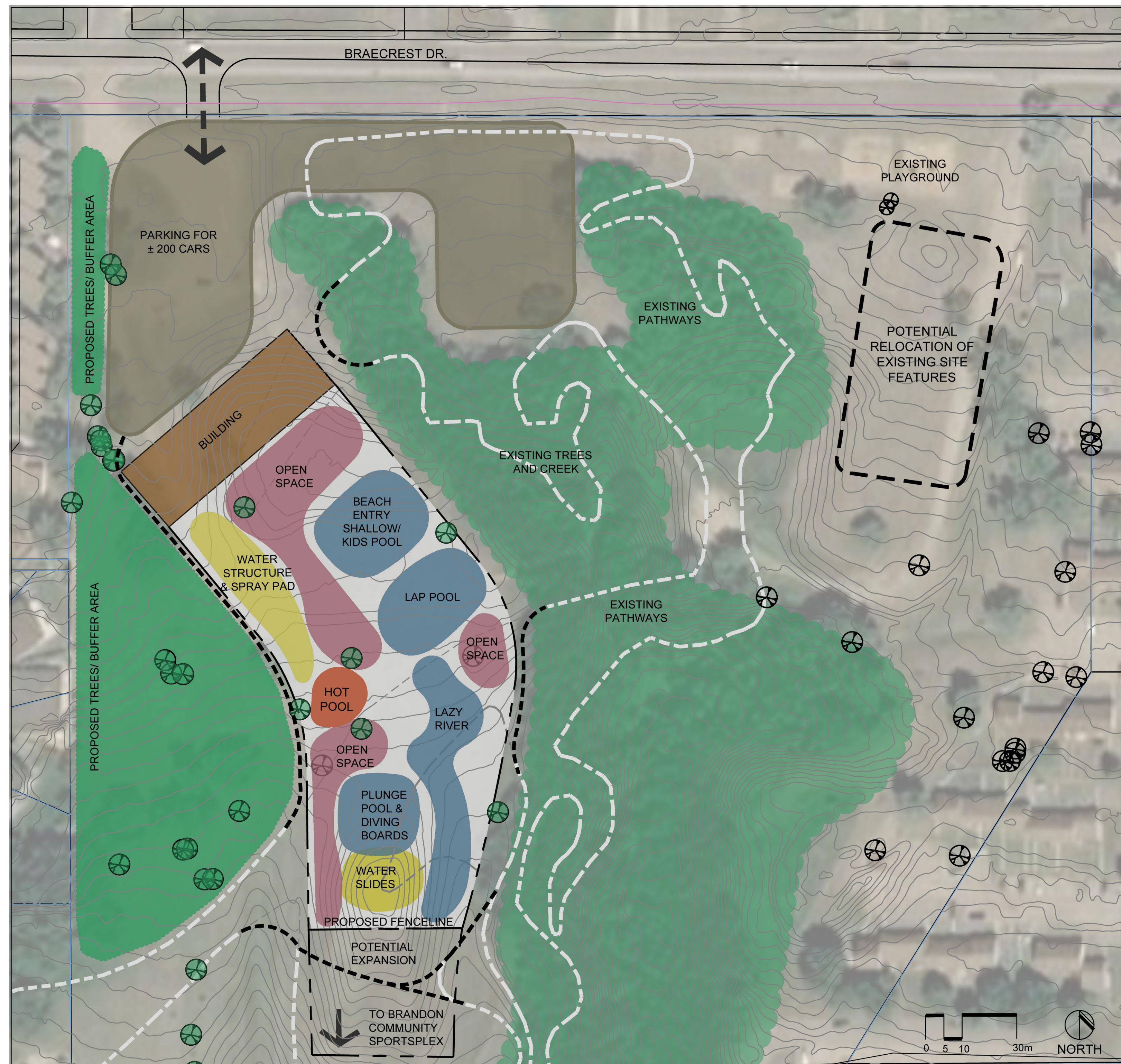
POTENTIAL SITES AND RANKING (CITY OWNED PROPERTIES)



BRANDON AQUATICS CENTRE
(CITY- OWNED SITES)

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT BUBBLE DIAGRAMS

600 BRAECREST DRIVE
(HANBURY HILL/ SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL PARK)



CONTEXT PLAN



Open Space



Lazy River



Spray Pad



Water Slides



Hot Pool



Shallow Kiddie Pool



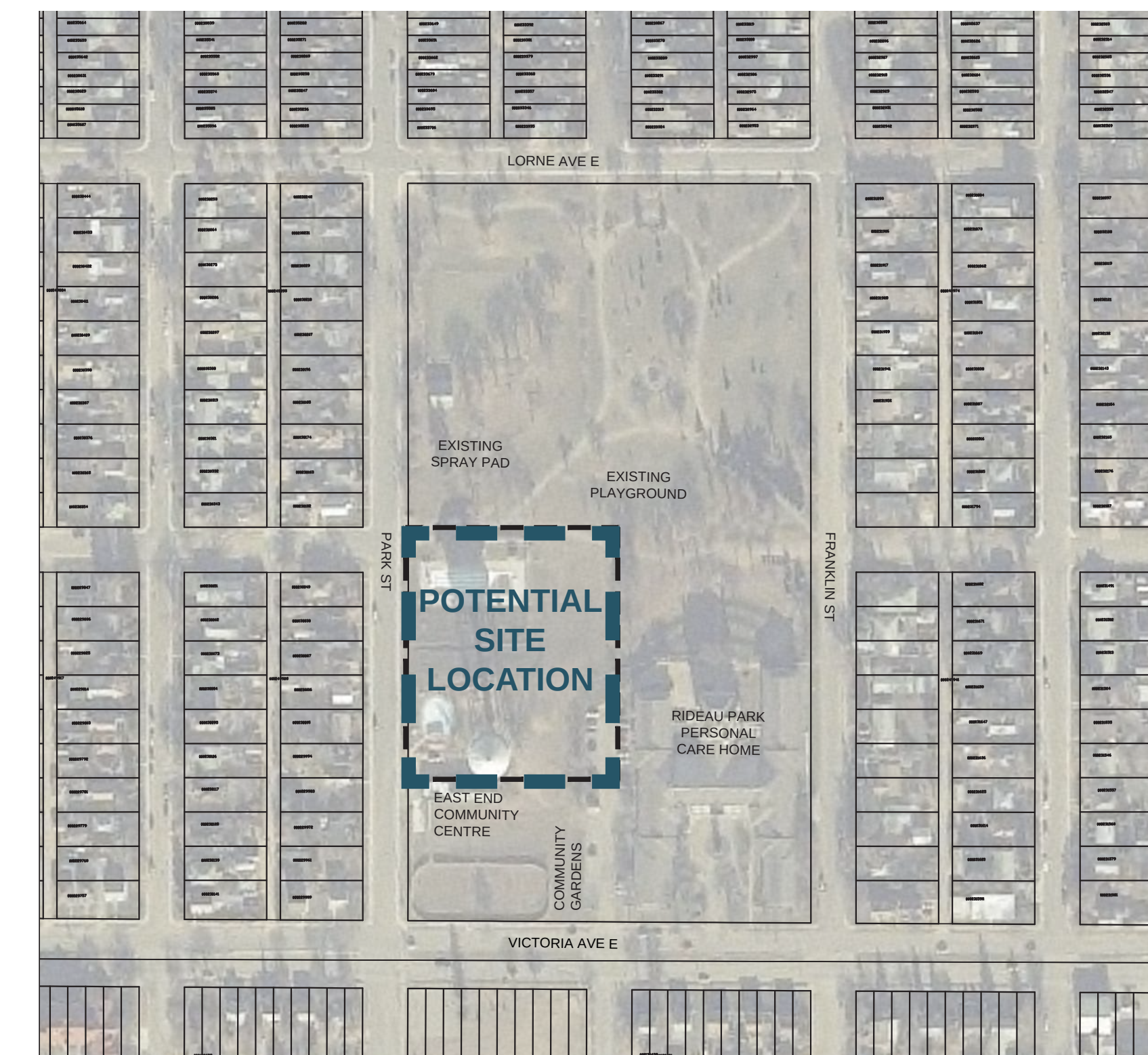
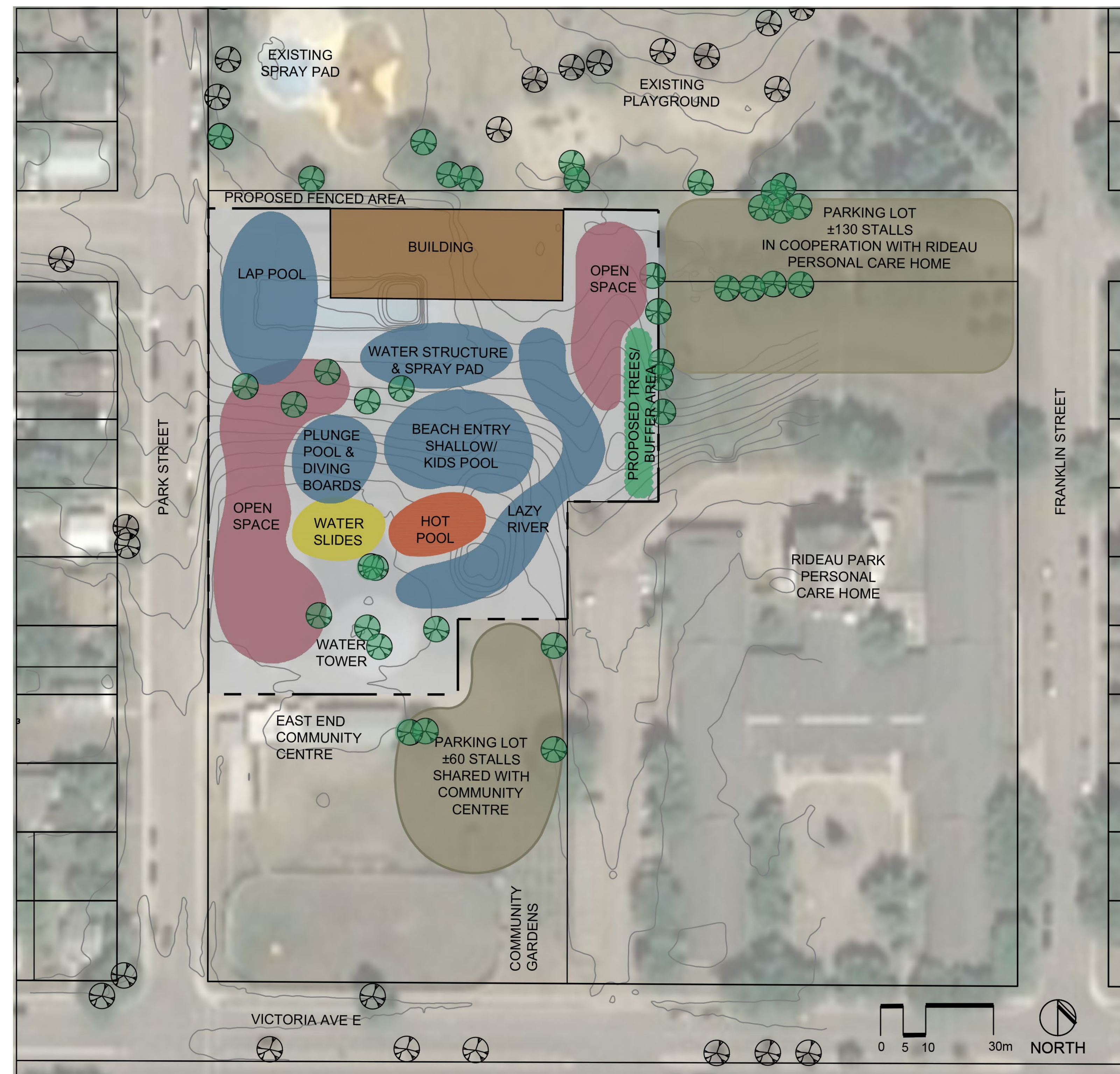
Lap Pool



Diving Boards

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT BUBBLE DIAGRAMS

405 PARK STREET (RIDEAU PARK)



CONTEXT PLAN



Open Space



Lazy River



Spray Pad



Water Slides



Hot Pool



Shallow Kiddie Pool

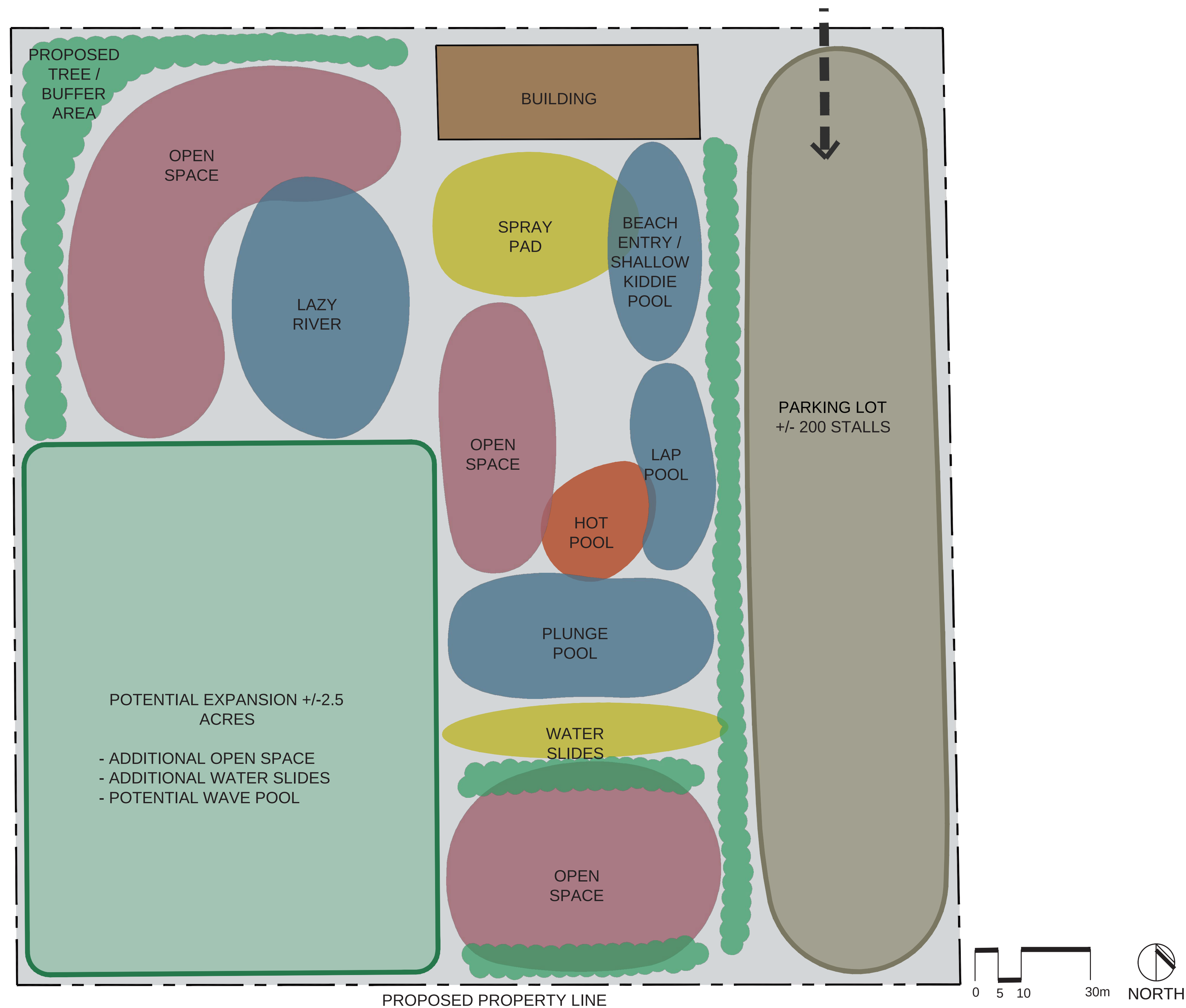


Lap Pool



Diving Boards

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT BUBBLE DIAGRAMS



Open Space



Lazy River



Spray Pad



Hot Pool



Shallow Kiddie Pool



Lap Pool



Plunge Pool



Water Slides

COMPARABLE FACILITIES



Henderson Outdoor Pool | Lethbridge, AB



FACILITY	CAPACITY	TOTAL AREA	TOP RANKEDAQUATICAMENTIES			
			1. BEACH ENTRY	2.WATER SLIDES	3. LAZY RIVER	4.SHALLOW/ SOCIAL POOL
Henderson Outdoor Pool Lethbridge, AB	1,250	+/-14,690 sm (3.63 ac)	✓	✓	✗	✗
St. Louis Park Aquatic Centre St. Louis, MN	1,000	+/- 30,194 sm (7.46 ac)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Aldergrove Credit Union Community Centre Langly, BC	600	+/-12, 626.20 sm (3.12 ac)	✓	✓	✓	✓



St. Louis Park Aquatic Centre | St. Louis Park, MN



FACILITY	CAPACITY	TOTAL AREA	TOP RANKED FACILITYAMENTIES			
			1. SHADED PICNIC AREA	2.CONCESSION	3. LOUNGE CHAIRS	4.OUTDOOR LOCKERS
Henderson Outdoor Pool Lethbridge, AB	1,250	+/-14,690 sm (3.63 ac)	✓	✓	✗	✗
St. Louis Park Aquatic Centre St. Louis, MN	1,000	+/- 30,194 sm (7.46 ac)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Aldergrove Credit Union Community Centre Langly, BC	600	+/-12, 626.20 sm (3.12 ac)	✓	✓	✓	✗



Aldergrove Otter Co-op Outdoor Experience | Aldergrove, BC



FACILITY	CAPACITY	TOTAL AREA	TOP RANKED PROGRAMMING		
			1. PUBLIC SWIM	2. SWIMMING LESSONS	3. FAMILY SWIM TIME
Henderson Outdoor Pool Lethbridge, AB	1,250	+/-14,690 sm (3.63 ac)	✓	✓	✗
St. Louis Park Aquatic Centre St. Louis, MN	1,000	+/- 30,194 sm (7.46 ac)	✓	✓	✗
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COMPARABLE FACILITIES



Winkler Aquatic Centre | Winkler, MB



FACILITY	CAPACITY	TOTAL AREA	TOP RANKED AQUATIC AMENITIES			
			1. BEACH ENTRY	2. WATER SLIDES	3. LAZY RIVER	4. SHALLOW/ SOCIAL POOL
Winkler Aquatic Centre Winkler, MB	500	+/- 12,626 sm (3.12 ac)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Splash Island Portage La Prairie, MB	460	+/- 8,093.70 sm (2 ac)	✓	✓	✓	✗
Colby Aquatic Centre Colby, KS	400	+/- 14, 811.50 sm (3.66 ac)	✓	✓	✓	✗



Splash Island Waterpark | Portage la Prairie, MB



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Colby Aquatic Centre Colby, KS	400	+/- 14, 811.50 sm (3.66 ac)	✓	✓	✓	✗



Colby Aquatic Centre | Colby, KS



FACILITY	CAPACITY	TOTAL AREA	TOP RANKED PROGRAMMING		
			1. PUBLIC SWIM	2. SWIMMING LESSONS	3. FAMILY SWIM TIME
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PRELIMINARY BUILDING CONCEPT

OUTDOOR AQUATIC AREA



Concept rendering for a proposed aquatic facility building based on the requirements for a 600 person capacity. Final design of the building will vary based on final site selection and amenities

PRELIMINARY BUILDING CONCEPT



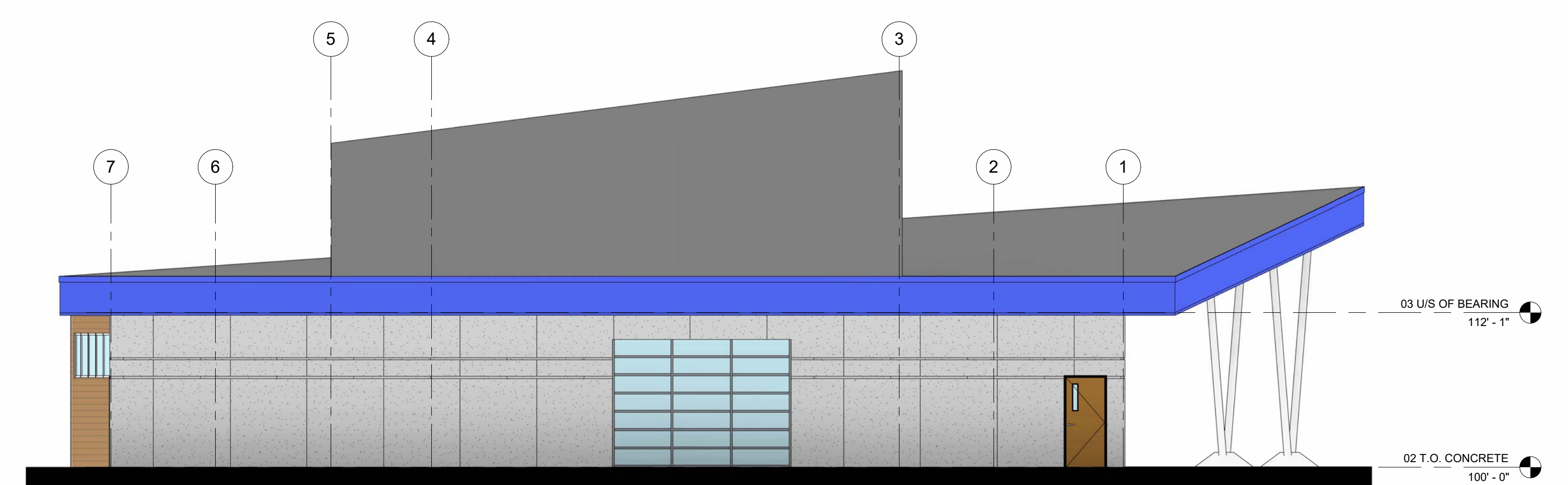
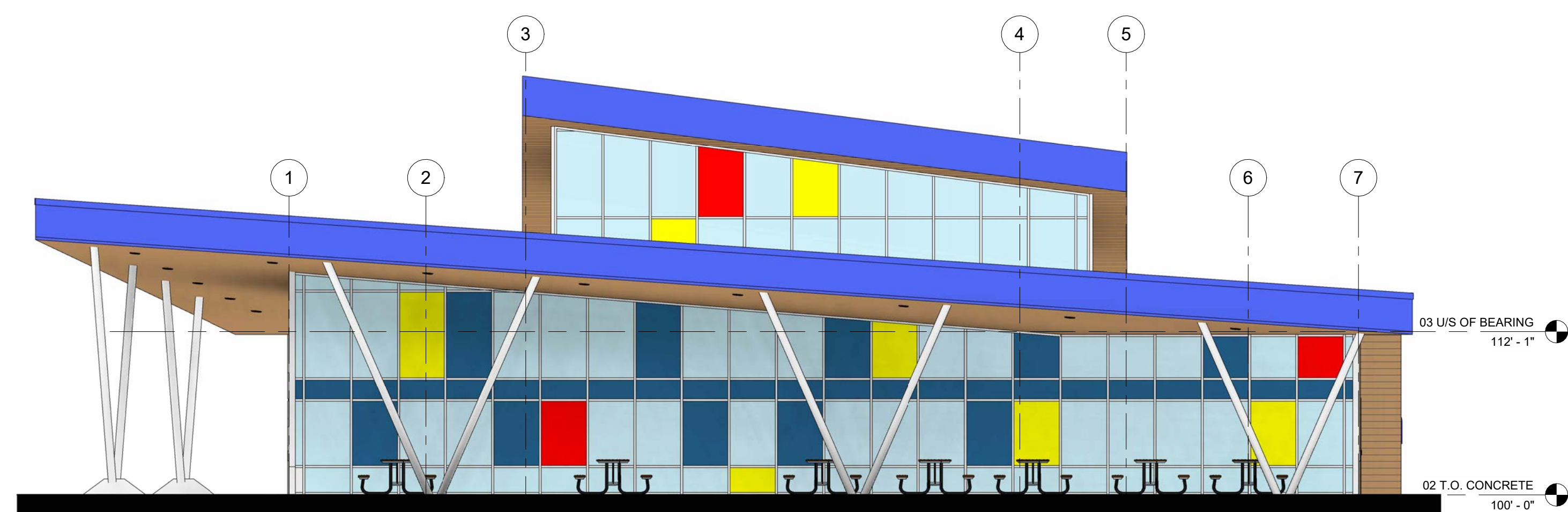
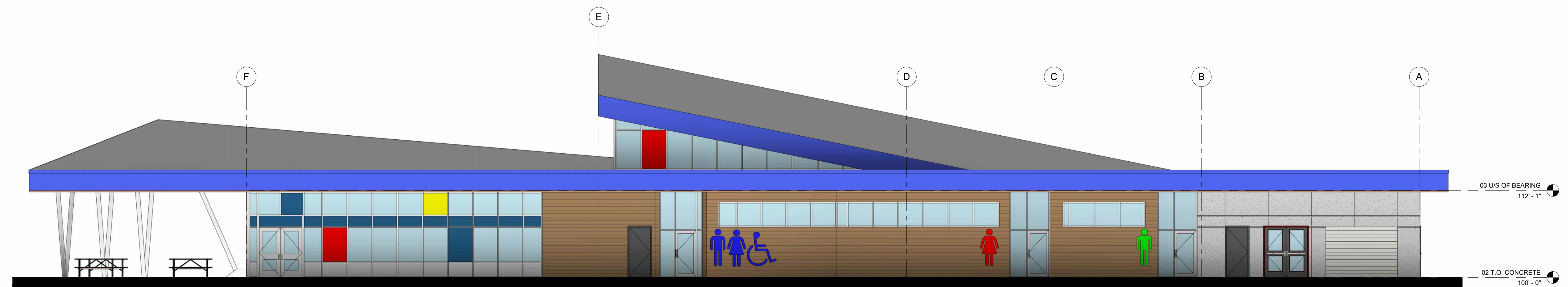
Concept rendering for a proposed aquatic facility building based on the requirements for a 600 person capacity. Final design of the building will vary based on final site selection and amenities

ALTERNATE BUILDING CONCEPT

OUTDOOR AQUATIC AREA



ALTERNATE BUILDING CONCEPT

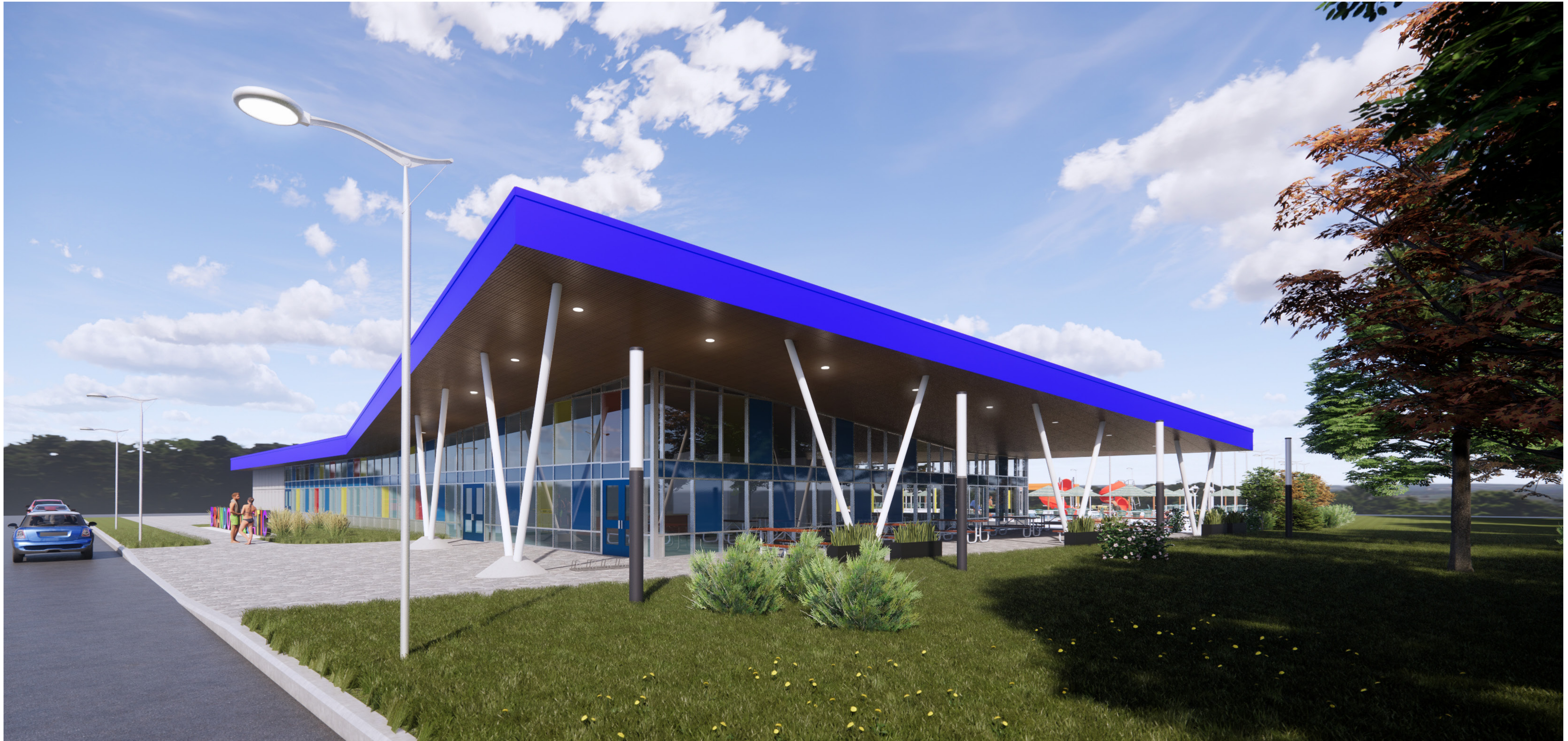


ALTERNATE BUILDING CONCEPT



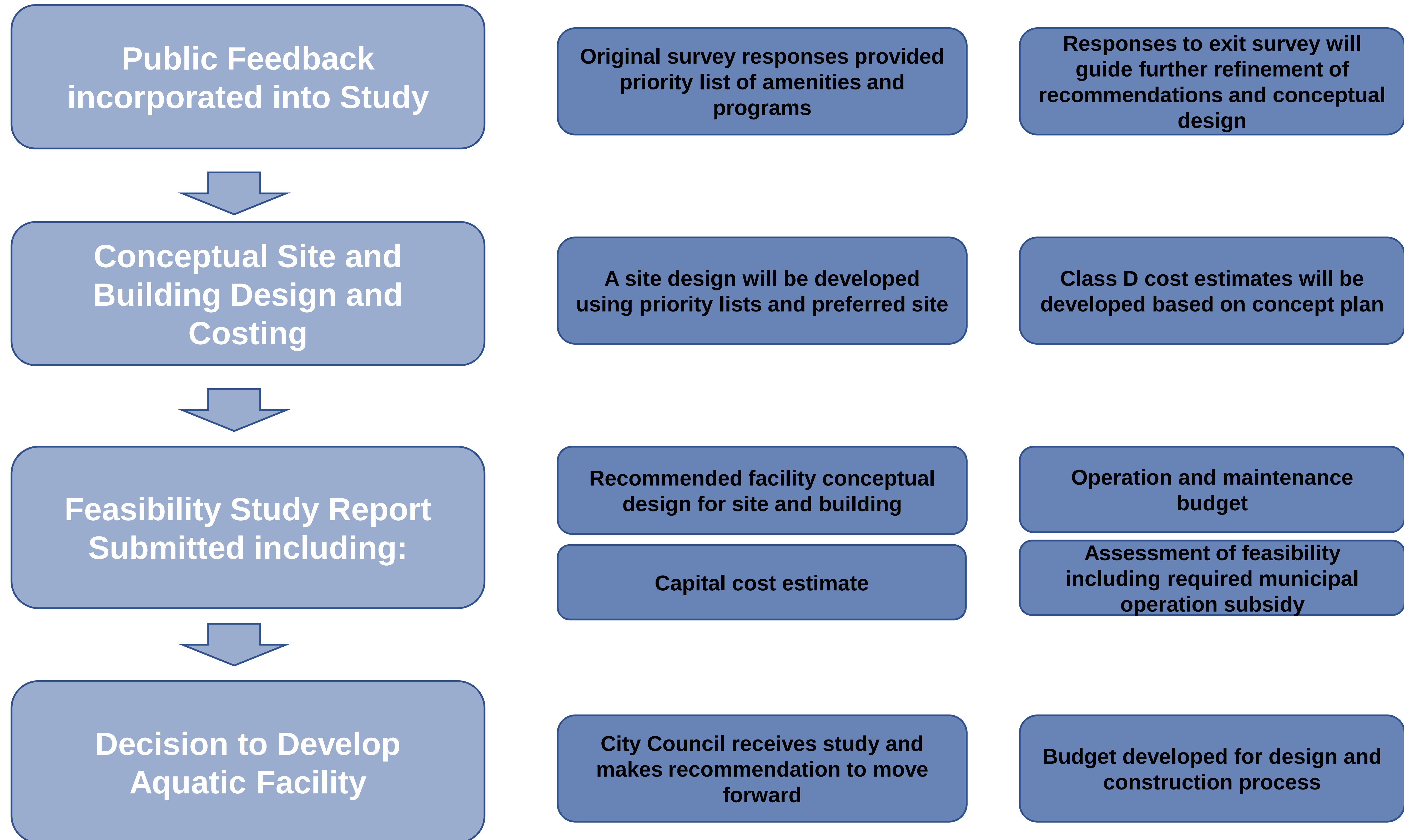
Concept rendering for a proposed aquatic facility building based on the requirements for a 600 person capacity. Final design of the building will vary based on final site selection and amenities

ALTERNATE BUILDING CONCEPT



Concept rendering for a proposed aquatic facility building based on the requirements for a 600 person capacity. Final design of the building will vary based on final site selection and amenities

NEXT STEPS



Please fill out an exit survey or scan the QR code to fill out online so that we can document your feedback

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NMQ95PW>





CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:

OUTDOOR AQUATIC FACILITY

PRESENTER:

Heather Reimer

DEPARTMENT:

Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:

11/28/2025

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

Kyle Winters

Todd Burton General Manager

Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the report and presentation outlining three viable site options for a new outdoor aquatic facility be received;

And further, that the project be forwarded to 2026 budget deliberations with design work added to the 2026 capital budget for \$551,000, and construction added to the 2027 capital budget for \$5,510,000;

And further, that administration be authorized to finalize site selection based on operational feasibility, cost efficiency, and alignment with community needs.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the July 21, 2025 Council resolution, Parks & Recreation Services, in collaboration with Engineering and industry experts, has developed a revised proposal, including several options for a new Outdoor Aquatics Facility that take into account Council's request of:

- Maximum budget of \$4,500,000
- Maximum of 5,000 square feet, with a 250-300 person bather load.
- Zero-depth beach entry to make the pool accessible to everyone.
- Four-lane Junior Olympic Lap Pool.
- Three waterslides
- Diving board
- Various spray features
- Lazy river
- New building/change house area

This proposal addresses the urgent need for outdoor aquatic infrastructure in Brandon, following the closure of Keystone pool, and the aging condition of the Kinsmen Pool.

ANALYSIS:

Three potential sites were evaluated for a future outdoor aquatic facility of this size. Each facility features a different layout and size for the purpose of showcasing options. Rideau Park has the greatest limitations, while the Keystone Centre and Kin Park easily interchange designs.

Site 1: Rideau Park – Existing outdoor pool location**Estimated Cost - \$5,027,000**

Conceptual design features: Leisure pool, tot pool, lazy river, lap pool, diving board and slides

Bather load: 265

Pros: City owned land, central location, existing infrastructure

Cons: Requires demolition, restricted layout based on available land, possible loss of any outdoor pool availability in the year of construction.

Site 2: Keystone Centre**Estimated Cost - \$5,159,000 - \$6,061,000**

Conceptual Design Features: Multi-basin layout, lazy river, ramp entry, lap pool, slide.

Concept for Site 3 is also possible at this location.

Bather load: 299 - 434

Pros: Central location, high traffic, existing parking available.

Unknowns: Land use agreement would require negotiations.

Site 3: Kin Park**Estimated Cost - \$4,257,000**

Conceptual Design Features: Leisure pool, toto pool, lazy river, lap pool with diving boards, one slide.

Bather Load: 299

Pros: City owned land, current recreation hub, provides a new recreation amenity in a growth area.

Cons: Low visibility, limited parking options.

If approved for funding in the 2026 and 2027 capital year, the tentative project schedule would be as follows:

- 2026 – Design
- 2027 – Construction
- 2028 - Operational

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

The development of a new outdoor aquatic facility must comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, and federal regulations. Key legislative requirements include:

and federal regulations. Key legislative requirements include:

- Manitoba Building Code and Accessibility Standards
- Public Health Act
- Compliance with City of Brandon Zoning By-law

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

The 2023-2026 City of Brandon Strategic Plan.

Strategy #9, Developing a long-term plan for an outdoor aquatic park.

The 2019 Recreation and Community Facilities Master Plan:

Renewing Facilities & Planning for the Future: Outdoor Aquatics Complex.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The estimated capital cost for the project ranges from \$4,257,000 to \$6,061,000, depending on the selected site and design option.

If approved funding using a debenture would be needed, with potential for provincial or municipal grants to offset expenditures.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

Financial Risk

- With the build proposed in 2027, inflation, supply chain issues, or unforeseen site conditions could increase costs.
- Funding uncertainty. Reliance on external grants or sponsorships may not materialize, requiring full municipal funding.

Scheduling Risk

- Construction delays can occur due to weather conditions, contractor availability, and material shortages.
- Site selection delays can occur based on the potential requirement for a land use agreement.

Level of Service Risk

- The existing outdoor pool is in very poor condition, and delaying a new build could put the City at risk of having no functional outdoor pool.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

Public consultation was conducted as part of the 2023 feasibility study. Further engagement may be limited to project updates and site-specific considerations. Messaging will emphasize cost-efficiency and urgency of a new facility build.

CONCLUSION:

This report presents three viable site options, each capable of delivering the features outlined in Council's July 2025 resolution. Administration recommends that Council approve the inclusion of this project in the

2026 and 2027 Capital Budgets, direct staff to finalize site selection, and proceed with issuing Requests for Proposals for design and construction.

By moving forward now, Council will ensure that Brandon residents have access to safe, modern, and enjoyable outdoor aquatic recreation for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities (Manitoba GRO) for municipalities program?

Originally introduced in 2024 as a one-time initiative, the Manitoba GRO program was designed to support critical infrastructure projects for municipalities outside Winnipeg.

Why is Manitoba GRO being renewed in 2026?

Due to strong demand and demonstrated municipal need, Manitoba GRO is being renewed in 2026 to provide continued support in addressing critical infrastructure needs.

Is Manitoba GRO still application-based?

Yes, Manitoba GRO remains application-based.

Application Process

What is the process for submitting an application?

Applications must be submitted through the Manitoba GRO online portal:

<https://forms.gov.mb.ca/manitoba-gro/>. Each application must include a copy of a formal resolution passed by the municipality's council that identifies and approves the proposed project under Manitoba GRO, and confirms the availability of all other funding sources.

All applications must be submitted by **October 23, 2026**. After this date, the application online portal will be automatically deactivated, and no further submissions will be accepted.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Can municipalities revise their applications after submission?

After submission, applicants should contact **mfpp@gov.mb.ca** to request changes.

Application Limits

How many applications can a municipality submit under the investment categories?

Municipalities may submit a maximum of one application under any of the investment categories.

How do joint applications affect the application limit for municipalities?

Municipalities may submit a joint application in addition to their individual application.

Project Eligibility

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

Funding is available only for infrastructure that is owned and maintained by the municipality. Eligible projects must fall within the investment categories of Manitoba GRO.

Are there any ineligible project types or costs?

Yes, projects related to water and wastewater infrastructure are not eligible for funding under Manitoba GRO. A list of additional eligible and ineligible projects and costs is provided in Appendix A and B of the Manitoba GRO program guide.

Funding

What is the maximum funding available for projects under Manitoba GRO?

Manitoba GRO will fund up to 50% of total eligible project costs, up to a maximum provincial contribution of \$5 million. Applicants are responsible for securing the remaining project funding from other sources.

How is funding allocated for joint applications under Manitoba GRO?

The same funding rule applies. Manitoba GRO will fund up to 50% of total eligible project costs, up to a maximum provincial contribution of \$5 million. The primary applicant is responsible for leading the submission and securing the remaining project funding from other sources.

Is Manitoba GRO funding stackable with other funding sources (e.g. federal, provincial and municipal)?

Municipalities will **not** be able to stack provincial funding with other existing provincial funding. Municipalities are responsible for considering funding and stacking limits of other programs that may apply to the project.

Consideration may be given to existing projects that are entering an explicitly new phase of an existing project. The applicant must disclose previous project funding and identify the new phase of the project to be considered for funding.

Project Selection and Approval

How are projects selected for funding?

Projects will be evaluated based on a set of criteria that include project readiness, strategic planning, regulatory compliance, regional benefits, leveraged funding, and alignment with themes. Additional consideration may be given to municipalities that did not receive program funding in the previous year.

When will municipalities be notified of funding decisions?

All applicants will be notified of funding decisions through formal correspondence following the completion of the evaluation process.

Are there additional terms and conditions for project contribution agreements?

Yes, individual project contribution agreements may outline additional terms and conditions, including specific lists of eligible and ineligible costs.



Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for Municipalities

Program Guide
2026

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1. Manitoba Growth, Renewal, and Opportunities Program Overview

The Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for municipalities (Manitoba GRO) continues to provide critical infrastructure funding for municipalities outside Winnipeg. Manitoba GRO remains application-based and guided by the investment themes of Renewal, Innovation, and Climate Resiliency.

- **Renewal** – To renew, renovate, expand, or replace existing infrastructure beyond its current service life
- **Innovation** – To build or enhance capital infrastructure that better responds to current and anticipated future needs, and utilize proven technology to increase efficiency and effectiveness
- **Climate Resiliency** – To build infrastructure to withstand or mitigate the effects of climate change, including severe weather events

Manitoba GRO is intended to align with municipal planning, design, and engineering efforts under a wide range of core infrastructure needs. Advancement of such projects will help municipalities address key capital projects that advance strategic planning including asset management to support growing and sustainable communities.

2. Project Eligibility

2.1 Eligible Recipients

All incorporated Manitoba municipalities outside the City of Winnipeg are eligible for Manitoba GRO funding.

Ineligible applicants include for-profit corporations, not-for-profit organizations, First Nations, Northern Affairs communities, and individuals. Other funding mechanisms exist for these entities, while municipal infrastructure in Manitoba is owned and operated by local governments.

2.2 Eligible Investment Categories

Manitoba GRO aims to provide targeted funding to advance municipally owned infrastructure projects under the following investment categories:

- A. Public Safety** – projects that support or build a safe and climate resilient environment
 - Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Climate Resiliency
 - Fire Stations and Major Equipment
- B. Roads, Bridges and Active Transportation** – projects that connect people and communities, and enhance the movement of goods, products, and services across municipalities

- C. **Community Infrastructure** – infrastructure projects that will directly serve the health and wellbeing of the community.
- D. **Multi-modal Transportation** – projects such as airports, bus and other ground transportation hubs to support the movement of goods, products and people
- E. **Solid Waste Management and Organic Diversion** – projects that improve waste management and waste reduction to enhance environmental sustainability, including the effective diversion of organic materials and recyclable materials

Ineligible Projects

Water and wastewater projects are ineligible under Manitoba GRO. The [Manitoba Water Services Board](#) (MWSB) provides funding support for municipal water and sewer initiatives. Municipalities are encouraged to apply directly to the MWSB for funding.

Projects involving **infrastructure not owned by the municipality are not eligible** for funding support under Manitoba GRO. A comprehensive listing of sample eligible projects under each of the above categories is listed under **Appendix A**.

3. Project Costs

3.1 Provincial Contribution

The maximum provincial cost share that Manitoba GRO may contribute toward a project is **50%** of the total eligible project cost, up to a maximum of \$5 million per project.

Contribution Stacking Limits

Municipalities will not be able to stack provincial funding with other existing provincial funding. Municipalities are responsible for considering funding and stacking limits of other programs that may apply to the project.

Consideration may be given to existing projects that are entering an explicitly new phase of an existing project. The applicant must disclose previous project funding and identify the new phase of the project to be considered for funding.

3.2 Budgeting for Project Expenses

Municipalities are expected to:

- Demonstrate their commitment towards the delivery and completion of the project through cost-shared funding.
- Provide a financial commitment towards the project of **up to 50%** of total eligible project costs. Applicants are responsible for securing the remaining project funding

through direct municipal commitments and other sources secured by the municipality when total eligible project cost exceeds \$10 million.

- Secure leveraged funding, where possible, from external and other sources such as federal contributions, partner municipalities, and private sources to support total project costs, complement provincial or municipal contributions, and ensure project success.

Eligible project costs include expenses directly related to and incurred during the actual work on a project. A list of eligible and ineligible costs is provided under **Appendix B**. Please note that terms and conditions under individual project contribution agreements may list additional eligible and ineligible costs.

4. How to Apply

Manitoba GRO Program Guide and Manitoba GRO Frequently Asked Questions are available on [Manitoba Municipalities Online](#) (MMO) to assist you through the application process. We encourage all applicants to review the program guide before beginning their submission.

4.1 Application Process

To apply, please complete the electronic application form through the Manitoba GRO online portal: <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/manitoba-gro/>

Before beginning your application, please note the following:

- **The application must be completed in one session. It cannot be saved and resumed later, so please ensure you have all necessary information and documents ready before starting.**

All submissions must include a formal resolution passed by the municipality's council that identifies and approves the proposed project(s) under Manitoba GRO and confirms the availability of all other funding sources as outlined in the submitted application.

If you have any issues submitting your application through the Manitoba GRO online link, please reach out to mfpp@gov.mb.ca for assistance.

4.2 Application Limits

Municipalities may submit a maximum of **one application** under any of the five investment categories.

If a municipality applied during the 2024/25 or 2025/26 Manitoba GRO intake but did not receive funding, they may submit an application for the same project. Information from the previous application can be used, but municipalities must ensure that project information is accurate, up to date, and include a current council resolution.

Joint Applications

Projects demonstrating significant regional benefit and/or benefits to more than one municipality are highly encouraged and will be reflected in program evaluation criteria. As such, Manitoba GRO encourages the submission of joint applications.

Municipalities may submit a joint application in addition to their individual application. Issuing a letter in support of another municipality's project **will not** count towards the one application limit. Please note that joint applications must identify which municipality will be the funding recipient and enter into a contribution agreement if their project is selected.

4.3 Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted by **October 23, 2026**. After this date, the application online portal will be automatically deactivated, and no further submissions will be accepted.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

5. Evaluation Process and Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against key criteria and assessed to maximize available funding under Manitoba GRO. Additional consideration may be given to municipalities that did not receive funding in the previous year, as well as those with lower financial capacity. Financial capacity may be assessed using indicators such as the municipality's property assessment base. The evaluation team will include Municipal and Northern Relations program staff, with consultation from other departments for technical and subject matter expertise (including Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change, and Office of the Fire Commissioner). Projects must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including federal, provincial, and municipal policies and regulations.

All complete and eligible project applications will be evaluated on their own merit based on the following criteria:

- **Project readiness:** Municipalities must demonstrate the capacity to initiate, implement, and substantially complete their project within three (3) years from the date of signing the agreement. Applications should outline specific activities, realistic and clearly defined timelines (e.g. project start and end dates), and measurable milestones to track progress and ensure accountability.
- **Strategic planning:** Project addresses or is aligned with municipal strategic plans, such as an asset management plan, local development plan, regional plan, master transit plan, active transportation plan, climate change and resiliency plan, fire prevention plan, water management plan, other strategic plans, and/or work undertaken by Planning Districts and Watershed Districts, etc. Applications are expected to demonstrate how the project aligns with existing plans and priorities.

- **Regulatory compliance:** The project must comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws, regulations, and policies. Applications should clearly demonstrate alignment with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
- **Regional benefits:** Projects that serve a region (i.e. more than one municipality and multiple communities) and/or involve partner municipalities to achieve regional benefits are strongly encouraged. Municipalities are also encouraged to indicate in their application their commitment to service delivery in both official languages and communications with the public or how their initiative supports the advancement of any other Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities Municipal Maturity Model (3M) activities within their community as it relates to their capital project (e.g. signage), where applicable.
- **Leveraged funding:** Municipalities must present a realistic budget that reflects the full scope of the project, supported by detailed cost estimates and assessments, and a municipal contribution of up to 50% of eligible total project costs. Where possible, municipalities should leverage funding from additional sources, such as federal grants (e.g. Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada Community-Building Fund), private investments, or from other partners (e.g. municipal partnership contributions). In cases where financial capacity is demonstrably limited through assessment data, additional consideration may be given.
- **Key outcomes:** Projects must align with Manitoba GRO's investment themes of Renewal, Climate Resiliency, and Innovation, and have clear outcomes that are consistent with Manitoba GRO's investment categories. For example:
 - Project addresses climate resiliency such as reducing Green House Gas emissions, preventing disasters, mitigating impacts; and/or innovation that involves employing new designs, technology, and systems to increase the resiliency of communities, economics, and ecosystems.

Municipalities who choose to apply using the same project as identified during the previous intake must complete this year's e-form application. While municipalities may complete the e-form using the same information provided in last year's application, it is highly encouraged that municipalities identify any changes or progress made on their project since the previous year (if any).

6. Approvals and Reporting Requirements

- **Notification:** All applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will be notified of the outcome of their application through formal correspondence.
- **Advanced funding:** Successful applicants will receive advanced provincial funding for approved eligible projects costs on or before March 31, 2026 once a project contribution agreement has been signed by both the municipality and the Government of Manitoba.

The contribution agreement will set out the terms and conditions of the funding, including reporting requirements and a requirement that funds be held in a segregated, interest-bearing account until required to cover approved eligible project costs. Any interest earned over the term of the agreement shall form part of the provincial contribution and must be reported in annual financial reporting.

- **Project completion timeline:** Approved projects must be substantially completed within three (3) years. Provincial funds not used prior by the end of the three-year period must be returned to the Government of Manitoba, or if agreement conditions are not adhered to by the recipient municipality.
- **Reporting:** Municipalities will be required to report annually on the progress of the project, including objectives, activities, milestones achieved, and outcomes. A financial report will be submitted with each annual report, until funds are fully expended, along with a reconciliation of funding upon project completion.
- **Project cost overruns:** Should an approved project incur cost overruns, these costs shall be borne by the municipality and other project partners; no additional Manitoba GRO funding will be available.

7. Additional Information

7.1 Supporting Documents

Municipalities are encouraged to include relevant supporting documents to strengthen their application. These may include:

- **Letters of Support:** Endorsements from partner municipalities, communities, and other groups/stakeholders demonstrating collaboration.
- **Reports and Assessments:** Completed engineering reports, feasibility studies, or condition assessments that establish the critical need for the project and its readiness for implementation.
- **Other Documentation:** Cost estimates, procurement plans, consultations, etc.

7.2 Contact Information

Should you require additional information or have any questions about Manitoba GRO, please contact the Municipal Funding Policy and Programs Branch of Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations at MFPP@gov.mb.ca.

APPENDIX A: Manitoba GRO Investment Categories

1. Public Safety

A. Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Climate Resiliency

Projects that result in the construction, material enhancement or renewal of infrastructure that reduces or eliminates long-term impacts and risks associated with natural disasters.

Eligible projects under this category include (but are not limited to):

- Building drains, dams and dikes to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Restoring wetlands and other natural infrastructure to reduce the risk of drought.
- Constructing firebreaks to limit the spread of wildfires.
- Installing retaining walls, gabions, and revetments to control erosion.
- Increasing water permeable surfaces and capture structures like rain gardens or swales to control and reduce overland flooding.
- Upgrading municipally owned community facilities to provide shelter during extreme events (wind, heatwaves, smoke or evacuation).

B. Fire Stations

Projects that result in the construction, material enhancement or renewal of fire halls and fire station infrastructure.

Eligible projects under this category include (but are not limited to):

- Constructing a fire station.
- Renovating a fire station.
- Expanding a fire station.
- Fire trucks if the acquisition or replacement is to meet new safety standards or part of a broader project involving the construction, renovation, or expansion of a fire station.
- Construction of new water supply wells or securing of existing wells to shorten response times within municipalities.

2. Community Infrastructure

Projects that result in the construction, material enhancement or renewal of recreational infrastructure that provides significant community benefits, enhances public spaces, and promotes community wellbeing.

Eligible projects under this category include (but are not limited to):

- Large-scale construction, renovation, and expansion of multi-use recreation or sports centres, sports fields, amateur sports spaces, aquatic centres, swimming pools, and splash pads, construction of community health spaces, community halls, etc.
- Ineligible projects include:

Facilities whose primary function is as a place of assembly for religious purposes/worship (e.g. church, mosque, synagogue, temple, chapel, shrine etc.). Water and Wastewater projects are not eligible under Manitoba GRO.

3. Road, Bridges and Active Transportation

Projects that result in new road construction, expansion or major renewal and rehabilitation of roads, which extend the useful life of the road; replacement or major rehabilitation of municipal bridges; and construction of active transportation infrastructure.

Eligible projects under this category include (but are not limited to):

- Widening and resurfacing local roads.
- Replacing bridges and culverts.
- Installing active transportation infrastructure (e.g. municipally owned bike lanes, multi-use paths, and hiking trails).
- Installing sidewalks, street lights and traffic signals (if done at the same time as the road project).

Note: Routine maintenance and repairs to roads and bridges are **not eligible** under this category.

Municipalities may also apply for cost-shared funding for preliminary or detailed design/engineering for bridges. If municipalities have completed both of these required steps, they may apply for funding for bridge replacement or major rehabilitation work:

- **Preliminary Design / Engineering (including Environmental Assessments)** – municipalities may submit an application for preliminary design and engineering costs including environmental assessments with a quote for these services from a Professional Engineer (P. Eng.) registered or licensed to practice in Manitoba with the appropriate scope of practice in bridge engineering.
- **Detailed Design / Engineering** – municipalities may submit an application for detailed design and engineering costs with a quote for these services from a P. Eng. registered or licensed to practice in Manitoba with the appropriate scope of practice in bridge engineering. A copy of the preliminary design and engineering report for the proposed project, sealed by a P.Eng. must accompany this application.
- **Bridge Replacement / Major Rehabilitation (Design-Bid-Build Option)** – municipalities may submit an application for all construction costs for the project with a detailed cost estimate prepared by a P.Eng. registered or licensed to practice in Manitoba with the appropriate scope of practice in bridge engineering. A copy of the preliminary design and detail design report for the proposed project, sealed by a P.Eng. must accompany the application.
- **Bridge to Culvert Replacement (Design-Build Option)** – municipalities may submit an application for all detailed design and construction costs for the project with a detailed cost estimate prepared by a P.Eng. registered or licensed to practice

in Manitoba with the appropriate scope of practice in bridge engineering. A copy of the preliminary design and engineering report for the proposed project, sealed by a P.Eng. must accompany the application.

- **Bridge Rehabilitation (Design-Build Option)** – municipalities may submit an application for all detailed design and construction costs for the project with a detailed cost estimate prepared by a P.Eng. registered or licensed to practice in Manitoba with the appropriate scope of practice in bridge engineering. A copy of the structural engineering assessment report for the proposed project, sealed by a P.Eng. must accompany the application.

The following additional criteria may be used to evaluate and prioritize road or bridge applications:

- Current physical state of the road or bridge (closed, reduced weight restriction, etc.)
- Type and volume of traffic using the road or bridge
- Length of detour if the road or bridge is closed.
- Regional significance of the road with respect to commercial activity.
- Whether the road or bridge is the sole access point to a community.

4. Multi-modal Transportation

Projects that result in the construction, material enhancement or renewal of infrastructure that supports a shared passenger ground or air transport system that is available for public use.

Eligible projects under this category that aligns with a municipal public transit plan or determined through a study include (but are not limited to):

- Constructing designated public transportation surfaces, stations, stops and terminals.
- Renovating transportation maintenance facilities.
- Purchasing new zero or low emission public transit buses.
- Compliance with air transport regulation.
- Implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems.

5. Solid Waste Management and Organic Waste Diversion

Projects that result in the design, construction and/or modification of solid waste management facilities that also divert more material from landfills by using expansion to establish composting areas to divert waste and extend landfill life and support the effective diversion of organic and recyclable materials.

Eligible projects under this category include (but are not limited to):

- Landfill construction costs to resolve capacity challenges through expansion of composting capacity and organic waste diversion.
- Designing and constructing a materials recovery facility.
- Installing a leachate collection system and other environmental compliance features in a landfill.

- Regional landfill expansion with the above noted parameters.
- Feasibility studies to inform implementation of innovative organic waste diversion efforts in municipalities (e.g. waste to energy technology).

APPENDIX B: List of Eligible and Ineligible Costs

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs include the following types of costs incurred to implement the project:

- a) the capital costs of acquiring, renewing, renovating, expanding, upgrading, constructing, rehabilitating, improving, or replacing an asset;
- b) the costs related to surveying, engineering, design, supervision, testing, and management services, including fees paid to professionals, technical personnel, consultants and contractors;
- c) the costs related to insurance and bonding;
- d) the costs of installing signage for directional purposes, safety warnings, or regulatory compliance in both official languages; and
- e) the costs of environmental assessments as required by federal or provincial legislation.

INELIGIBLE COSTS

The following types of costs are ineligible costs:

- a) costs incurred prior to the date provided on the 2026/27 Manitoba GRO funding approval letter;
- b) costs incurred after the approved project completion date, unless completion date has been approved for extension;
- c) ongoing operating expenses or regularly scheduled maintenance work;
- d) purchase of tools and machinery to carry out the project;
- e) costs related to acquiring land, or leasing land, buildings and other facilities;
- f) financing charges, loan costs and loan interest payments;
- g) any overhead costs not related to the actual project, including salaries and other employment benefits of any employees of the municipality,
- h) taxes for which the municipality is eligible for a tax rebate and all other costs eligible for rebates.

Note: *Please be advised that terms and conditions under individual project contribution agreements may list additional eligible and ineligible costs.*

Outdoor Aquatic Facility Proposal

January 26, 2026

Background

On December 8th, 2025 Administration provided a report to Council on conceptual designs and potential locations for an outdoor pool. Following a request from Council to explore a new build based on the age and poor condition of the existing facility at Rideau Park.

Potential locations explored for a new build included; Rideau Park, Kin Park, and the Keystone Centre.

Options ranged in cost from \$4,257,000 with a 299 person bather load, to \$6,061 with a 568 person bather load

All options included a new changeroom building and parking lot.

Council requested further information on potential cost savings of removing the lap pool.

Proposed Location and Layout



Keystone Centre Grounds



Multi-basin layout, lazy river, ramp entry lap pool



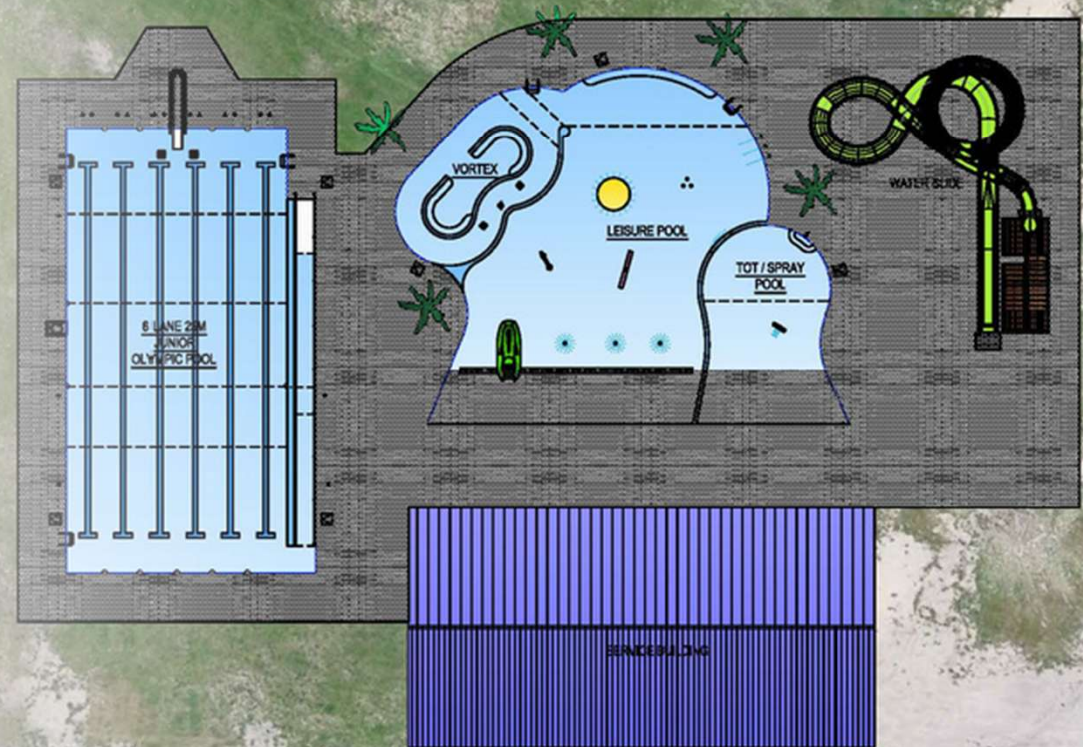
Bather Load: 434



Budget: \$5,159,000



*Land use agreement would be required



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SP-1

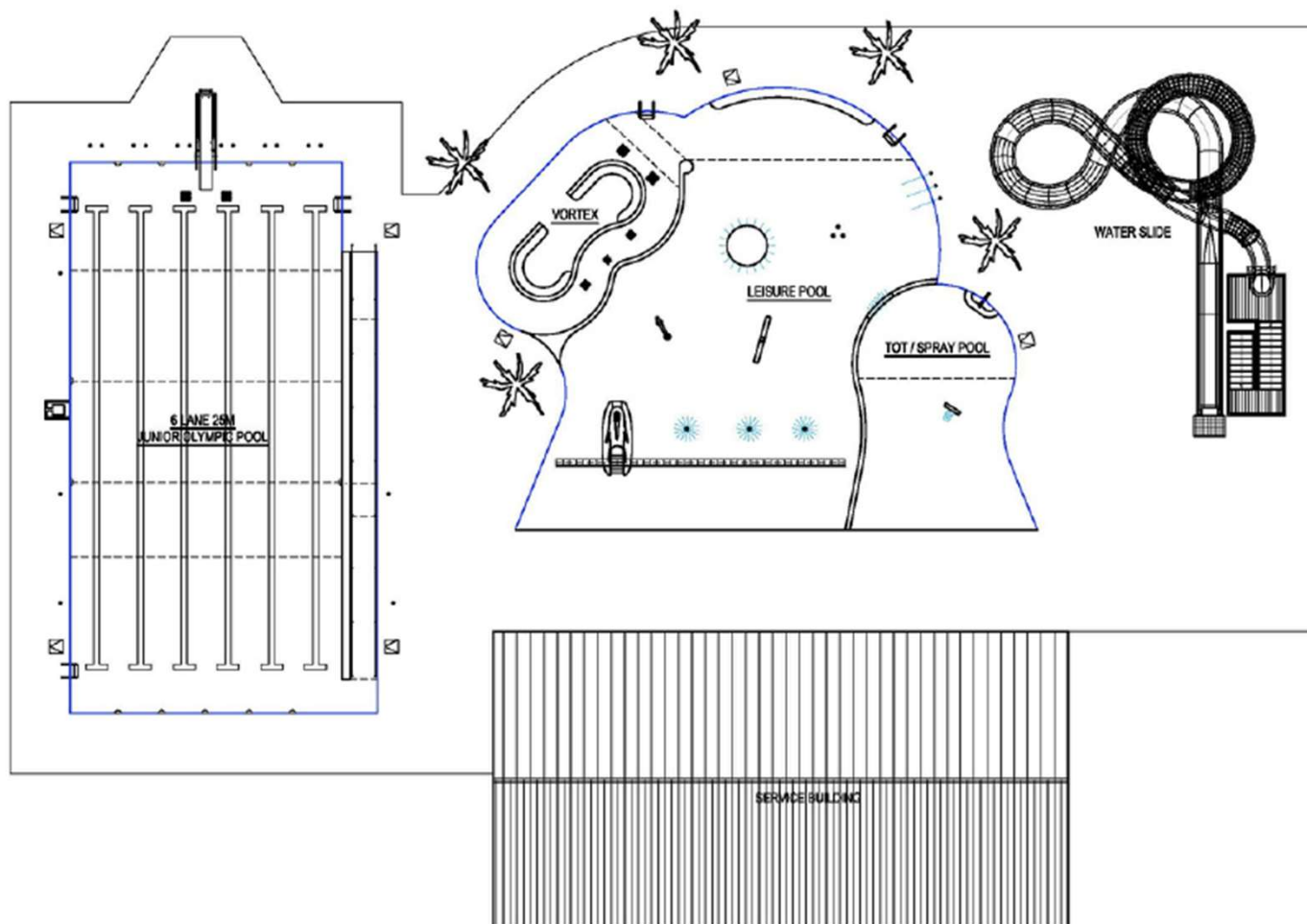
PROPOSED LAYOUT



DATA	JUNIOR OLYMPIC POOL
SHAPE:	RECTANGLE
PERIMETER:	254'
WATER SURFACE:	3,582 SQ. FT.
WATER DEPTHS:	0'-0" TO 19'-6"
BATHER LOAD:	222 PERSONS

DATA	LEISURE POOL
SHAPE:	FREE FORM
PERIMETER:	191'
WATER SURFACE:	3,417 SQ. FT.
WATER DEPTHS:	0'-0" TO 3'-3"
BATHER LOAD:	212 PERSONS

DATA	WATER SLIDE
FLUME STYLE:	D7/P132
LENGTH:	188.15'
DROP:	21.22'
AVERAGE GRADE:	13.6%



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SP-1

PROPOSED LAYOUT

N

WESTERN RECREATION
AND DEVELOPMENT INC.
23 ELLEN LOUISE DR. HEADINGLEY,
MANITOBA, CANADA R4H 0C4
PH: 204-433-7208 TX: 1-800-781-4341 EMAIL: INFO@WESTERNRECREATION.COM

REVISIONS	
DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT:

PROJECT 91625

SITE 2

TITLE:

PROPOSED LAYOUT
(OPTION 1)

DATE: 10.14.25

DRAWN BY: A.C.

CHECKED BY: B.D.

SHEET NO.

SP-1

FILE NO.

2519

OF

1

Design Considerations

- The two-tank design is ideal for minimizing disruptions to programming.
- Removal of the jr. Olympic lap pool would decrease the capital costs by approximately \$1M.

This option is not recommended by administration for the following reasons:

- Occupancy would be reduced from 424 persons to 212 persons, unless the leisure pool was expanded.
- Expanding the leisure pool to accommodate the loss of the lap pool would not produce significant savings.
- Lap pool is a misnomer – used for multiple uses outside of swimming laps.
- Loss of competitive swim and fitness opportunities.
- Decreased community value and enjoyment– fewer options for diverse age groups and abilities.
- Future expansion challenges – addition of a lap pool later would be significantly more expensive and disruptive.
- Missed play and development benefits for children – children build confidence and skill through deepwater play as they progress their skills.

Location Considerations

- Since the December 8th presentation, further conversations have taken place between City Administration and the Keystone Centre.
- Both parties agree the Keystone Grounds are an ideal location for this facility, and it aligns with the Keystone Centre's recently developed Master Plan.
- Both parties are willing to negotiate and enter into a long-term land use agreement.

Budget Considerations

- The operating costs for a new facility are expected to be approximately \$125,865, based on 2026 pricing.
 - This includes \$171,275 in expenses, and \$45,400 in revenues.
 - Large increased costs are seen in salaries, utilities, and chemical.
 - This is an overall increase of \$27,025 over the 2026 proposed operating budget for the Kinsmen Pool.

Conceptual Location



Richmond Ave.

18th Street

Next Steps

- Council to deliberate the inclusion of design work, and construction in the respective 2026 and 2027 capital budgets
- Work with the Keystone Centre to sign a letter of intent or long-term land use agreement.
- Release RFP for conceptual design and contract administration
- Release Design/Build pool
- Release Design/Build for Changerooms, site finishes, etc.
- Estimated timeline
 - Design work in 2026
 - Construction in 2027
 - Operational in 2028