

City of Regina

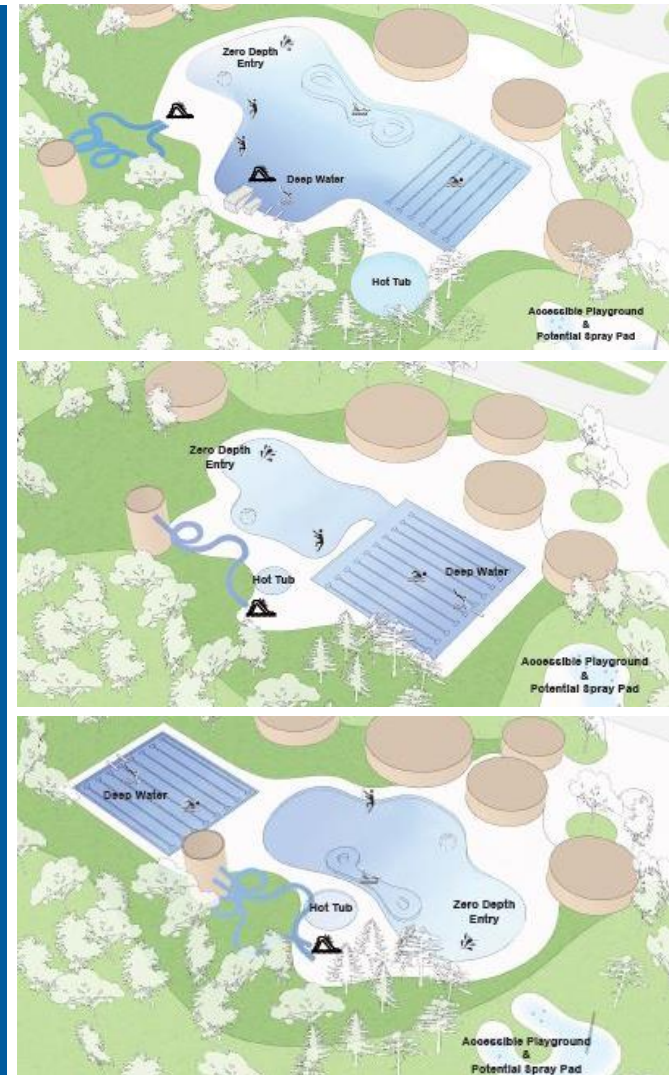
Wascana Pool Renewal: Design Elements

Public Engagement Report

November 2019

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Executive Summary



City of Regina Wascana Pool

Renewal: Design Elements

Public Engagement Results

For the past 70 years, Wascana Pool has been part of the summer park experience for Regina residents. To gather ideas on how a renewed pool can best meet the needs of Regina residents in the future, the City launched a public online survey and consultation with stakeholders in June 2019. That consultation identified recreation activities as a top priority and fitness activities as a second priority.

A second consultation was initiated in October / November to collect public feedback on specific design elements. An online questionnaire was live on the Regina.ca website from October 29th to November 14th, 2019. A public open house was held on November 12th.

A total of 5,313 people responded to the survey and completed at least some portion of the design elements questionnaire. This includes feedback gathered from 94 respondents who attended the open house on November 12th. Results of the engagement are presented in this report.

Preferred Design

- Of the three designs presented, most respondents (53%) prefer the separate lap and leisure pool design.
- The preference for a separate lap and leisure pool is more pronounced among the open house participants—71% say they prefer this design.

Pool Features

- Survey respondents are likely to use a variety of features in the new pool design. Overall, the large majority of respondents are likely to use a hot tub (78%), lazy river (76%), waterslide exiting into pool (73%), waterslide not exiting into pool (71%), spray features (68%), thrill features such as a climbing wall and zip line (61%) and finally lane swimming (53%).
- However, open house respondents strongly favour lane swimming (92%) and show little likelihood of using additional features, with the exception of the hot tub (53%).

Additional Comments

Approximately one third of those who participated in the engagement questionnaire had additional comments to share with the City of Regina for consideration in finalizing the design of Wascana Pool. The tone of the open end response is generally positive. As a general observation, respondents who provide additional comments tend to express sentiments that fall into the following broad categories.

Some respondents suggest it is important to have outdoor activities available in the city despite our short summers and would like the City to consider including many of the features presented in the survey in the renewed pool.

Some respondents are pleased to see that Wascana Pool is being renewed and upgraded but are also cautious about how expanding the footprint to accommodate the upgrade might impact the park.

Some respondents expressed concern about investing in an outdoor pool given the short summer season and feel the City should consider an indoor facility instead.

Some respondents would like to see a renewed pool include 50-metre swim lanes and a deep tank to ensure it supports fitness activities and recreational activities such as diving, water polo and, in some cases, the potential for competitive events.

The sentiments observed in additional open end comments are not always mutually exclusive, nor are they quantifiable in terms of defined segments. However, all responses were reviewed and categorized into themes and are presented in the report.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a swimming pool. Several lane lines, which are blue and white striped, run diagonally across the frame. In the water, there are several swimmers, some of whom are wearing orange swim caps. The water is a clear, light blue color. The overall scene is bright and active.

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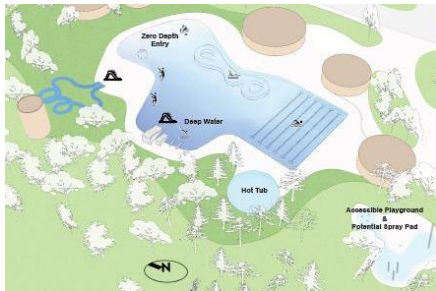
Public Engagement Results

Separate Lap & Leisure Pools



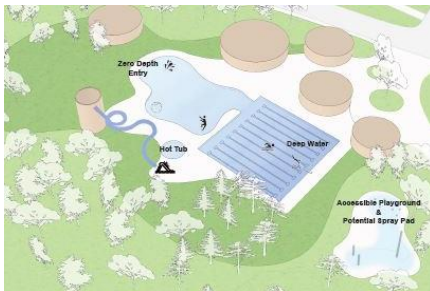
Leisure pool has more recreation activities. The 25-metre lap pool can be used for fitness, sport and leisure activities. This allows for better temperature control to meet varying needs.

Combined Lap & Leisure Pool



Provides the most options for leisure activity while including a 25-metre lap area. The lap area can be used for fitness, sport and leisure activities. Water temperature will be consistent throughout the pool.

Semi-Combined Lap & Leisure Pool

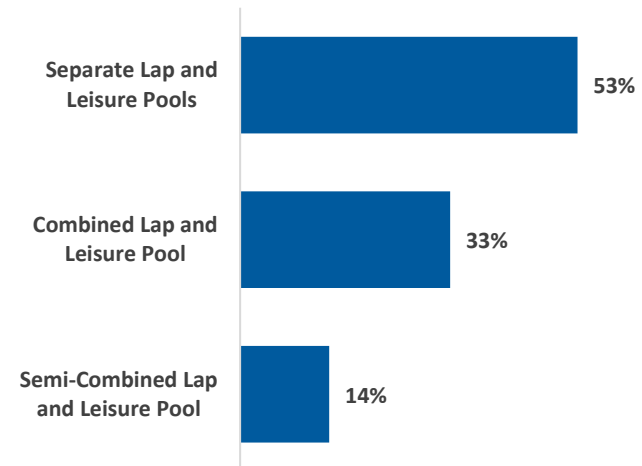


Features a 25-metre lap pool and smaller leisure pool with a few options for recreation features. The lap pool can be used for fitness, sport and leisure activities. Water temperature may be controlled slightly between the two pools.

Preferred Design

The previous public online survey and consultation with stakeholders identified recreation activities as a top priority and fitness activities as a second priority. We are now looking for public feedback on specific design elements.

Q. The design concepts show different pool configurations. Which is your preferred pool type?



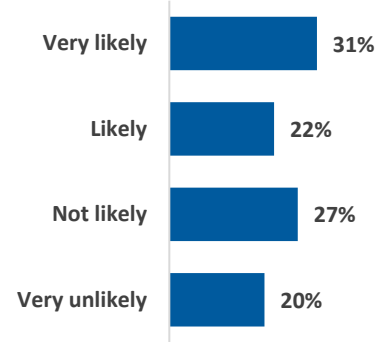
- Of the three designs presented, most respondents (53%) prefer the separate lap and leisure pool design.
- The preference for a separate lap and leisure pool is more pronounced among open house participants—71% say they prefer this design.

Pool Features

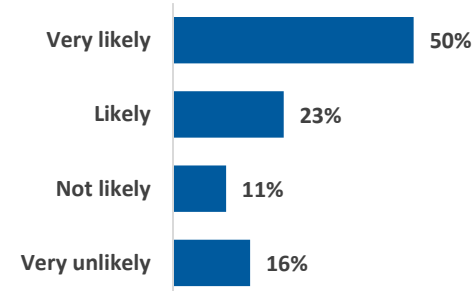
Q. *All design concepts can provide a variety of features, regardless of pool type. How likely are you or your family to use the following features?*

- 53% of all survey respondents say they're likely to use lane swimming at the new Wascana Pool, while 47% are unlikely to do so.
- It is noted that 92% of open house respondents say they are likely to use lane swimming, with the large majority (82%) indicating 'very likely.'
- 73% of all respondents are likely to use a waterslide exiting into the pool, including half (50%) very likely to do so.
- 71% of all respondents are also likely to use a waterslide *not* exiting into the pool, with half (50%) very likely to do so.

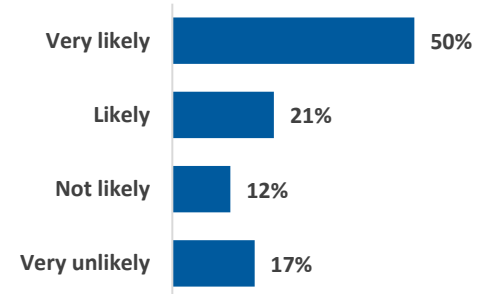
Lane swimming



Waterslide exiting to pool



Waterslide not exiting to pool



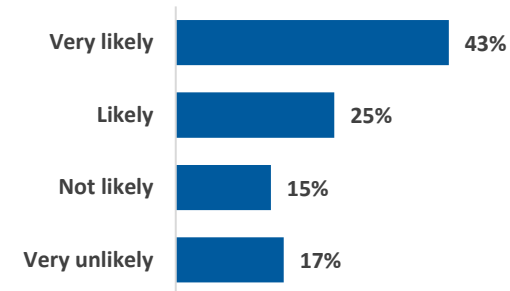
Q. *How likely are you or your family to use the following features?*

- 68% of all respondents are likely to use spray features at the new Wascana Pool.

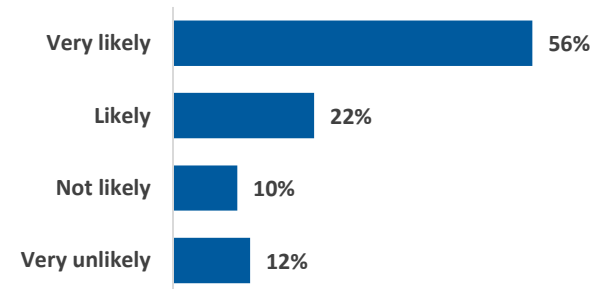
- 78% of all respondents are likely to use a hot tub at the new Wascana Pool.

- 76% of all respondents are likely to use a lazy river feature at the new Wascana Pool.

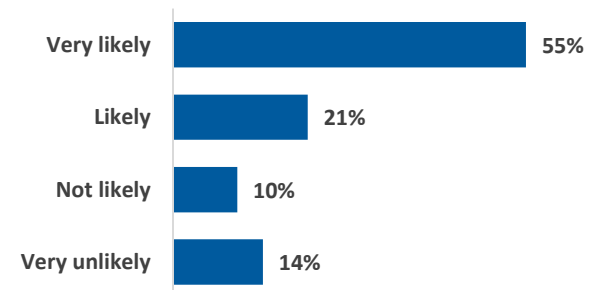
Spray features



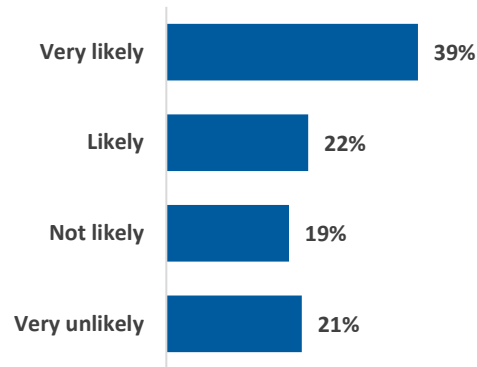
Hot tub



Lazy river



Thrill features (e.g. climbing wall, zip line)



- 61% of all respondents are likely to use thrill features at the new Wascana Pool, such as a climbing wall and zip line, while 40% are unlikely to do so.

Few open house respondents indicate they are likely to use any of the pool features noted in the survey other than lane swimming (92%) and hot tub (53%).

Additional Comments

Q. Is there anything else you would like the City to consider in finalizing the pool design?

Approximately one third of those who participated in the engagement questionnaire had additional comments for the City to consider in finalizing the design of Wascana Pool. The tone of the open end comments is generally positive. As a general observation, respondents who provide additional comments tend to express sentiments that fall into the following broad categories.

Some respondents suggest it is important to have outdoor activities available in a city with such short summers, and they would like the City to consider including many of the features presented in the survey in the new pool.

Some respondents are pleased that Wascana Pool is being renewed and upgraded, but at the same time, are cautious about expanding the footprint and how the upgrade might impact the park. These respondents mention concerns about loss of trees in the park to accommodate a renewed pool, noise levels in the park and parking issues. They are less likely to want additional features because of their potential impact on the park. Some mention that features like waterslides can also become compromised and expensive to maintain when not in use for the winter season.

Some respondents are concerned that the short summer season does not align with having an outdoor pool, and the City should consider an indoor facility instead.

Some respondents would like to see a renewed pool include 50-metre swim lanes and a deep tank to ensure it supports fitness and recreational activities, such as diving, water polo, and in some cases, the potential for competitive events.

The sentiments observed in additional open end comments are not always mutually exclusive, nor are they quantifiable in terms of defined segments. However, all of the response has been reviewed and categorized into themes and presented on the following page.

All Respondents

- The most mentioned comment is a desire for a pool with 50-metre swim lanes and/or deep tank, but this is mentioned by only 14% of all respondents (722 respondents, which represents 37% of the 1,945 respondents who had additional comments, but 14% of all 5,313 respondents).
- Small percentages commented on various aspects of the Wascana Pool renewal, such as the need for an indoor/year-round pool instead of changes to Wascana Pool (3%), the need to incorporate shade, seating and a concession in the new design (3%), and support for a wave pool, waterslide, diving board, lazy river and zip line (2%).
- Other comments of less than 1% each include having a hot tub, sauna, improved lockers, washrooms, showers, better security, no tax increase, and appreciative comments of the overall plan.

People Attending Open House¹

- Almost all open house participants (86 out of 94 respondents) had additional comments for the City.
- Most (66%) commented about wanting a pool with 50-metre swim lanes and/or deep tank.
- 22% provided comments that the designs proposed by the City are better suited to an indoor/year-round facility than Wascana Park.
- 12% emphasize their desire to keep the natural landscape and save trees, 10% suggest leave the existing pool and 7% suggest the designs are too elaborate. Another 9% support a kids' area or spray features. Other comments, all less than 1%, are around having improved lockers/washrooms/showers, cleanliness, more upkeep, better security, etc.

¹ November 12th, 2019, 5-8pm at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.