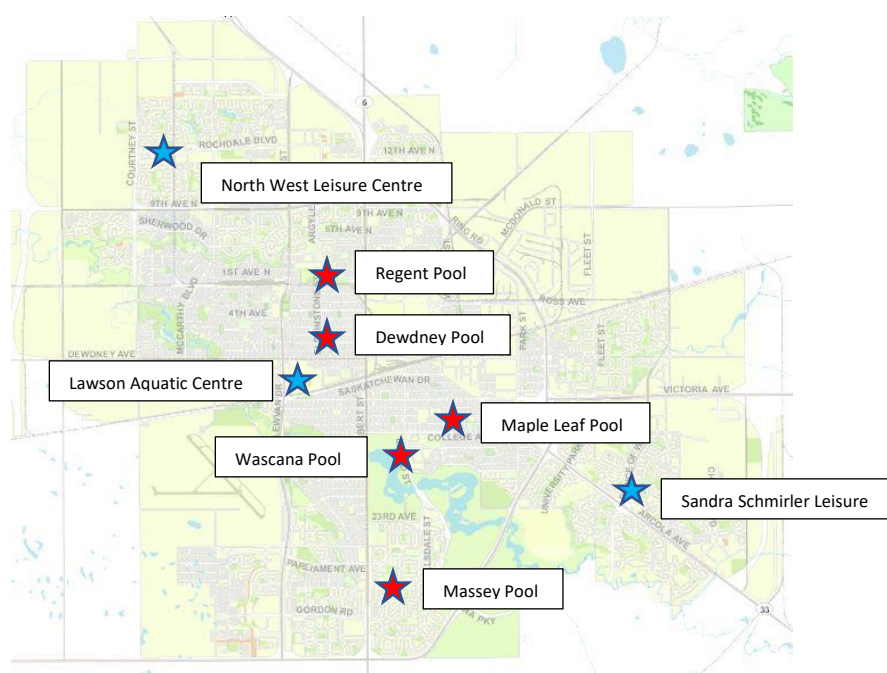


## Item: Outdoor Destination Aquatic Facility

### Description:

The City currently has 5 outdoor pools that provide sport, recreation, fitness and learn to swim opportunities for the public. These pools were built between 1946 and 1962, resulting in an average age of 64 years. The City also has three indoor pools, which are 34 years old on average. The average lifespan of a pool is 30 to 40 years.

Due to age and condition, two of the outdoor pools have reached the end of their life cycle. Maple Leaf Pool cannot safely be opened in 2019 and Wascana Pool will not be able to be open beyond the 2019 season. The deficiencies at these facilities are beyond simple maintenance and repair and include major structural, mechanical and electrical systems as well as accessibility and building code requirements.



### Summary:

1. Included in the 2019 budget is \$16.5 million to be invested in rebuilding Wascana Pool as an Outdoor Destination Aquatics Facility. During 2019, active consultation on the design of the facility will take place, with construction to begin in 2020 and continue into 2021. The opening would be planned for 2021.
2. Maple Leaf Pool will not open in 2019 and the site will be reserved as outdoor space, dedicated to meeting the needs of the Heritage Neighbourhood.
3. As part of the 2019 budget the annual program expenses of \$60,000 for Maple Leaf Pool will be reallocated toward additional programming to be delivered in the Heritage Neighbourhood beginning in Summer 2019. Administration would consult with the Heritage Community Association to design the programming.

## Impact:

The municipality's investment in recreation is supported by the *benefits of recreation*, which are well researched and documented. This research is reflected in *The Pathways to Wellbeing: A Framework for Recreation in Canada*, a guiding document that has been endorsed by the national and provincial governments and has been used to guide the development of Regina's Recreation Master Plan, which will be considered by Council in Q1, 2019.

Research suggests that participation in recreation provides a foundation for quality of life and is essential to personal health and well-being. Recreation is also a key to balanced human development and reduces self-destructive and anti-social behaviours. As such, high levels of participation in a community contributes to reduced long term costs in health care, social services, policing, and justice.

Regina's role in providing outdoor aquatics programs and facilities aligns with these benefits. It is anticipated that the proposed outdoor destination water facility will contribute to increased levels of participation, a trend which has been realized by municipalities such as Winnipeg and Lethbridge, who have recently constructed such facilities.

The proposed timeline for these initiatives is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Proposed Timelines**

| Year | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple Leaf Pool decommissioned</li> <li>• Transit route modified to provide easy access to Wascana Pool; Bus/Pool pass established in consultation with the affected Community Associations to provide free access to Wascana Pool for those impacted by the loss of Maple Leaf Pool</li> <li>• Summer programming established in consultation with affected community associations</li> <li>• Design of Wascana Pool through consultation with the community</li> <li>• Preparation for the redevelopment of Wascana Pool begins with demolition at the end of the season</li> </ul> |
| 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of Wascana Pool</li> <li>• Summer programming and transportation services remain in place</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential re-opening of Wascana Pool mid-season (depending on construction)</li> <li>• Other summer programs remain in place</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate community visioning session for redevelopment of Maple Leaf Pool site as an outdoor family recreation space</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Analysis:

Regina's five outdoor pools were built between 1946 and 1962. The average life span of a pool is 30-40 years. Maple Leaf is 72 years old and Wascana is 71 years old. Independent engineering experts have confirmed that Maple Leaf Pool has reached the end of its life cycle and that Wascana Pool will do so after the 2019 Summer season.

These facilities complement Regina's indoor aquatics program by providing a social hub where children and youth can spend time participating in positive, healthy social activities during summer months when

they are not in school. While the outdoor aquatics program is valued by Regina citizens, these pools are outdated in design, have limited support features and do not provide the contemporary experience that residents have enjoyed when visiting other municipalities of Regina's size.

Participation in Regina's outdoor pools is low relative to capacity. Table 2 below illustrates the capacity of each pool at any given time, in comparison to the average total daily participation in 2017.

**Table 2: Capacity and Average Daily Attendance**

| Pool       | Year Constructed | Capacity | Average Daily Attendance (2017) |
|------------|------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Wascana    | 1947             | 915      | 273                             |
| Massey     | 1964             | 710      | 426                             |
| Regent     | 1962             | 710      | 248                             |
| Dewdney    | 1946             | 250      | 123                             |
| Maple Leaf | 1946             | 250      | 134                             |

Table 3 below demonstrates that Regina has more outdoor pools on a per capita basis compared to other western Canadian cities.

**Table 3: Provision Ratios by Municipality**

| Municipality               | Provision Ratio | Number of Outdoor Pools |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Regina (currently 9 lanes) | 1/43,021        | 5                       |
| Saskatoon                  | 1/58,306        | 4                       |
| Winnipeg                   | 1/70,522        | 5 heated, 5 unheated    |
| Lethbridge                 | 1/46,365        | 2                       |
| Red Deer                   | 1/100,418       | 1                       |
| Edmonton                   | 1/186,506       | 5                       |

Although Regina has more pools on a per capita basis, research illustrates that other municipalities are providing more contemporary layouts with recreation elements such as zero depth entry, water slides, spray toys, lap swimming, diving, etc. Administration's recommendation of building an Outdoor Destination Aquatics Facility is consistent with this approach.

The site of Wascana Pool is recommended for this proposed destination facility. The selection of Wascana is based on site benefits that include:

- **Central Location:** Wascana Pool is centrally located in Regina and easily accessible by car, by public transportation and by pathway. The facility is also located in close proximity (1.5 km) to Maple Leaf Pool, providing access to the Heritage and Al Ritchie Neighbourhoods, which are currently served by the Maple Leaf Pool.
- **Environment:** Wascana Pool is situated in Wascana Park, where people love to swim. Public consultation has revealed that many customers spend a full day in Wascana Park, with the pool being one of many amenities that they access throughout the day.

- Available Space: Wascana Pool is Regina's largest pool, with room to expand. The existing pool can accommodate more than three times the number of patrons served by Maple Leaf Pool and thus can accommodate the displaced demand.

While the design of the new Wascana Pool will be developed in consultation with the community, it could include elements that would support activities such as lane swimming, diving, play with spray toys, water-sliding and lounging/picnicking.

The following images illustrate some of the recent outdoor pools built in western Canada. Figure 1, a photo of Henderson Lake Pool in Lethbridge, illustrates a pool that provides lap swimming, zero depth entry, spray toys and water slides. Figure 2 illustrates Irene Manley Pool in Nipawin, which offers separate lap swimming, zero depth entry, lazy river, spray toys and waterslide. Figure 3 illustrates Transcona Pool in Winnipeg, which provides lap swimming, zero depth entry, spray toys and water slides.

Figure 1: Henderson Lake Pool (Lethbridge)



Figure 2: Irene Manley Pool (Nipawin)



Figure 3: Transcona Pool (Winnipeg)



Discussions with these municipalities further reveals that they are experiencing higher participation levels as a result of the modern amenities. While the design of the Wascana Pool in Regina will be developed in consultation with the community, it is expected that some of the elements illustrated in the photos above would be included in the design.