



Okotoks Recreation Centre Expansion Schematic Design & Options

Prepared for Council

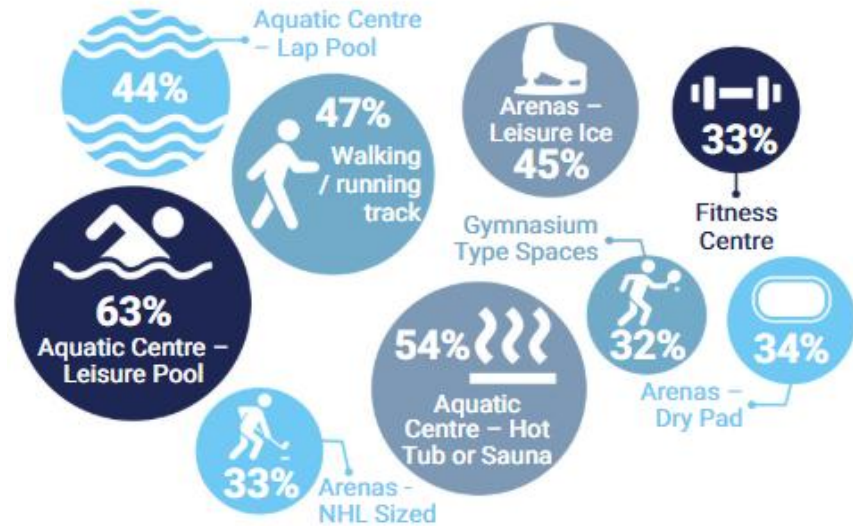
Presentation to Council, September 14, 2026

Purpose of Today

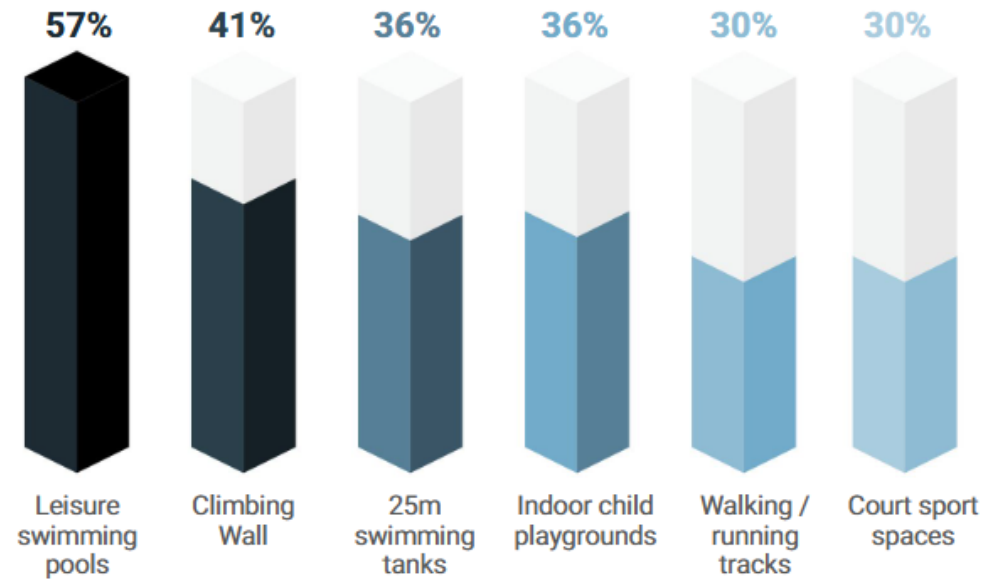
1. Demonstrate priority of Leisure Water first
2. Reveal the "Dream" the ultimate design potential of the Okotoks Recreation Centre
3. Acknowledge funding limitations and provide alternative options for Council consideration
4. Address when and for what purpose Community Engagement is required

Recreation Parks & Leisure Master Plan 2023

Most Used / Visited Facilities - Indoor Facilities



Facility Priorities: Indoor Amenities - More Needed



Data from the RPLMP Update 2023: A total of 891 respondents participated in community engagement for this plan.

Indoor Amenities Inventory

Amenity	2023 Amenity Prioritization Framework Ranking	Public Participation Survey Rank	Current Provision (Inventory)	Current Provision Ratio / # of residents per amenity (Current population = 30405)	Targeted Service Level	Service Level Assessment	Current Capital Allocation	Order of Magnitude Costing
Leisure swimming pools	1	1	1	30,405	1 per 20,000 residents	Enhance	2027-2029	\$55M ORC Expansion Project Phase 1
Climbing gyms	2	2	0	0	1 per 30,000 residents	Enhance	2027-2029	
Indoor child playgrounds	2	4	0	0	1 per 30,000 residents	Enhance	2027-2029	
25m swimming tanks	4	3	1	30,405	1 per 20,000 residents	Enhance		\$14M ORC Expansion Phase 2
Seniors centres	5	5	1	30,405	1 per 20,000 residents	Maintain		\$5M
Fitness/wellness facilities	5	10	1	30,405	1 per 15,000 residents (public/partner provision)	Maintain		\$5M
Court Sport Spaces (e.g. pickleball)	7	7	2	15,203		Maintain	2024	\$2M

Indoor Amenities Inventory cont'd

Amenity	2023 Amenity Prioritization Framework Ranking	Public Participation Survey Rank	Current Provision (Inventory)	Current Provision Ratio / # of residents per amenity (Current population = 30405)	Targeted Service Level	Service Level Assessment	Current Capital Allocation	Order of Magnitude Costing
Walking/running tracks	8	6	2	15,203	1 per 15,000 residents	Maintain		\$4M
Youth centres	9	8	1	30,405	1 per 20,000 residents	Maintain		\$5M
Community hall/ banquet facilities	9	14	1	30,405	1 per 25,000 residents	Maintain		\$10M
Gymnasium type spaces	11	12	15*	2,027	1 per 15,000 residents	Maintain - Provisions obtained through joint use agreement with the school divisions		\$10M
Ice arena facilities (regulation size boarded ice surface)	12	11	4	7,601	1 per 12,500 residents	Maintain		\$39M - Twin Ice Pad
Leisure ice surfaces (non-hockey, non-boarded ice surface)	13	9	1	30,405	1 per 30,000 residents	Maintain		\$5M

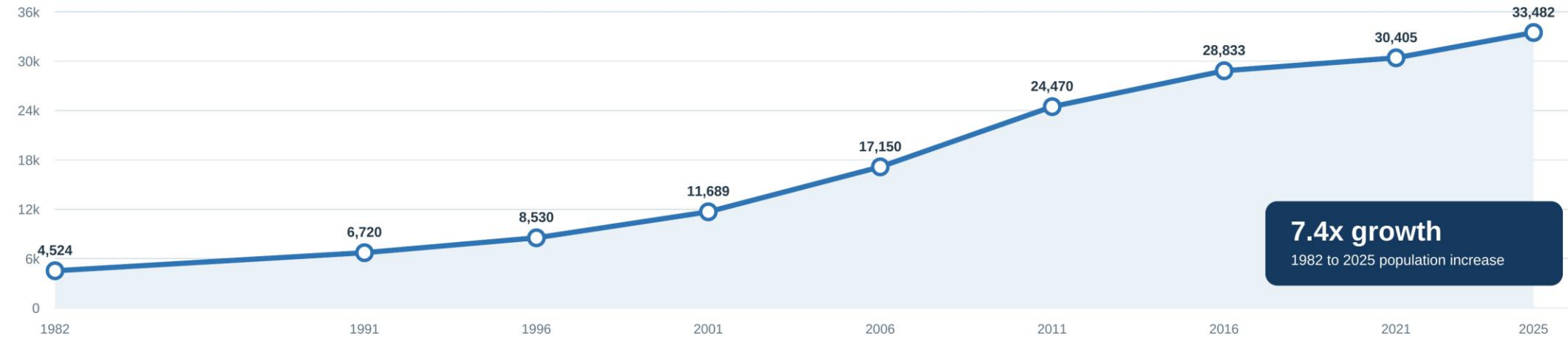
■ = Increase in inventory

■ = Potential for regional approach

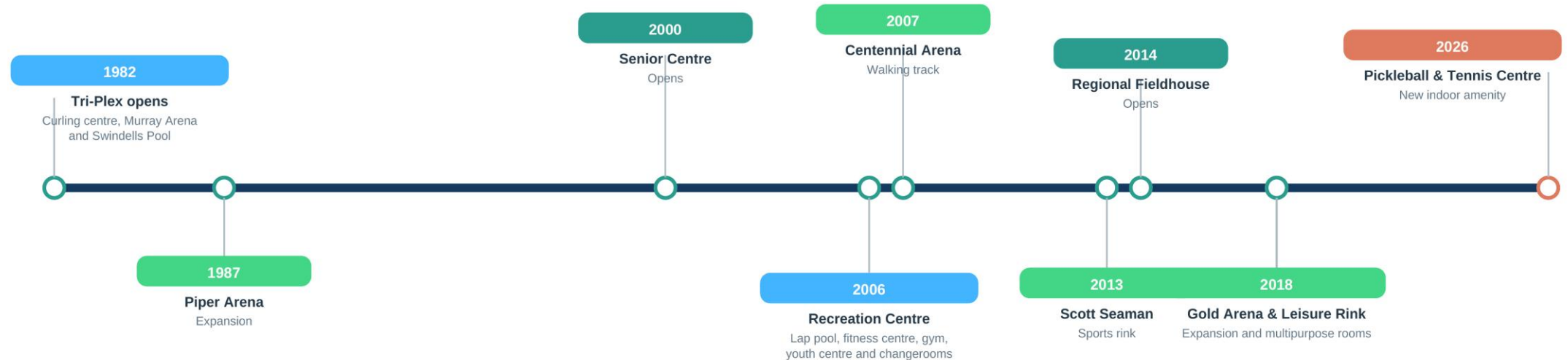
Okotoks Indoor Recreation Growth Timeline

Facilities and population growth | 1982-2026

Population growth



Indoor recreation milestones



FACILITY UTILIZATION SNAPSHOT

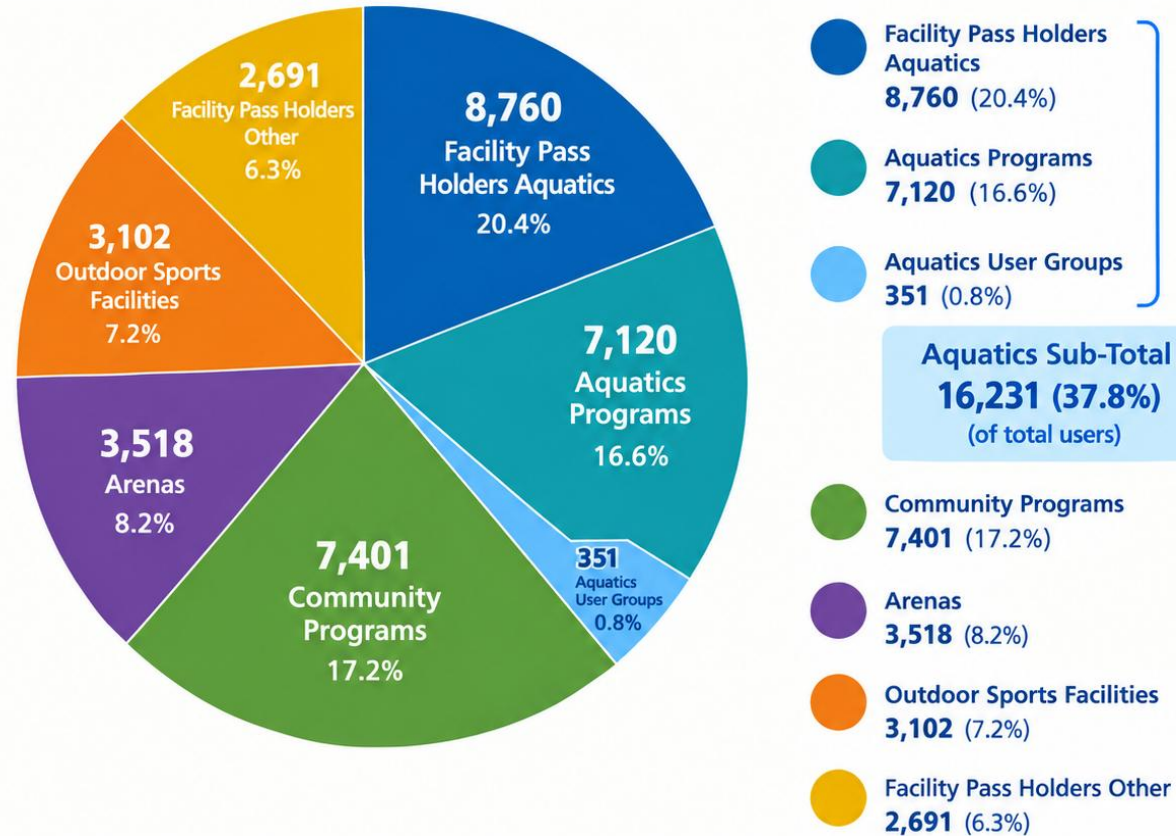
 FACILITY	 HOURS AVAILABLE	 TOTAL HOURS BOOKED	 UTILIZATION
 Boarded Arenas (4 arenas Prime & Non-Prime time)	462	337.75	73.1% 
 Boarded Arenas (4 arenas Prime-time)	272	249.5	91.7% 
 Pools (two pools into 11 spaces for Prime & Non-Prime time)	1089	1191	109.4%  (Above 100% indicates demand exceeds capacity)



- The review above is not like for like comparison.
- Pool allocation is based on 2 basins, split into 11 distinct spaces with overlapping programming per 15 min blocks.
- Arenas are primarily booked for single use programming per hour.
- Prime Time is Monday to Friday 4pm to 11pm, all day Saturday and Sunday.

Total Users by Category

(Number of Users)



Total Users
42,950

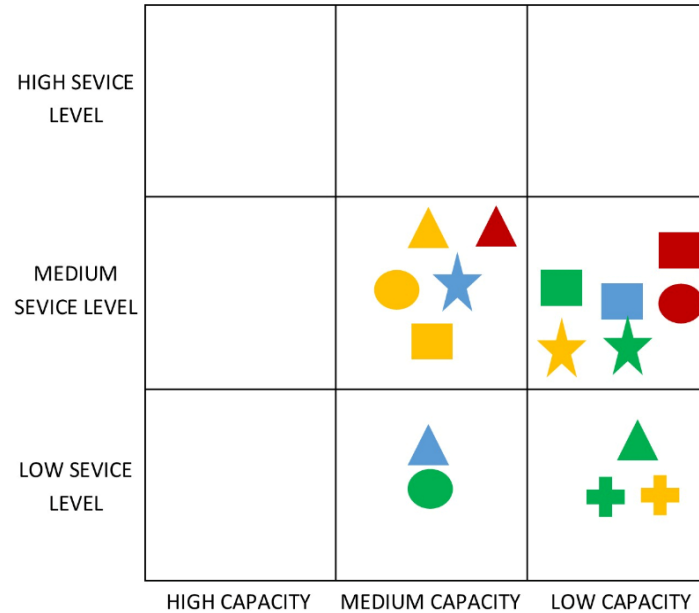
Aquatics Related Users
16,231 (37.8%)

How does more leisure water address capacity?

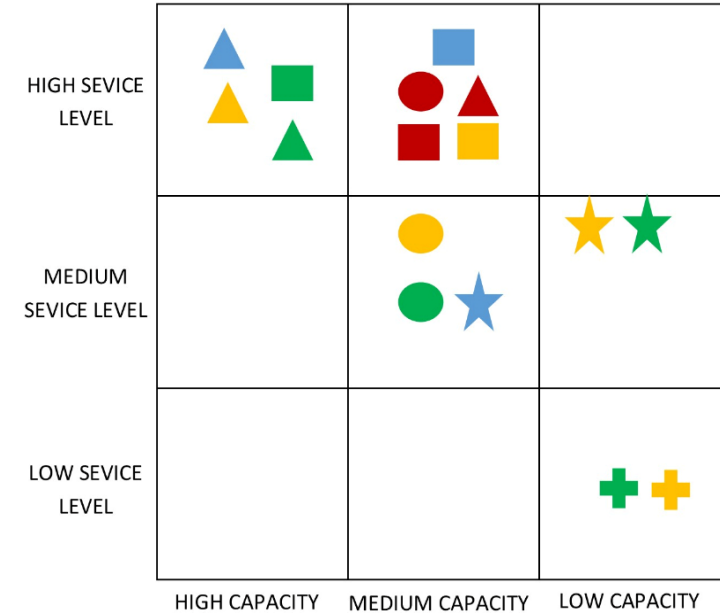
- supports the broadest mix of uses and age groups
- accommodates public swimming, family recreation, introductory lessons, aquafit, and lower-impact activity, and unstructured play
- reduce competing demands within the existing aquatic basins and allow the lane pool to better support lessons, training and sport use

Aquatics Centre Service Levels

Current Aquatics Centre's service levels and ability to accommodate demand



Future Aquatics Centre's with new leisure pool service levels and ability to accommodate demand



Child (0-7 Yrs)	
Learn to Swim (water safety)	
Leisure	
Sport entry	

Youth (8-17 Yrs)	
Learn to Swim (water safety)	
Leisure	
Sport for Life	
Sport for Competition	
Fitness	

Adult	
Learn to Swim (water safety)	
Leisure	
Sport for Life	
Sport for Competition	
Fitness	

Seniors	
Leisure Fitness	
Therapy	
Exercise / Mobility	



The "Dream"

The ultimate design
potential of the Okotoks
Recreation Centre



OBJECTIVE:

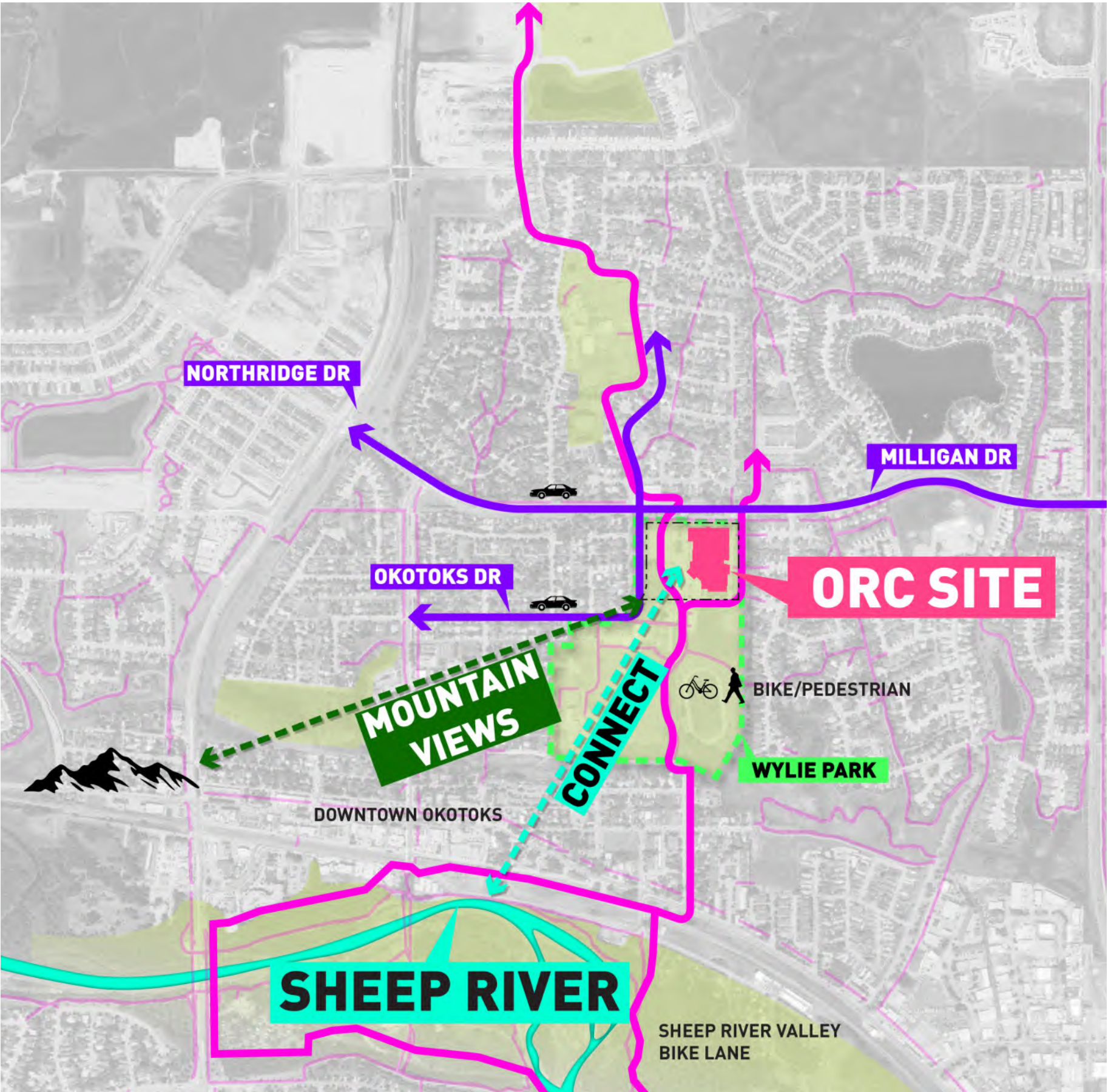
PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE OKOTOKS RECREATION CENTRE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

PLACE MAKING



MOUNTAIN VIEW

- ➡ VEHICULAR ACCESS 🚗
- ➡ BIKE/PEDESTRIAN ACCESS 🚲🚶

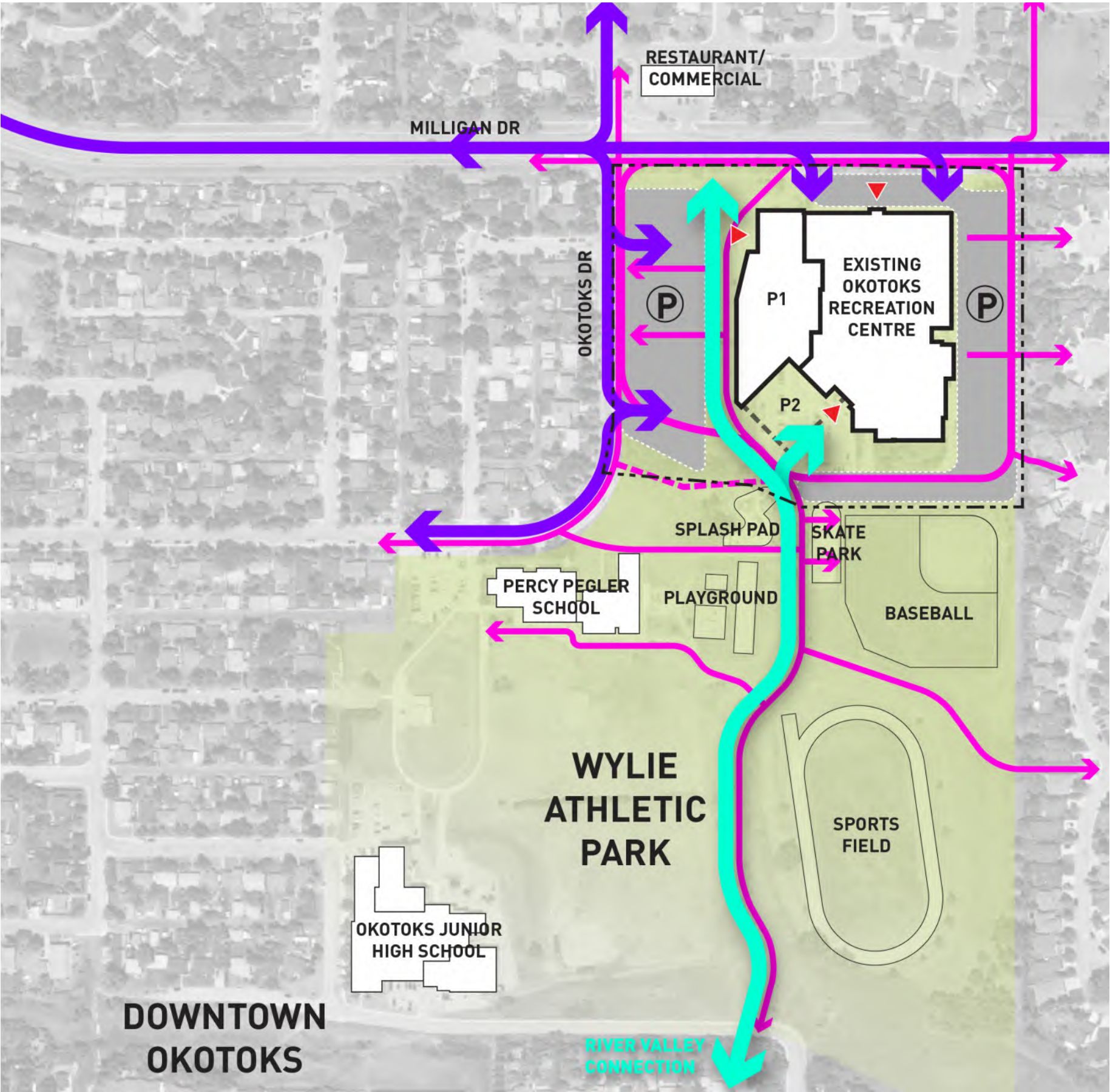
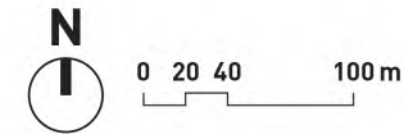


SITE INTEGRATION



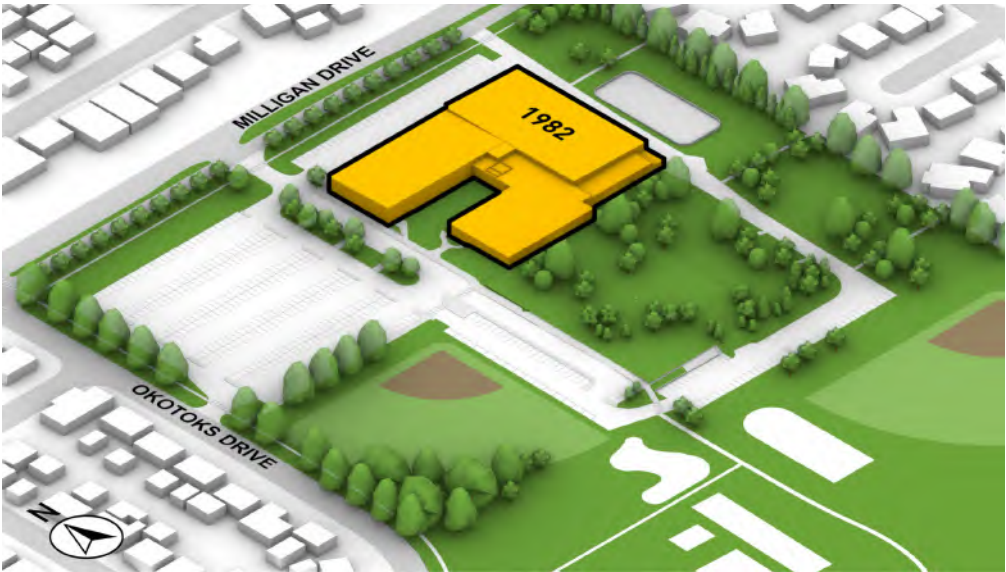
PARK VIEW

- ➡ VEHICULAR ACCESS
- ➡ BIKE/PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

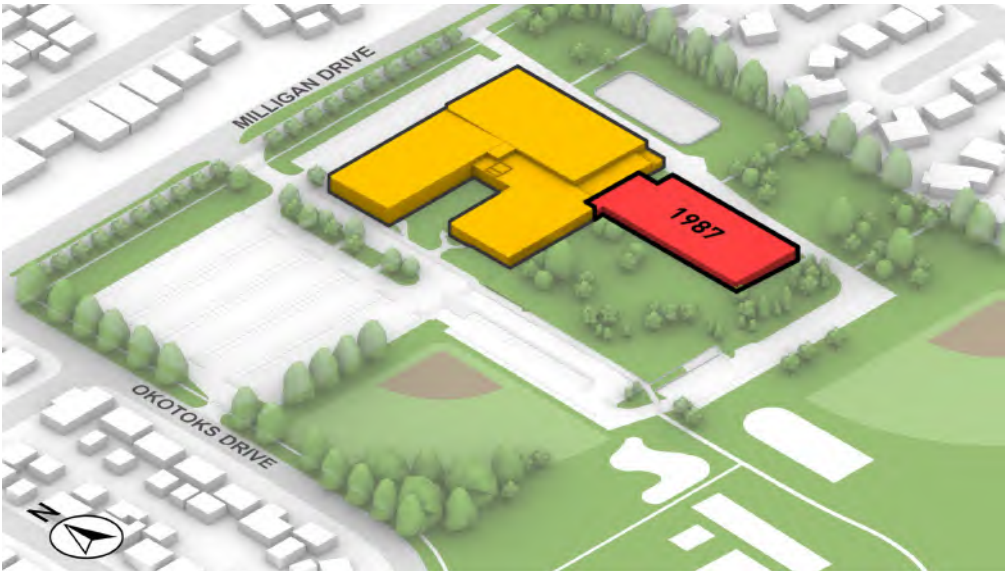


AGING ASSETS

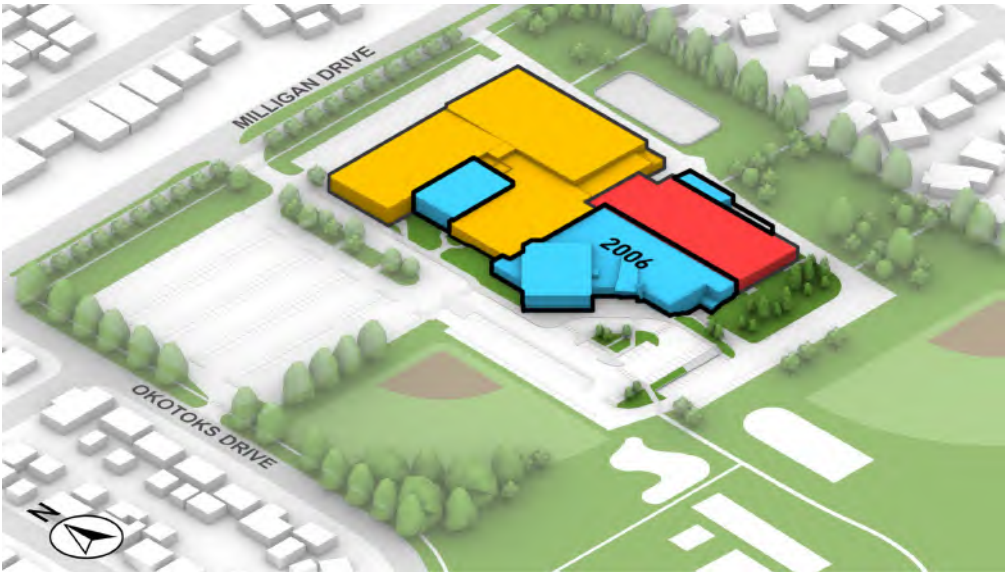
1982
(44YRS)
SWINDELLS POOL
MURRAY ARENA
CURLING



1987
(39YRS)
PIPER ARENA

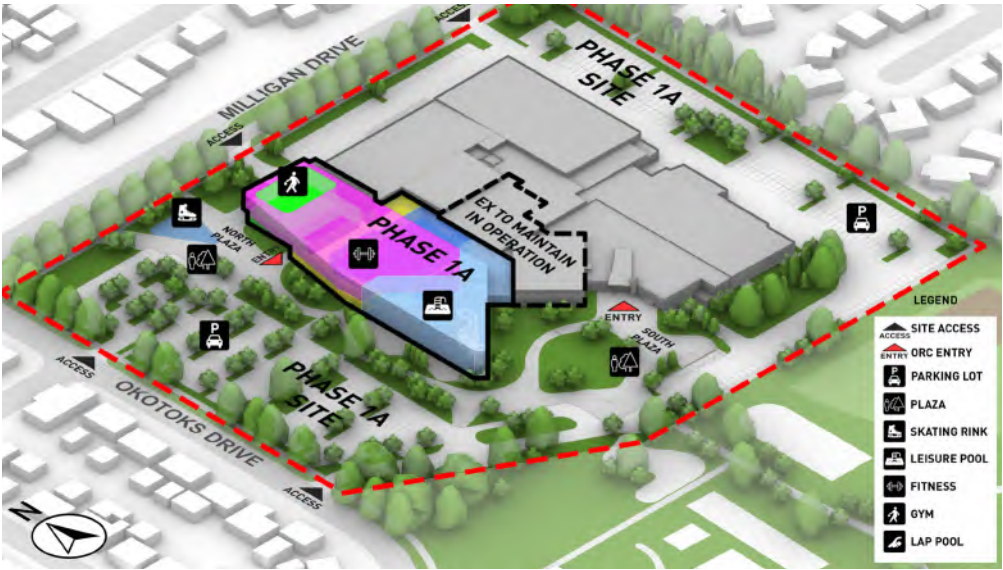


2006
(20YRS)
LAP POOL
FILTRATION
GYM/FITNESS
ADMIN.

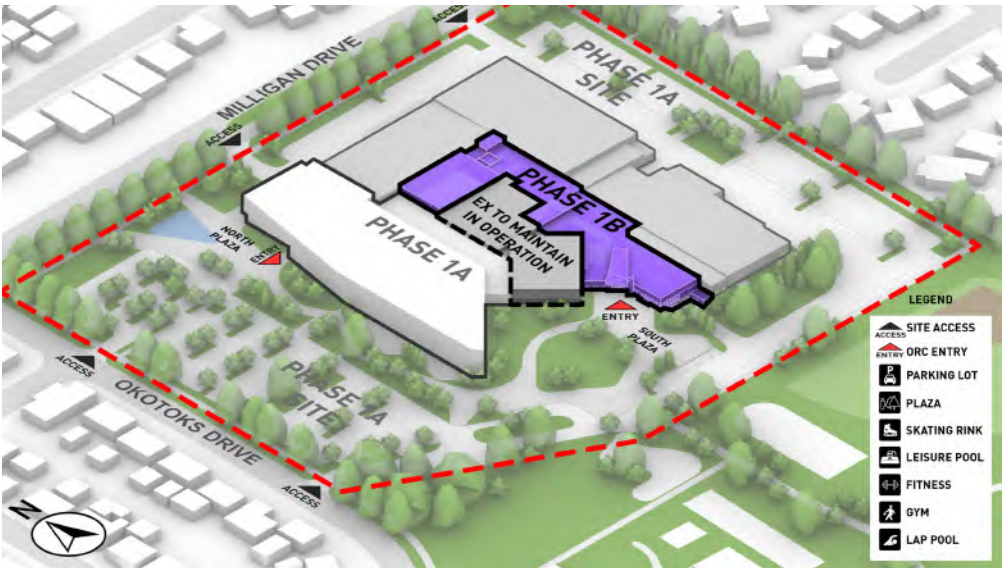


PHASE 1

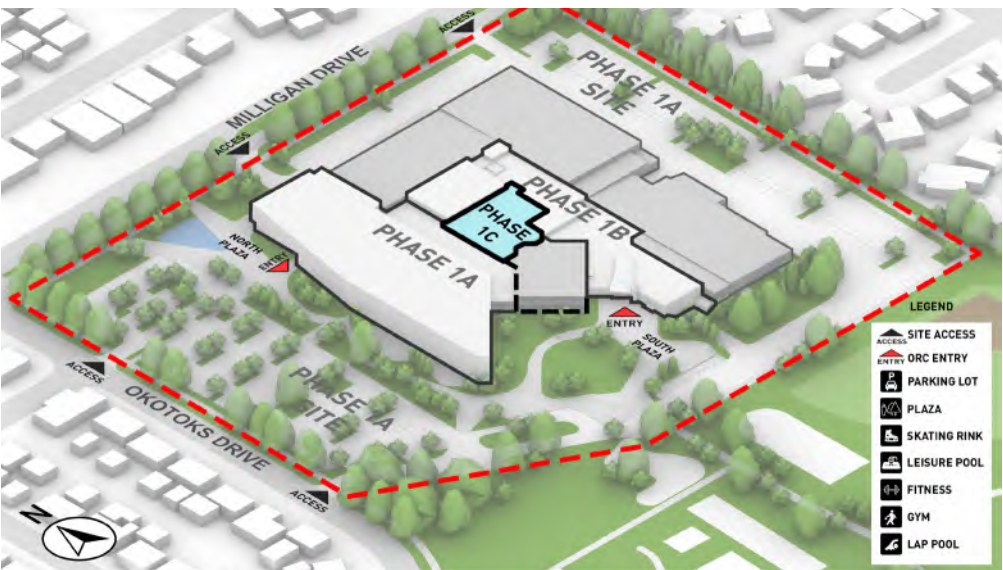
PHASE 1A LEISURE POOL EXPANSION



PHASE 1B CLIMB, PLAY, LOBBY, GYM RENOVATION

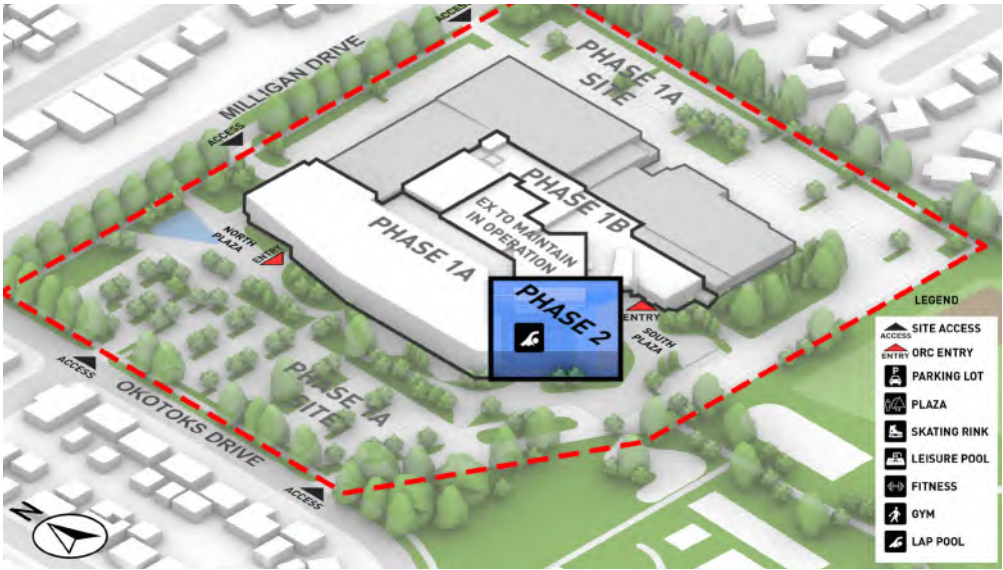


PHASE 1C SWINDELLS POOL RENOVATION



PHASE 2/3

PHASE 2 LAP POOL EXPANSION



PHASE 3 ARENAS RENOVATION







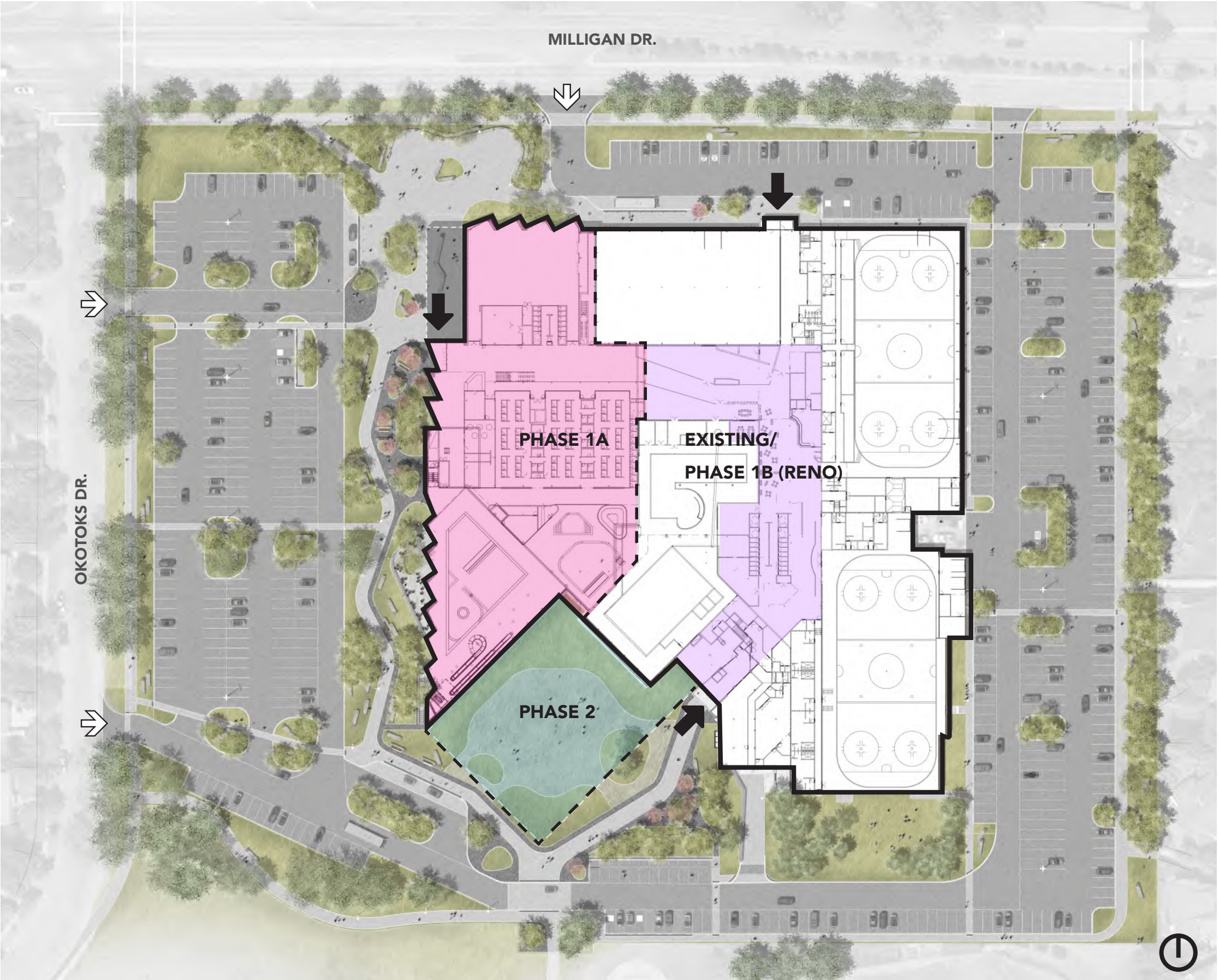
SCHEMATIC DESIGN

LEISURE & LAP

PLAY & CLIMB

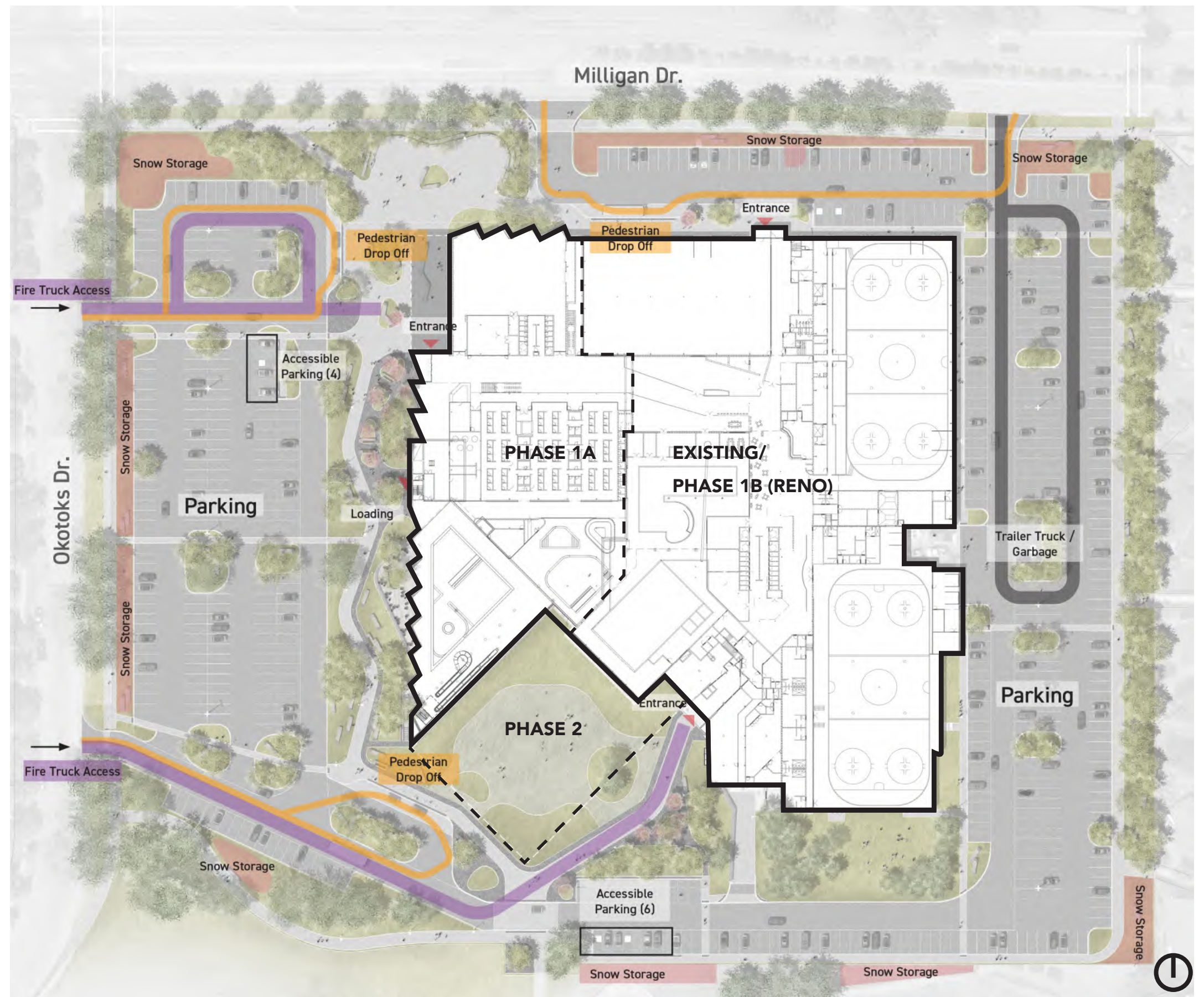
(PH 1A, 1B & 2)

COMPLETE SITE PLAN

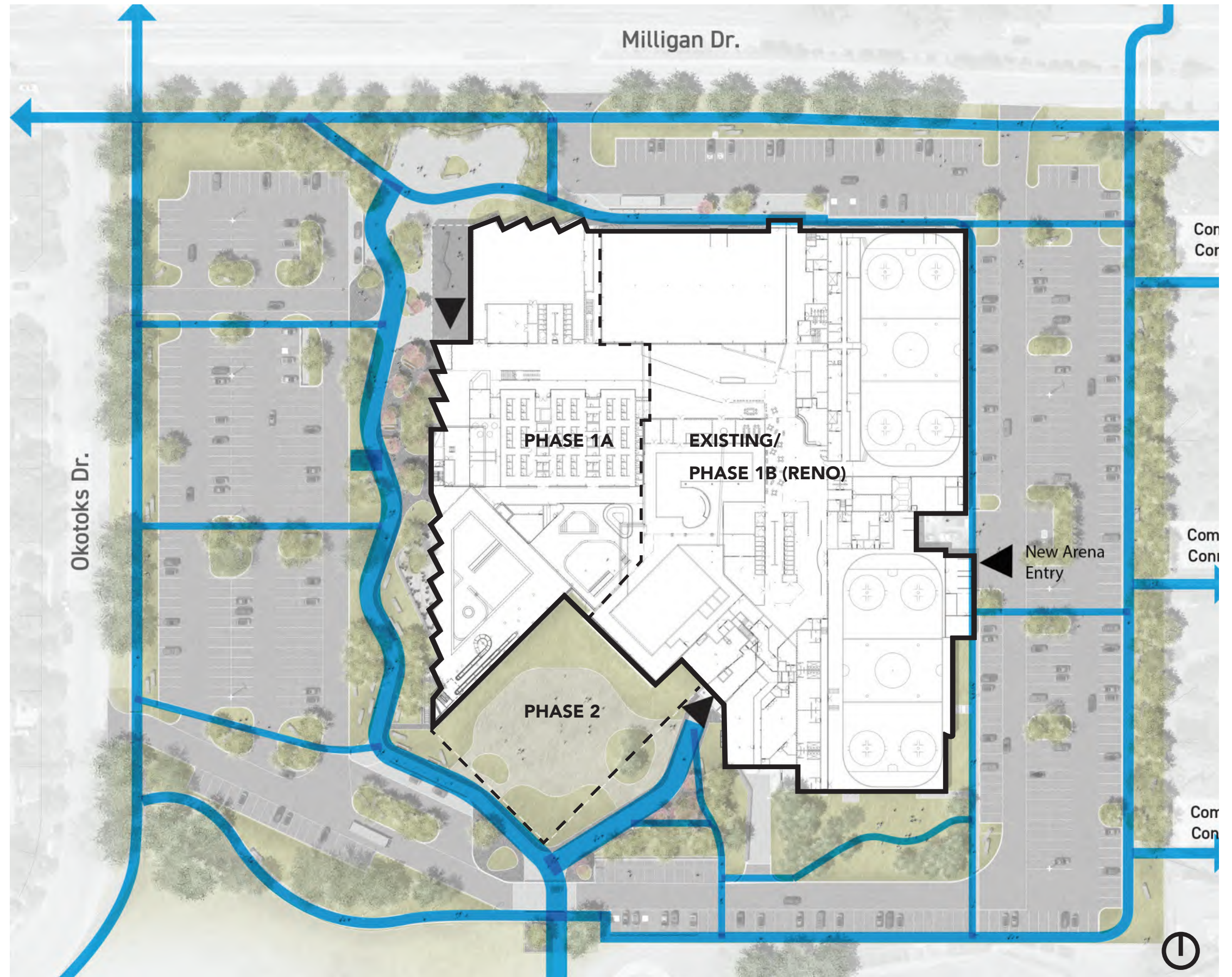


MAXIMIZE PARKING & DROP OFF

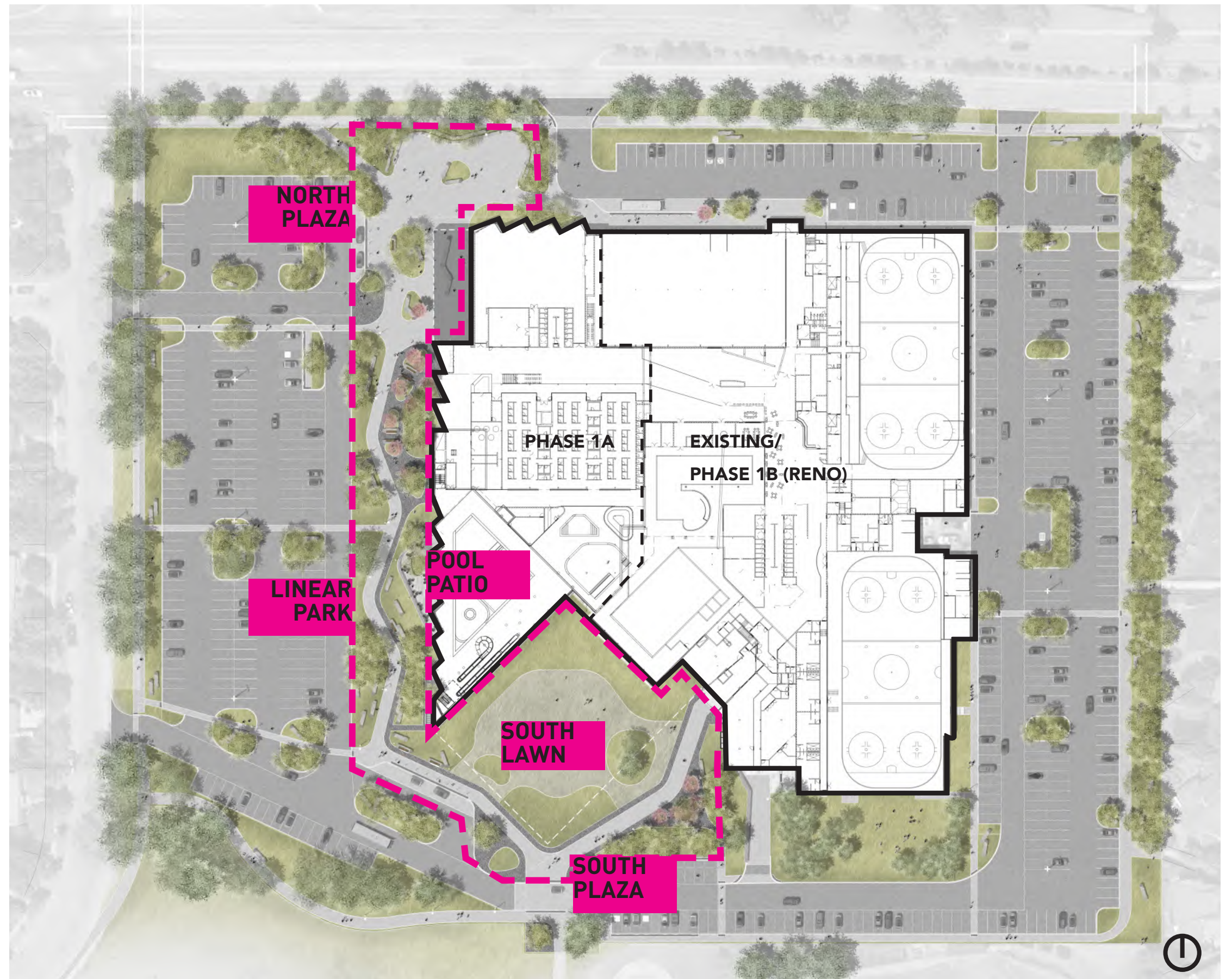
STALLS
PROVIDED = 531
TIA REQ = 523



OPTIMIZE PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION



ANIMATE RIVER VALLEY CONNECTION



PRESERVE EXISTING TREES

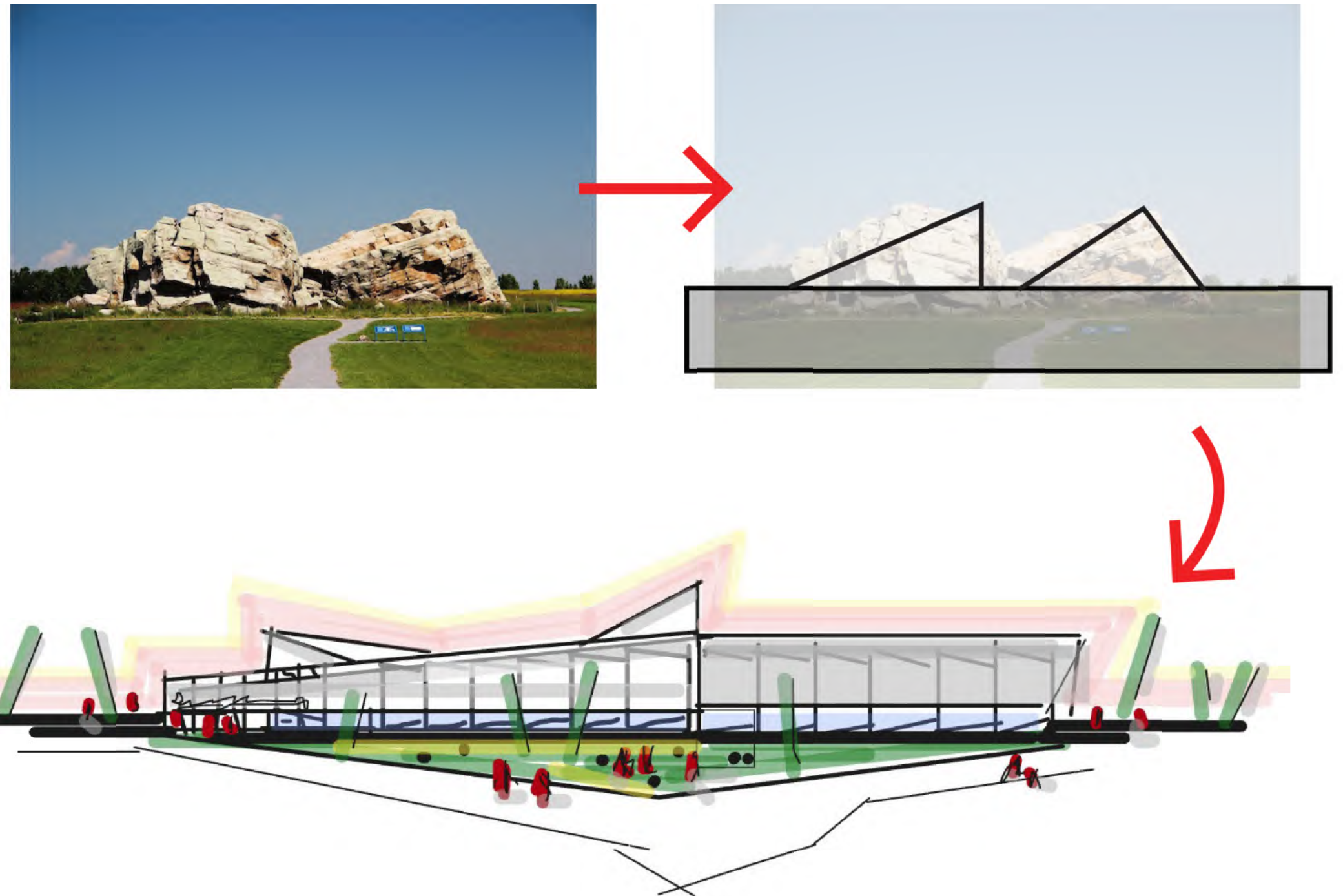


CONCEPT APPROACH

SENSE OF PLACE

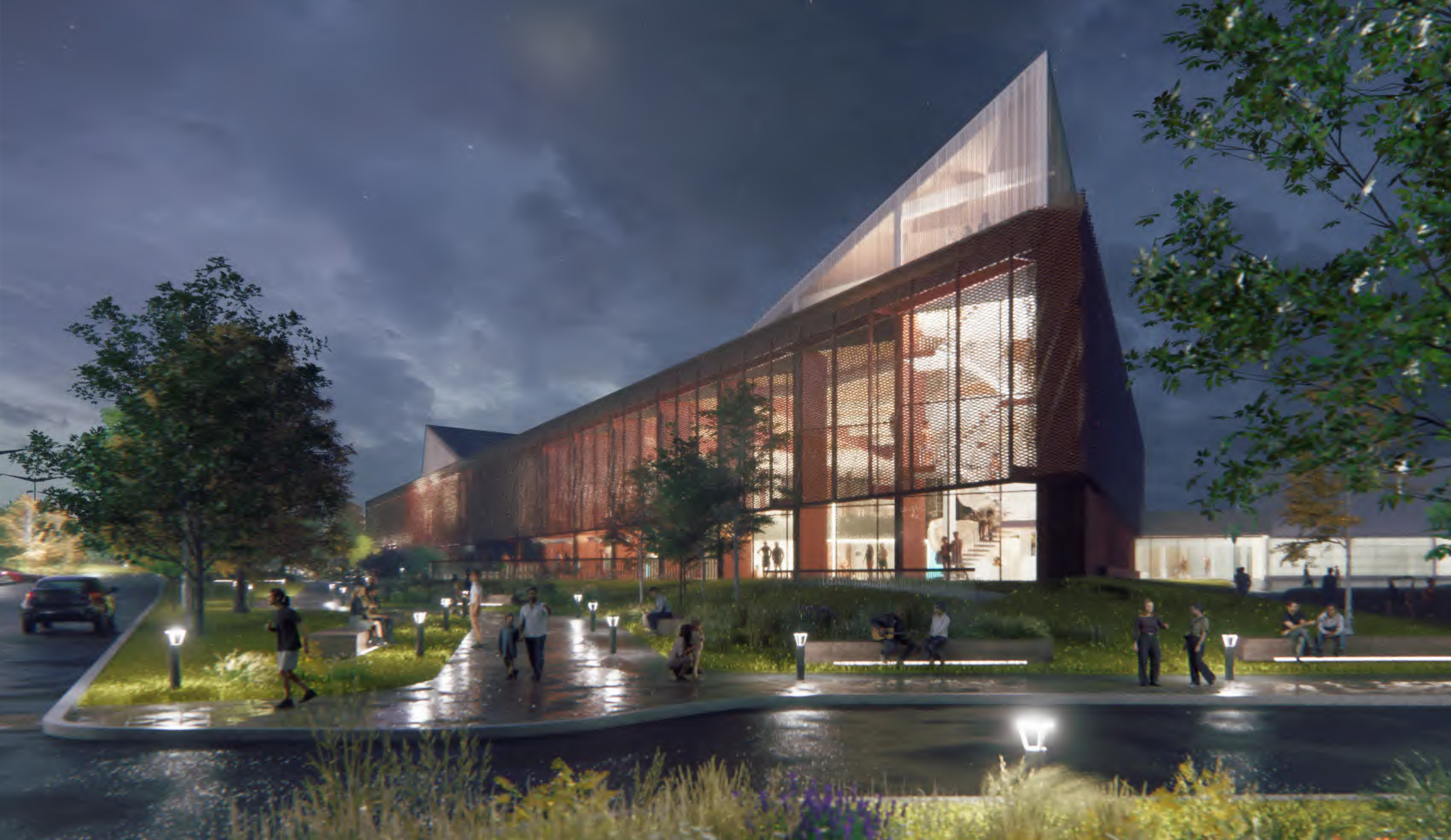
MINIMIZE BUILDING
VOLUME

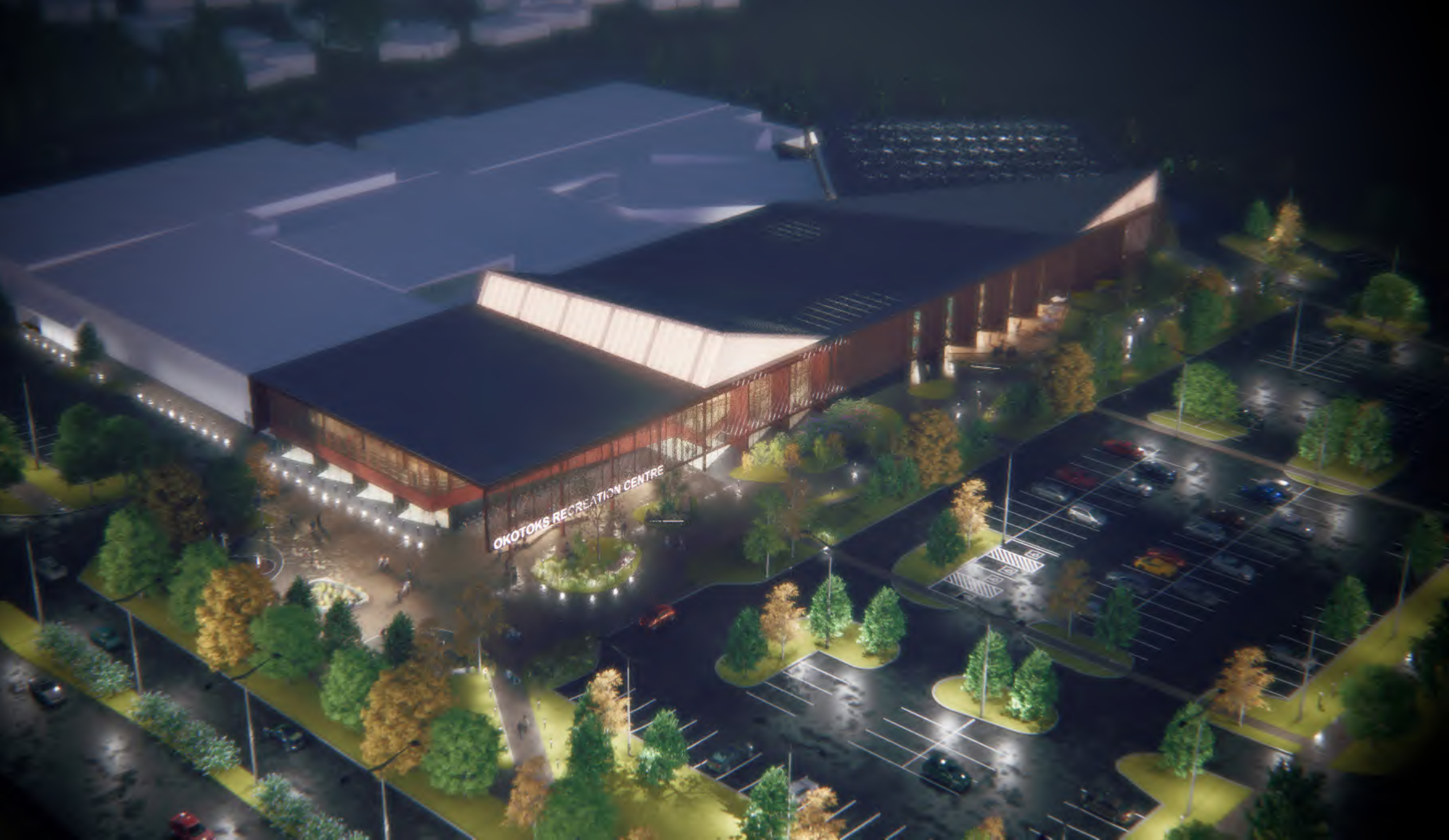
EFFICIENT STRUCTURAL
SYSTEM & LAYOUT





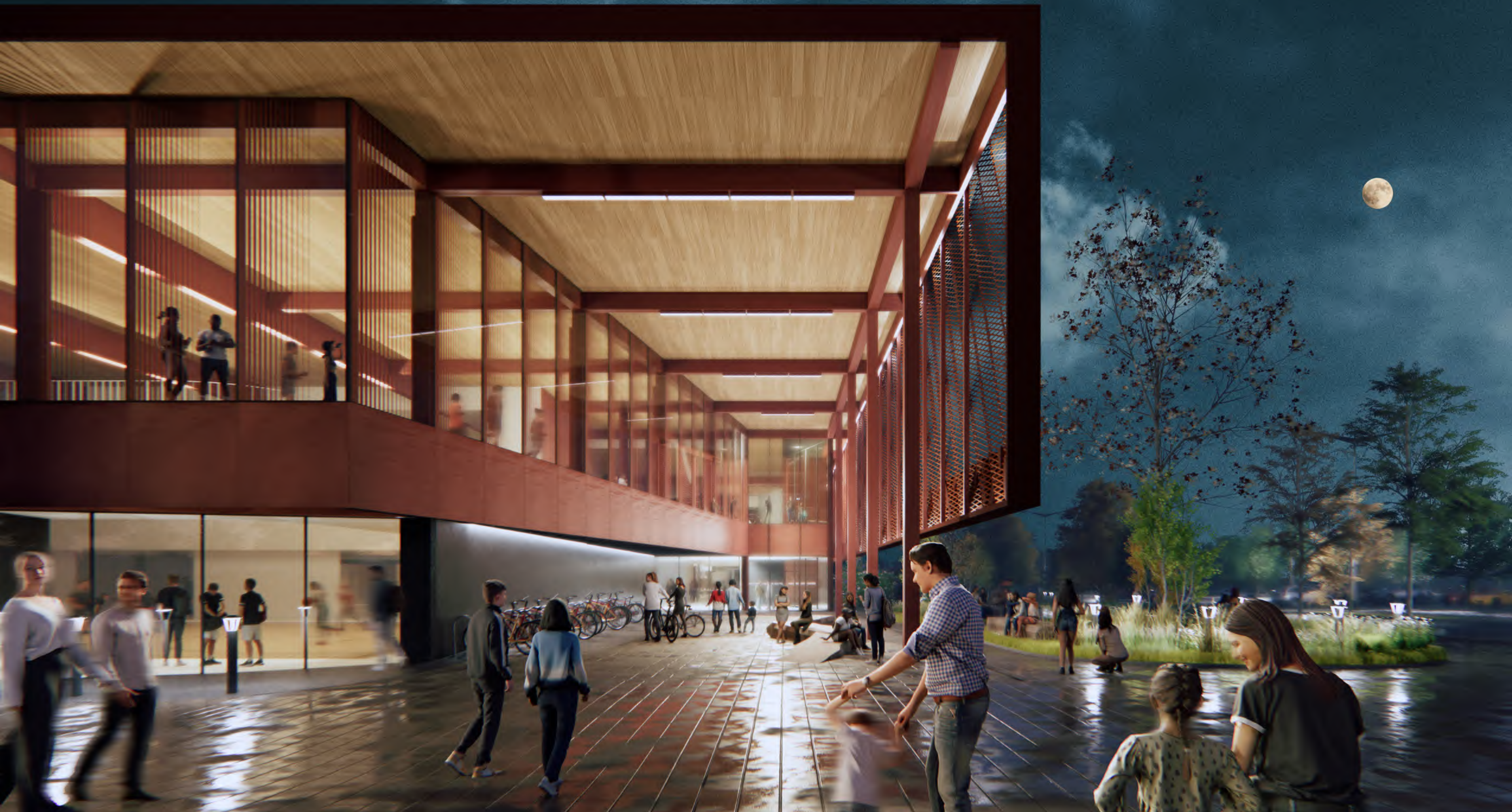


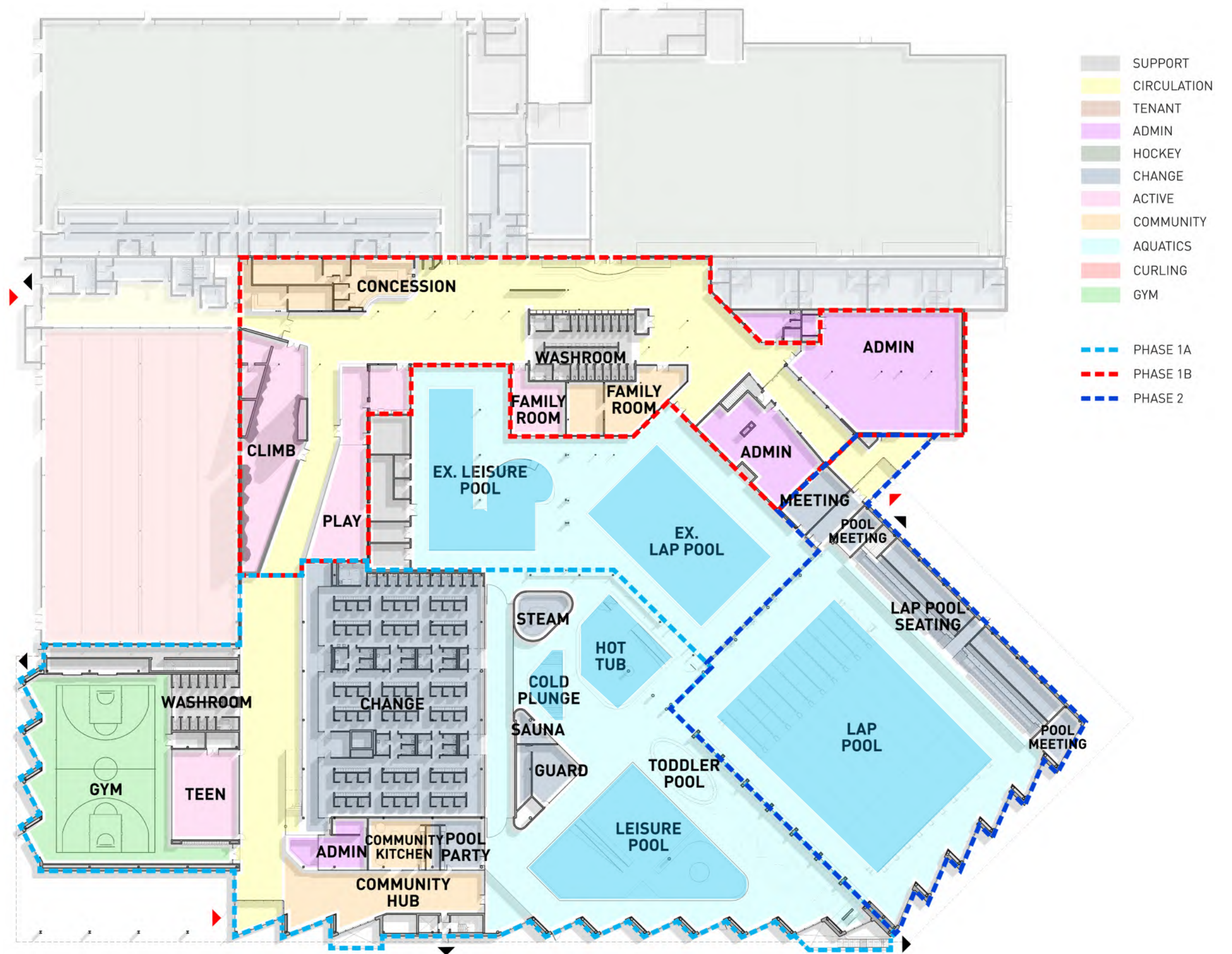


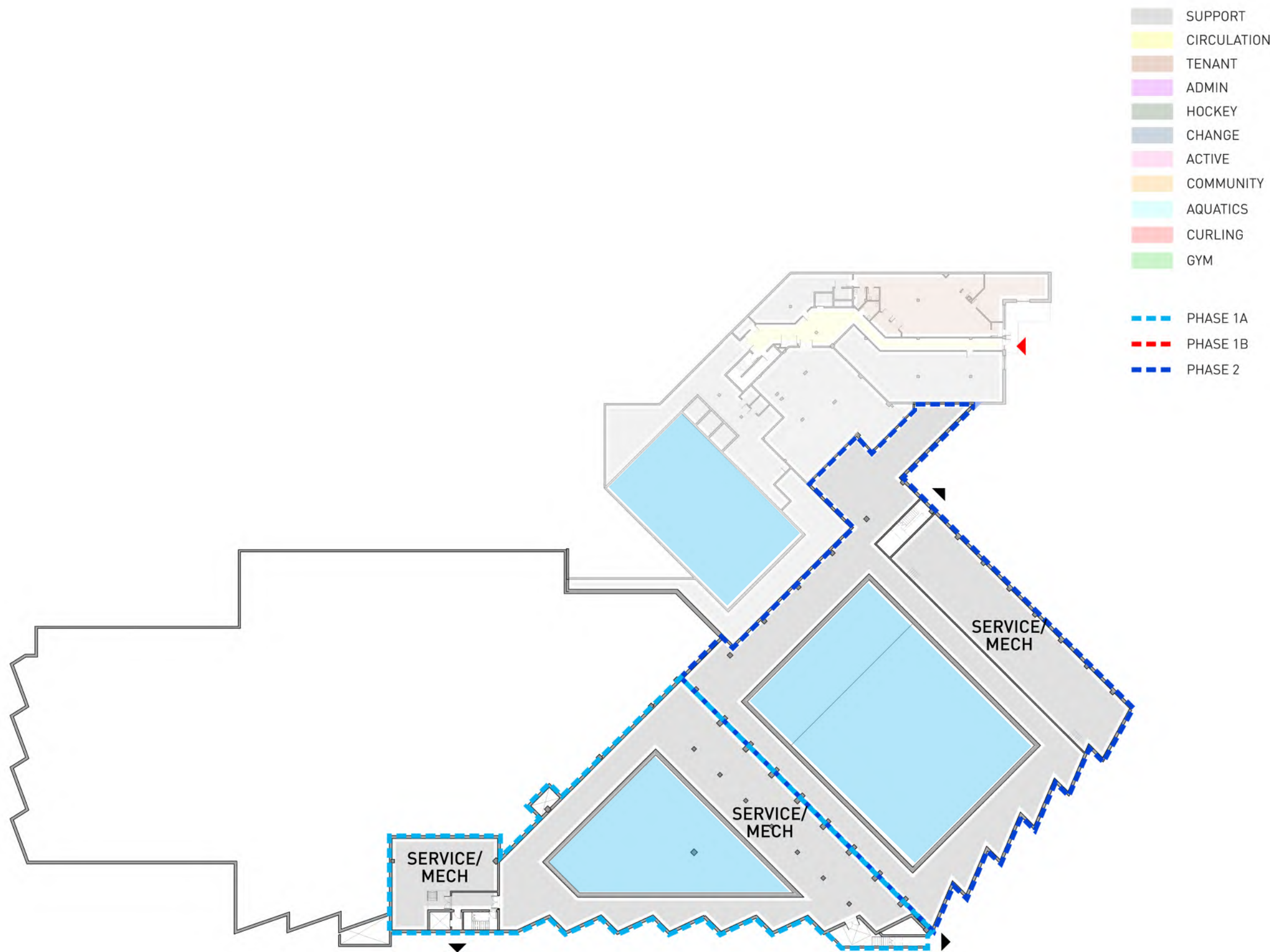






















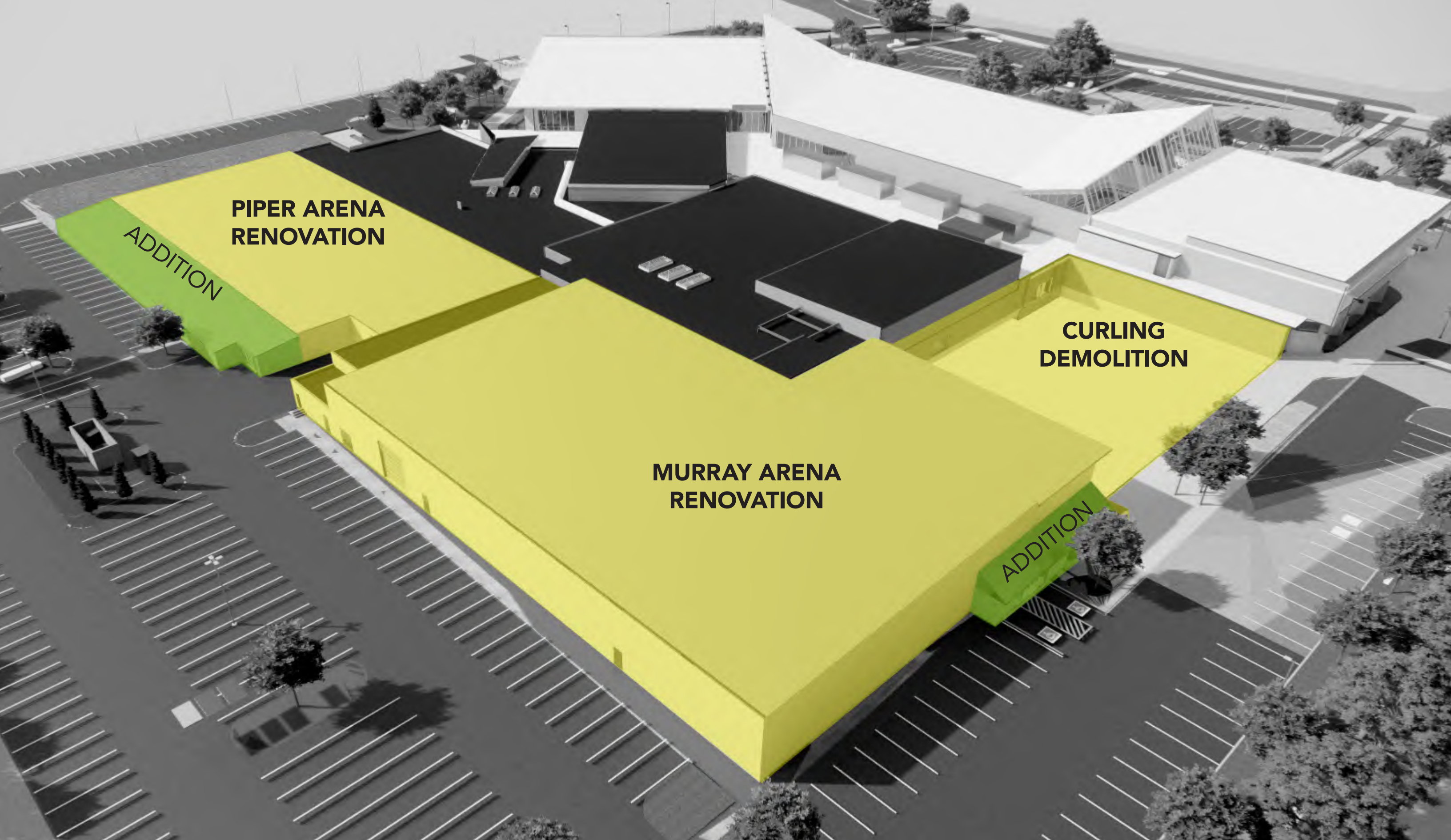


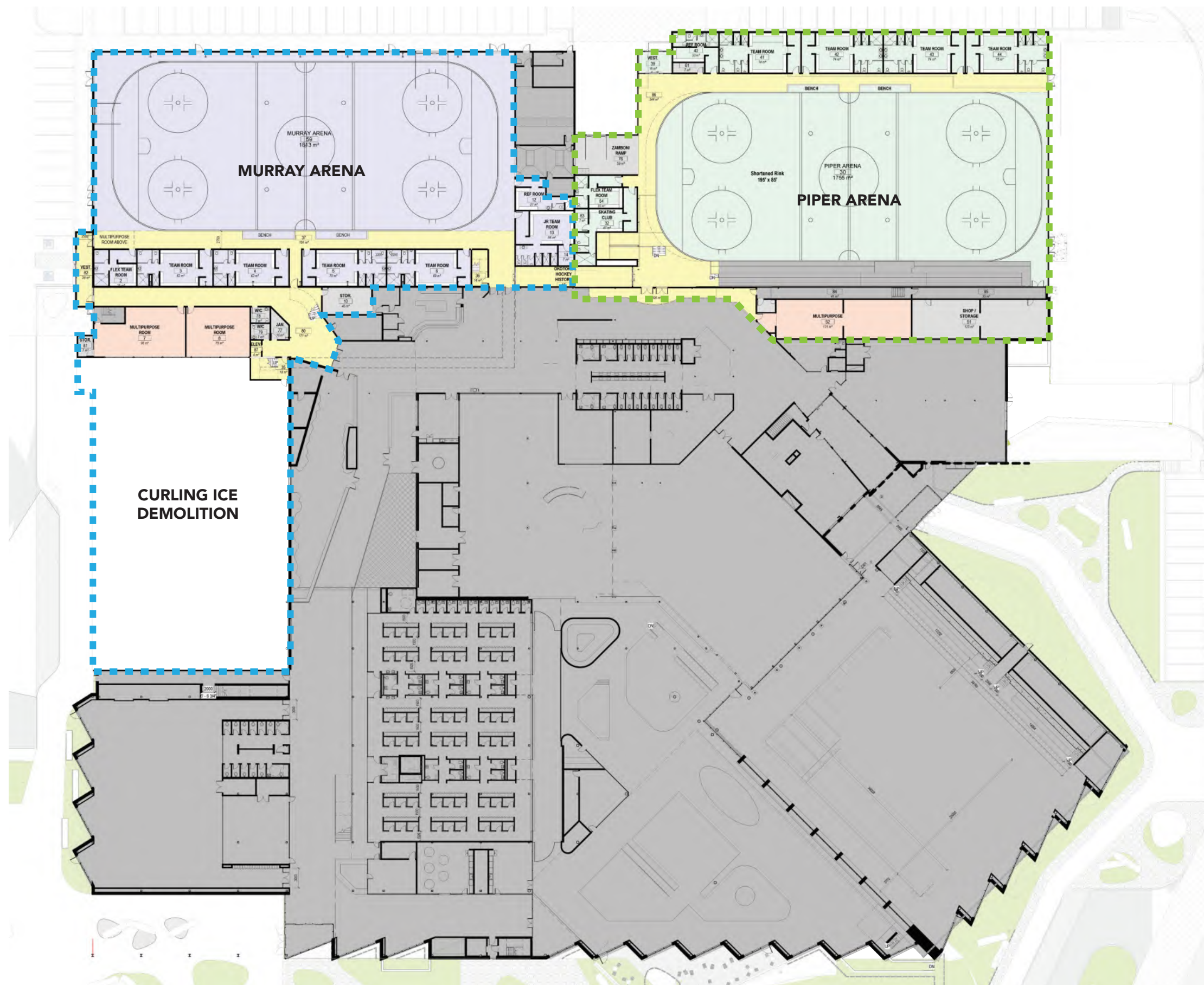




ARENA & SWINDELLS (PH 3,1C)







- PHASE 3A - PIPER ARENA
- PHASE 3B - MURRAY ARENA

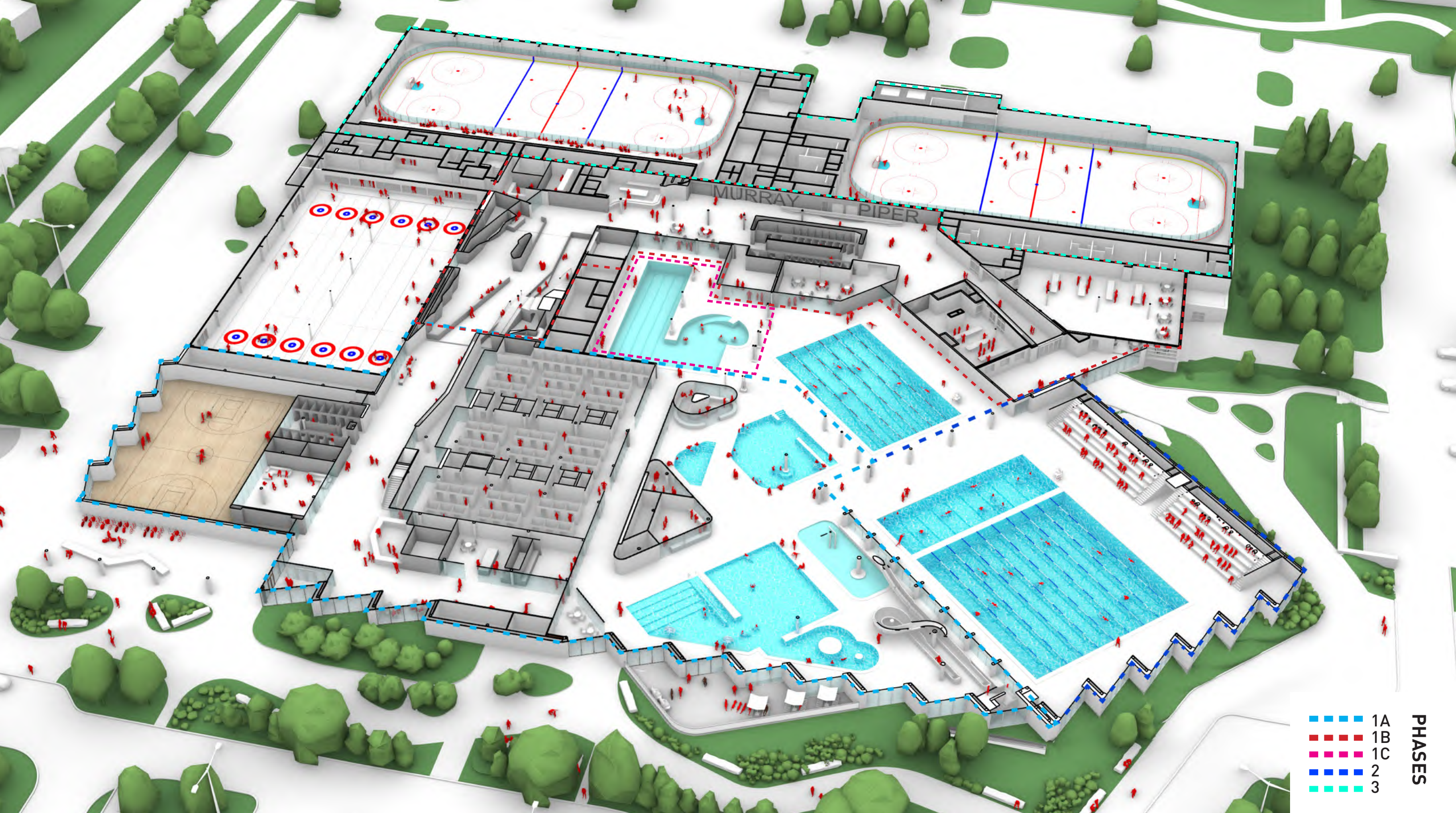
- HOCKEY (PIPER)
- HOCKEY (MURRAY)
- CIRCULATION
- MULTIPURPOSE
- SUPPORT
- EXISTING

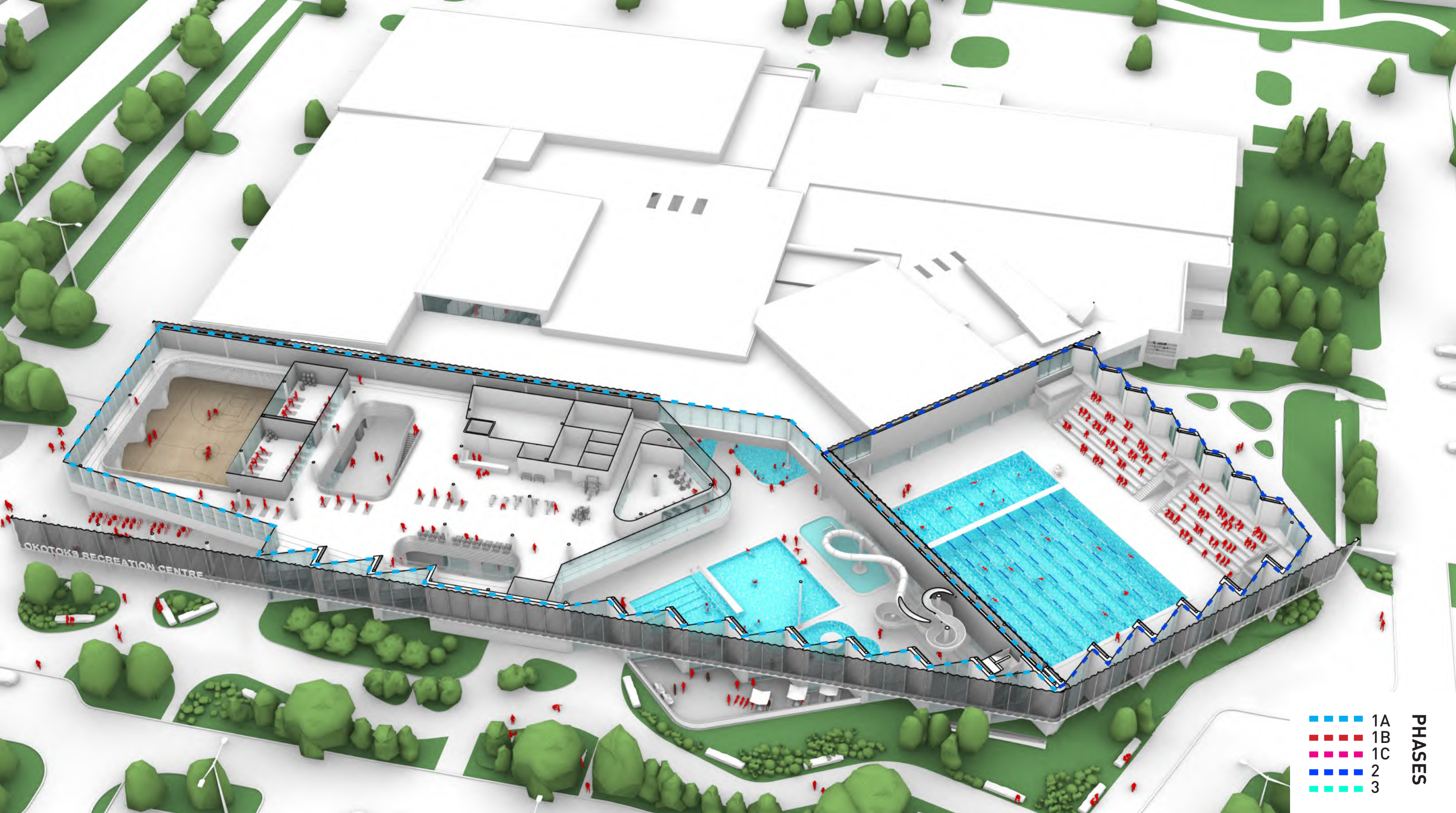


FULL BUILD-OUT

“THE DREAM”







- PHASES**
- 1A
 - 1B
 - 1C
 - 2
 - 3

SOFT COST vs. CONSTRUCTION COST - CLASS “C”

What's HARD COSTS **IN**

- Design Contingency (15% at Class D Costing -> 0% Class A Costing)
- Escalation Beyond Q3 2026
- Hard Construction Costs for gym, fitness, aquatics, running track, play & climb, changerooms & washrooms, arenas and renovations.
- Site Development (including Landscape + Parking + SWM + Services from property line)
- Building Wayfinding and Signage
- Emergency Generator for life safety only

What's SOFT COSTS **OUT**

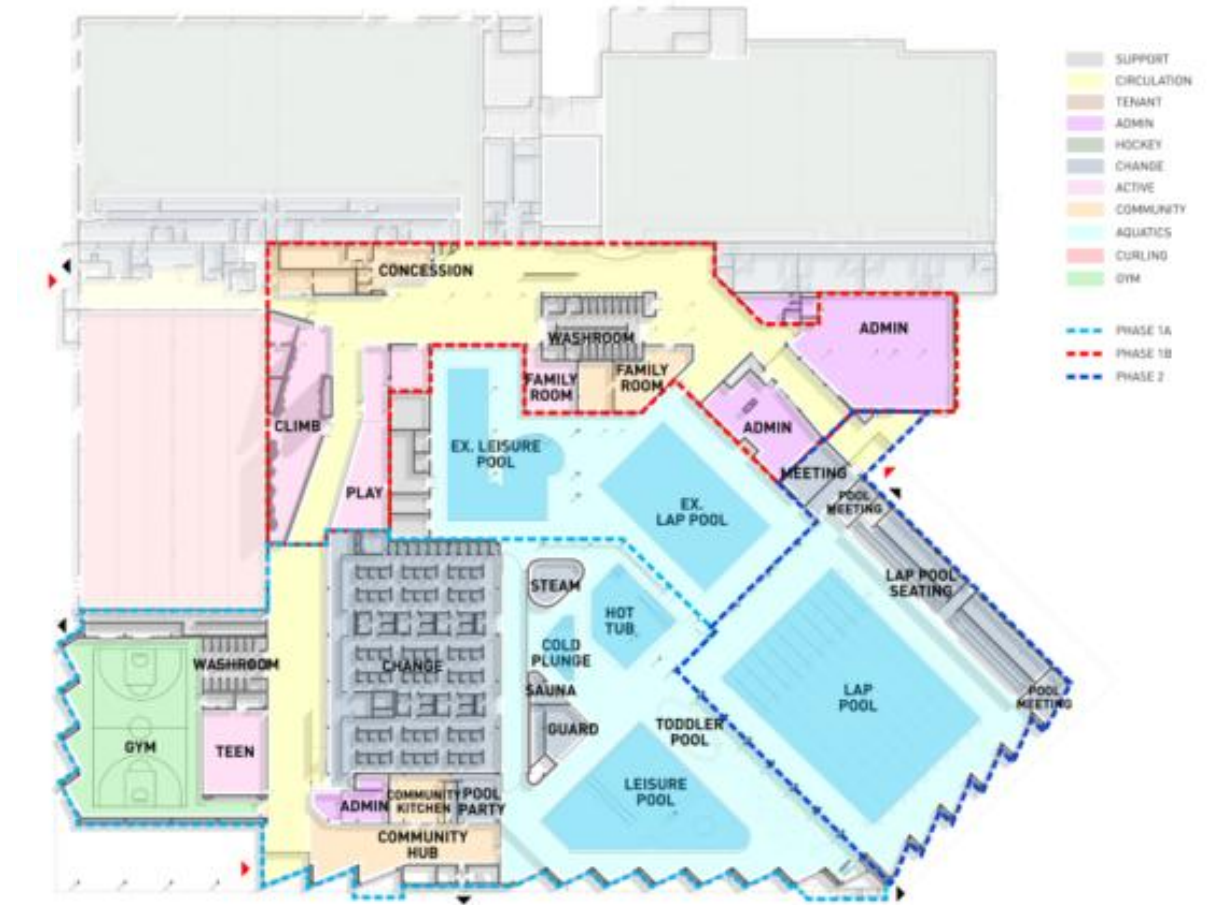
- FF&E (Furniture, fixtures, equipment) 'Any-thing that falls out of the building when you turn it over and shake it'
- Construction Contingency (10% Costing)
- Gymnasium Furnishings
- Garbage Equipment
- AV & all low voltage Equipment
- IT/Communications Equipment
- Phasing Costs
- All Soft Costs: PM, Consultant, Staff, Permit Fees
- Provincial Sales Tax (5%)
- All Off-Site Infrastructure Upgrades

Cost Estimate

Align prepared a Class C cost estimate for the Okotoks Recreation Centre Expansion based on the concept design presented in this report. The estimate includes the Aquatics Expansion (Phases 0.5, 1A, 1B, and 2) and the Arenas expansion (Phases 3A and 3B).

Functional Program: What's Included?

- ✓ New Leisure Pool
- ✓ New Changerooms
- ✓ New Public Restrooms
- ✓ Swindells Pool Asset Renewal
- ✓ Relocated Gymnasium
- ✓ Relocated Youth Centre
- ✓ Climbing Wall
- ✓ Indoor Child Playground
- ✓ Walking Track
- ✓ New Fitness Centre
- ✓ Additional Community Space (kitchen, party room, meeting rooms)
- ✓ New Competition Pool (13 lane)
- ✓ Murray and Piper Arena Asset Renewal



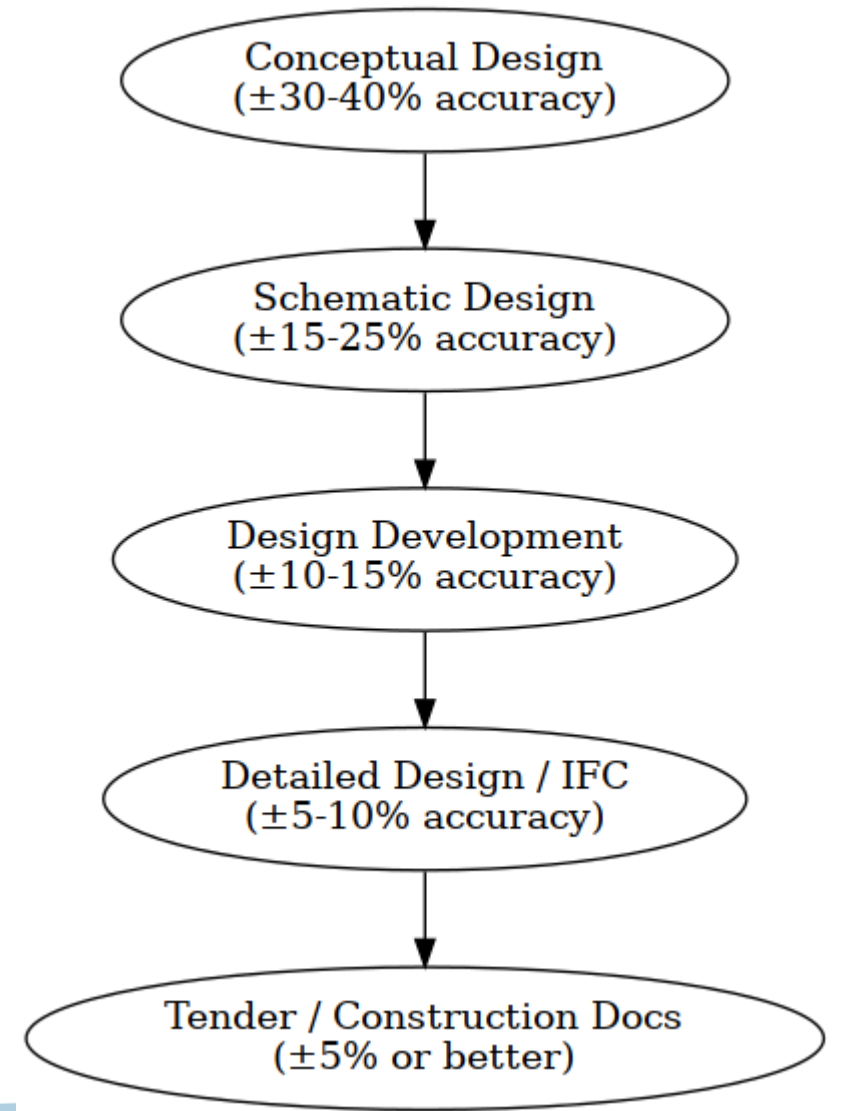
The "Dream" Program & Planning Costs

PHASE	FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM	Calculated Total Project Costs (\$M)
 PHASES 0.5, 1A & 1B <i>West Addition and Interior Renovations</i>	Includes Phase 0.5, 1A and 1B: - New Leisure Pool - New Changerooms - New Public Restrooms serving leisure aquatics - Relocated Gymnasium - Relocated Youth Centre / Teen Space - Walking Track - New Fitness Centre and fitness studios - Additional Community Space: kitchen, party room and community hub - Climbing Wall - Indoor Child Playground - New Public Restrooms within renovated areas - Additional Community Space: family rooms, multipurpose rooms and renovated support areas	 \$108 – \$175 <i>*Based on market comparators of \$8,800/m² - \$14,200/m² plus schematic design +/- 15-25% accuracy.</i>
 PHASE 2 <i>Competition Pool</i>	- New Competition Pool: user program identifies 13 lanes; consultant report describes 10 lanes - Supporting aquatic meeting, storage and spectator amenities	 \$38 – \$65
 PHASE 1C	Swindells Pool Asset Renewal	 \$5.0
 PHASE 3A	Piper Arena Asset Renewal: slab, boards, headers, team rooms, access and circulation improvements	 \$13.5
 PHASE 3B	Murray Arena Asset Renewal: slab, boards, headers, seating, team rooms, accessibility and circulation improvements	 \$12.5
 TOTAL	Total identified capital program	 \$177 – \$271

Functional Program Costs

Why such a range?

- Market value comparators
- Schematic Design is only step 2 of 5 in the process
- Design refinements by specialty consultants is to come (Structural, Mechanical and Electrical)
- Value Engineering to occur
- Construction Sequencing review
- Construction Competition and availability



High Comparable Projects

Facility	Municipality	Year	Approx Size (m ²)	Total Project Cost	Normalized Cost (\$/m ²)
G.H. Dawe Expansion	Red Deer	2023	~19,510 impact	~\$110M	\$10,225–\$12,375
Beaumont Recreation Centre Expansion	Beaumont	2024	~6,500 addition	~\$77M	\$11,840–\$14,530
Bold Centre Aquatics Addition	Lac La Biche County	2024	~4,180–6,500	~\$60M–\$75M	\$12,920–\$19,380
LEAP (Leisure Expansion Aquatics Project)	Calgary	2025	~3,720–5,575	~\$90M–\$110M	\$16,150–\$22,600
Fort Saskatchewan Aquatics Facility	Fort Saskatchewan	2025	~5,110–7,430	~\$80M–\$110M	\$14,000–\$20,450
Regina Aquatic Centre	Regina, SK	2024–Present	~10,220–12,080	~\$245M–\$260M	\$20,450–\$24,760
High River Aquatics Expansion Project	High River	2024–2026	1,248	~\$29.4M TPC	~\$23,570/m ²

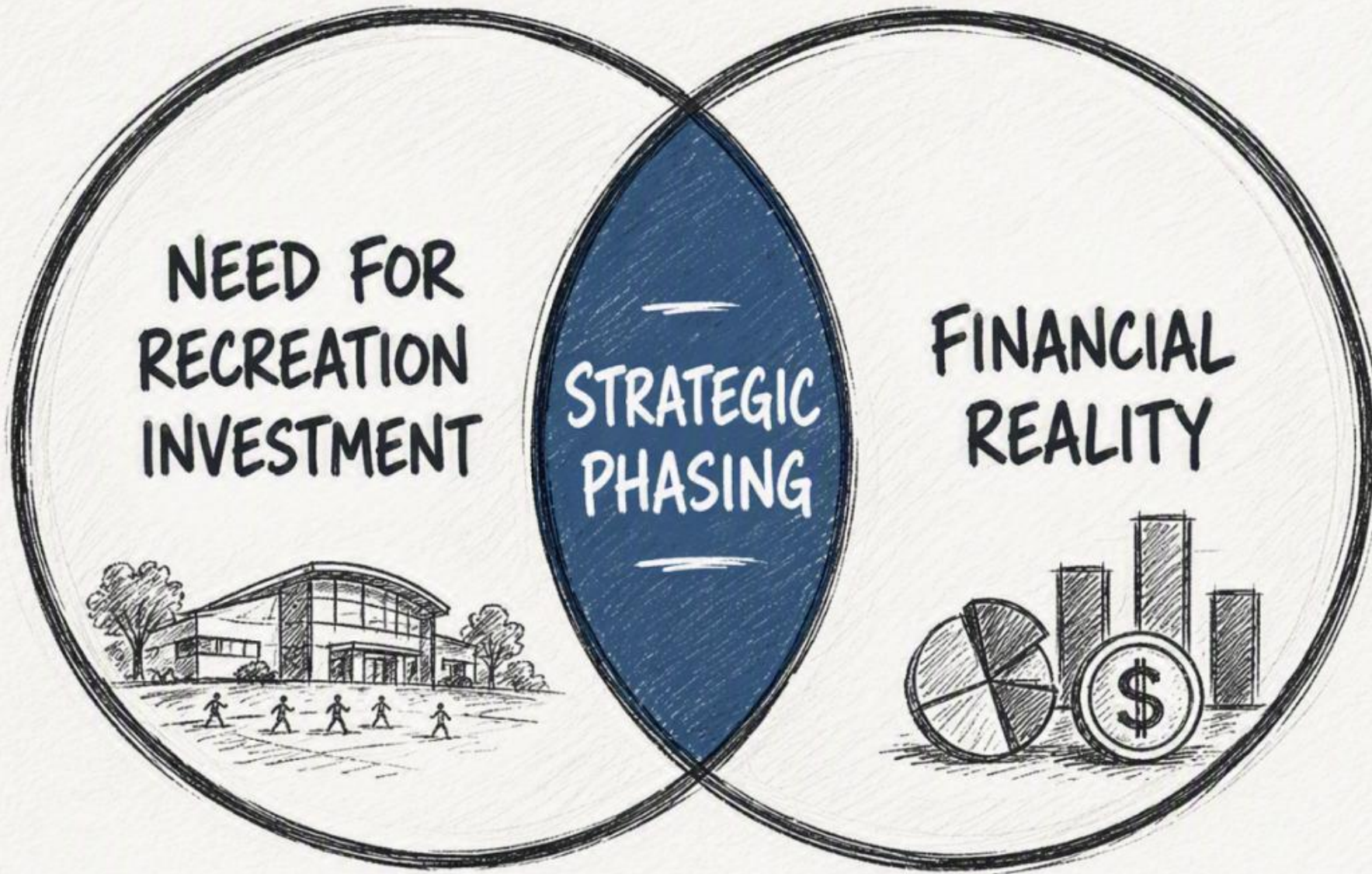
NOTE: The information in this table is based on data available from public searches.

Moderate Comparable Projects

Facility	Municipality	Year	Approx Size (m ²)	Total Project Cost	Normalized Cost (\$/m ²)
Seton YMCA	Calgary	2019	~30,660	~\$192M	\$9,150–\$10,760
Genesis Place Upgrades	Airdrie	2022–25	Phased	~\$40M–\$80M	\$10,760–\$14,000
Lewis Farms Recreation Facility	Edmonton	2023–Present	~27,870+	~\$300M–\$350M	\$10,760–\$14,000
Parkinson Recreation Centre Redevelopment	Kelowna, BC	2024–Present	~33,900–34,850	~\$242M	\$7,000–\$8,600

Low Comparable Projects

Facility	Municipality	Year	Approx Size (m ²)	Total Project Cost	Normalized Cost (\$/m ²)
YCE Multiplex Project	Edson & Yellowhead County	2025	~13,000–18,580	~\$110M–\$150M construction	\$10,225–\$13,450
Servus Place Arena Expansion	St. Albert	2025	~17,650 impact	~\$112M	\$11,300–\$14,000
Heavy Metal Place Expansion	Spruce Grove, AB	2024–Present	11,600	\$85M	\$7,500
SLS Centre Expansion	Cochrane	2022–24	Phased	~\$50M+	\$9,690–\$12,920



The Reality

Need for recreation investment + financial reality = strategic phasing

Address today's priorities. | Protect financial flexibility. | Prepare for future grants.

Financial Reality

TOWN OF OKOTOKS – DEBT CALCULATION (AT DECEMBER 31, 2025)

Debt calculation	Amount (\$000s)
 MGA debt limit at December 31, 2025	\$138,485
 Debt principal outstanding at December 31, 2025	\$49,302
 Less: 2026 principal repayments	(\$1,681)
 Anticipated debt outstanding at December 31, 2026	\$47,621
 Additional debt for water project	\$30,000
 Total anticipated debt outstanding	\$77,621
 Gross statutory debt capacity remaining	\$60,864
 Less: Other projects requiring debt funding	To be confirmed
 Estimated debt capacity available after other projects	\$60,864 less confirmed debt requirements
 Potential change resulting from 2026 qualifying revenues	Not included



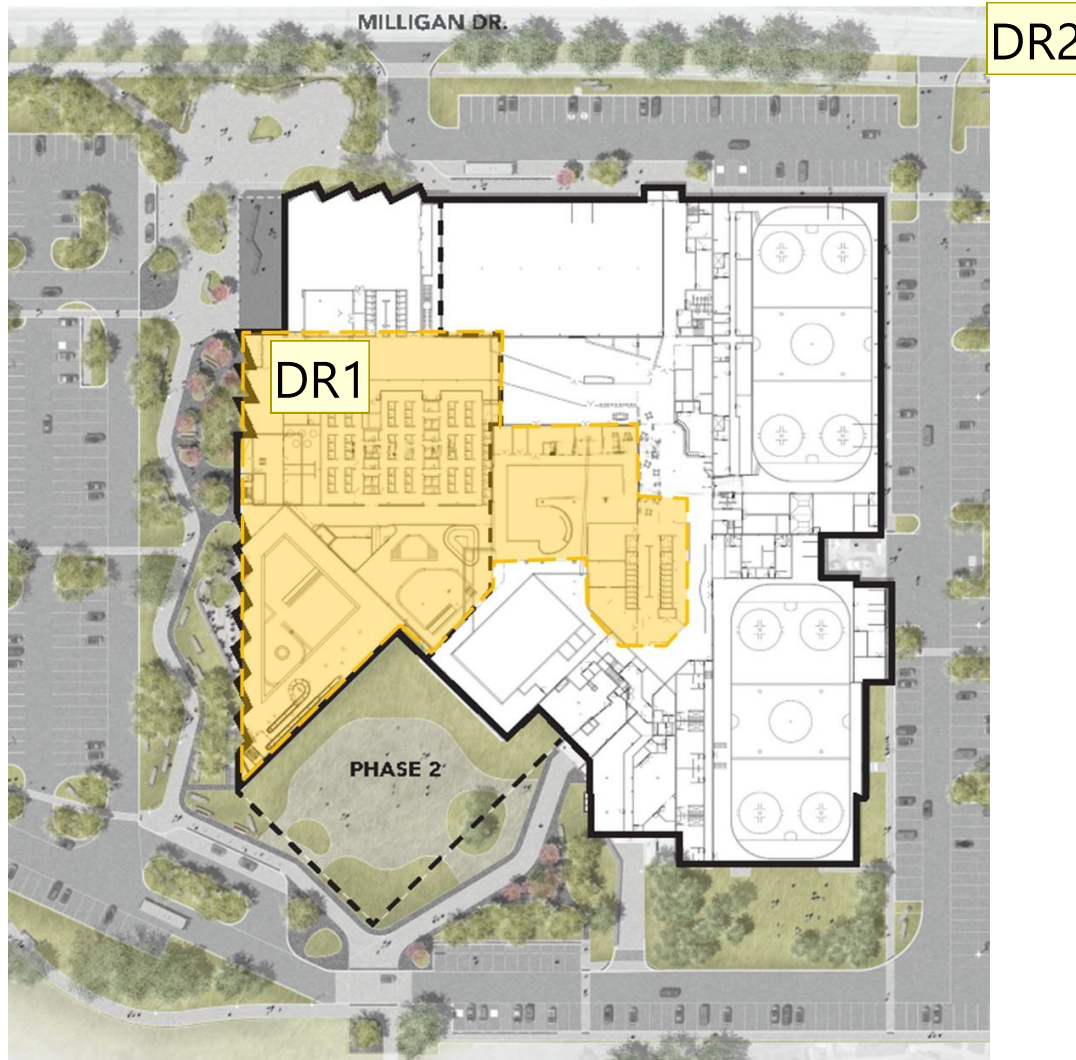
The amounts above represent the difference between the MGA debt limit and anticipated outstanding debt. They do not account for other approved or proposed projects requiring debt, annual debt-servicing limits, interest costs, or the Town's internal debt thresholds.

Where to from here?

Three options for consideration:

...





OPTION 1 – \$76.4 M



LEISURE WATER FIRST, FUTURE READY



Focusses on highest-profile community demand:
additional leisure water



Address short term demand for pool capacity and
builds ultimate design change rooms



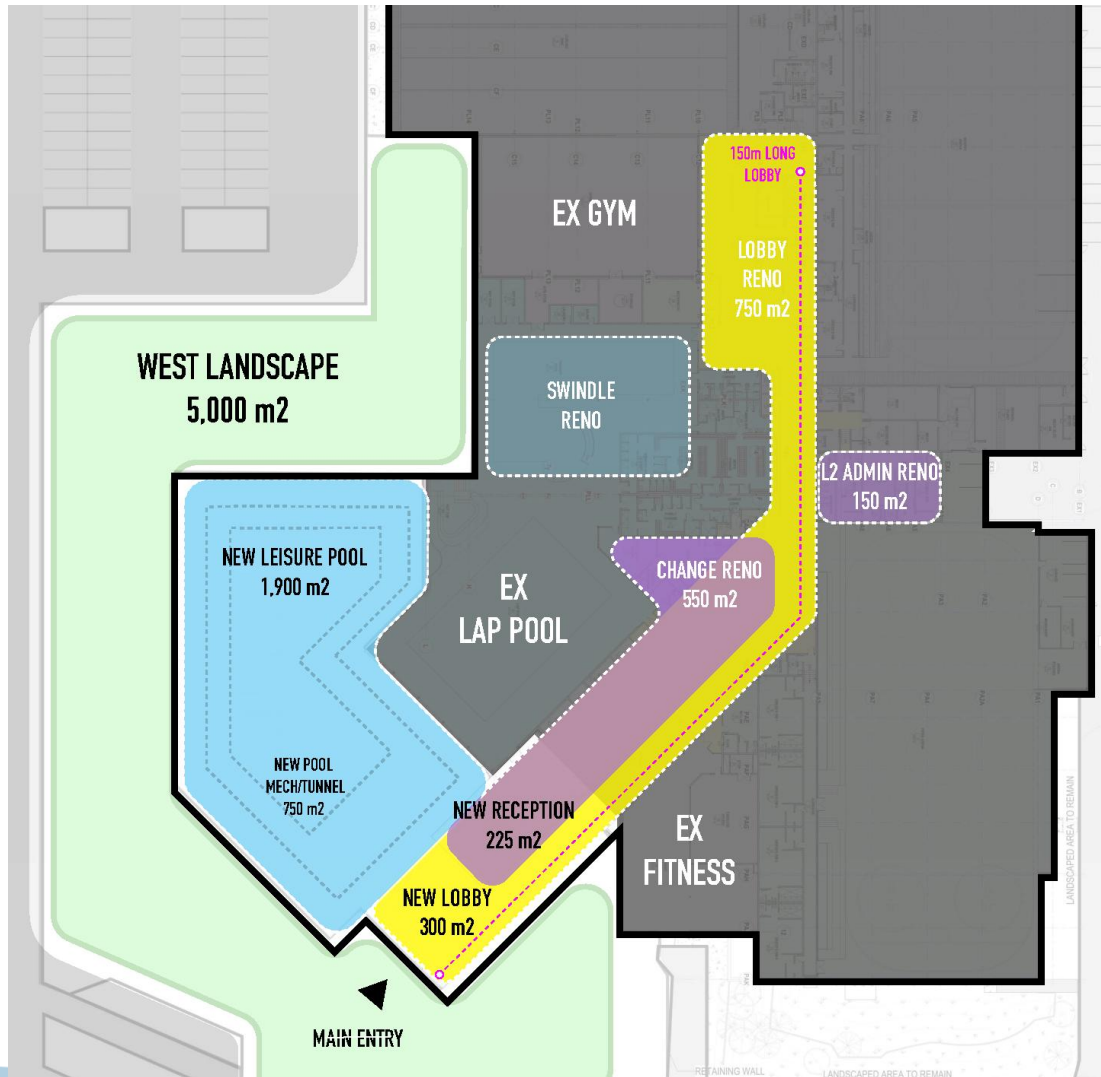
Establishes foundational work for additional of other
priority amenities: lane pool, climbing wall, indoor
playground, running track, pedestrian access, and
parking improvements



Requires minimal facility closures to address required
asset renewal projects



RISKS/CHALLENGES:
establishing adequate funding
for each phase



DR1

OPTION 2 – \$64.8M



LEISURE WATER ONLY



Focusses on highest-profile community demand: additional leisure water



Address short term demand for pool capacity and change room renovation



Requires minimal facility closures to address required asset renewal projects



RISKS/CHALLENGES:

- ✗ Lacks future focus
- ✗ Only satisfies one priority in the RPLMP
- ✗ Requires the need for a second recreation centre sooner

OPTION 3 – \$9M



STATUS QUO WITH ASSET RENEWAL



Defers the decision for recreation expansion

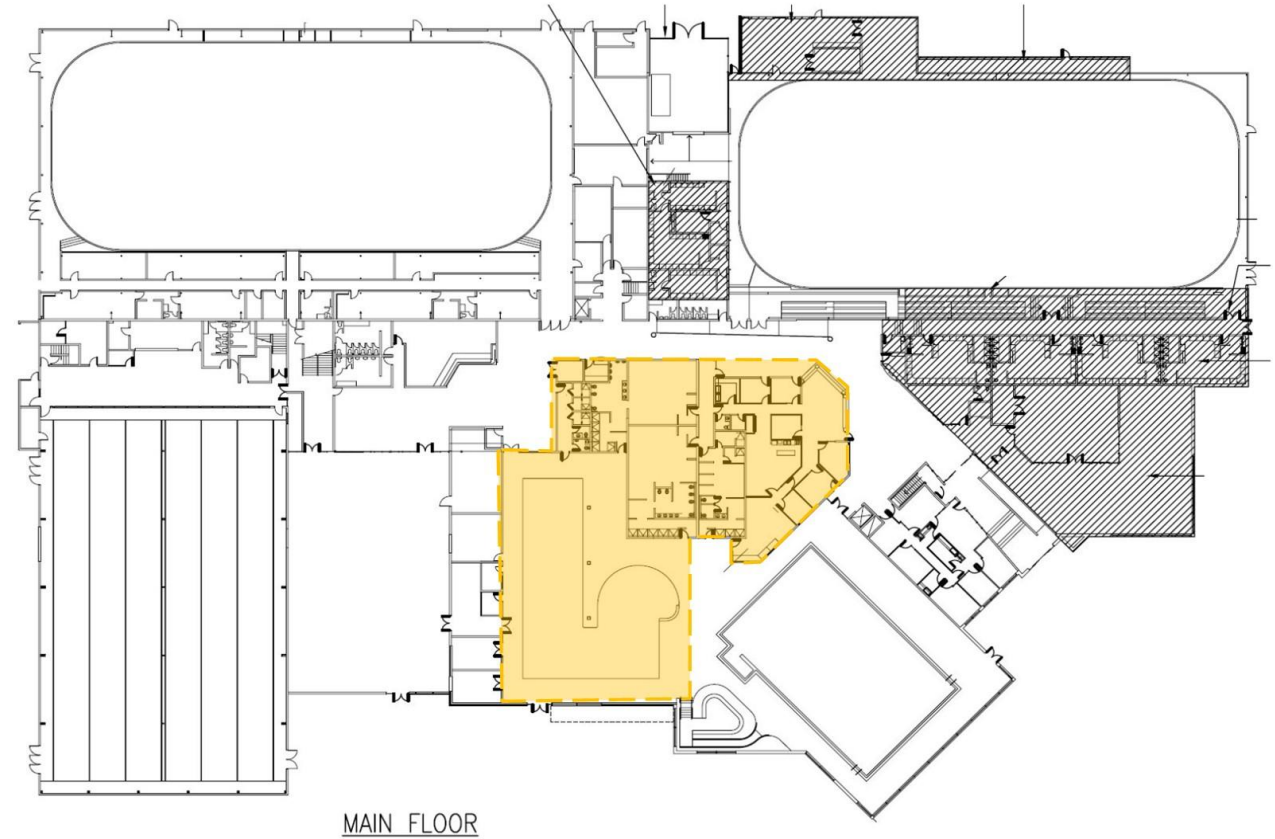


Focusses on renewal of existing assets



RISKS/CHALLENGES:

- ✗ Lacks future focus
- ✗ Doesn't satisfy any priorities of the RPLMP
- ✗ Requires the need for a second recreation centre sooner



Option	Scope	Benefits	Risks / trade-offs	Planning amount
1 Fun Water First, Future Ready 	Leisure water; entrance, lobby and ultimate-size change rooms; Swindells renewal; supporting washrooms/rooms; enabling works for later phases.	✓ Addresses the highest-priority need ✓ Minimizes avoidable rework ✓ Preserves future add-on ability for: lane pool, climbing wall, indoor play, track, access and parking additions ✓ Can reduce closure impacts for renewal work	⚠ Higher initial commitment than a stand-alone leisure pool ⚠ Requires a defined funding and phasing strategy ⚠ Operating impacts must be confirmed	\$ \$76.4 M preliminary component total
2 Fun Water Only 	A minimum leisure pool addition with change-room renovation and required renewal integration.	✓ Targets the strongest immediate demand ✓ Lower scope than the future-ready option ✓ Can reduce closure impacts compared with renewal-only work	⚠ Less adaptable ⚠ Addresses only one RPLMP priority ⚠ May create rework or accelerate the need for a second standalone facility ⚠ Conceptual design needs validation	\$ \$64.8 M conceptual amount
3 Status Quo / Asset Renewal 	Proceed only with required renewal of existing ORC assets and defer expansion.	✓ Lowest near-term expansion cost ✓ Preserves financial flexibility ✓ Focuses resources on reliability and lifecycle needs	⚠ Does not add aquatic capacity or address RPLMP priorities ⚠ Renewal work may require a 10 to 12 month facility closure ⚠ Deferred expansion may cost more later and may not meet community expectations	\$ \$9.0 M

Existing Recreation Centre 2025 Net Financial Performance by Area Type

Existing ORC Area	Expenses Net of Revenue per m ²
Wet	(\$548.15)
Ice	(\$36.53)
Dry	\$175.91
Shared	(\$325.00)
Total	(\$159.98)

Recreation Centre Expansion Options

Operating Costs Projections

Scenario	Existing Wet Area (m ²)	Added Area (m ²)	Total Wet Area (m ²)	Existing Expenses Net of Revenue	Added Expenses Net of Revenue	Total Expenses Net of Revenue
Option 1: Leisure Water First, Future Ready	1,987	4,838	6,825	\$1,089,168	\$2,247,602	\$3,336,770
Option 2: Leisure Water Only	1,987	3,175	5,162	\$1,089,168	\$1,623,223	\$2,712,391
Option 3: Status Quo with Asset Renewal	1,987	0	1,987	\$1,089,168	\$0	\$1,089,168

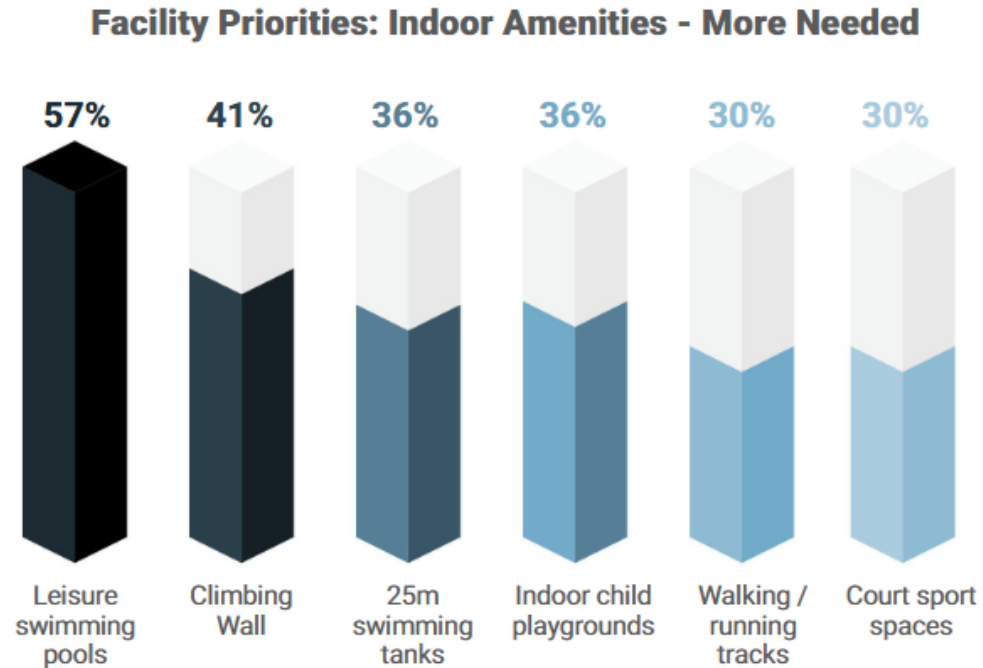
Recommendation & Alternatives

Recommendation:

1. The Council select the "Leisure Water First, Future Ready" option and direct administration to move to detailed design, refined capital and operating cost estimates, phasing, constructability and procurement readiness, to enable the project to be shovel ready and well positioned for grant funding opportunities, or;

Alternatives:

2. Direct Administration to refine Option 2, Leisure Water Only, and return with validated capital and operating estimates and a funding strategy.
3. Direct Administration to proceed with Option 3, Status Quo / Asset Renewal, and return with a prioritized renewal plan, closure and service-continuity strategy, and detailed cost estimate.
4. Receive the schematic design for information and direct Administration to undertake additional analysis before selecting a preferred option.



Data from the RPLMP Update 2023: A total of 891 respondents participated in community engagement for this plan.

Questions?

Community Engagement

Community Engagement



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Q&A

Why engagement is not required now and what may trigger it in the future.

Q1

Q: Is community engagement needed to determine if leisure water is first?

No

Extensive community engagement was conducted to develop priorities for the RPLMP 2023 where leisure water first was clearly established.



Q2

Q: Is community engagement needed for pool design?

No

Design of aquatics area is based on Okotoks demand for programs – lessons, aquafit, public swim, etc.



Q3

Q: When may community engagement be required next?



Upon establishment of a funding strategy to advance the project, community engagement may be required to determine the acceptable level of tax support (and associated phasing strategy to bring one additional amenities in the option 3 scenario).



Engagement will occur at the right time – when decisions about funding levels, trade-offs, and project phasing require community input.