

# **INDOOR FIELDHOUSE**

## **What We Heard Report**





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## A Project Overview

Strathcona County is exploring the feasibility of a new Indoor Fieldhouse. The proposed project is based on the Recreation and Culture Strategy findings that indoor field space, gymnasium, court space, fitness tracks and multi-use program spaces are the top development priorities for community recreation.

The proposed multi-use community recreation facility is intended to accommodate a variety of activities regardless of age and ability. The high-level concept plan includes a “full-size” non-boarded indoor turf with walking and running track, multi-use court spaces, multi-purpose meeting and program rooms, and social gathering and lobby spaces.

The development of the Indoor Fieldhouse project would help the County achieve many of its overall strategic goals:

- **Goal 1:** Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents.
- **Goal 2:** Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure.
- **Goal 3:** Foster collaboration through regional, community, and governmental partnerships.
- **Goal 4:** Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents.
- **Goal 5:** Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication.



*An intergenerational community recreation and activity centre that supports the County’s vision and is inspired by “becoming Canada’s most livable community.”*

Fieldhouse Vision RPC, 2020 (Indoor Fieldhouse Feasibility & Pre-design Study Jan. 2021)

**If approved, the cost of the facility would be approximately \$90M. This includes construction and site related servicing and development costs.**





## B Engagement

In 2020, the County engaged with the community about potential uses and activities that could be a part of an Indoor Fieldhouse. The engagement confirmed community support for further exploration of the project and Council directed Administration to proceed with developing draft design options that would help determine the cost of the proposed facility.

To help inform the draft design options, the County invited sport organizations, community groups and members of three Council Advisory Committees to take part in virtual facilitated engagement sessions. Participants had the option of attending a session on either June 14 or June 16, 2021. Those unable to attend were invited to share their input through an online survey. In total, 23 organizations participated in the engagement.

## C What We Asked

Participants were invited to share their ideas about how the primary spaces identified in the Indoor Fieldhouse concept plan – turf, court space, walking and running track, social gathering spaces and lobby, and multi-purpose rooms – might be used. They were also invited to share input on how to make these spaces accessible and welcoming and, considering the concept floor plan, how those spaces connect with one another.

# D What We Heard

## Primary Spaces

### TURF & COURT SPACE

Participants suggested this space could be used for national and international competitions and tournaments, training, tryouts and practices for a variety of sports including, but not limited to, archery, ball hockey, baseball, badminton, basketball, bocce ball, football, frisbee golf, floor curling, general fitness, handball, lacrosse, lawn bowling, pickleball, roller sports, running/walking, rugby, soccer, softball, tennis, ultimate frisbee, and volleyball.

Participants shared ideas to accommodate the suggested uses, such as:

- including permanent and semi-permanent dividers to help separate different activities occurring at the same time;
- having space for spectators;
- incorporating equipment storage space for various sports;
- accommodating full basketball courts and cross courts;
- adding portable boards to allow for roller sports, ball hockey and box lacrosse;
- including space for an officials' viewing box;
- incorporating space for timers and score keepers;
- hosting seniors focused exercise activities;
- creating walkways, corridors or other design features to limit users walking through other activities; and
- increasing the turf size and raising the roof height to safely allow for football games and tournaments.

To help make the turf and court space accessible and welcoming to everyone, participants suggested:

- reducing noise to support people with various sensory needs;
- creating a barrier free space and ensuring wheelchair sports can be hosted;
- allowing for borrowing or renting equipment, such as racquets or balls, for people who may not otherwise have access;
- incorporating windows to allow natural light where possible without interfering with activities; and
- incorporating bright design colors, similar to the Strathcona County Library.

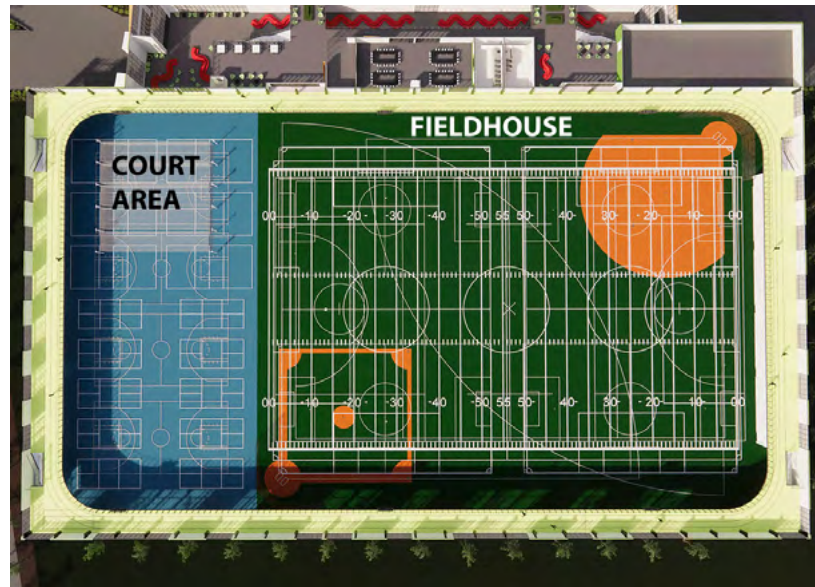






Participants also offered the following considerations as the project progresses:

- including portable seating (e.g., benches) for spectators and activity participants;
- reducing, where possible, the number of painted lines and ensuring it is clear which lines are for each activity;
- enabling the removal and addition of lines;
- accounting for adjustable and mobile basketball hoops;
- accommodating hanging batting cages;
- accounting for windows that are graded to withstand the impact of balls used by various sports;
- limiting the number of windows to prevent sunlight from impairing participants' vision;
- accounting for free wall space for one-wall handball;
- having a sound system for games and tournaments;
- incorporating beach volleyball courts; and
- allowing for the use of football portable uprights.



## WALKING & RUNNING TRACK

Participants suggested this space could be used for stretching, walking, jogging, long-distance running and sprinting, for both individuals and groups. Access in the winter is particularly important to support active lifestyles. It could also be used to host team training or competitions, as well as accommodate space for exercise equipment.

Participants shared ideas to accommodate the suggested uses, such as:

- having a non-slip track surface (e.g., rubber, playtek);
- incorporating rest areas for users with various mobility needs;
- reducing the curve of the track to accommodate sprinting;
- adding straight-aways for sprinting, ideally 100 meters;
- increasing the track to four lanes;
- including a sand pit at one end that could be covered; and
- including a staging area for team warmups.

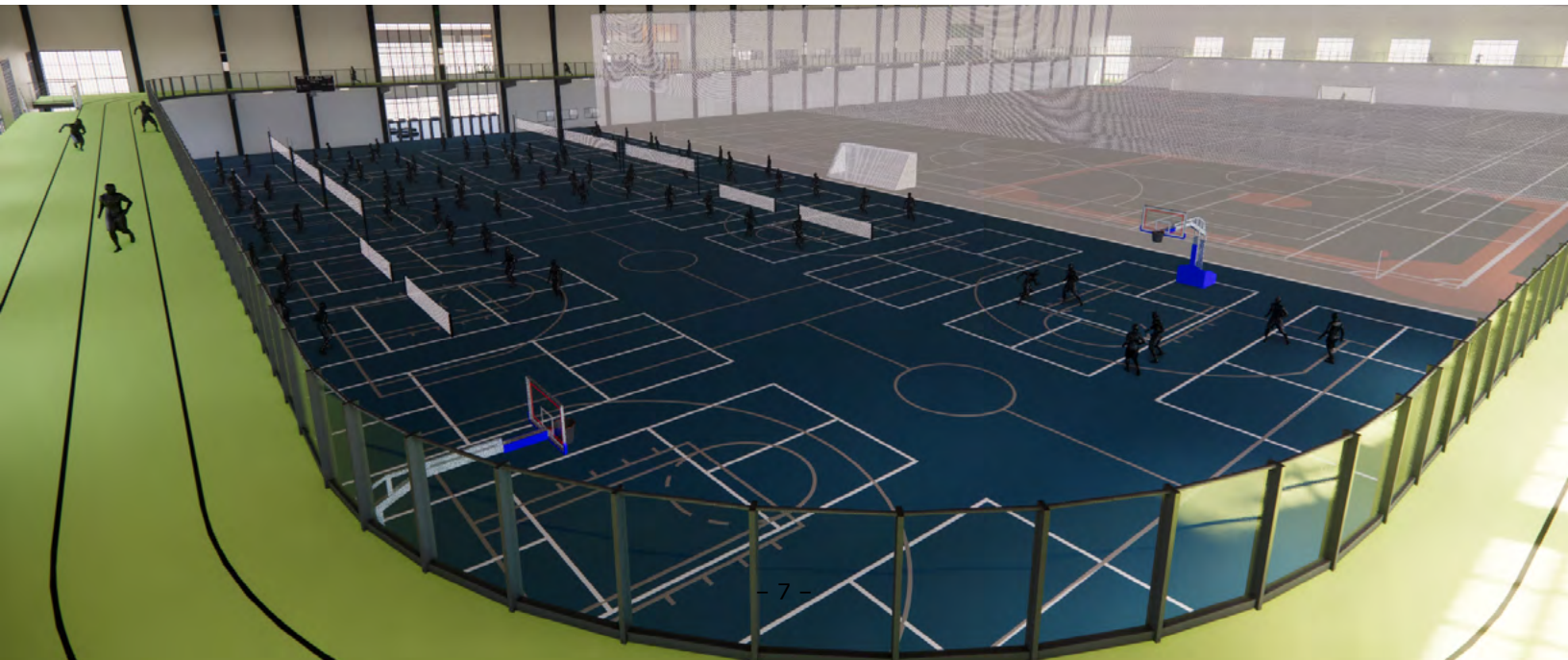


Participants shared ideas that would help make the walking and running track accessible and welcoming to everyone. This input included:

- having a wide enough track to allow users to move outside of the lanes; and
- creating a level track to accommodate all abilities.

Participants also offered the following considerations as the project progresses:

- incorporating viewing and seating areas around the track; and
- offering convenient times for seniors to use the track.







## MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Participants suggested this space could be used to host clinics, selection camps, tryouts, tournaments, events, team gatherings, educational courses, programming for seniors and youth, fitness programs, club and association meetings and, as a press box area.

Participants shared ideas to accommodate the suggested uses, such as:

- including portable room dividers to accommodate various group sizes;
- incorporating audio-visual equipment and technology, as well as access to power outlets and reliable internet; and
- incorporating storage for drop-in programs.

Participants shared ideas that would help make the multi-purpose room accessible and welcoming to everyone. This input included:

- incorporating barrier-free furniture;
- addressing tripping hazards;
- incorporating dimmer lights; and
- adding kitchen amenities, such as a sink and fridge.





## SOCIAL GATHERING SPACES & LOBBY

Participants suggested this space could be used to allow for socializing and networking, pop-up vendors, events, smaller meetings, seniors' gatherings and, spectators or participants viewing and/or waiting for activities.

Participants shared ideas to accommodate the suggested uses, such as:

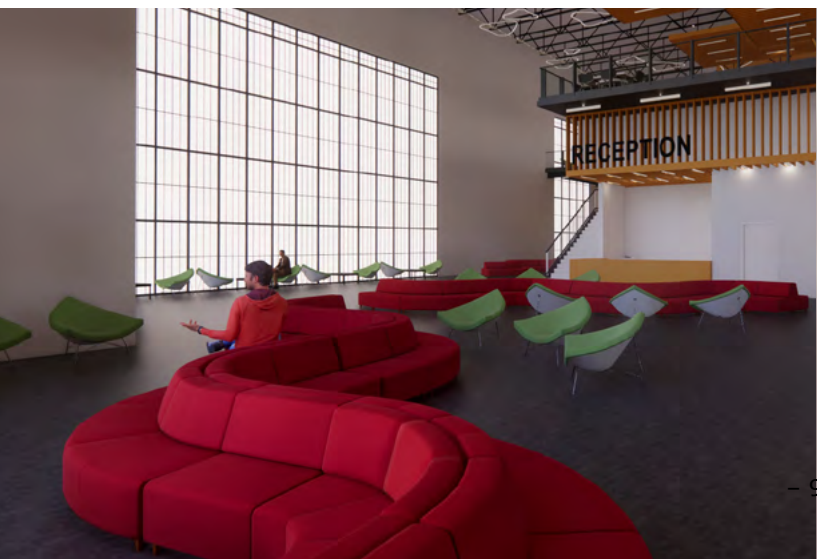
- locating the café or other food and beverage options on the main floor;
- having quiet spaces where seniors could gather, socialize, and play table games;
- enabling live streaming of activities taking place in the facility on tv screens or personal mobile devices;
- incorporating windows to view the activities taking place on the turf or courts;
- reducing the size of the common social area to facilitate more turf and court activities; and
- ensuring there is access to power.

Participants offered the following input to help make the gathering spaces and lobby accessible and welcoming:

- including appropriate handrails;
- reducing noise where possible;
- incorporating furniture that is barrier free for all abilities and supports social activities;
- ensuring service counter heights are accessible (e.g., reception, café, etc.);
- designing elevators that can accommodate wheelchairs turning around as well as incorporating braille on the buttons;
- maintaining a level floor throughout the facility;
- incorporating sensory and tactile equipment or a sensory room;
- incorporating directional and interactive signage;
- incorporating local logos or team names to inform the community about available activities; and
- accounting for cultural norms and practices to support facility use for a variety of events and festivals.

Participants also offered the following considerations as the project progresses:

- including a licensed food and beverage vendor; and
- incorporating other retail, programming, services and amenities such as those found at Genesis Centre in Calgary.



## Flow

Participants were invited to share their ideas about the concept floor plan, specifically how the five primary spaces connect with one another and what might need attention to accommodate effective use of, and movement throughout, the facility.

Participants suggested:

- incorporating viewing and socializing seating that is accessible to various ages and abilities;
- including way-finding signage to help people locate the various spaces;
- designing locker rooms that open to the turf and court spaces and the general lobby space;
- considering if locker rooms could also be located on the other side of the turf and court space;
- incorporating additional emergency exits;
- including more windows and seating to view the court, track and turf from the gathering areas;
- lowering the track so it does not impede line of site to the turf and court areas;
- reviewing if the pickleball court is too close to the lobby;
- designing more separation between spaces; and
- including a space for users waiting to access the turf or court space.

## Additional Input

Additional input related to accessibility and creating a welcoming environment was also shared. Participants suggested:

- ensuring washroom and locker room areas are inclusive and accessible for all users, including but not limited to, adding family, seniors, non-gender specific, and mixed gender washrooms and locker rooms as well as incorporating sensory measures and locating these areas close to other spaces;
- designing doors that are 36" wide throughout the facility with automatic openers;
- supporting staff training on accessibility, diversity and inclusivity;
- including low or subsidized costs for underrepresented groups; and
- incorporating accessible parking stalls close to the entrances.





Participants also offered suggestions related to design features, programming and amenities, such as:

- incorporating an additional child-care area for short-term child minding, an indoor playground and/or a youth area;
- including additional smaller meeting rooms for programming;
- incorporating athlete first-aid rooms or treatment areas;
- including lockers for small personal items so participants do not need to use the locker rooms, similar to Ardrossan Recreation Centre;
- incorporating water-filling stations throughout the facility as well as accessible water fountains;
- incorporating a new seniors facility;
- incorporating green technology into facility construction and operation;
- installing security cameras;
- accommodating transportation between County facilities; and
- booking procedures that accommodate various uses, including drop-in activities.





## E What Happens Next?

Input from participants, along with technical requirements and County policies and plans, will be used to inform draft design options and anticipated facility costs. Further engagement will occur when the design options have been prepared.

For ongoing project information, feedback opportunities, and engagement results please visit [strathcona.ca/fieldhouse](https://strathcona.ca/fieldhouse) or contact the project team at [rpc.engagement@strathcona.ca](mailto:rpc.engagement@strathcona.ca).