



Recreation Facility Master Plan 2005 - 2015

Meeting the
recreation, sport
and cultural needs
of a growing city





Edmonton's public recreation facilities open doors to health and quality of life for all of us. They provide places for neighbours to gather, relax, and enjoy physical, social, cultural and artistic activities together – building healthy community ties. It's a legacy worth building on.



Recreation Facility Master Plan: A crucial roadmap

Thanks to a strong tradition of investment, Edmonton is served by a broad range of public recreation, leisure and cultural facilities. Hockey rinks, pools, gymnasiums, golf courses, heritage spots, recreation centres and other City of Edmonton facilities give us places to gather, relax, build healthy bodies and enjoy leisure pursuits. Key to the active and interactive living that creates healthy people and vibrant neighbourhoods, these facilities also help attract national and international events, polishing our reputation as a host city.

The City of Edmonton Recreation Facility Master Plan lays out a roadmap for ensuring that future citizens enjoy these same benefits. Approved by City Council on August 31, 2004, the plan provides a focused and strategic vision for meeting public recreation, leisure and cultural facility needs until 2015. Guided by the principles outlined in the Community Service Department's Integrated Services Strategy, the plan clarifies civic priorities for both citizens and potential partners.

What citizens want from their recreation facilities

Consulted extensively as this plan took shape, Edmontonians said they want recreation facilities that promote these seven values:

- ◆ **A sense of community** – Places where new friends are made and old friendships nurtured.
- ◆ **Health and wellness** – Facilities that contribute to better health.
- ◆ **Inclusion** – Places where their needs, interests and values are met with openness and dignity.
- ◆ **Safety** – Facilities that enhance physical, emotional and mental wellness.
- ◆ **Partnership** – Facilities developed through partnerships to reduce the reliance on tax dollars and to share the contribution to community needs.
- ◆ **Civic pride** – Facilities that stand out as a good example of what the City has to offer.
- ◆ **Integrated services** – Places that offer a range of opportunities that fit well into today's lifestyle and bring people together to enhance a sense of community.

Recognizing that our facilities are aging and built to serve a smaller city, the plan includes a recreation facility model to guide future development. It sets parameters for identifying which older facilities are suitable for redevelopment, outlines what the City will support and defines City and partner roles in developing new projects. In short, this important document provides a coordinated, Council-endorsed framework for making the best use of Edmonton's resources to address our city's dual challenge of aging infrastructure and rapid growth.

What is a recreation facility and why do we need them?

As defined by the master plan, recreation facilities meet three criteria: defined boundaries, managed access, and primarily used for programmed or spontaneous activities.

Recreation facilities offer safe, inviting, properly-equipped places for fitness, play, art, culture and other activities that challenge and improve our bodies, minds and spirits. Here, people of all ages and abilities can develop skills and interests that help them improve, maintain or recover health and wellness. Here, communities build the neighbourly connections that enhance safety, capacity and quality of life.

Research proves that recreation benefits all ages and stages. Children learn valuable skills through group sports and out-of-school programs. Teens in positive recreation and social activities are less likely to find themselves in troubling situations. Adults and seniors who take time for recreation are fitter, healthier, more engaged in the community and less reliant on the health care system.

City of Edmonton recreation facilities

City of Edmonton Leisure, Sports and Fitness Facilities

NORTHEAST

- 1 **A.C.T. Aquatic and Recreation Centre**
2909 - 113 Avenue 496-1494
- 2 **Eastglen Leisure Centre**
11410 - 68 Street 496-7384
- 3 **Londonderry Fitness and Leisure Centre**
14528 - 66 Street 496-7342
- 4 **O'Leary Fitness and Leisure Centre**
8804 - 132 Avenue 496-7373

NORTHWEST

- 5 **Grand Trunk Fitness and Leisure Centre**
13025 - 112 Street 496-8761
- 6 **Jasper Place Fitness and Leisure Centre**
9200 - 163 Street 496-1411
- 7 **Peter Hemingway Fitness and Leisure Centre**
Formerly known as Coronation Fitness and Leisure Centre
13808 - 111 Avenue 496-1401

CENTRAL

- 8 **Commonwealth Sports and Fitness Centre**
11000 Stadium Road 944-7400
- 9 **Kinsmen Sports Centre**
9100 Walterdale Hill 944-7400

SOUTHEAST

- 10 **Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre**
8648 - 81 Street 496-1915
- 11 **Hardisty Fitness and Leisure Centre**
10535 - 65 Street 496-1493
- 12 **Mill Woods Recreation Centre**
7207 - 28 Avenue 496-2900

SOUTHWEST

- 13 **Confederation Leisure Centre**
11204 - 43 Avenue 496-1488
- 14 **Southwest Community Recreation Centre**
15204 - 23 Avenue
OPENING 2009

Outdoor Swimming Pools and Contracted Facilities

NORTHEAST

- 1 **Borden Park Outdoor Swimming Pool**
11200 - 74 Street 944-7521

NORTHWEST

- 2 **Fred Broadstock Outdoor Swimming Pool**
10515 - 158 Street 496-1486

CENTRAL

- 3 **Oliver Outdoor Swimming Pool**
10315 - 119 Street 944-7416

SOUTHEAST

- 4 **Mill Creek Outdoor Swimming Pool**
9555 - 84 Avenue 944-7415
- 5 **Queen Elizabeth Outdoor Swimming Pool**
8900 - 106 Street 944-7480
- 6 **Scona Leisure Centre**
10450 - 72 Avenue 496-8756

City of Edmonton Golf Courses

- 1 **Victoria Golf Course**
12130 River Road 496-4914
- 2 **Riverside Golf Course**
8630 Rowland Row 496-4914
- 3 **Rundle Golf Course**
2902 - 118 Avenue 496-4914

City of Edmonton Attractions and Specialized Facilities

- 1 **Fort Edmonton Park**
Fox Drive and Whitemud Drive 496-8787
- 2 **John Janzen Nature Centre**
Fox Drive and Whitemud Drive 496-8787
- 3 **John Walter Museum**
9100 Walterdale Hill 496-8787
- 4 **Muttart Conservatory**
9626 - 96 A Street 496-8787
- 5 **Valley Zoo**
Buena Vista Road and 134 Street 496-8787
- 6 **City of Edmonton Archives**
10440 - 108 Avenue 496-8711
- 7 **City Arts Centre**
10943 - 84 Avenue 496-6955
- 8 **Jasper Place Annex**
9200 - 163 Street 496-1411
- 9 **Central Lions Recreation Centre**
11113 - 113 Street 496-7366
- 10 **Northgate Lions Recreation Centre**
7524 - 139 Avenue 496-7355

City of Edmonton Indoor Ice Arenas

NORTHEAST

- 1 **Clareview Recreation Centre**
3804 - 139 Avenue 496-6990
- 2 **Glengarry Arena**
13340 - 85 Street 944-7437
- 3 **Londonderry Arena**
14520 - 66 Street 496-4879
- 4 **Russ Barnes Arena**
6725 - 121 Avenue 944-7554

NORTHWEST

- 5 **Bill Hunter Arena**
9200 - 163 Street 944-7443
- 6 **Castle Downs Recreation Centre**
11520 - 153 Avenue 944-7550
- 7 **Coronation Arena**
13500 - 112 Avenue 944-7441
- 8 **Crestwood Arena**
9940 - 147 Street 944-7440
- 9 **Grand Trunk Arena**
13025 - 112 Street 944-7407

CENTRAL

- 10 **Oliver Arena**
10335 - 119 Street 944-7434
- 11 **Westwood Arena**
12040 - 97 Street 944-7401

SOUTHEAST

- 12 **Donnan Arena**
9105 - 80 Avenue 944-7422
- 13 **Kenilworth Arena**
8311 - 68 A Street 944-7410
- 14 **Michael Cameron Arena**
10404 - 56 Street 944-7418
- 15 **Mill Woods Recreation Centre**
7207 - 28 Avenue 496-2904

SOUTHWEST

- 16 **Callingwood Recreation Centre**
17740 - 69 Avenue 944-7427
- 17 **Confederation Arena**
11204 - 43 Avenue 944-7402
- 18 **Kinsmen Twin Arenas**
1979 - 111 Street 434-9332
- 19 **South Side Arena**
10525 - 72 Avenue 944-7406
- 20 **Tipton Arena**
10828 - 80 Avenue 944-7388

What trends impact future needs?

As Edmonton evolves, our recreation patterns change as well. Trends shaping our facility needs include the following:

- ◆ **Population growth** – Edmonton is expected to grow the equivalent of another mid-sized city by 2015, adding to recreation demand. Growth will concentrate in parts of the city more distant from the central core and in surrounding municipalities, whose residents also visit our facilities.
- ◆ **Aging infrastructure** – Many of the City's recreation facilities are more than 20 years old, need regular maintenance or significant renovation and are not as energy efficient or flexible as today's designs. It's important to identify which older facilities deserve to be redeveloped to meet current and anticipated needs.
- ◆ **Changing demographics** – Gradual aging of the population, coupled with an expanding array of cultures, expands our range of recreation needs. Today's facilities must be planned, designed and located so that all residents have equitable access.
- ◆ **Loose community ties** – A sense of community is critical to the health and well-being of individuals, families and the community at large. Recreation facilities should help knit us together by being places where all ages and all members of a community feel welcome and engaged.
- ◆ **Quality of Life** – Increasingly, it's clear that recreation plays a huge role in our overall well-being as individuals and communities. Living in one of Canada's most northern cities, we rely on all-season facilities to stay physically active and connected during long winters of limited sunlight.



What are other cities doing?

The Recreation Facility Master Plan is grounded in extensive research, including a scan of best practices that found the following emerging trends:

- ◆ **Multi-purpose facilities** – A shift from single-purpose buildings to versatile spaces with flexible programming is the most significant of the trends.
- ◆ **Recreation destinations** – Several Edmonton facilities are already moving toward this model, which co-locates sports and leisure activities (skating, hockey, swimming, fitness) with retail and entertainment (cinemas, grocery stores, sports stores).
- ◆ **Health plus recreation** – Both operators and users are seeing the benefit of locating health and recreation services together.
- ◆ **Attractive and welcoming** – Today's users are choosing facilities with style and class over utilitarian design.
- ◆ **Co-located entrepreneurs** – Facilities increasingly include revenue-generating space for such amenities as ATMs, licensed food services and equipment shops.
- ◆ **Modified leisure pools** – Aquatic trends include irregular pool shapes, waterslides, fountains, moveable floors, warmer water, access for users with disabilities, space for beginner lessons, lanes for lap swimming and family change rooms.
- ◆ **Multiple-use arenas** – Arenas without summer ice are installing temporary multi-purpose floor boards for in-line hockey, box lacrosse, basketball and volleyball. Some arenas are adding leisure ice, typically at the end of, and smaller than, the hockey rink.



What principles guide facility development?

Under the master plan, the following ten principles guide decisions regarding City of Edmonton recreation facility construction, management and financing. Reflecting citizen priorities and supporting the direction set by the Integrated Services Strategy, the principles are applied as a package to both new construction and renovation unless valid reason exists for another course of action.

- ◆ **Community hubs** – Public recreation facilities will be gathering points serving geographic areas of approximately 40,000 to 60,000 people, preferably multi-purpose in design.
- ◆ **Integrated** – Wherever possible, facilities will be co-located with community arts and culture facilities as well as compatible health, social and community services, thus increasing opportunities for integration.
- ◆ **Grouped** – Ice surfaces, indoor soccer, gymnasiums and other compatible uses will be twinned or grouped wherever land availability makes that feasible, to support economies of scale and expand use.
- ◆ **Range of opportunities** – Facilities will provide a range of opportunities, creating synergies in skill and interest development.
- ◆ **Flexible design** – To the degree possible, future facilities will be flexible in design, able to accommodate a wide range of uses and convertible to other uses as needs evolve.
- ◆ **Physical linkages and access** – Recreation facilities will be located on major transit routes and connected to other recreation and district facilities by natural and hard trails. They will be fully accessible and welcoming to all citizens.
- ◆ **Neighbourhood integrity** – The City will respond to important local needs and maintain the integrity of neighbourhoods through support for appropriate neighbourhood facilities.
- ◆ **Specialty facilities** – Citywide and specialty facilities should be programmed for the designated use in prime time.
- ◆ **Focused funding** – To ensure basic opportunities for all residents, the City will focus municipal tax dollars and other tax-based resources on developing facilities that accommodate basic services in key service target areas.
- ◆ **Shared development** – Facilities that exceed basic design standards and service levels will continue to be developed through funding partnerships with other organizations, such as schools, health-care providers, community service groups, not-for-profit organizations and private sector developers.

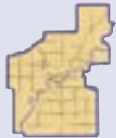





The recreation facility continuum

Recognizing that a city our size needs facilities of varying size and scope, this plan aims to build a recreation facility continuum made up of four facility types:

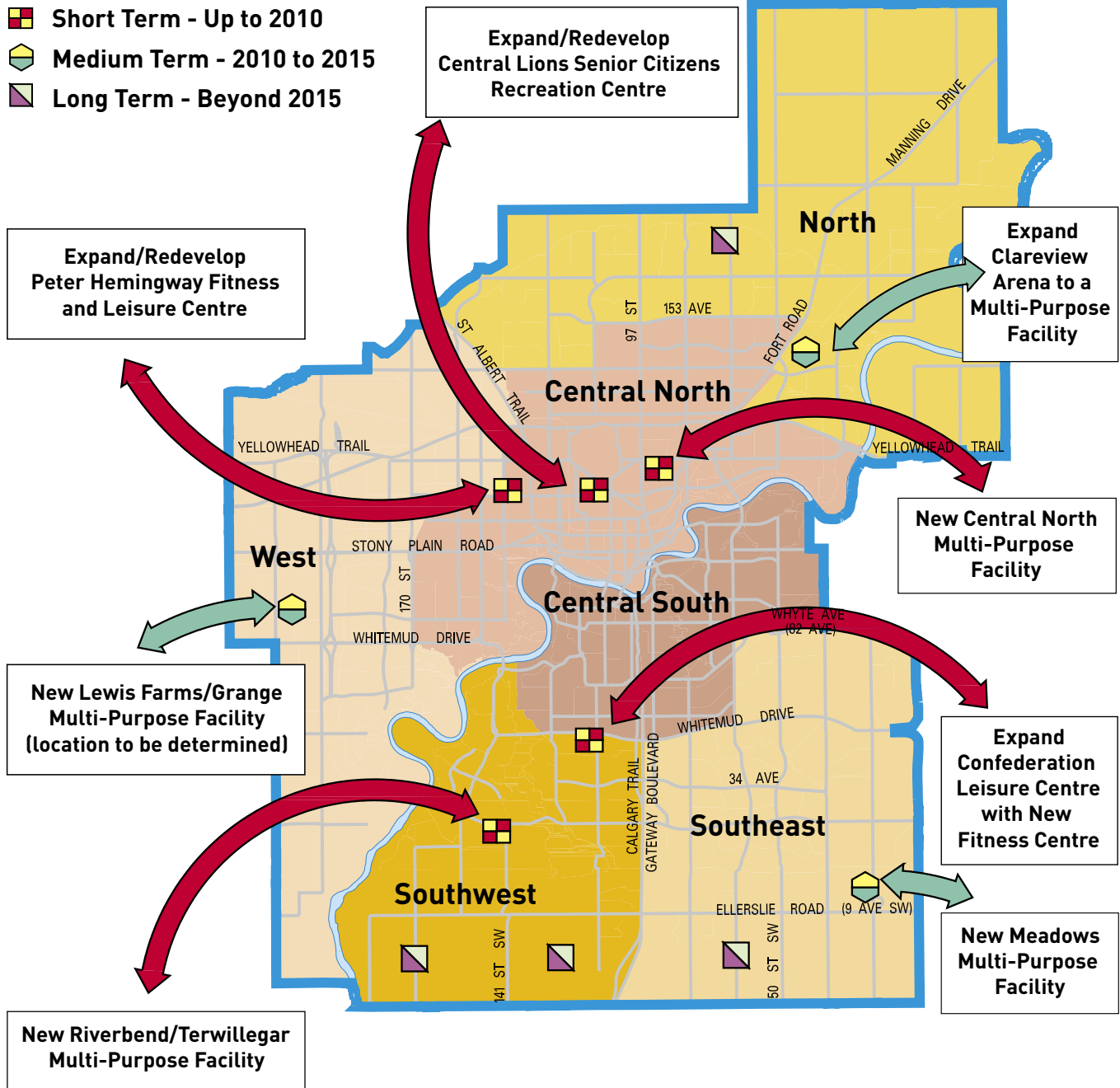
* Neighbourhood facilities ◆ District facilities ◆ Specialty facilities ◆ Citywide facilities

As shown in this chart, the four facility types fill unique yet overlapping roles.

	CITYWIDE FACILITIES	SPECIALTY FACILITIES	DISTRICT FACILITIES	NEIGHBOURHOOD FACILITIES	
Service Level/ Population	Over 600,000	150,000 to 200,000	40,000 to 80,000	Under 20,000	
Geographic Service Area					
General Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Highly specialized. ◆ Designed for competitive or large spectator use. ◆ Serve the entire city, and often have a regional or national focus. ◆ Respond to organized and formal activities and interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Targeted activities and specialized interests. ◆ May be one or a few of a particular type depending on market demand. ◆ Respond to specific markets and organized/structured groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ High market demand. ◆ Serve skill levels from introductory to advanced. ◆ Can accommodate local competition but designed with recreational use in mind. ◆ Respond to organized and informal interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ High local demand. ◆ Developed through partnerships with community leagues and school boards. ◆ Respond to local needs. 	
Acceptable Travel Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Walking / biking ◆ Public transit ◆ Private vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Over 30 minutes ◆ Over 30 minutes ◆ Over 20 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 20 - 30 minutes ◆ 20 - 30 minutes ◆ 15 - 20 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 15 - 20 minutes ◆ 15 - 20 minutes ◆ 10 - 15 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10 - 15 minutes ◆ 10 - 15 minutes ◆ 5 - 10 minutes
Examples of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 50 m competitive pool with spectator seating over 1,000. ◆ Ski facility. ◆ Major spectator stadium. ◆ Major heritage or entertainment site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Multi-court gymnasium centre. ◆ Indoor skatepark. ◆ Multi-pitch indoor soccer centre. ◆ Theatre or performance facility with seating under 1,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Indoor leisure pool. ◆ Arena. ◆ Leisure ice. ◆ Gymnasium. ◆ Fitness facility. ◆ Multi-purpose space (arts, culture, social, meeting). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community League hall. ◆ School gymnasium. 	

2005 – 2015 Edmonton’s plan for new and expanded multi-purpose recreation facilities

Recommendations refer to the proposed timing of development in the short, medium and long term, based on identified needs.



How will this plan shape our future?

While all facilities within the continuum will continue to receive support, the master plan concentrates on setting parameters for the development of multi-purpose district facilities. The master plan defines new and expanded multi-purpose recreation facilities to Edmonton's existing array of multi-purpose facilities stretching to 2015 and even beyond. Due to their size and scope, these facilities are well suited to incorporate such priority principles as integrated service and shared development. Ideally, neighbourhood, specialty and citywide facilities also follow the principles, although their size or purpose may make some principles less suitable.

The plan seeks partnerships with health care, education and social service agencies to provide integrated service. Those partnerships build on the foundation laid by existing joint use agreements with schools, already a key aspect of the Edmonton service model.

This plan envisions a city where all citizens have access to welcoming, conveniently located facilities that enhance our sense of community by offering integrated services suited to a wide range of interests and skills. This strategic approach responds to today's realities while providing the flexibility to adapt as population grows and recreation trends shift.





Check out these resources:

- ◆ **Recreation Facility Master Plan**
You can purchase the complete Recreation Facility Master Plan for \$6.25 by phoning the City of Edmonton, Community Services Department, at 496-4999. The plan is available online at www.edmonton.ca and enter the search words "Recreation Facility Master Plan."
- ◆ **The Recreation Facility Master Plan – What partners need to know**
If you are interested in partnering with the City of Edmonton to develop a new facility or redevelop an existing facility, please call 944-0020 for more information.