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1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Through the Recreation Facility Master Plan development process, the Community Services Department of the City of Edmonton has confirmed the need for an additional multi-purpose facility in the southwest area of Edmonton. The proposed land for the southwest Edmonton facility is located at the Leger site, in the Riverbend Community.

Serving to complement work already completed by the Community Services Department of the City of Edmonton, Banister Research & Consulting Ltd. was commissioned to complete a Facility Component Priority Assessment. The purpose of this project is to establish the facility component priorities for the new southwest facility location to be used to develop the overall concept plan for the facility.

This Executive Summary report serves as the synthesis of the findings of the various research processes, incorporating results from the environmental scan, stakeholder and public consultation sessions and the community survey.

1.1 Guiding Concept, Principles and Objectives

The guiding concept of the Facility Component Priority Assessment is that of a “community hub”. That is,

“The Multi-Purpose Recreation Facilities are envisioned to be dynamic spaces, full of energy and activity. They will be places where people of all ages can gather to learn, exercise, relax, meet and enjoy their neighbors and community.”

The eight principles that have served to guide the Facility Component Priority Assessment, and will further serve the City of Edmonton in the development of the conceptual plans are detailed in Table 1, below.

Table 1

Facility Component Priority Assessment and Conceptual Plan Guiding Principles	
I.	Active engagement of the community, citizens and stakeholders through a comprehensive public participation process. Three key Integrated Service Strategy (ISS) charters will support this Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community Building ◆ Citizens First ◆ Framework for Public Participating Working from these charters and considering the following four cornerstones will ensure our public proves meet the needs of citizens while providing genuine opportunity for participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Belief in Individual and Group Capacity ◆ Right to Community Self Determination ◆ Equitable Access to Information and Services ◆ Commitment to Citizen Involvement
II.	The facilities will be designed and developed to meet the needs of the community and to serve the Community and greater Edmonton Area.
III.	The facilities will provide a mix of casual and structured leisure opportunities.
IV.	The facilities will be designed to create multi-generational leisure opportunities to ensure that family opportunities can be accessed spontaneously.
V.	The facilities amenities and services will be selected to complement community priorities, this will create a personalized community hub.
VI.	The facilities will be designed, developed, and operated to ensure that services are accessible to all residents, regardless of age, gender or ability.
VII.	The facilities design and operation will investigate opportunities for sustainable design to reduce energy consumption, explore innovative technologies, and provide an environmentally friendly design.
VIII.	The City of Edmonton will explore all opportunities for support and investment into the facilities by both private and not for profit sector.

The specific objectives of the Facility Component Priority Assessment project were designed to ensure that final analysis provides a balance between community and stakeholder input, the Community Services Integrated Service Strategy, The Recreation Facilities Master Plan, and the Community Services Urban Parks Master Plan.

1.2 Research Process Overview

In meeting the project objectives, a research process was designed to collect and analyze information gathered using three data collection techniques;

- ◆ An environmental scan with current program providers and stakeholders relevant to the City of Edmonton.
- ◆ A consultation process that included both:
 - Themed stakeholder sessions with organizations whose members or clients would be potential users of the new southwest facility.
 - Public consultation sessions, designed to both inform southwest area residents of the status of the project and allow them to provide input into the Facility Component Priority Assessment.
- ◆ A random telephone survey of community residents in the southwest area of the City of Edmonton.

A summary of each element of the research process is as follows.

Environmental Scan

From October to December 2004, contact was attempted with more than 600 representatives from various organizations in the City of Edmonton. Each listing was contacted between 3 and 5 times to provide these representatives with the opportunity to participate in the research process. A total of 64 stakeholders and 167 program providers were interviewed regarding their current and potential programming needs by Banister Research & Consulting Inc. The top-line report providing an overview of the environment scan data collected in these interviews can be found under separate cover.

Stakeholder & Public Consultation Sessions

Between November 2, 2004 and December 13, 2004, 11 stakeholder and 3 public consultation sessions were conducted by Banister Research & Consulting Inc. regarding the new southwest multi-purpose facility. The reports providing the qualitative results of these discussions can be found under separate cover.

Community Survey

In November and December 2004, 400 interviews were conducted with residents of the southwest catchment area, by Banister Research & Consulting Inc. regarding the new southwest multi-purpose facility.

Specific objectives researched by the survey included the following:

1. To assess the current facility usage of residents of southwest area.
2. To explore the current types of programs that community members access in the southwest area of Edmonton.
3. To identify any barriers to participation that currently exist among community members.
4. To assess the overall environment or vision for the new facility.
5. To determine the facility component priorities for the new facility.
6. To assess the potential impact the new facility will have on participation rates and on the community overall.
7. To explore potential funding approaches or strategies for the new facility
8. To determine the optimum price point for the new facility.

Data collected from residents regarding current and potential facility component usage was used as the basis of a series of projected frequency and usage patterns for each of the facility components, detailed in the sections that follow.

The report providing the results of the telephone survey of 400 southwest Edmonton residents conducted in November and December, 2004 can be found under separate cover.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF FACILITY COMPONENT PRIORITIES

The section details the analysis techniques used to synthesize the information collected during the environment scans, the stakeholder and community consultation sessions and the community member survey. The final results of this analysis include;

- ◆ The final facility component priority determinations for the new southwest multipurpose facility.
- ◆ A summary of each of the facility components priorities that includes (where appropriate and applicable)¹;
 - The projected usage of the facility component, in terms of both;
 - Projected percentage of the southwest catchment area population² that will use the facility component in 2005 and 2010.
 - Projected frequency of use of the facility component by the southwest catchment area population for 2005 and 2010.
 - The profile of those most likely to use each facility component.
 - Stakeholder and community input provided during the consultation process regarding the facility component.
 - Any information regarding waiting lists for the facility component gathered during the environmental scan interviews.
 - Information regarding activity and participation trends for the facility component.

A discussion of the analysis techniques used to determine the final facility component priority determination and the facility component usage projections follows.

¹ In some instances, projected use and frequency of use calculations were inappropriate due to a limited sample size. In these cases, usage information from comparable facilities (where available) is highlighted.

² Please see Section 2.2.1 (p.10) for a discussion of the southwest facility primary catchment area population.

2.1 Facility Component Priority Determination

With the Community Services commitment to “put citizens the in the drivers seat”. The methodology used to determine the final Facility Component Priorities when shaping priorities the following methodology was used;

- ◆ **Resident Surveys** - Survey of community members in the southwest area of Edmonton.
- ◆ **Community Consultation** - Input gathered in workbooks and discussions during the community consultation sessions held with interested community members in southwest Edmonton.
- ◆ **Stakeholder Consultation** - Input gathered in workbooks and discussion during the stakeholder consultation sessions.

The information gathered from each of these three perspectives was assigned a different weighting factor, based on three key Community Services Integrated Service Strategy charters.

1. Community Building
2. Citizens First
3. Public Participation

The weighting was based on the belief in individual and group capacity, right to community self determining equitable access to information and service and commitment to citizen involvement.

Working with these charters, Resident Community survey was conducted with southwest area residents was assigned a rating of 50% of the final compiled score. The information collected during the community survey was determined to be the most representative of the overall community, as the demographic profile of the community survey did not differ significantly from the 2001 Community Services Neighbourhood Profiles, with all but two points of comparison falling within the margin of error for the survey (4.9%, 19 times out of 20). Therefore, the conclusion was made that the results of the community survey are reasonably representative of the general population of the proposed facility catchment area.³

³ Please see the Southwest Multipurpose Recreation Facility Community Survey (2004) for more detail.

The consultation input gathered through the three community consultations was assigned a weighting of 30%. With a total 112 consultation participants in attendance, this perspective was determine to be moderately reflective of all southwest community residents.

The stakeholder consultation input was assigned a weighting of 20% of the final compiled score.

Information from the environmental scan is highlighted in the report and was used to supplement the information used in the final analysis and determination of facility component priorities.

Information from the environmental scan is highlighted in the report and was used to supplement the information used in the final determination of facility component priorities. Using the weighting formula described above, the final list of facility component priorities is detailed in Table 2, below. Table 2 has been broken down into three sets of priorities, including;

- ◆ **“High Importance” or Critical Priorities** – These components garnered mean compiled scores of 7.0 or more out of a possible ten. A discussion of each of these facility components has been detailed in this report.
- ◆ **“Moderate Importance” Priorities** – These components garnered mean compiled scores of 6.0 to 6.9 out of a possible ten. These components are to be considered priority once all of the “High Importance” priorities have been accounted for in the design of the new facility. A discussion of each of these facility components has been detailed in this report.
- ◆ **“Low Importance” Priorities** – These components garnered mean compiled scores below 6.0 out of ten. These components are to be considered priority should a partnership opportunity exists and adequate space is available within the facility to support this component.

The “Compiled Score” column in Table 2 represents that weighted mean scores for the community survey (50%) and community consultation sessions (30%) and the input from stakeholder consultation sessions (20%).

A discussion of the variance score between the 3 sources has been included in the summary for each facility component.

Table 2

Facility Component Priority Ratings	
Scale: 1 means “least important”, 10 means “extremely important”	Mean Compiled Score
“High Importance” or Critical Facility Components	
On site free parking	9.4
Fitness centre	8.8
Edmonton transit service pick-up/drop-off	8.4
Swimming pool (leisure)	8.3
Gymnasium	8.0
Swimming pool (teach pool)	7.9
Outdoor walking/multi-purpose trails	7.9
Fitness/aerobics studio	7.8
On site childcare facilities	7.7
Indoor track	7.6
Arena (ice pads)	7.5
Outdoor soccer pitches	7.4
Outdoor playground	7.4
General eating area	7.4
Food café with food vendors	7.1
General lobby or seating area	7.1
“Moderate Importance” Facility Components	
Outdoor track	6.9
50m Swimming pool	6.9
Indoor recreational skating area	6.9
Multi-purpose space outside a gymnasium	6.8
Indoor playground	6.8
Meeting rooms	6.8
Healthcare space	6.7
General rental rooms/space for group or community functions	6.7
Indoor tennis/basketball courts	6.7
Meeting space	6.7
Indoor soccer pitches	6.7
Hot tub (therapeutic pool)	6.6
Outdoor ball diamonds	6.5
Outdoor basketball court	6.4
Outdoor skating area/rink	6.4
Outdoor tennis court	6.4
Massage & physiotherapy services	6.3
Outdoor sliding hill	6.1
Racquetball/squash courts	6.1
Outdoor spray park/water park	6.0
Social service space	6.0

Table 2 cont.

Facility Component Priority Ratings	
Scale: 1 means “least important”, 10 means “extremely important”	Mean Compiled Score
“Low Importance” Facility Components	
Outdoor football field	5.8
Arts/cultural multi-purpose studio	5.8
Outdoor skateboard park	5.6
Steam room	5.6
Theatre/Amphitheatre/Auditorium	5.6
Nutritional retail & service space	5.3
Diving tank	5.2
Outdoor beach volleyball	5.1
Indoor climbing wall	4.9
Wave pool	4.9
Dance studio	4.9
Spa service	4.8
Banquet facilities	4.7
Music room	4.4
Outdoor climbing wall	4.3
Indoor skateboarding space	4.1
Library	4.1
Outdoor lawn bowling field	4.0
Outdoor extreme sports facility	3.6

Please note that the importance and potential inclusion of these facility components have not been entirely discounted in the design process and has been addressed in the Recommendations & Conclusions, Section 4.0 of this report.

2.2 Facility Component Usage Projections

Prior to the summary discussions for each of the priority facility components, a description of the techniques employed to develop the facility component usage projections follows.

2.2.1 Primary Facility Catchment Area & Population Projections

The first step was to calculate current and future populations for the southwest facility to determine the boundary of the primary catchment area. The primary facility catchment

area for the new southwest multipurpose facility, determined in consultation with the client included the following neighbourhoods;

- ◆ Brander Gardens
- ◆ Brookside
- ◆ Bulyea Heights
- ◆ Carter Crest
- ◆ Falconer Heights
- ◆ Haddow
- ◆ Henderson Estates
- ◆ Leger
- ◆ Ogilvie Ridge
- ◆ Ramsey Heights
- ◆ Rhatigan Ridge

*No Planning Department information was available to Leger and Hodgson Community

Based on this primary catchment area, the population projections, subsequent usage and frequency of use projections were based on information provided in a number of sources including;

- ◆ Edmonton Population and Employment Forecast Allocation Study, 2000-2025 (November, 2001)
- ◆ Edmonton Social Plan Summary (August, 2003)
- ◆ Edmonton Demographic Profile (2001)
- ◆ Edmonton Social Plan 2001 Community Services Neighbourhood Profiles (2001)

Information provided in these sources was subsequently used to estimate the 2005 and 2010 population projections for the primary facility catchment area for the new southwest multipurpose facility. The 2005 population of the primary catchment area was estimated to be 32,286 residents, growing to 42,740 residents by 2010.

2.2.2 Facility Component Usage and Frequency of Use Projections

The population projections for the primary facility catchment area were then used to produce a series of usage and frequency of use projections for each facility component. These projections are felt to be conservative in nature due to a number of factors and assumptions, including;

- ◆ The calculations assumed one member per household would use the facility component. Many facility components are typically used by more than one individual per household.
- ◆ The calculations assumed that this usage per household will be the same as current usage levels. When the new facility is development within close proximity, many of those that currently use may increase their rate of participation.
- ◆ The calculations do not account for an increased portion of the population participating in new activities once the facility is built.
- ◆ The calculations do not account for participation by those residing outside of the primary catchment area.

In cases where the current participation among community survey respondents was lower than 10%, usage and frequency of use projections were deemed inappropriate, due to the margin for error and therefore not incorporated into the findings for that specific facility component.

2.2.3 New Facilities

Is it important to note that the results presented in the report were based on data collected from central north area residents in November and December 2004. Therefore, the results presented cannot account for the impact of any other new facilities that may or may not provide services to southwest area residents prior to the construction of this City-owned facility.

Additional research will be required to assess the impact of any new facilities on the southwest facility component priorities and any service gaps that may exist in the southwest region.

3.0 NEW SOUTHWEST FACILITY COMPONENTS

A summary of the assessment results for each of the “High Importance” or Critical and “Moderate Importance” priority facility components for the new southwest multipurpose facility follows.

3.1 Facility Environment

Respondents were asked to identify words that describe the “general environment” that they would like to see in the new southwest multi-purpose facility. Respondents stressed that the designers of the facility need to “think outside the box”, that the facility should be “inspiring”, esthetically pleasing and visually attractive, building pride in the community, not a “monstrous box.”

Respondents strongly stated that the facility needs to be state-of-the-art, integrating a “Current Practices” approach. This “Current Practices” approach extends from the design of the facility, to include flexibility, functionality and forward thinking about the community needs now and into the future, to environmental sustainability of the facility, incorporating state-of-the-art concepts like wireless networking and technology, geothermal heating, water recycling and reclamation systems, and solar power.

In terms of transportation, respondents highlighted the need to ensure the facility is accessible via walking, biking or pushing a stroller. Respondents indicated that the new facility needs to be a “hub” with area for spontaneous recreation, supporting all types of activities. The space needs to be accessible, inviting, inclusive and comfortable, not “institutional-looking”. It was mentioned that the facility needs to have natural meeting space for the community and be a tourist attraction. Respondents want the facility to be a place where people “like to hang out”, is multi-generational, with places for children, teenagers, family friendly, safe, with activities that are constructive.

The requirement to support the specific needs of seniors was highlighted. Some items mentioned were assisting seniors to be able to continue living in their homes longer, and try to alleviate the incidence of isolation and depression by offering various programs and services to them. The need for assistance with transportation was highlighted, with suggestions made to arrange for a senior’s shuttle bus service.

It was also mentioned that there is a need for general space to be flexible and adaptable and to support extension programs that could be offered by post-secondary institutions, churches and other outreach types of programs. It was suggested that a party theme room, designed to be rented out for birthdays would be preferred. The facility should provide space for playschool and childcare programs that can accommodate the drop-in needs of the community. As well, respondents stressed the need for appropriate scheduling, allowing for spontaneous use by the community at the appropriate times, in contrast to being fully booked by athletic teams and organizations.

The facility should be designed to meet the needs of the ethnic community. It should have a modular approach, which maximizes the amount of flexible space versus the amount of “designated space”. The environment in the new facility should be warm and welcoming, comfortable and inclusive. Efforts should be taken to incorporate entrance, lobby and common spaces with an inviting feel, therefore attracting visitors into the space for physical activity, learning and visiting with family and friends. The use of natural light and an open-space concept was considered desirable in achieving these goals.

3.2 “High Importance” or Critical Facility Components

3.2.1 On Site Free Parking

On site free parking was the top rated item, garnering a mean compiled score of 9.4 out of ten. This factor was rated consistently above 9.0 out of ten by residents (mean score = 9.4), community consultation participants (mean score = 9.6) and stakeholders (mean score = 9.2).

The inclusion of adequate on site free parking reflects the high value placed on the concept of “accessibility” mentioned by many during the assessment process. Costs have been based on the provision of 1,000 parking stalls.

According to the Guidelines for Developing Public Recreation Facility Standards (2004)⁴, the following general principles may be applied;

- ◆ Allow 300 sq feet minimum for each vehicle.
- ◆ Provide entrances, exits and parking space for buses.

⁴ Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Government of Ontario, 2004

- ◆ Provide unloading and loading zones for inclement weather or those with physical disabilities; keeping loading area free of parking.
- ◆ Allow sufficient money to pave and light the area.
- ◆ Allow sufficient space around parking area for snow-piling in winter without loss of parking space.
- ◆ Keep entrance area clear for emergency vehicles.
- ◆ Use standard signs and symbols as prescribed by local, provincial and federal authorities.

Suggestions were made during the stakeholder consultation sessions that consideration be given to the location of parking under the outdoor field components, optimizing the space available for other facility components. The feasibility of this concept would need to be addressed during Phase 2 or the design phase of the project.

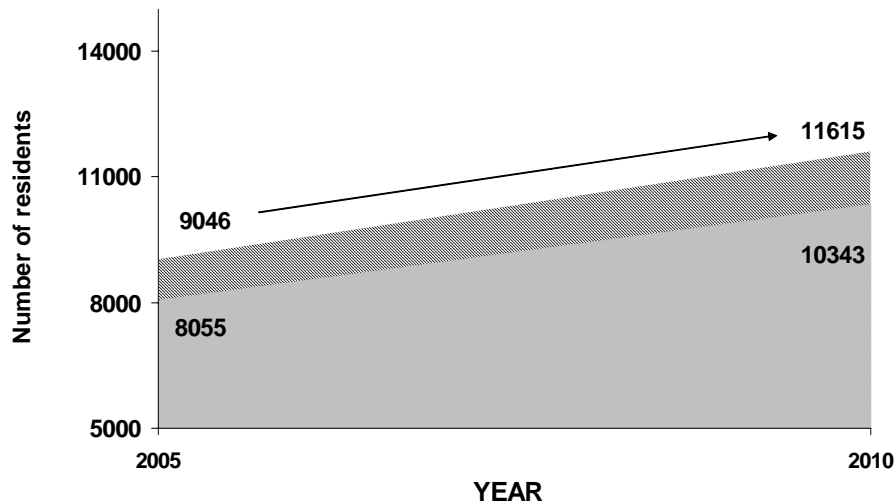
3.2.2 Fitness Centre

A fitness centre was consistently rated as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 8.8. This was consistent across the three sources (Resident Survey, Community Consultation, Stakeholder Consultation).

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 24% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting this facility type an average of 127 times per 12 month period. Another 12% of respondents are planning to use a fitness centre in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 8055 and 9046 residents would use the fitness facility component if available in 2005 growing usage of 10,343 to 11,615 residents by 2010.

Figure 1

Projected Fitness Centre Usage 2005 and 2010 (Number of Residents)



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 127 visits per year, the fitness centre would be visited by community residents, 1.0 to 1.1 million times in 2005 increasing to 1.3 to 1.5 million by 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, females were significantly⁵ more likely to indicate they currently use a fitness centre than males.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 5 programs that use a fitness centre currently have waiting lists, with a total of 40 participants waiting to join these programs. Three of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of a fitness centre in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

More than one-quarter of community survey respondents that had visited a facility in the past 12 months indicated they were participating in adult programmed fitness activities (28%) or informal or unstructured fitness activities (29%). Therefore, it is important that adequate time for both programmed and spontaneous use be available in the fitness centre component, to support both types of activity.

⁵ The term 'significant' refers to statistical significance

In comparison to other facilities within the City of Edmonton, 62% of the Kinsmen Sport Centre 2003 customer base reported using the fitness centre, culminating in a total of 399,682 visits.⁶

As noted in the Facility Master Plan, most fitness centres are currently at capacity and have a tendency to be too small as soon as they are built. Participation in fitness activities will be influenced by increasing concerns for overall health, child and adult obesity and the interests of active seniors who have resources and time to focus on their health.⁷

Concerning the fitness centre component of the facility, it was noted during the consultation sessions that this component of the facility should be planned to support activity by a number of different age groups and skill levels.

Currently, there are a total of 3 facilities with fitness components that provide service in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ William Lutsky YMCA
- ◆ The Riverbend Athletic Club
- ◆ Curves for Women

While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by these facilities, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within these facilities.

3.2.3 Edmonton Transit service pick-up/drop-off

An Edmonton Transit services pick-up/drop-off site was the third highest priority item, garnering a mean compiled score of 8.4 out of ten. This factor was rated consistently across all three data sources (community residents, community consultation participants and stakeholders).

A survey conducted in 2000 of Edmontonians found that poor public transportation was a barrier to participation at recreational facilities, areas and attractions for 14% of respondents.⁸ Five of the 13 community survey respondents that indicated a lack of transportation prevented their household from participating in programs or activities stated that using Edmonton Transit services was too difficult or too limited. A well placed

⁶ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment (2002)

⁷ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report (November 2003)

⁸ Edmonton Recreation Survey (2000)

Edmonton Transit pick-up/drop-site would help to minimize the impact of a transportation barrier for these area residents.

The inclusion of an Edmonton transit service site reflects the high value placed on the concept of “accessibility” mentioned by many during the assessment process. Suggestions were made during the consultation sessions that the transit site be placed in close proximity to the entrance of the facility. It was also suggested during these sessions that it may be necessary to plan a transit hub on the Leger site to accommodate the potential use in the southwest facility, by students attending one of the four schools planned for the site.

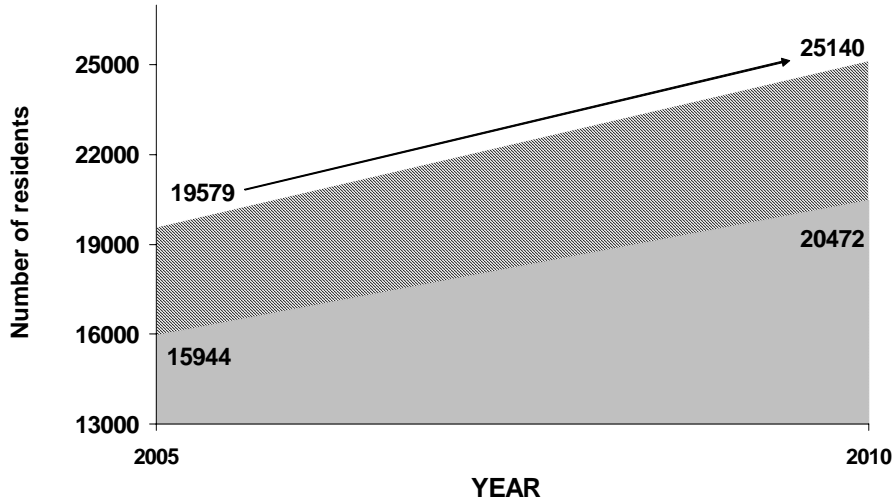
3.2.4 Leisure swimming pool

A leisure swimming pool was consistently rated as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 8.3. This was consistent across the three sources, (Resident Survey, Community Consultation, Stakeholder Consultation).

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 48% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 39.1 times per 12 month period. Another 23% of respondents are planning to use a leisure swimming pool in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 15,944 and 19,579 residents would use the leisure swimming pool component if available in 2005 growing to 20,472 to 25,140 residents by 2010.

Figure 2

**Projected Leisure Swimming Pool Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 39.1 visits per year, the leisure swimming pool would be visited between 620,000 to 765,000 times in 2005, by community residents alone increasing to 800,000 to 980,000 by 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents age 35 to 44 years, with children in the household, and with a university education were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use a leisure swimming pool. Respondents with children in the household and a high school education were significantly more likely to rate a leisure swimming pool as being highly important for the new southwest facility.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 13 programs that use a leisure swimming pool currently have waiting lists, with a total of 515 participants waiting to join these programs. Eight of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of a leisure swimming pool in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

Close to one-quarter of community survey respondents that had visited a facility in the past 12 months indicated their household was participating in children's pool activities, both programmed (24%) and informal or unstructured pool activities (24%). Therefore, it is

important that adequate time for both programmed and spontaneous use be available in the leisure swimming pool component, to support both types of activity.

Swimming continues to be one of the most frequently identified recreational activities. As the population ages and older adults remain active well into their 80's and beyond, services that support low impact, aerobic activities will be in increasing demand.⁹ Participation trends in Edmonton show that swimming was the third-most-frequently mentioned favorite activity.¹⁰

A key trend highlighted in the Kinsmen Sports Centre Market Assessment report highlighted that “non-traditional facility designs, such as curvilinear pools with zero-depth beach-like access instead of standard rectangular tanks – can increase access to users of all ages and abilities and can support alternative programming designed to meet a need for socialization and relaxation as well as fitness and physical health development.”

Currently, there are a total of 3 facilities with leisure swimming pool components that provide service in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ William Lutsky YMCA
- ◆ The Riverbend Athletic Club
- ◆ Confederation Leisure Centre

While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by these facilities, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within these facilities.

3.2.5 Gymnasium

Rated above 8.0 out of 10, a gymnasium component was considered highly important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 8.3. This was consistent across the three sources, (Resident Survey, Community Consultation, Stakeholder Consultation).

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 16% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 67.3 times per year. Another 5% of

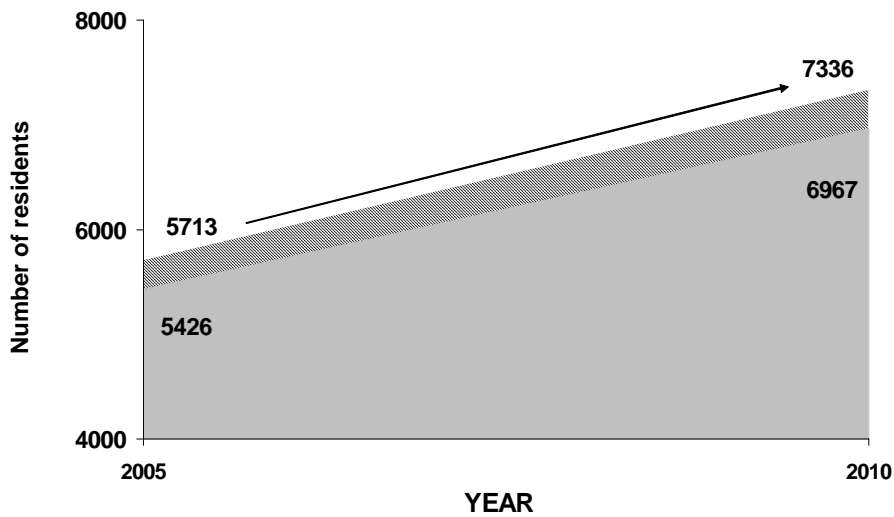
⁹ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report (November 2003)

¹⁰ 2000 Alberta Recreation Survey: Edmonton Analysis

respondents are planning to use a gymnasium in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 5,426 and 5,713 residents would use a gymnasium facility component if available in 2005 growing to 6,967 to 7,336 residents in 2010.

Figure 3

**Projected Gymnasium Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey mean of 67.3 visits per year, the gymnasium would be visited 365,000 to 384,000 times in 2005, by community residents alone, growing to 468,000 to 493,000 times by 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents age 25 to 34 years, and with children in their household were significantly more likely to currently use a facility.

Respondents with children in the household were also significantly more likely to rate a gymnasium component as being highly important in the new southwest facility.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 24 programs that use a gymnasium currently have waiting lists, with a total of 1,466 participants waiting to join these programs. Thirteen of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of a gymnasium in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

The only City-affiliated gymnasium in the central south area of Edmonton is the Kinsmen Sports Centre's field house with availability augmented by school gymnasia throughout the City. However of the 319 total gymnasia currently booked under the Joint Use Agreement, only about 10% of these fall into large or larger size facilities which are appropriate for high-level competition¹¹ (including appropriate floor area, ceiling heights, change rooms, amenities and finishes to accommodate a variety of indoor sports such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, floor hockey).

Consultation participants were clear that the gymnasium component should be developed in partnership with schools planned to be built on the southwest site, reducing the potential for duplication.

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities and the future schools planned for the Leger site, however the anticipated need will not be accommodated. Further consideration should be given to the inclusion of this component at the conclusion of the joint use evaluation.

3.2.6 Teaching style swimming pool

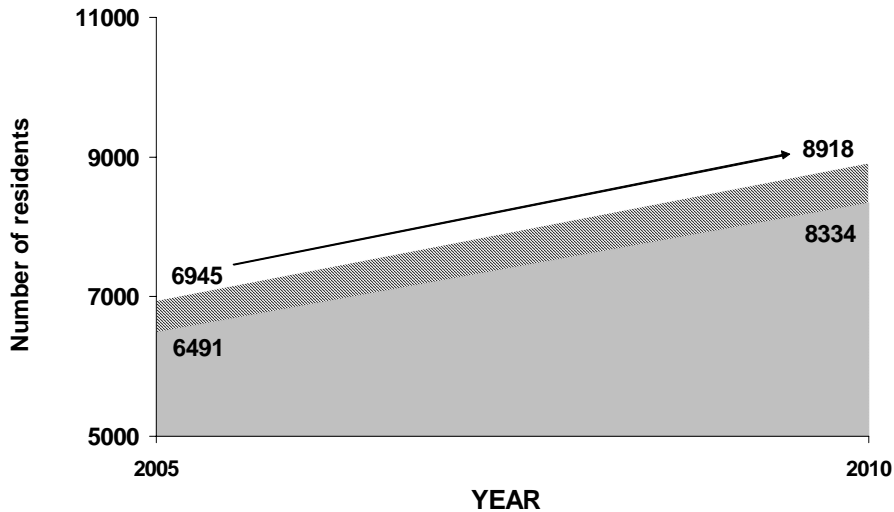
A teaching style swimming pool component of the new facility was consistently rated as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 7.9. It is important to note that community and stakeholder consultation participants placed a lower value on this component than community survey respondents.

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 20% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 43 times per year. Another 7% of respondents are planning to use a teaching style swimming pool in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 6491 and 6945 residents would use the teaching style of swimming pool facility component if available in 2005 growing to 8334 to 8918 residents by 2010.

Figure 4

¹¹ City of Edmonton, Recreation Facility Master Plan (2004)

Projected Teach Swimming Pool Usage 2005 and 2010 (Number of Residents)



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 43 visits per year, the teaching style swimming pool would be visited 279,000 to 298,000 times in 2005, by community residents alone, growing to 358,000 to 383,000 times by 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents age 35 to 44 years, females, those with children in the household and those with an annual income of more than \$100,000 were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use a teaching style swimming pool.

In terms of those significantly more likely to rate a teaching style of swimming pool as being highly important in the new southwest facility, females, with children in the household and those with an annual household income above \$100,000 were noted.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that two programs that use a teaching style swimming pool currently have waiting lists, with a total of 235 participants waiting to join these programs. One of these programs is limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of a teaching style swimming pool in the new southwest facility may enable this program to expand to include these waiting list participants.

As a comparison to other facilities within the City of Edmonton, 24% of the Kinsmen Sport Centre 2003 customer base reported using the teach style swimming pool, culminating in a total of 154,715 visits in 2003.¹²

Currently, the William Lutsky YMCA is the only facility with a teach pool component that provide service in the southwest area of Edmonton. While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within this facility.

3.2.7 Outdoor walking/multipurpose trails

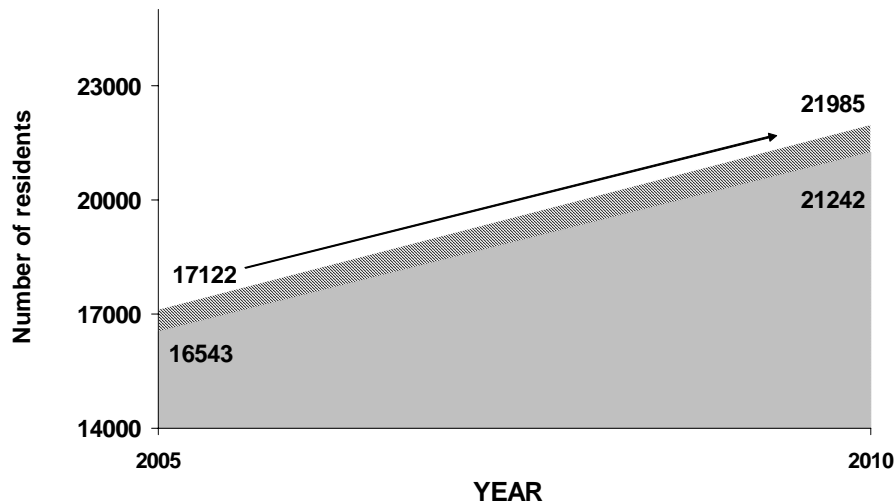
An outdoor walking or multipurpose trail component was the top rated outdoor component, rated as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 7.9. This component was not consistently rated across the three sources evident in the variance of 0.6 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score. Stakeholder and community consultation participants rated this component as being less important than community survey respondents.

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 50% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility component, using them an average of 105 times per year. Another 4% of respondents are planning to use multipurpose trails in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 16543 and 17122 residents would use the multipurpose trail component if available in 2005 growing to 21,242 to 21,985 residents by 2010.

Figure 5

¹² Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment (2002)

Projected Multipurpose Trail Usage 2005 and 2010 (Number of Residents)



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 105 visits per year, the multipurpose trails would be used 1.73 to 1.8 million times by community residents alone in 2005, increasing to 2.2 to 2.3 million in 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, those age 55 to 64 years, with no children in the household were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use multipurpose trails.

During the consultation sessions, comments were made that well placed benches and shaded areas would be important in the trails system. The trail should link the new facility with the schools proposed for the site, the pedestrian bridges planned for 23 Avenue and the Terwillegar Park area.

Low cost, spontaneous, individual, less structured activities are becoming more popular. Current popular outdoor activities include walking, cycling and picnicking. Participation is expected to increase for mountain biking, in-line skating, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, biking and bird watching.¹³ Walking for pleasure among Edmontonians has remained the

¹³ Urban Parks Master Plan – Leisure and Recreation Trends Analysis (September 2002)

most popular activity since the Alberta Recreation Survey began in 1981,¹⁴ with trail walking an activity participated in by 64% of households in Edmonton.¹⁵

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of these services provided by other southwest facilities.

3.2.8 Fitness/aerobics studio

A fitness/aerobics studio component was consistently rated as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 7.8. This was consistent across the three sources, (Resident Survey, Community Consultation, Stakeholder Consultation).

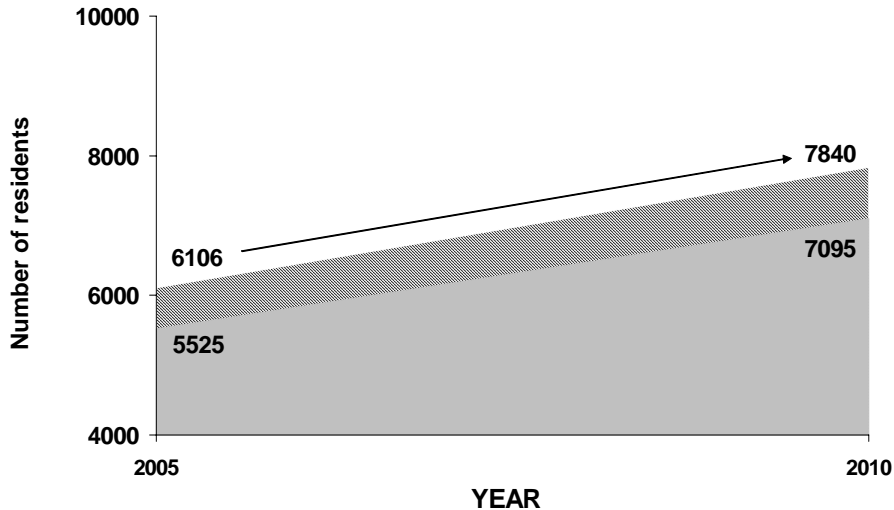
The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 17% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 88 times per year. Another 11% of respondents are planning to use a fitness/aerobics studio in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 5525 and 6106 residents would use the fitness/aerobics studio component if available in 2005, growing to 7095 to 7840 residents by 2010.

¹⁴ Alberta Recreation Survey, 2004

¹⁵ Alberta Recreation Survey, 2004 – Summary of Results for Edmonton

Figure 6

**Projected Fitness/Aerobics Studio Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 88 visits per year, the fitness/aerobics studio would be visited 487,900 to 539,000 times in 2005 by community residents alone, growing to 626,000 to 692,000 in 2010.

It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents with an annual income of more than \$100,000 were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use a fitness/aerobics studio. Female respondents were also significantly more likely to rate a fitness/aerobics studio as being highly important in the design of the new southwest facility.

More than one-quarter of community survey respondents that had visited a facility in the past 12 months indicated they were participating in adult programmed fitness activities (28%).

As stated in the Kinsmen Sports Centre Market Assessment Report (2002), “there is a growing popularity of activities that help to reduce personal stress while providing physical conditioning (such as yoga, tai chi, Pilates).” A fitness/aerobics studio would support these types of activities.

Results of the Alberta Recreation Survey, 2004, show that aerobics/ fitness/ aquasize/ yoga activities were enjoyed by 46% of Edmontonians per year in 2004.

Currently, there are a total of 2 facilities with fitness/aerobics studio components that provide service in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ William Lutsky YMCA
- ◆ The Riverbend Athletic Club

While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within these facilities.

3.2.9 On site childcare services

On site childcare services garnered a mean compiled score of 7.7 out of ten. The lack of childcare was only mentioned as a barrier to participation by only 6 of the 400 respondents in the community survey. Inclusion of on site childcare services may reduce the potential impact of this barrier among a small population of potential users.

It is interesting to note that respondents age 18 to 44, and female respondents were significantly more likely to rate childcare services as highly important in the design of the new facility.

As mentioned in the Kinsmen Sports Centre Market Assessment (2002) two key trends include;

- ◆ “programming and services that combine activities for parents and their children, or which allows parents and adults to participate at the same time in different activities can increase access”.
- ◆ “before and after-school care opportunities can increase access to recreation for families with working parents.”

Due to the low percentage of community survey respondents that indicated they currently use childcare services in a multipurpose facility, accurate use projections of these services in the new facility were not possible. There was no way to meaningfully or accurately project future use. When making comparisons to other facilities which offer childcare services, the Kinsmen Sport Centre, childcare services were used by 6% of the facility customer base in 2003, representing 9,000 visits.¹⁶

¹⁶ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment Report, 2002

3.2.10 Indoor track

An indoor track component, with a mean compiled score of 7.6 was consistently rated as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility. Ratings of this component were less consistent, with Community Survey respondents and Community Consultation participants rating this component higher than Stakeholder Consultation respondents, evident in the variance of 0.3 between the scores.

It is important to note that the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey indicated that only 7% of respondents currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 65 times per year. Therefore accurate use projections of this facility component are not possible.

However, walking for pleasure has been the top activity among Albertans for a number of years including 1996 (89%), 2000 (91%). Fitness walking is the most popular activity among people who frequently exercise (Mill Woods Recreation Centre – Indoor Running Track Market Assessment), with up to 14.8 million participants in 1997. This activity is twice as popular among women as men, a finding that is consistent with the community survey respondents as females were significantly more likely to rate an indoor track as being highly important.

With the future population of seniors becoming healthier and more active, low impact activities including walking on an indoor track will increase in popularity.¹⁷ Among users of the Kinsmen Sports Centre, 42% of the 2003 customer base used the fieldhouse upper track, culminating in total of 270,752 visits.¹⁸

As noted in the Indoor Running Track Market Assessment (2001), indoor running tracks in the City of Edmonton are used more during weekdays and mornings, than weekends and afternoons. All efforts should be made to ensure the facility component is wheel chair accessible to optimize usage (wider corners, etc.) as well as facilitate use by those with jogging strollers, etc. As well, the indoor track should include a minimum of 3 lanes to

¹⁷ *ibid*,

¹⁸ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment Report, 2002

avoid potential conflicts among joggers versus those walking, using a wheelchair or stroller.

Partnerships may be formed with the surrounding schools and senior's organizations (similar to the Silver Laces Club in Millennium Place) to ensure the facility component is well utilized.

Currently, the William Lutsky YMCA is the only facility with an indoor track component that provides service in the southwest area of Edmonton. While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within this facility.

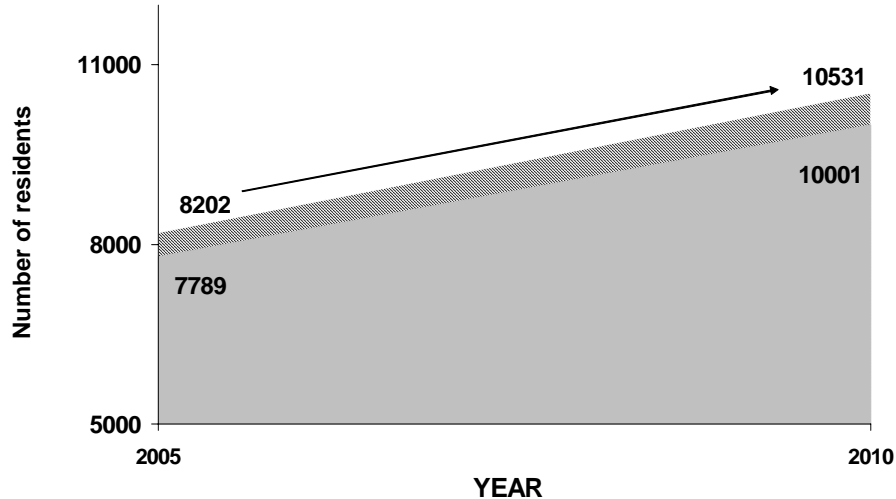
3.2.11 Arena (ice pads)

An arena was consistently rated as being important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 7.5. This was consistent across the three sources, (Resident Survey, Community Consultation, Stakeholder Consultation) evident in the minimal variance of 0.1.

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 23% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 76.7 times per year. Another 5% of respondents are planning to use an arena in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 7789 and 8202 residents would use the arena component if available in 2005 growing to 10,001 to 10,531 residents by 2010.

Figure 7

**Projected Arena Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, mean of 76.7 visits per year, the arena would be visited 597,000 to 629,000 times in 2005 by community residents alone, growing to 767,000 to 807,000 in 2010.

It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents with children in the household were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use an arena. Respondents with a high school education (versus a college/university education) were significantly more likely to rate an arena component as being highly important. in the development of the new southwest facility.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 9 programs that use an arena currently have waiting lists, with a total of 1,515 participants waiting to join these programs. Five of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of an arena or twin arenas in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

In terms of current facility usage in the City of Edmonton, more than 90% of the available times are currently used, representing more than 56,000 total hours of use. Of the 10% of

facility time that remains available, 8% is considered to be “good” available time, versus 2% being “fair” time.

As noted in the City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan, Needs and Market Assessment Report, arena facilities are rarely built as single pads, but rather twinned or provided in other multiple combinations. As well, arenas without summer ice are being made more used to sports including in-line hockey, box lacrosse, basketball and volleyball through the addition of temporary multi-purpose sectional floor boards and fans to cool non-air conditioned facilities.

Generally, participation in team sports, including hockey is declining as the population ages. However, ice use should remain relatively stable in the short term as this decline is at least partially offset by increased female participation in ice hockey and emerging sports such as sledge hockey.¹⁹ While the general aging of the population will reduce demand on ice facilities, this will be mitigated in the suburban areas by population growth and the somewhat higher numbers of younger people moving into those communities.

With 25 ice pads currently available throughout the City, an additional 5 ice pads would respond to current unmet demand, particularly in the Southwest region.²⁰

Currently, there are a total of 2 facilities with arena components that provide service in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ Confederation Arena
- ◆ The Kinsmen Twin Arena

While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within these facilities.

3.2.12 Outdoor playground

An outdoor playground was consistently rated as being important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 7.4. The rating of this component was inconsistent, with public and stakeholder consultation participants rating this component higher than community survey respondents, evident in the variance of 0.3 between these sources.

¹⁹ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan, Needs and Market Assessment Report, 2003.

²⁰ *ibid*, pp.95

The importance of this component is also inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 4% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 49.8 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible.

It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, those with children in the household were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use an outdoor playground.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 5 programs that use an outdoor playground currently have waiting lists, with a total of 91 participants waiting to join these programs. Two of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of an outdoor playground in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

In 2000 in the province of Alberta, the most popular outdoor activity for children aged 5 to 12 was playing at a playground.²¹

Respondents in the consultation sessions were quick to mention that any outdoor playground components should compliment the facilities that are currently in place in the southwest area of the city and there is potential to pair this facility component with a variety of outdoor picnic or gathering areas to support the hosting of various community events.

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities.

3.2.13 Outdoor soccer pitches

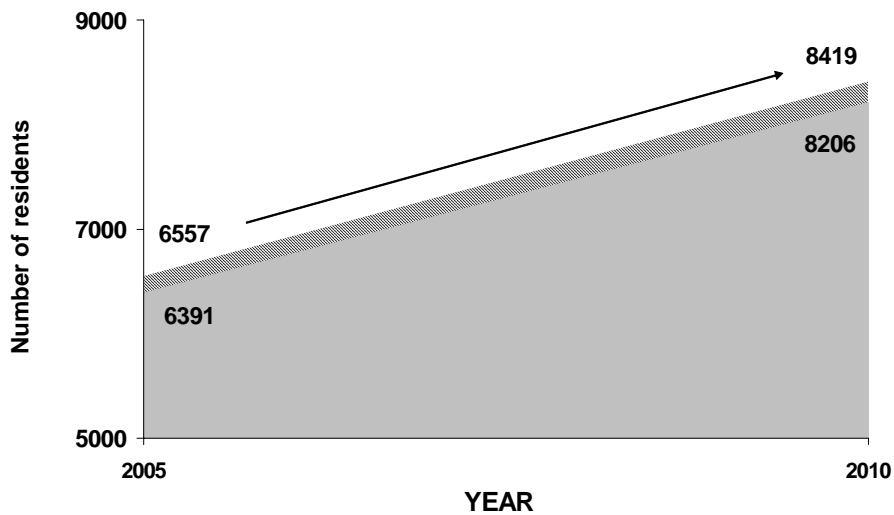
An outdoor soccer field was consistently rated as being important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 7.4. This was consistent across the three sources, evident in the minimal variance of 0.1 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

²¹ Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, Alberta Results of the 2000 Physical Activity Monitor

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 19% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 48.7 times per year. Another 3% of respondents are planning to use an outdoor soccer pitch in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 6391 and 6557 residents would use the outdoor soccer component if available in 2005 growing to 8206 to 8419 residents by 2010.

Figure 8

**Projected Outdoor Soccer Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 48.7 visits per year, the outdoor soccer component would be visited 311,000 to 319,000 times in 2005, by community residents alone, growing to 399,000 to 410,000, by 2010,. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, those age 35 to 54 years, with children in the household were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use an outdoor soccer facility component.

In terms of those rating an outdoor soccer facility component as being highly important respondents with children in the household, with a high school education and with annual income above \$100,000 were significantly more likely to rate outdoor soccer pitches as being highly important.

Soccer groups in Edmonton reported substantial increases in registrations over the past five years with expectations that this trend will continue over another five years.²² The Canadian Soccer Association estimates that well over one million Canadians are active soccer players.²³

As noted in the City of Edmonton Sport and Field Tournament Site Needs Assessment conducted in 2002;

- ◆ “Economies of scale and scope, as well as the experience of other municipalities in western Canada, dictate that a variety of joint user group tournaments field site needs could be met most cost effectively through the sharing of certain facilities in a single location.
- ◆ Flexibility in design of such facilities would reduce the risk associated with changing consumer tastes.
- ◆ The accommodation of non-organized recreation options in a new facility would enhance marketability and also create a broader user base.”

Concerning the outdoor soccer pitch(es) and other outdoor field facility designed with group tournament needs in mind and components, consultation participants were clear in that these components should be developed in partnership with schools planned for the site, reducing the potential for duplication.

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities and the future schools planner for the Leger site.

3.2.14 General eating area, General lobby or seating area, & Food café with food vendors

A general eating area garnered a mean compiled score of 7.4 out of ten, while a general lobby or seating area and a food café with food vendors garnered mean score of 7.1 out of a possible 10. These factors was rated by community survey respondents as being more important than the community and stakeholder consultation participants, with the variance ranging from 0.3 to 0.7 between the community survey and compiled mean scores.

²² Field Tournament Site Needs Assessment (2002)

²³ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report (November 2003)

Community survey respondents age 35 to 54, female respondents, those with children in the household, those with a high school education and those with an annual income of more than \$100,000 were significantly more likely to rate these facility components as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility.

As a comparison to other facilities within the City of Edmonton, 58% of the Kinsmen Sport Centre 2003 customer base reported using food cafe, culminating in a total of 373,896 visits in 2003.²⁴

The inclusion of a general eating area, general lobby or seating area and a food café with food vendors is reflective of a number of recent trends, including;

- ◆ Facilities resemble “recreation destinations” that include traditional leisure amenities along with expended retail and entertainment options.²⁵
- ◆ Facilities frequently incorporate revenue-generating space for ancillary uses such as ATM’s, licensed food services, equipment shops and rentals, etc.²⁶

The high importance of these three facility components are reflective of the comments made during the consultation sessions, that the future facility will fill the role of an informal gathering place in the community, offering not only food services but other retail vendors matched to the components in the facility – selling goggles for the swimming pool or water bottle for the fitness centre. .

In terms of the food offerings for the facility, the concepts varied from an informal kiosk with healthy snacks, to a “coffee house feel”, serving premium coffees and dessert, to a four-star restaurant offering more formal dining experiences. The feasibility of the various concepts would need to be addressed during Phase 2 or the design phase of the project. Participants did agree that whatever the fare offered, healthy choices should be primary focus.

²⁴ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment (2002)

²⁵ A Look at Tomorrow’s Recreation Facilities, Parks & Recreation Canada, winter 2003.

²⁶ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan, Needs and Market Assessment Report, November 2003

3.3 “Moderate Importance” Facility Components

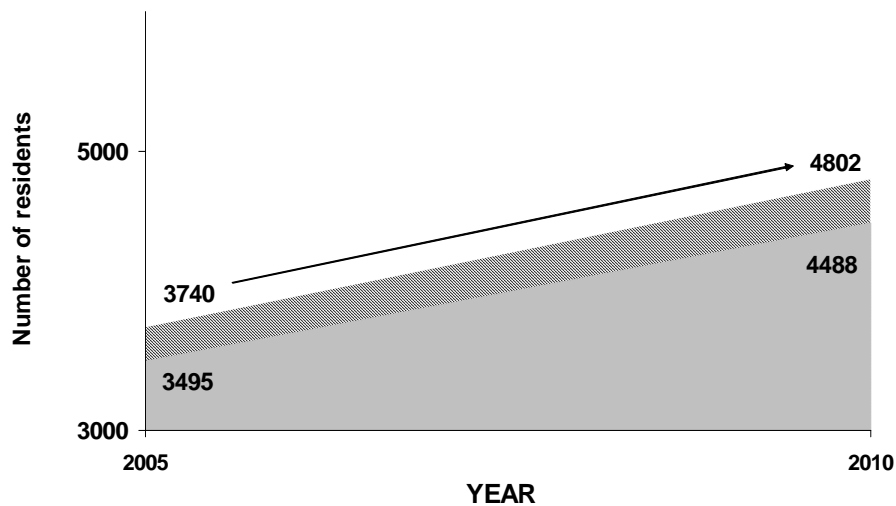
3.3.1 Indoor recreational skating area

An indoor recreational skating area component was consistently rated as being important in the development of the new southwest facility, with mean compiled score of 6.9. This component was rated as being more important by consultation participants, than community survey respondents, evident in the variance of 0.3 between the mean scores.

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 11% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 56 times per year. Another 7% of respondents are planning to visit an indoor recreational skating area in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 3495 and 3740 residents would visit the indoor recreational skating area if available in 2005 growing to 4488 to 4802 residents by 2010.

Figure 8

**Projected Indoor Recreational Skating Area
Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 55.8 visits per year, the indoor recreational skating area would be visited 195,000 to 208,000 times in 2005 by community residents alone, growing to 250,000 to 268,000 by 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents age 35 to 54, with children in the household and with an annual income of more than \$100,000 were more likely to indicate they currently use an indoor recreational skating area.

As well, those who rated the indoor recreational skating area as being highly important included those age 35 to 44, and those with children in the household.

As noted in the City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan, Needs and Market Assessment Report, “there is a trend towards including leisure ice in arena complexes, which is usually provided as ice space added to the end of a normal hockey rink. This leisure rink is generally separated from the full ice pad by the end of the boards, with large doors built into the boards to allow ice resurfacers access to the leisure ice surface. The leisure ice surface is usually one-third to one-half the size of a full ice pad and is not enclosed by boards.”

Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a skate rental service to support those among the leisure ice user group that cannot afford to purchase their own equipment and to include skate rental service to support users. This approach has been successful in other facilities including locally at Millennium Place, in Strathcona County.

Currently, there are a total of 2 facilities that support indoor recreational skating in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ Confederation Arena
- ◆ The Kinsmen Twin Arena

While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within these facilities.

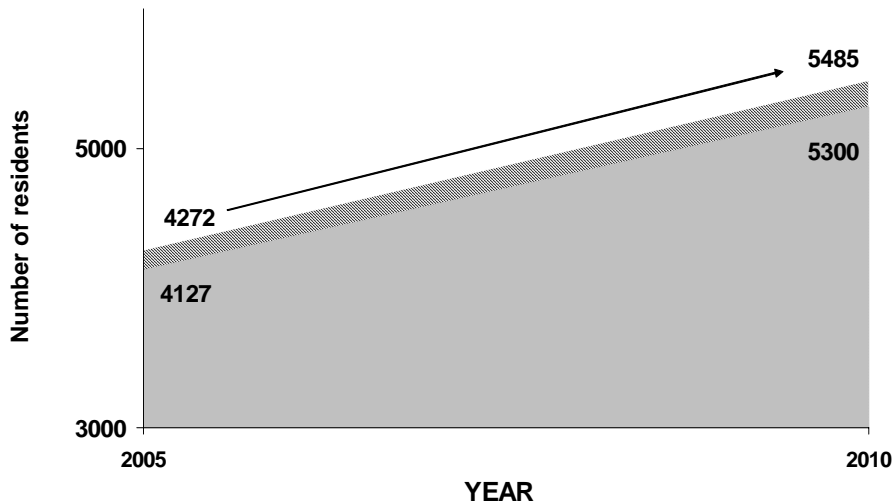
3.3.2 50m swimming pool

A 50m swimming pool component, with a mean compiled score of 6.9 was the next component priority for the new southwest facility. The importance of this component was consistent across the three sources, evident in the minimal variance of 0.1 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is also consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 12% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 77 times per year. Another 4% of respondents are planning to use a 50m swimming pool in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 4127 and 4272 residents would use the 50m swimming pool if available in 2005 growing to 5300 to 5485 residents by 2010.

Figure 9

**Projected Olympic 50m Swimming Pool
Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 77 visits per year, the Olympic 50m swimming pool would be visited 317,000 to 328,000 million times in 2005 by community residents alone, growing to 408,000 to 422,000 by 2010. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, those with a university education were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use an Olympic 50m swimming pool. However, those age 25 to 34 years were significantly more likely to rate an Olympic 50m swimming pool as being highly important in the design of the new southwest facility.

As a comparison to other facilities within the City of Edmonton, 48% of the Kinsmen Sport Centre 2003 customer base reported using the 50m swimming pool, culminating in a total of 309,431 visits by 2003.²⁷

With the inclusion of three swimming pool components; a leisure pool, a teaching style of swimming pool and a 50m pool in the top half of the facility component priority list, and the inclusion of a hot tub or therapeutic pool later in the list, the shared support spaces in terms of pool deck space, change room facilities and mechanical support for these pools can be optimized.

This concept is echoed in the comment statement that “swimming pools feature irregular shapes, waterslides and fountains; leisure pools with spaces for disabled access, teaching beginners, and lap swimming; family change rooms; moveable floors; and aquatic environments”.²⁸

Again, efforts should be made to partner with the schools planned for the facility site, to ensure the aquatic components can be used to capacity as current City of Edmonton aquatic facilities “operate near capacity during prime hours of after 4 pm on weekdays and on Saturday morning, but are under capacity during the daytime on weekdays and for the remainder of the weekend.”²⁹

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

3.3.3 Outdoor track

An outdoor track component was rated with a mean compiled score of 6.9 for the new southwest facility. This component was assigned a higher rating of importance by the community survey respondents that the consultation session participants, evident in the variance of 0.4 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 3% of respondents indicated they currently

²⁷ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment (2002)

²⁸ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report

²⁹ *ibid* – pp.27

use this type of facility, visiting an average of 30 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible.

It is important to note that in the results of the community survey, females were significantly more likely to indicate an outdoor track component was highly important in the new southwest facility. Potential partnerships with the schools on the site should be explored in the development of this facility component, to support track and field extra curricular training required by school-based athletic groups.

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities including the future schools planned for the Leger site.

3.3.4 Indoor playground

An indoor playground component was rated as being important in the development of the new southwest facility, with mean compiled score of 6.8, with consultation session participants rating this component as being more important in the southwest facility than the community survey respondents. This difference was evident in the variance of 0.3 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 2% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 31 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible.

It is important to note that in the results of the community survey, females were significantly more likely to indicate an indoor playground component was highly important in the new southwest facility. This is little or no supplementary information available regarding the use of indoor playgrounds in Alberta.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

3.3.5 Multipurpose space outside a gymnasium

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 2% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 24.3 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 7 programs that use multipurpose space currently have waiting lists, with a total of 191 participants waiting to join these programs. One of these programs is limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of multipurpose space in the new southwest facility may enable this program to expand to include these waiting list participants.

The need for general multipurpose space was frequently mentioned during the consultation sessions, to support a variety of program offerings, a place for large community assembly and other activity needs anticipated in the southwest facility.

The key to the success of this component is flexibility, supporting various types of programming at a time and being easily reconfigured to support a variety of uses.

3.3.6 Meeting rooms/meeting space

Meeting rooms or meeting space garnered a mean compiled score of 6.8 out of 10. This factor was rated by community survey respondents as being more important by community and stakeholder consultation participants, as the scores varied by 0.8 between the community survey and compiled mean scores.

Respondents age 55 and older and female respondents were significantly more likely to highly rate the importance of meeting rooms/meeting space in the development of the new southwest facility.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 7 programs that use classroom space and 3 that use banquet facilities currently have waiting lists, with a total of 8,653 participants waiting to join these programs. Five of these

programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of meeting rooms or larger meeting spaces in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

The incorporation of this facility component is reflective of the comments made during the consultation sessions, that the future facility will fill the role of the informal and formal gathering place in the community. These areas need to be large enough to support larger community gatherings or large facility user groups (i.e. community meetings, educational courses, etc. room size approximately 150 people).

Also mentioned in the consultation sessions were the expectation that the facility would host continuing education courses offered by various institutions, as well as hosting various community meetings, activities and events, with these meeting rooms and space designed to support these activities

Currently, there are a total of 3 facilities that provide meeting spaces in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ William Lutsky YMCA
- ◆ The Riverbend Athletic Club
- ◆ The Riverbend Community Hall

While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within these facilities.

3.3.7 Indoor tennis/basketball courts

An indoor tennis or basketball component of the new facility was rated with a mean compiled score of 6.7, with no variance between community survey respondents and consultation session participants.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 4% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 72.8 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible. It is important to note that community survey respondents with children in the household were significantly more likely to currently use indoor tennis/basketball courts and to rate this facility component as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 3 programs that use indoor tennis courts currently have waiting lists, with a total of 671 participants waiting to join these programs. Two of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of indoor tennis/basketball courts in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

As a comparison to other facilities within the City of Edmonton, 2% of the Kinsmen Sport Centre 2003 customer base reported using the indoor tennis courts and while 3% reported using the indoor basketball courts, culminating in a total of 32,231 visits in 2003.³⁰

Participation in basketball is increasing, particularly where there are opportunities for unstructured or more flexible participation.³¹

In terms of economy of space, the concept of a multi-purpose field house has been recently employed in a number of new facilities within Northern Alberta (Collicutt Centre in Red Deer, Tri-Leisure Centre, Spruce Grove, Millennium Place in Strathcona County). By planning for flexibility of space in a fieldhouse environment, a variety of activities can be accommodated including indoor tennis, basketball, badminton, indoor soccer, modified football and baseball activities, as well as including drop-down netting for golf and batting practice, etc.

This space should also be flexible enough, with removal boards, walls or ceiling components to support racquetball and squash, or indoor lacrosse activities without the need to designate specific dedicated space to support these activities. In terms of costing, a space just under 54,000 sq. ft. was accommodated. The final configuration of the field house would be determined in Phase 2, or the Design phase of the project.

Currently, the William Lutsky YMCA is the only facility which provides support for indoor tennis and basketball in the southwest. While efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services, the anticipated need will not be accommodated within this facility.

³⁰ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment (2002)

³¹ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report (November 2003)

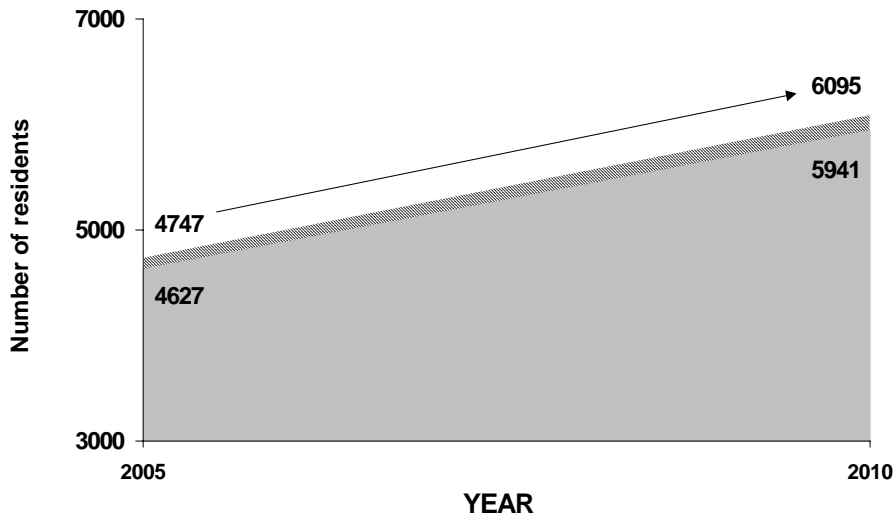
3.3.8 Indoor soccer pitches

Indoor soccer pitches garnered a mean compiled rating of 6.7 out of 10, with minimal variance between community survey respondents and consultation sessions participants.

The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 14% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 77.2 times per year. Another 3% of respondents are planning to use an indoor soccer pitch in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 4627 and 4747 residents would use the indoor soccer pitch component if available in 2005 growing to 5941 to 6095 residents by 2010.

Figure 10

**Projected Indoor Soccer Pitch Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 77.2 visits per year, the indoor soccer pitch would be visited 357,000 to 366,000 in 2005 by community residents alone, growing to 458,000 to 470,000 times by 2010,. It is interesting to note that in the results of the community survey, respondents age 35 to 54, and those with children in the household were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use an

indoor soccer pitch and rate an indoor soccer pitch as being highly important in the development of the new facility.

Results of the environmental scan with program providers demonstrated that a total of 4 programs that use indoor soccer pitches currently have waiting lists, with a total of 10 participants waiting to join these programs. Two of these programs are limited by a current lack of facilities. The inclusion of indoor soccer pitch space in the new southwest facility may enable these programs to expand to include these waiting list participants.

Soccer groups in Edmonton reported substantial increases in registrations over the past five years with expectations that this trend would continue over the next five years.³² The Canadian Soccer Association estimates that well over one million Canadians are active soccer players.³³

In terms of economy of space, the concept of a multi-purpose field house has been recently employed in a number of new facilities within Northern Alberta (Collicutt Centre in Red Deer, Tri-Leisure Centre, Spruce Grove, Millennium Place in Strathcona County). By planning for flexibility of space in a fieldhouse environment, a variety of activities can be accommodated including indoor tennis, basketball, badminton, indoor soccer, modified football and baseball activities, as well as including drop-down netting for golf and batting practice, etc.

This space should also be flexible enough, with removal boards, walls or ceiling components to support racquetball and squash, or indoor lacrosse activities without the need to designate specific dedicated space to support these activities. In terms of costing, a space just under 54,000 sq. ft. was accommodated. The final configuration of the field house would be determined in Phase 2, or the Design phase of the project.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

³² Field Tournament Site Needs Assessment (2002)

³³ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report (November 2003)

3.3.9 Healthcare space

Healthcare space garnered a mean compiled score of 6.7 out of 10. This factor was rated consistently by residents (mean score = 6.6), and consultation participants (mean score = 6.7).

Community respondents age 35 to 44, female respondents and those with a high school education were significantly more likely to rate healthcare space as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility.

The inclusion of healthcare services reflects the high value placed on the concept of “accessibility” mentioned by many during the assessment process. A potential partnership with the Capital Health Authority should be fully explored prior to design of this facility space.

Target 2 of the City of Edmonton Integrated Service Strategy highlights the need to seek opportunities to collaborate with the Capital Health Authority, Ma’mowe Capital Region – Child and Family Services Authority to improve service at the local level.³⁴

3.3.10 General rental rooms/space for group or community functions

General rental rooms garnered a mean compiled score of 6.7 out of 10. This facility component was rated consistently by community survey respondents and consultation participants, as the scores varied by 0.1.

Community survey respondents age 35 to 54 and female respondents were significantly more likely to rate general rental rooms as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility.

The inclusion of general rental rooms is reflective of a number of recent trends, including;

- ◆ “Facilities resemble “recreation destinations” that include traditional leisure amenities along with expended retail and entertainment options.”³⁵
- ◆ Facilities frequently incorporating revenue-generating space for ancillary uses such as ATM’s, licensed food services, equipment shops, etc.”³⁶

³⁴ City of Edmonton – Integrated Service Strategy (July 2000) pp. 36

³⁵ A Look at Tomorrow’s Recreation Facilities, Parks & Recreation Canada, winter 2003.

³⁶ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan, Needs and Market Assessment Report, November 2003

The incorporation of this type of facility component is reflective of the comments made during the consultation sessions, in terms of the future facility filling the role of the gathering place in the community. These areas need to be large enough to support larger gatherings of the community or large facility user groups as well as booking for birthday parties, and other social events.

Currently, there are a total of 2 facilities that provide rental spaces in the southwest area of Edmonton, including;

- ◆ Confederation Arena
- ◆ William Lutsky YMCA

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by these facilities.

3.3.11 Hot tub (therapeutic pool)

A hot tub or therapeutic pool component was consistently rated as being important in the development of the new southwest facility, with a mean compiled score of 6.6. This was consistent across the three sources, evident in the minimal variance of 0.1 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 2% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 66.7 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible. It is interesting to note that community survey respondents age 35 to 44 and those with children in the household were significantly more likely to rate a hot tub or therapeutic pool as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility.

This approach is echoed in the fact that “swimming pools feature irregular shapes, waterslides and fountains; leisure pools with spaces for disabled access, teaching beginners, and lap swimming; family change rooms; moveable floors; and aquatic environments” are a few of the recent leisure facility trends.³⁷

³⁷ City of Edmonton Facility Master Plan – Needs and Market Assessment Report

Again, efforts should be made to partner with the schools planned for the facility site, to ensure the aquatic components can be used to capacity as the current City of Edmonton aquatic facilities “operate near capacity during prime hours of after 4 pm on weekdays and on Saturday morning, but are under capacity during the daytime on weekdays and for the remainder of the weekend.”³⁸

3.3.12 Outdoor ball diamonds

An outdoor ball diamond was rated with a mean compiled score of 6.5 out of ten, consistent across the three sources, evident in the minimal variance of 0.1 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 2% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 42 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible. It is important to note that respondents with children in the household were significantly more likely to currently use ball diamonds.

As stated in the Recreation Facility Master Plan, Needs and Market Assessment Report (2003) Softball/slow pitch participation remains stable or shows a slight increase in participation while baseball shows declining participation.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

3.3.13 Outdoor skating area or rink

An outdoor skating area of the new facility was consistently rated, garnering a mean compiled score of 6.4 and a mean score of 6.6 among community survey respondents.

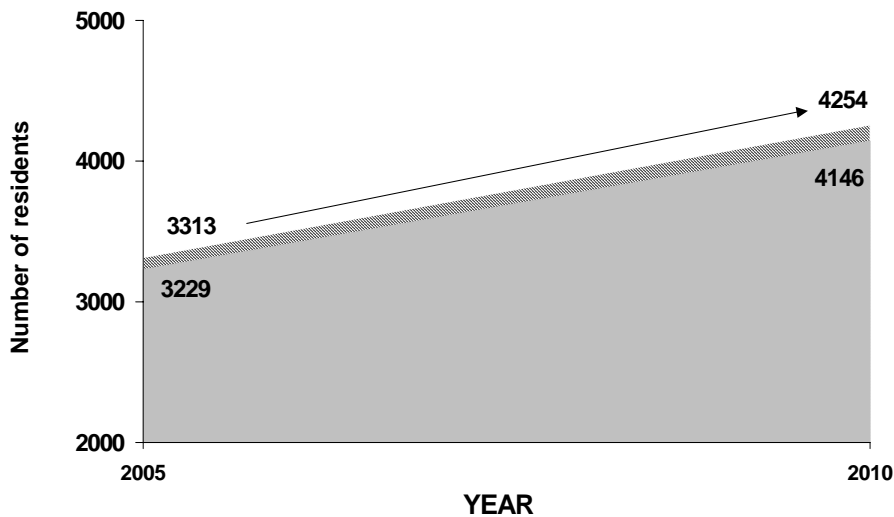
The importance of this component is consistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as 10% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 19.6 times per year. Another 3% of

³⁸ *ibid* – pp.27

respondents are planning to use an outdoor skating area in the next 12 months. Based on the current population estimate of 33,286 residents in the southwest catchment area, between 3229 and 3313 residents would use the outdoor skating area if available in 2005 growing to 4146 to 4254 residents by 2010.

Figure 10

**Projected Outdoor Skating Area Usage 2005 and 2010
(Number of Residents)**



Using the frequency of use reported in the community survey, a mean of 19.6 visits per year, the outdoor skating component would be visited 63,000 to 65,000 times in 2005 by community residents alone, growing 81,000 to 83,000 by 2010. It is important to note that in the results of the community survey, those with children in the household, with an annual income of more than \$100,000 were significantly more likely to indicate they currently use an outdoor skating area.

The concept of the outdoor recreational skating area mirroring the indoor component was mentioned by consultation session participants, with large doors that can be opened when weather permits to allow skating from outside to inside the facility. The potential for a skate rental service, should it be provided for the indoor recreational skating area, could also support the outdoor area.

In terms of flexibility of space, the designated outdoor tennis and/or basketball areas could be flooded during winter months to support outdoor recreational skating.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

3.3.14 Outdoor tennis courts

Outdoor tennis courts were rated with a mean compiled score of 6.4. This was consistent across the three sources, evident in the minimal variance of 0.2 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 2% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 25.7 times per year. Therefore usage projections for this facility component are not appropriate. Respondents with an annual income of more than \$100,000 were significantly more likely to rate outdoor tennis courts as being highly important in the development of the southwest facility.

Concerning the outdoor tennis and basketball courts, it may be prudent to combine these facilities or design them for multipurpose use. Consultation participants were clear in that these components could also be developed in partnership with schools to be built on the site, reducing the potential for duplication.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

3.3.15 Outdoor basketball courts

Similar to outdoor tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts were rated with a mean compiled score of 6.4. This was consistent across the three sources with no variance between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 2% of respondents indicated they currently

use this type of facility, visiting an average of 18.3 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible.

Concerning the outdoor basketball courts, it may be prudent to combine these with the outdoor tennis facilities or design them for multipurpose use. Consultation participants were clear in their suggestions in that these components could also be developed in partnership with schools planned for the site, reducing the potential for duplication.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

3.3.16 Massage & physiotherapy services

Massage and physiotherapy services garnered a mean compiled score of 6.3 out of ten, rated slightly higher by consultation participants than by community survey respondents, with a variance of 0.2.

As a comparison to other facilities within the City of Edmonton, 13% of the Kinsmen Sport Centre 2003 customer base reported using the physiotherapy services and 3% reported using the massage services, culminating in a total of 103,143 visits in 2003.³⁹

Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities.

3.3.17 Outdoor sliding hill

An outdoor sliding hill, rated with mean compiled score of 6.1, was rated higher by consultation participants than by community survey respondents, with a variance of 0.3.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 5% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 12.3 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible. Community survey respondents age 35 to 54, and those with children in the household were significantly

³⁹ Kinsmen Sport Centre Market Assessment (2002)

more likely to rate an outdoor sliding hill as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility.

Due to the minimal operating costs, the incorporation of a sliding hill for the outside of the facility lends itself well to the “recreation destinations” concept with various family members able to enjoy winter tobogganing at the facility.

Currently, Terwillegar Towne is the location which provides an outdoor sliding hill in the southwest. Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of service provided by this location.

3.3.18 Racquetball or squash courts

The inclusion of racquetball or squash courts was rated with mean compiled score of 6.1, rated higher by consultation participants than by community survey respondents, with a variance of 0.3.

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 7% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 12.3 times per year. Therefore accurate usage projections for this facility component are not possible.

While a lower percentage of southwest area residents currently use racquetball and squash courts, usage of this facility component in the Kinsmen Sport Centre exceeded 32,000 visits in 2003, used by 5% of the customer base. However, it is noted in the City of Edmonton Recreation Facility Master Plan that racquet sports including squash and racquetball show declining participation.

Rather than dedicating a portion of the facility for designated single use racquetball and squash courts, all efforts should be made to incorporate these activities in the multi-purpose field house area of the facility. It is anticipated that more dedicated squash and racquetball enthusiasts could be accommodated at the Riverbend Athletic Club or other private clubs in the southwest.

In terms of economy of space, the concept of a multi-purpose field house has been recently employed in a number of new facilities within Northern Alberta (Collicutt Centre in Red Deer, Tri-Leisure Centre, Spruce Grove, Millennium Place in Strathcona County). By

planning for flexibility of space in a fieldhouse environment this space should be flexible and easily transformed, with removable, retractable boards, walls or ceiling components to support racquetball and squash, or indoor lacrosse activities without the need to designate specific dedicated space to support these activities. In terms of costing, a space just under 54,000 sq. ft. was accommodated. The final configuration of the field house would be determined in Phase 2, or the Design phase of the project.

Currently, the Riverbend Athletic Club is the only facility which provides support for racquetball and squash in the southwest. Efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by this facility.

3.3.19 Social service space

Social services space garnered a mean compiled score of 6.0 out of 10. This factor was rated consistently by community survey respondents (mean score = 6.1), and consultation participants (mean score = 6.0).

Female community survey respondents and those with a high school education were significantly more likely to rate social services space as being highly important in the development of the new southwest facility. The inclusion of social services reflects the high value placed on the concept of “accessibility” mentioned by many during the assessment process. The feasibility of this concept would need to be addressed during Phase 2 or the design phase of the project.

Target 2 of the City of Edmonton Integrated Service Strategy highlights the need to seek opportunities to collaborate with the Capital Health Authority, Ma’mowe Capital Region – Child and Family Services Authority to improve service at the local level.⁴⁰

3.3.20 Outdoor spray park/water park

An outdoor spray park component of the new facility was rated with mean compiled score of 6.0. This was consistent across the three sources, evident in the minimal variance of 0.1 between the community survey mean score and the compiled score.

⁴⁰ City of Edmonton – Integrated Service Strategy (July 2000) pp. 36

The importance of this component is inconsistent with the estimates of current usage collected during the community survey, as only 1% of respondents indicated they currently use this type of facility, visiting an average of 3.8 times per year. Therefore usage projections for this facility component are not appropriate. Community survey respondents age 25 to 44 years, those with children in the household and those with an annual income more than \$100,000 were significantly more likely to rate an outdoor spray park as being highly important in the new southwest facility.

The inclusion of an outdoor spray component could serve as one of the outdoor focal points for the facility, creating natural gathering places for the community during warmer seasons. Similar facilities already exist in the City of Edmonton, Leduc County, St. Albert, Strathcona County, and are typically operated on days where the temperature exceeds 20°C.

Though no facilities of this nature are currently available in the southwest, efforts should be made to avoid duplication of services provided by other southwest facilities planned for the future.

4.0 RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS & RECOMENDATIONS

The results from this study elicit a number of conclusions and recommendations.

The environment in the new facility should be warm and welcoming, comfortable and inclusive. Efforts should be taken to incorporate entrance, lobby and common spaces with an inviting feel, therefore attracting visitors into the space for physical activity, learning and visiting with family and friends. The use of natural light and an open-space concept was considered desirable in achieving these goals.

The concepts that are expected to guide the design of the southwest facility are “flexibility” and “adaptability”. As such, each facility component should be designed to ensure it is supporting a maximum number of potential uses and be able to meet user needs both now and in the future. Examples of these concepts would include;

- ◆ A multipurpose field house that supports diverse activities such as indoor soccer, basketball, badminton, but other up and coming sports like futsal, box lacrosse, and in-line hockey and provides space for community assembly.
- ◆ A flexible aquatic component which allows a 50m pool diving activities competitive swimming, and leisure and teaching pool activities.
- ◆ The indoor running track that support not only the traditional activities of walking and jogging, as well as use by those with wheelchairs, strollers, or even in-line skating activities.
- ◆ The arena component that can transform to meet the diverse needs of individuals and group users.

While the facility components were prioritized based on a number of data sources, those facility components assigned lower ratings of importance should not be discounted in the development of new facility. Potential partners interested in funding facility components not ranked highly in the priority list should be explored during the design phase.

One of the potential partnerships would be with the four schools planned for facility site. Careful foresight, planning and partnerships should prevent any potential duplication of

facility components, ensuring that the facility opportunities are maximized within this localized area of the southwest. It is also important to note that space constraints may limit the number of partnership opportunities in the facility.

The concept of partnerships can take on a number of different meanings and roles in the new facility. From community groups spearheading fundraising initiatives and community grant applications to program providers offering free learn-to-swim programs, to corporate naming rights, provincial and federal funding. Each level of partnership has the potential to impact the new facility, both during the capital funding stages prior to construction to operation of the completed facility.

The next stage in the development of the southwest facility is the design phase. It is important that the facility be innovative in its design. Ground breaking concepts and ideas uncovered during the facility component priority assessment should be explored, including, but not limited to, placing the parking beneath the sports fields and using glass sound proof partitions to separate facility areas. An international design competition was suggested by stakeholders as an opportunity to explore a wide range of unique and varied options.

A review of Current Trends and Practices should be encouraged during the design phase of the new facility; that is, identifying models from similar facilities. This approach should extend not only in the general design of the facility, but in the safety and esthetics, as well as being environmentally friendly, are all factors that should be associated in facility design.

Other local Alberta multipurpose facilities which should be considered in the review, include;

- ◆ The TransAlta Tri-leisure Centre in Spruce Grove.
- ◆ The Collicutt Centre in Red Deer.
- ◆ Millennium Place in Strathcona County.
- ◆ The Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan.
- ◆ The St. Albert Multipurpose Leisure Centre (in the planning stages)

The successes and challenges experienced by these facilities are a valuable resource, particularly because the component priorities for the southwest facility closely match the components provided in these facilities. Continued participation and input from these

facilities during the design phase would provide valuable insight that could strengthen the final outcome.

Recent trends in facility planning have included the incorporation of dedicated arts and cultural space within multipurpose facilities, however, more and more the concept of health and wellness, education and social services within these facilities is becoming a reality, contributing to an overall quality of life for community residents.

The idea of combining these services within a community facility supports another concept highlighted during the assessment – “Accessibility”. Community members and stakeholders focused on the need for the facility to be accessible in terms of;

- ◆ Overcoming transportation barriers by providing adequate parking and City of Edmonton transit services.
- ◆ Ensuring those with low incomes can overcome financial barriers to participation.
- ◆ Providing child care services for those that would be unable to participate without that type of support.
- ◆ Ensuring that facility components are design to support use by persons with disabilities.

There is a stated desire to incorporate environmentally sound technologies and practices into the new southwest facility design and operation. A few of the more recent examples innovative technologies being used in Alberta municipalities include;

- ◆ Town of Hinton building a solar powered swimming pool.
- ◆ City of Medicine Hat is experimenting with gas-fired micro-turbines to heat and power its leisure center.
- ◆ Town of Sylvan Lake using a geothermal system to heat its pool.
- ◆ Town of Barrhead using ground-source heat pumps to heat much of the building , make hot water, melt snow, heat, cool and dehumidify the rink and recycle excess heat back into the earth.
- ◆ City of Lethbridge using sewage gases to generate electricity.⁴¹

Experience with and willingness to use these state-of-the-art technologies should be incorporated into the tendering of the design phase of the facility development.

⁴¹ Climate Change Central Newsletter C3 Views, April 2003, Issue 7

It is also essential that community and stakeholder groups remain involved in the process through the design phase, as they will provide valuable insight from a user's perspective. Additional public and stakeholder consultation sessions may be warranted to obtain this feedback.