

## Gulleden Park Redevelopment: Preliminary Programming Recommendations

The City proposes the following preliminary recommendations that will guide the park redevelopment. The recommendations build on the input received through the public engagement process (notification, survey and virtual targeted public meeting).

**1. Add a walking/running circuit and outdoor fitness equipment.**

Walking/running through parks was the highest reported park activity in both the summer and winter and a walking loop was the fifth most requested amenity. The closest outdoor fitness equipment is located in Burnhamdale Park which is about a 6 minute walk away. Although there isn't a significant geographic gap for outdoor fitness, trails and outdoor fitness equipment support how the park is currently being used.

**2. Provide an outdoor refrigerated skating facility.**

New outdoor refrigerated facilities in this context are not recommended by the [Parks and Forestry Future Directions Master Plan \(2019\)](#). However, the refrigerated ice rink at Gulleden Park is an existing facility that is valued by the community, with the majority of survey respondents saying they would like it considered through the redevelopment. The size, design and configuration is to be informed by public feedback and through detailed design. It is recommended that the outdoor refrigerated skating facility not be covered.

**3. Maintain the two existing tennis courts and add pickleball lines. Future Directions supports the addition of one more tennis court or dedicated pickleball courts.**

The existing tennis courts are needed to maintain the City's standard level of service for tennis. The majority of survey respondents said that they want an active/sporty park and tennis was identified as one of the more highly used and sought after sports at Gulleden Park. Future Directions supports the addition of one more tennis court or dedicated pickleball courts. This facility will be considered for a multi-purpose tennis/pickleball design. The inclusion of pickleball lines is supported by Future Directions Recommendation #30.

**4. Maintain soccer field(s) for organized and unorganized play.**

These soccer fields are needed to maintain the City's standard level of service for soccer. The majority of survey respondents said they want an active/sporty park. Consideration could be given to making these fields more informal by not lining or installing permanent goal posts, thereby preserving the field use while encouraging unstructured use of the space. This recommendation will be refined through further engagement.

**5. Remove the softball diamond and replace it with a multi-use court.**

Softball had the least amount of support from survey respondents. Removing this

softball diamond will impact the City's standard service level for baseball. However, this field has low usage and is in need of redevelopment. The majority of survey respondents said they want an active/sporty park, with basketball being the second most requested sports facility. Therefore this facility will be considered for a multi-purpose court through detailed design, which provides opportunities for basketball and other hard surface sports.

**6. Provide shaded picnic areas/seating areas and tree plantings.**

The second most requested amenity was for natural areas, followed by complementary uses such as seating areas (ranked third) and picnic tables (ranked eleventh). A significant proportion of respondents are looking for a calm/natural and family/social type park. While significant naturalization is best suited for neighbouring parks like Dixie Woods and Jaycee Park, Gulleden will benefit from additional shaded seating and picnic areas with tree plantings.

**7. Provide a new playground.**

A playground was the fifth most frequently requested amenity by survey respondents. The existing playground that is located on School Board lands should be removed and a new playground will be considered in proximity to other family amenities within the park.

**8. Explore opportunities for a small spray pad.**

A spray pad was the fourth most requested amenity among survey respondents. Given that the area is well served by the Aquatic Centre in the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre and by the spray pad in Forest Glen Park, additional aquatic amenities should be smaller in scale.

**9. Integrate beginner-level skateboard amenities where feasible.**

Future Directions Recommendation #37 states that, where feasible, beginner-level skateboarding amenities such as basic rails and curbs should be integrated within community parks as they are being redeveloped. This is further supported by 13% of survey respondents that requested skateboard amenities.

## **Next Steps**

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to the survey and participate in the Virtual Targeted Public Meeting.

The feedback gathered from the Gulleden Park Engagement and Virtual Targeted Public Meeting will inform the future park amenities and features, which will be incorporated into the park designs.

**Please note that engagement is still ongoing.** The City will be reaching out to seek feedback during the conceptual design phase. Park concepts will be posted to the project website and shared with the community for additional feedback in 2022.

To be notified of future engagement opportunities, including opportunities to see park designs, please visit the [project webpage](#) to subscribe updates on the project.