



FINAL REPORT FOR

PROJECT TITLE

Comox Valley Regional District
Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan

PREPARED FOR

CVRD
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DATE

August 2017

GDH Solutions
Carscadden

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Comox Valley Regional District with a current population of about 66,000 residents serves the interests of three incorporated municipalities and three electoral areas. It covers a large geographic area of over 1700 sq. km. on Vancouver Island, from north of Cook Creek to Oyster River and west to Strathcona Park and east to include Denman and Hornby Islands.

The three municipalities - the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox, and the Village of Cumberland all have recreation departments to serve their needs, and in addition the CVRD has a recreation service the "Comox Valley Recreation Complexes Service" which has the purpose of providing and maintaining ice arena-swimming pool complexes, a curling centre and to contribute to the cost of existing community use facilities and structures in the service area. In addition to the municipalities the CVRD's service includes electoral areas "A", "B", and "C". The recreation services are overseen by the Comox Valley Sports Centre Commission.

The CVRD owns and operates two major indoor recreation facilities, the Comox Valley Sports Centre, the Comox Valley Aquatic Centre, and owns the Curling Centre, which is leased to and operated by the Curling Club. The Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan has been developed through extensive community consultation including an online survey with almost 600 respondents (an excellent participation rate), focus groups and community workshops, a staff workshop, key informant interviews and an open house.

An assessment and analysis of the existing facilities and their use was undertaken, along with a review of current and projected demographics.

The review was supported by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from the municipalities and the CVRD.

Recommendations and an Implementation Plan have been provided to assist the CVRD in their decision making regarding future facility enhancements and new facilities. .

The recommendations have not been provided in order of priority. All of the recommendations are based on demand as expressed by the residents, combined with a thorough analysis undertaken by the consulting team.

The following is a summary of the recommendations.

Capital Recommendations (not in order of priority)

Sports Centre

1. Add leisure pool elements and natural light.
2. Add universal change rooms.
3. Improve spectator seating and safety in Arena 1 by adding bucket seats and railings.
4. Expand women's dressing room in Arena 1.
5. Replace ice slab in Arena 1.
6. Provide heaters for spectators in Arena 2.
7. Work with Junior Hockey to facilitate the addition of a Junior Hockey dressing room (cost to be borne by Junior Hockey).
8. Consider expansion to the Wellness Centre to accommodate functional fitness, dry land sports training and continuing support for Rehab in Motion and the Healthy Heart Program.
9. Create a welcoming and functional lobby area, with enhanced concession and gathering spaces.

Aquatic Centre

1. Develop a new Fitness Centre at the front of the building, providing for a more functional and larger fitness space.
2. Convert the fitness studio back into meeting space, in combination with the adjoining meeting room.

Curling Centre

1. Add windows to the banquet room.
2. Improve bar and lounge area for better functionality.
3. Renovate both kitchens.
4. Add a storage room for ice-making equipment to exterior of building.

New Facilities

1. Conduct a feasibility study on the development of an indoor Tennis facility, and options to include Pickleball courts.
2. Explore opportunities for partnerships in the development of an additional ice surface.

Operational Recommendations (not in order of priority)

1. Exhibition Grounds Master Plan - Explore opportunities for indoor recreational uses of the proposed Agricultural Exhibition Centre (Agriplex) building.
2. Partnership with 19 Wing - Undertake discussions with the leadership at the 19 Wing Comox base to increase public access to the recreation facilities.
3. Tennis and Pickleball Task Force - Set up their task force/working group to include CVRD staff, municipal representation, the Comox Valley Tennis Club, the Comox Valley Pickleball Association, School District 71 and the In Your Court Tennis and Fitness Academy to explore the development of an indoor tennis facility, with options for Pickleball courts.
4. Pursue partnerships with North Island College and North Island Hospital- This would provide for enhanced use of the new Fitness Centre.
5. Cultural Master Plan - Work with the municipalities in the development of a Cultural Master Plan for the preservation and development of arts and heritage facilities and programs in the Comox Valley.
6. Single Pass - Consider the implementation of a “single pass” for community recreation facilities.
7. Corporate Energy Plan - Continue efforts to implement the CVRD Corporate Energy Plan recommendations.



INTRODUCTION

The Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan represents a substantial effort on the part of the District and community to review and assess the condition of current recreation and vision for the future in the region.

Project Team

Recreation Consultant	GDH Solutions Gabi Haas
Architecture & Planning	Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects Inc Glen Stokes, PARTNER ARCHITECT AIBC

The consulting team was assisted by the contributions of staff who gave their time, energy, and guidance in this process and in the preparation of this report. Key participants include:

Comox Valley Regional District Staff

Ian Smith, General Manager of Community Services
Jennifer Zbinden, Senior Manager of Recreation Facilities
Robyn Butler, Communications Coordinator
Kristy Morro, Branch Assistant

Steering Committee

Ian Smith, General Manager of Community Services, Comox Valley Regional District
Dave Snider, Director of Recreation and Culture Services, City of Courtenay
Leah Knutson, Manager of Recreation, Village of Cumberland
Mandy Johns, Recreation Director, Town of Comox
Jennifer Zbinden, Senior Manager of Recreation Facilities, Comox Valley Regional District



Context and Purpose of the Plan

The Comox Valley Regional District with a current population of about 65,000 residents was created in 2008 to serve the interests of three incorporated municipalities and three electoral areas. The CVRD covers a large geographic area of over 1700 sq. km. on Vancouver Island, from north of Cook Creek to Oyster River and west to Strathcona Park and east to include Denman and Hornby Islands.

The three municipalities all have recreation departments to serve their needs, and the CVRD has a recreation service through the establishment of the Comox Valley Recreation Complexes Service. The recreation services are overseen by the Comox Valley Sports Centre Commission which has elected officials as representatives from each of the three municipalities, Electoral Areas A, B and C as well as the School District.

The CVRD owns three major indoor recreation facilities, the Comox Valley Sports Centre, the Comox Valley Aquatic Centre and the Curling Centre, which is leased to and operated by the Curling Club.

This Plan has been developed to meet the emerging recreational priorities and needs of the changing community for indoor recreation facilities and spaces for the next ten years and beyond. It has taken into account the almost 600 responses (an excellent participation rate) received through the online survey, supplemented by six focus groups, a staff workshop, two community workshops, a community open house and numerous key informant interviews.

The existing facilities were assessed to determine their current and future capacity to meet the community's needs and their suitability for renovation and/or expansion.

Arts Facilities

There are three major Arts Facilities, all located in the City of Courtenay that serve residents throughout the Comox Valley. These facilities are the Sid Williams Theatre, the Courtenay Museum & Palaeontology Centre and the Comox Valley Art Gallery. Although these facilities were not within the scope of this recreation facilities plan, they were the subject of a Regional Recreation and Cultural Facilities Report in 2011.

Vision and Goals

The VISION for the future of indoor recreation facilities in the Comox Valley Regional District is:

To provide lively, accessible and inclusive indoor recreation facilities that, in combination with the local municipal facilities, support the pursuit of healthy active lifestyles for Comox Valley residents of all abilities, ages, and pursuits.

The Vision is supported by specific Goals:

1. Support healthy active lifestyles
2. Ensure facilities are welcoming and accessible to all patrons, regardless of ability to pay
3. Support ease of access to facilities through transit services as well as safe vehicle and pedestrian access
4. Collaborate with community organizations and the Town of Comox, the City of Courtenay and the Village of Cumberland to deliver a complete range of recreational opportunities
5. Enhance existing facilities and develop new facilities as appropriate to provide additional opportunities for active living
6. Work towards energy and operational efficiency in all facilities

Community Engagement

Community engagement was a key piece of the development of this Plan. Opinions were sought from the current users of the facilities as well as the community at large.

The following methods were used to engage community members in the formulation of the Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan.:

1. Online Survey - 576 respondents
2. Six Focus Groups - targeting facility users (arenas, pools, fitness areas)
3. Two Community Workshops - open to the whole community
4. Staff Workshop
5. Written submissions
6. Key Informant Interviews - with community leaders
7. Open House - to present draft plan including recommendations
8. Social Media, traditional media and the CVRD website were used to promote the engagement methods

Review of Related Documents

The following are the key documents reviewed to provide context for this Master Plan.

1. Allocating Recreation Grants - Wilson 2011
2. Regional Recreation and Cultural Facilities Report - Wilson 2011
3. Madden Report - Recreation Facility Review Sections
4. Comox Strathcona Regional District Arena Needs Facility Report 2006
5. Asset Management Budget to 2048
6. Budget 2013 -2016
7. Budget 2015-2020
8. Budget Reserve Fund Recreation
9. Bylaws Consolidated fees & charges
10. CEI Curling Study
11. Curling Centre Renovation Project
12. Comox Valley Quality of Life 2014
13. Comox Valley Vital Signs 2016
14. Terms of Reference Sports Centre Commission
15. CVRD Annual Report 2015
16. Comox Valley Recreation Guides 2016
17. Local Health Area Profile 2014 Courtenay
18. Regional Growth Strategy
19. CVRD Corporate Energy Plan
20. Master Plan for the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds

Benefits of Recreation

The Benefits of Recreation have been well documented over the past twenty-five years. The extensive list of benefits is divided into four categories: Personal, Social, Economic and Environmental. Each of these areas has application to recreation in the Comox Valley.

Personal Benefits

1. Extends life expectancy
2. Prolongs independent living
3. Reduces heart disease and stroke
4. Contributes to mental health
5. Holistic development of children
6. Lifelong learning and academic success
7. Builds self-esteem and positive self-image
8. Enhances life satisfaction

Social Benefits

1. Leisure activities enhance perceived/actual quality of life
2. Recreation nurtures independent living for persons with disabilities
3. Reduces self-destructive behaviour
4. Reduces isolation and loneliness
5. Keeps families together
6. Provides safe programs for children and youth
7. Builds strong communities
8. Understand cultural differences

Economic Benefits

1. Reduces illness and disability
2. Reduces crime and social dysfunction
3. Improves work performance & productivity
4. Attracts tourists and businesses to the community

Environmental Benefits

1. Bike racks and bike lanes or trails to facilities support overall health
2. Energy efficient buildings reduces environmental impact

All the benefits along with the supporting research data can be found on the Benefits Hub.
<http://benefitshub.ca/>

National Recreation Framework

Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing

In 2011, the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association kicked off a three year journey to develop a new Framework for Recreation in Canada. Parks and recreation leaders from across the country (except Quebec) participated in numerous discussions and debates in the development of a new vision for recreation. The Framework was endorsed in February 2015 in Prince George by the Federal-Provincial – Territorial Ministers responsible for Sport Physical Activity and Recreation. The document can be found at <http://www.cpra.ca>

The parks and recreation sector is now working towards the implementation of the Framework. The renewed definition of Recreation is:

“Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative, and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.”

The Framework describes five goals and priorities for action under each goal. The goals are:



Active Living.

Foster active, healthy living through recreation.



Inclusion and Access.

Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.



Connecting People.

Help people connect to recreation through nature



Supportive Environments.

Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities.



Recreation Capacity.

Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

This Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan supports the goals of the National Recreation Framework.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

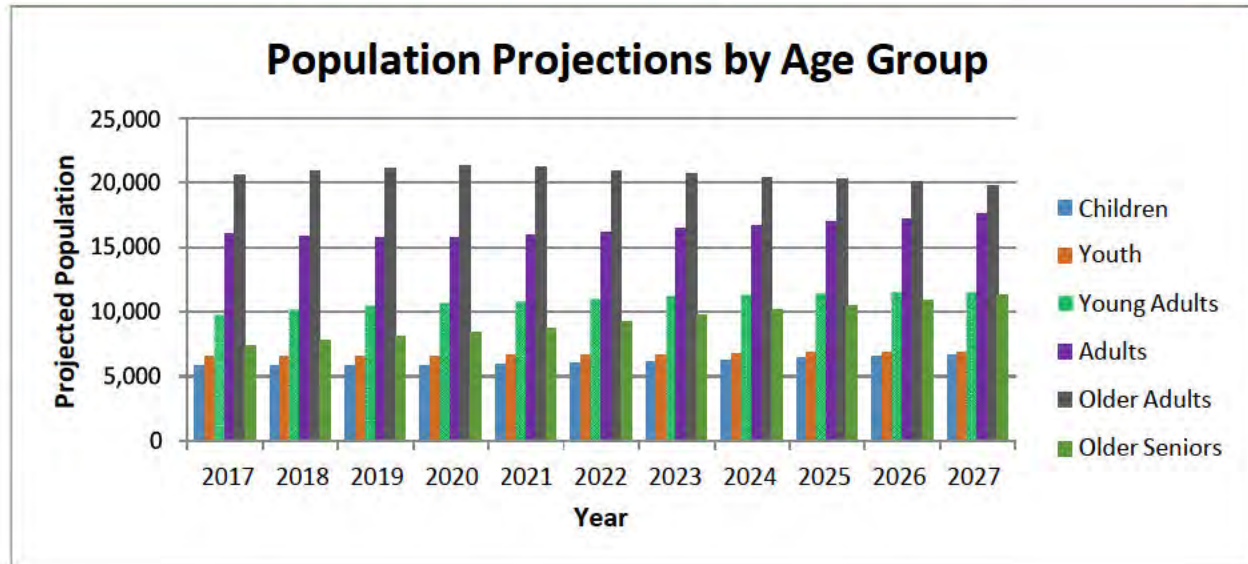
Demographic Profile

Statistics Canada puts the population of the Comox Valley Regional District at 66,135, based on the 2016 census. They have only released the total population numbers. They will be releasing the specifics such as age, sex, income, ethnicity and so on throughout 2017.

These charts were created using Statistics Canada (sub-Provincial Population Projections - P.E.O.P.L.E. 2016) for the Courtenay Local Health Area (same boundaries as CVRD).

The projected population numbers have been divided into age groups, which gives a better indication of future recreational needs.

Year	Children 0-9 yrs	Youth 10-19	Young Adult 20-34	Adults 35-54	Older Adults 55-74	Older Seniors 75 plus	Total Population
2017	5837	6541	9765	16049	20632	7371	66195
2018	5794	6521	10104	15883	20921	7760	66983
2019	5798	6517	10448	15723	21146	8123	67755
2020	5863	6565	10621	15759	21309	8406	68523
2021	5886	6638	10815	15970	21216	8755	69280
2022	6011	6634	10993	16176	20962	9259	70035
2023	6131	6699	11122	16470	20666	9703	70791
2024	6273	6768	11247	16722	20424	10106	71540
2025	6414	6844	11323	16957	20276	10463	72277
2026	6562	6839	11436	17195	20071	10899	73002
2027	6689	6882	11491	17550	19825	11278	73715



Based on the Courtenay Local Health Area profile the median family income was \$68,371, slightly lower than the Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority) median income of \$73,358. The unemployment rate is higher compared to Island Health and BC, although the adult population has similar levels of education.

Implications for Indoor Recreation Facilities

As the population chart and the table indicate, the major age grouping will continue to be in the “older adult” age range of 55 to 75 years of age. This group is currently frequent users of the aquatic facilities, with lower use of arenas than other age groups. They are also the group that is seeking additional facilities for Pickleball.

The proportion of the population in each age grouping between the ages of 0 and 54 remains relatively constant with only small percentage decreases. The two older age groups however increase in percentage of overall population. The 55 to 75 cohort will increase from 27% of the population in 2017 to 31% in 2027. The older seniors (75 years plus) will increase to 15% from the current 11%.

The implication of this larger proportion of 55 plus adults on indoor facilities requires a plan that considers the unique needs of this age group. For example different equipment in the fitness areas, improved dressing rooms with non-slip, non-abrasive surfaces, more pool time dedicated to rehab and aquafit type classes.

The higher unemployment rates and somewhat lower median income needs to be considered when setting fees for use of the facilities and programs.



CURRENT TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES IN RECREATION

Loose Fit

Loose Fit is a general trend that allows for flexible use. For example, buildings can be designed with structural and envelope systems that accommodate radical internal layout changes and renovations without adversely affecting expensive, integral components. Exterior spaces are designed similarly to locate permanent infrastructure in a manner to alter the “soft” components without expensive or invasive changes.

Buildings can also be designed for multiple uses over the day to increase length of use and types of use including generic shaped rooms, moveable partitions, and non-specific program spaces. For example, “Multipurpose Rooms for Senior Use” rather than “Seniors Centre” can set the tone for other uses before and/or after peak uses by a particular user group.

A very interesting development is overlapping of traditionally distinct uses. Current examples include combining cafes with recreation facilities, libraries with community centres, etc. This strategy could be pushed to consider overlapping culture and recreation such as galleries and recreation centres, museums and libraries.

Wellness and Chronic Disease Prevention

There is recognition of the connection between health and recreation. The benefits of recreation activities, both in the pool and on dry land support a healthy active lifestyle and help to prevent chronic disease. Most communities, particularly those with aquatic facilities are offering programs to support physical activity for all ages, and to provide opportunities for water-based rehabilitation programs.



Aquatics

Swimming is a favoured activity for people of all ages. Swimming lessons are the primary market for indoor pools and participation in such activities tends to decline after age 10, however the Canadian Youth Sports Report released in 2014 found that the top organized sports for youth were swimming and soccer. With the aging of the population has come increased demand for therapeutic pools and programs aimed at rehabilitation.



Participation in Organized Sports

Participation in sport has continued to decline in Canada over the past decade. Sport participation levels decline with age beginning at the age of 12 and dropping off considerably beyond the age of 20. This has had an impact on boys' hockey, whereas the numbers of girls and women playing is increasing. The increased demand by women's groups for ice time is challenging for municipal ice allocation.

Tennis

Tennis Canada reports that Canada boasted 6.5 million tennis players in 2014 representing a national participation ratio of approximately 18% - a tennis player is described as having played tennis once in the previous 12 months. Throughout Canada, participation in tennis has risen by 18.5% from 2008 to 2010 and by an additional 7% from 2012 to 2014.

In 2014, Ontario led all regions in tennis participation (22%) followed closely by BC (17%). In 2010, BC had proportionately more players than Ontario but since then, programmatic and demographic changes in Ontario seem to have increased tennis participation levels faster than in BC.



Indicating the long-term health of the sport, there were approximately 600,000 children between the ages of six and eleven years who played tennis in 2014. Between 2012 and 2014, the proportion of the total tennis community represented by young players grew from 5% to 7%. Clearly, junior development programs and other national and provincial sport initiatives are having a positive effect on participation rates of younger Canadians.

Pickleball

Pickleball is considered to be the fastest growing sport in North America. Although it can be played by people of all ages, it is most popular with the 55 plus demographic. Pickleball Canada is working towards recognition as a National Sport Organization, which would make them eligible for government grant funding to further support the sport.



Children and Youth Inactivity

Only five percent (5%) of Canada's children are getting enough daily physical activity. Participation in organized physical activity and sport is notably lower among girls, children and youth with a disability, and those with a low household income. As children move into adolescence the levels of participation drop drastically.

Physical Literacy

A positive trend over the past ten years or so has been to embrace the concept of "physical literacy" in programs for children. Physical Literacy has been defined and promoted by Canadian Sport For Life as critical for the development of children and youth so that they can participate in lifelong sports and recreation activities.

The private sector has become engaged, offering grants in support of building physical literacy (for example RBC). Excellent resources are available on the Canadian Sport For Life Physical Literacy site.



More Older Adults

As the number of older adults increases in the community, a greater percentage of recreation facility space and program staff will need to be dedicated to serving the needs of this population. This group may have higher expectations in terms of quality services and facilities. Many older adults are taking up new recreational pursuits, including aquatic activities and Pickleball.

Persons with Disabilities

Barriers can be physical, architectural, informational, communicational, attitudinal, technological, or through a policy/practice. For recreation facilities this would include improving accessibility to all aspects of facilities, and creating an environment that supports participation by all persons regardless of their disability.

Changing Families and Households

Families are more diverse, with more common-law and lone-parent families. People are marrying later in life, an average of 5 years older since the 70's. There has been an increase in one person households. Young people (aged 20-29) are staying home longer. The increasing numbers of people living alone, in particular senior citizens could affect preferences for increased opportunities for socialization through recreation.

Active Transportation

As communities look for ways to encourage residents to increase daily physical activity levels we have observed a trend towards active transportation as a solution. Not only do community groups and councils spearhead this; but also it has been a collaboration between engineering and parks departments to change the fabric of the street by injecting active transportation and participation into this realm that has traditionally been sequestered for the car. Examples include bike lanes, walking paths, and even scooter trails. The development of safe bike lanes and pedestrian paths to recreation facilities is critical and the provision of secure bike racks at recreation facilities supports this trend.

Programming for Busy People

It appears that programming that can accommodate flexibility and shorter usage is gaining in popularity. Drop-in classes and unstructured activities appear to be on the rise; and regular, long duration classes are not. This can be seen in the decline attendance at registered 8 or 10 week programs versus programs of shorter duration e.g. four weeks and drop in activities. In addition, full time family drop-in times for aquatic centres are on the rise. Note also the growing focus on leisure activities for the “silent majority” of families instead of the “vocal majority” of organized clubs. Drop in use for fitness centres is also popular.



Provide a Full and Positive Experience

Over the recent decades, primary program spaces and parks have seen focus and advancement in excellence in design. Great examples are aquatic centres which have transformed the natatoriums from windowless boxes to light-filled, beautiful spaces over the last 40 years.

Expanded Use of Technology

Technology has become an integral part of recreation. In facilities some elements include registration systems, energy management, bar-coded facility entry, user tracking systems and enhanced communications. Participants are most likely to find program and facility information on line, often through their mobile devices.

The growth in new technologies has increased computer mediated leisure participation. The popularity of interactive video games and social media has resulted in people spending a significant portion of their free time engaged in digital activities, some of which actually involve physical activity.

Technology supports many physical recreation activities including walking, running (through pedometers, accelerometers, and heart monitors etc.), and geocaching, to name a few.



Aging and Changing Infrastructure

A large proportion of BC's recreation, parks, and culture infrastructure is aging. The cost of renovating or replacing these old facilities is significant. There is a clear shift from stand-alone to multi-use facilities, often integrating youth and seniors' components as well as common spaces that serve as community "hubs". The Federal/Provincial Infrastructure funding programs have been insufficient to replace old facilities and to build new ones, both indoor and outdoor.

Partnerships and Outsourcing

Partnerships with the private sector and with not-for-profit organizations continue to grow as revenue from tax dollars often does not keep up with escalating expenses. While recreation has always fallen under the municipal umbrella, since the 1970's, a larger portion of responsibility for all public infrastructure has shifted to municipalities. Provincial and federal budgets are increasingly being consumed by health care and education costs, reducing their contribution to services like recreation programs and facilities.

There are numerous examples of public/public and public/private partnerships in BC and across Canada. An example of a public/public partnership is between municipal government and the School District, or the Health Authority. Many of the "partnerships" are actually a form of contracting out facility management and service delivery. There has been a trend in municipal partnerships extending to a variety of agencies in health, justice, education, community and social services.

Municipally owned fitness and wellness centres can also be operated through a partnership with the public or private sector; however these types of facilities can generate a positive revenue stream and have become an important component of municipally run multi-use facilities.

Many municipally owned arenas are now operated by private sector companies; however pool partnerships/contracts are somewhat rare. In the City of Kelowna, the YMCA operates the 50 metre pool facility known as H2O. On Salt Spring Island, the pool is operated by Recreation Excellence, a private company. Municipalities provide operating subsidies to ensure that the programs and services are affordable to the public.

IMPLICATIONS OF TRENDS FOR THE CVRD FACILITIES PLAN

All of the trends listed in the previous section are relevant to the development of an Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan for the CVRD. Most are already occurring and are being considered and reflected in the recreation programming when possible.

Additions and improvements to the existing facilities as well as any new facilities will need to consider all of the trends around an aging population, as the demographic overview indicates an increasing proportion of older adults (55-75) and older seniors (75 plus).

The pursuit of healthy active lifestyles will continue the need for access to a variety of indoor recreation facilities, and there will be a demand for facilities that do not currently exist in the Comox Valley.

The need for partnerships for the development, funding and operation of indoor facilities will be increasingly relevant, in order to provide a variety of options for indoor recreation activities for all age groups







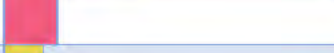

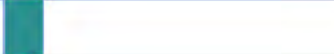
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Survey


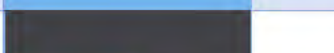
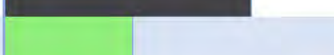


A key component of the community input was the community survey. It was posted on the CVRD website from the second week of January until the end of February. It was promoted by the Corporate Services department through traditional and social media, at the focus groups and community workshops, and at the CVRD facilities.

The response to the survey was excellent with 576 completed surveys. The survey contained a variety of questions relating to use and satisfaction with the facilities. The following section is a selection of the survey responses with the full survey results available in the Appendix.

Facility Spaces Used by Survey Respondents

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Aquatic Centre - Pool(s), hot tub or sauna	86.59%	465	
Aquatic Centre - Fitness Studio	16.20%	87	
Aquatic Centre - Meeting Rooms	12.10%	65	
Sports Centre - Arena(s)	46.55%	250	
Sports Centre - Swimming Pool, hot tub or sauna	40.60%	218	
Sports Centre - Wellness Centre	17.69%	95	
Sports Centre - Meeting Rooms	10.43%	56	
Curling Centre - Ice Sheets	12.10%	65	
Curling Centre - Lounge or meeting and banquet facilities	8.19%	44	

The survey respondents also used the recreation facilities in Comox, Courtenay, and Cumberland.

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Comox Community Centre	70.33%	358	
The Lewis Centre in Courtenay	71.32%	363	
The Filberg Centre in Courtenay	36.94%	188	
The LINC Youth Centre in Courtenay	16.50%	84	
Cumberland Gymnasium or Fitness Studio	25.74%	131	

The responses to the following questions gave an indication of the levels of satisfaction on the part of the residents with the opportunity to use the facilities and their experiences.

Are you satisfied with the capacity and access to the Aquatic Centre's pool facilities, fitness studio and meeting rooms?

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Yes	51.10%	255	
No	48.90%	244	

There were 246 written comments on this question. Most of them were to do with both pools being too crowded, the size of the fitness studio.

Are you satisfied with the capacity and access to the Sports Centre's physical spaces (arenas, pool, wellness centre or meeting rooms)?

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Yes	67.12%	296	
No	32.88%	145	

Although the majority of respondents to this question were "satisfied" with the capacity and access to the facilities, there were a considerable number of comments relating to the pool (age, and hours of availability), the wellness centre (size and equipment) and the arenas (need for more ice time and change room and seating upgrades)

Are you satisfied with the capacity and access to the Curling Centre facilities, including ice sheets and social spaces?

Choice	Percentage	Count	
Yes	93.93%	263	
No	6.07%	17	

As indicated, a large majority of respondents were satisfied with the Curling Centre. There were a few comments that related to access being restricted to members only.

Planning for the Future




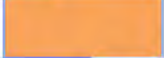


Survey participants were asked to select their three top options regarding future facilities. The top choice was an additional or expanded aquatic facility (398 responses), followed by new or expanded fitness and wellness spaces (324 responses) and then by additional ice (205 responses).

Respondents were also asked:

What are other emerging indoor facility needs?

There were 257 responses to this question, with the most requested being indoor tennis facility, Pickleball courts, and additional large gymnasiums (basketball, badminton) and indoor climbing gym (to support outdoor adventure recreation). Also popular were indoor track, indoor turf facility, and indoor lacrosse. The full list is available in the Appendix.

The respondents to the survey live mostly in Courtenay and Comox with others distributed across the CVRD.

Choice	Percentage	Count	
CVRD - Area A (Baynes Sound - Denman/Hornby Island)	6.53%	38	
CVRD - Area B (Lazo North)	8.08%	47	
CVRD - Area C (Puntledge - Black Creek)	12.20%	71	
City of Courtenay	43.99%	256	
Town of Comox	23.71%	138	
Village of Cumberland	6.01%	35	

The last question of the survey was “any final comments or suggestions?”

There were some common themes relating to additional and improved facilities including:

- More Pickleball facilities
- Indoor Tennis facility
- More ice/another arena
- Upgrade arenas, dressing rooms in #1 and female, spectator seating
- More gymnasiums - for badminton, basketball, etc.
- Upgrade Sports Centre pool
- Wellness Centre upgrade, more and better equipment
- Enlarge fitness studio at Aquatic Centre
- Hot tub too small at Aquatic Centre
- Aquatic Centre pools are too busy
- Improve family change rooms and add more.
- Improve schedules for swim lessons
- Increase hours at Sport Centre pool (weekends)
- Need concession at Aquatic Centre and better one at Sports Centre
- Parking is a problem at Aquatic Centre and Sports Centre

Focus Groups Summary

Six focus groups were held for the current users of the facilities as well as other interested parties.

The feedback from the focus group attendees largely supported the findings of the survey and provided greater insight into the issues with the facilities. The discussion was focused by current facilities and then the future needs.

Sports Centre

General Issues:

- Bus service is inadequate - frequency and hours
- Concession is poorly located, not open enough hours
- Parking area is too small
- Lobby area not inviting, poorly designed area, office too large

Wellness Centre:

- Centre and equipment is accessible for persons with disability
- Hours of operation are satisfactory
- Space is too small

Arenas:

- Add additional ice
- New system of ice allocation provides opportunities for new users
- Ice rates are affordable
- Roof leaks in rink 1
- No elevator in rink 1; poor handicapped seating
- Bench seating very uncomfortable
- Score clock should be in the middle of the rink
- Ice quality inconsistent (rink one has a rise in the middle of the slab)
- Lacrosse needs not being met
- No “gender equity lens” in ice allocation
- Entrance and exit through same door in rink 1 - causes congestion and admittance fee collection problems
- Sliding doors to arena cause problems
- Need larger female dressing rooms

Pool:

- Limited hours of operation, closed on weekends
- Old, high ledge makes getting in and out difficult
- Not enough variety of programs
- Warm water temperature is great for some activities

Aquatics Centre

General:

- Lack of office space for organizational groups
- Small commercial kitchen is needed
- Seasonal lockers for rent
- Better/safer outdoor bike racks (both locations)
- Front lobby in Aquatics Centre - unused space - need lounge/coffee area/ gathering space, seating, WiFi etc.
- Child Minding space
- Parking is an issue

Pools:

- Lack of early morning rentals; fees are too high
- Not enough lanes for lane swimming at busy times (early bird etc.)
- Equipment - lane ropes, blocks need replacement
- Need better planning for pool closure dates
- Lane costs are too high for swim meets (higher than other pools in other regions)
- Need better event hosting capacity
- Good design, deck space adequate, accessible

Fitness

- Too small

Curling Centre

- Kitchens both need renovation - lower one is the priority
- Bar is not functional - needs modern bar equipment and set up
- The current support post in entrance to bar from lounge is a barrier, need different doors as well
- Banquet Room - needs windows to allow for daytime rentals to various groups
- Need a storage room attached to the building for ice-making equipment

Future

- Indoor Multi-use Facility
- Indoor and outdoor Pickleball courts
- Indoor Track
- Indoor Tennis
- Replacement of Sports Centre Pool
- Parking expansion at Aquatics Centre

Stakeholder and Staff Workshops Summary

Two stakeholder workshops were held, open to all community residents. A workshop was also held for the recreation staff. The input from both groups is combined under the categories that follow.

What's Good/Working Well

- Aquatic Centre - pools (3), wave pool, steam, sauna
- Sport Centre pool - depth of water good for pool running
- Weight room (not cardio equipment - just weight training)
- Rinks at Sport Centre
- Curling rink
- Ice scheduling and maintenance staff
- Quality Service, Well managed
- Wellness programs; rehab programs
- Facilities accessible to diverse groups, compromised individuals
- Offer custom swim lessons; accommodate special requests
- Accommodate school programs
- Increasing numbers in pool and ice lessons
- All children's programs are well attended
- Rentals are increasing
- Good community relations with the clubs
- Patron safety is top priority
- Staff are engaged with the customers
- Great staff -knowledgeable
- Facilities are clean and well maintained



Needs Improvement

- Aquatic Centre Schedule- want daily lane swimming available
- Aquatic Centre is over-crowded on weekends
- Aquatic Centre - Family change room too small
- Sports Centre pool is too small, needs upgrading
- Fitness Centre in Aquatic Centre too small
- Wellness Centre too small and needs more cardio equipment and space for floor exercises
- Social area of Curling Rink needs upgrading
- No full size gyms
- Should have a unified pass to access all pools, arenas and fitness centres for drop-in use - would be more efficient than adding new facilities
- Arena viewing areas
- More meeting spaces needed
- Need to modernize old parts of the facilities, equipment and structure
- Rink Floor Slab (rink 1) is heaved in the middle making ice making difficult
- Need better viewing areas in arena 2; heaters also needed
- Sports Centre Mezzanine is too large and empty
- Female dressing rooms too small (arena)
- Buildings are institutional looking inside - need more colour
- Need a more pleasing exterior, landscaping, new outdoor signage, more parking
- Aquatic schedule not user friendly, confusing and inconsistent at both pools
- Attendance at Sports Centre pool is low - could offer more programs
- Additional staff training is required to offer programs requested by the public; rehab
- School usage - could be more
- Need to review ice allocation policy, particularly in peak times
- Teen programs - lack of interest
- Transit issues - lack of adequate service to Sports Centre



What's Needed

- Indoor tennis facility (or racquet centre)
- Large gym (full size)
- Field House - large enough to accommodate variety of activities
- Indoor Pickleball courts
- Indoor multi-purpose facility - pickleball, tennis, badminton, basketball
- Multi-function Indoor Gym minimum 8 courts for pickleball
- Update or replace Sports Centre pool - add natural light
- More programmable Ice space - such as Leisure ice
- Gym equipment is aging; need updated equipment
- Indoor running track
- Leisure Ice (there were actual plans to add leisure ice to CVSC)
- Add more multi-purpose space, gymnasium, meeting rooms
- Build Universal change rooms, with visual to pool
- Additional hot tub at Aquatics Centre
- Extend mezzanine north along Rink 1
- Exterior Facelift for CVSC
- CVSC front lobby and desk/office area - make it more welcoming, friendly
- Build offices above rink 2 - south wall
- Renovate concession to become a café
- Coordination of facilities between CVRD and municipalities

Priorities

- Priorities should be to build “what we don’t have”
- Full size gym
- Indoor tennis
- Pickleball/ racquet sports
- Covered or indoor track
- Institute a multipurpose pass
- Should focus on efficient use of existing resources valley wide
- Need some facilities (larger gym, tennis) in shorter term rather than long term
- Need multi-purpose room/meeting room space. (Former meeting room was turned into the Fitness studio)
- Make better use of existing space (reno required) of the front office area and lobby

Key Informant Interviews Summary

A number of community leaders and officials were interviewed as part of the community engagement process. Their input added insight to the community input received through the survey, the focus groups and the workshops. Some of their key comments were:

- Importance of supporting a healthy active lifestyle
- Cooperation and collaboration between the CVRD and the local municipalities
- Coordination with future development of a facility on the Exhibition Grounds
- Sports Centre pool is underutilized - need to look at programming, water temperature
- Enhance/enlarge fitness centre at Aquatic Centre - could attract College Students
- Parking needs review at facilities
- Indoor Tennis facility would provide opportunities for youth and adults to become and stay active - potential for partnership with School District
- Indoor track would be well used by community
- Indoor Pickleball - more courts are needed due to ongoing growth of the sport and the large demographic in the Comox Valley that plays Pickleball
- Work with 19 Wing for increased access to their facilities

Open House Feedback

The Open House had excellent attendance with the participants providing their feedback on the proposed Plan. Information was gathered from both verbal comments and written comment cards.

Some key themes emerged from the comments and questions:

- Indoor tennis courts were a priority
- Tennis appeals to a large age group and there are currently no indoor facilities in or close to the Comox Valley
- Outdoor tennis courts are increasingly being used for Pickleball
- Pickleball courts for both indoor and outdoor play are needed to support this growing sport
- It is preferred that the courts not be used for both tennis and Pickleball
- Partnerships with the School District should be explored for indoor tennis
- The Agri-Plex could be a location for indoor recreation uses in the future
- A new fitness centre at the Aquatic Centre should be big enough to accommodate the future needs - serving the community and hospital and college staff and clients/students
- Interest in a Fieldhouse concept
- Junior Hockey wants a dressing room
- Consider heaters in Arena 2
- Good idea to expand community access at the Base
- Community to participate in fundraising for indoor tennis courts

PROGRAM AND SERVICES ANALYSIS

CVRD Programs & Services

The CVRD offers programs specifically related to their aquatics and arena facilities. The fitness areas are generally used in conjunction with the pools or ice programs.

The numbers of participants, types of programs and the hours of operation were reviewed in the context of facility requirements. The Aquatics Centre and the Arenas are fully utilized, often at capacity. The Sports Centre pool has lower numbers and is open fewer hours.

The following table shows participant numbers in the arenas and pools using a sample week for each season (2016). It is not a complete list of participant numbers in swimming lessons, as there are several sessions of lessons in each season. Participant numbers were not available (N/A) for some categories. The table is meant to give an indication of the levels of use of the different facilities by season.

Participant Numbers

Location	Activity	Spring # of weekly participants	Summer # of weekly participants	Fall # of weekly participants	Winter # of weekly participants
Aquatic Centre	Public Swim	2519	2405	3822	3827
Aquatic Centre	Children's Lessons	408 registered out of 562 spots (Spring C)	83 registered out of 117 spots (Summer B)	218 registered out of 264 spots (Saturday A) 408 registered out of 527 spots (Fall A)	425 registered out of 539 spots (Winter B) 135 registered out of 294 spots (Saturday C)
Sports Centre Pool	Public Swim	845	Pool closed August	1092	964
Sports Centre Pool	Children's Lessons	N/A	Pool closed August	N/A	N/A
Sports Centre Arena #1	Public Skate	Ice Out April 3-Aug 7	Floor hockey Dodge ball	180	216
Arena #1	Hockey, figure skating public skate, lessons, ringette	Ice Out April 3-Aug 7	Hockey Camp, 55+ Hockey, Shinny	Hours booked (weekly in fall/winter) - About 110 hours	Hours booked (weekly in fall/winter) - About 110 hours
Sports Centre Arena #2	Public Skate	107	166	412	223
Arena #2	Hockey, figure skating, public skate lessons, ringette	Ice out May 23 Figure Skating, Hockey camp Dodge Ball, floor hockey	Ice In July 17 Hockey Camp 55+ Hockey, Shinny	Hours booked (weekly in fall/winter) - About 100 hours (plus school bookings)	Hours booked (weekly in fall/winter) - About 100 hours (plus school bookings)

It is difficult to estimate the number of users of the Wellness Centre and the Fitness Room, as the membership passes provide entry into the pool as well as the fitness areas. They have been included in the public swim totals.

The Aquatic Centre pools are open all year, except for brief maintenance shutdowns.

The Sports Centre Pool is open from mid-August until the end of June

Most people prefer to swim at the Aquatic Centre, except for people who prefer the warmer water at the Sports Centre. The Sports Centre offers a number of Aquafit and aquatic rehab programs as well as length swims every day.

Arena 1: has ice in from October to March - Ice is out from early April to early August 8

Arena 2: operates ice from October to March - with- Ice Out from late May to mid-July 17. Exact operating hours and maintenance schedule are available on the CRVD's website, www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rec



Curling Centre

The Curling Centre is owned by the CVRD and is leased to the Comox Curling Club. They offer a full range of competitive and recreational curling for all levels and age groups, and the Club hosts bonspiels on a regular basis. A membership is required to participate in curling at the Centre. Their banquet room is available for rental by community and private groups.

Tennis

Participation in tennis has been growing significantly in the Comox Valley at the junior level over the past few years. In 2016 junior tennis was up 38% at the Comox Tennis Club, whereas adult tennis grew between 10 and 12 percent. Their membership is about 250 members. The growth in junior tennis is also evident in the schools where about 3,000 children each year are given the opportunity to develop tennis skills, largely as a result of the work of a local Tennis Canada representative.

Over the past five years tennis lessons have been available through the municipal recreation departments to more than 600 children, plus an additional 200 at the Comox Tennis Club.

This growth in youth tennis has been occurring on outdoor courts. An indoor tennis facility would allow for year round play, encouraging all ages to participate and develop their skills. For youth it is particularly important to extend the season so that they have an opportunity to become high performance athletes and instructors.

There are no public indoor tennis facilities north of the Capital Region (Victoria) and the closest private facility is in Nanaimo. There are no indoor facilities north of Nanaimo on the island.

Pickleball

Pickleball is another growing sport, but mostly for older adults. Pickleball is currently being played at indoor and outdoor municipal facilities and with some tournaments at 19 Wing.

The Comox Valley Pickleball Association was formed to improve playing options, advance their sport and take advantage of potential funding options. The “vision” of the Pickleball Association is “To improve outdoor facilities with a dream of having dedicated PB courts”. They are membership based and offer tournaments for their players. Their membership in 2016 was 163 up from 150 in 2015. With an average age of 66, the membership is equally divided between male and female. They reside primarily in Courtenay and Comox.

FACILITY ASSESSMENTS

Curling Centre



Description

This two storey building, owned by the CVRD, but operated by the Curling Club, features the curling ice surface in a lofty one-storey portion with the two-storey portion of the building containing dressing rooms, viewing lounges, meeting rooms, bar and kitchens. Originally constructed in 1959, the building has undergone additions and improvements over the years, most notably including new ice and envelope upgrades in 2015 and accessibility upgrades in 2016.

With the recent upgrades, the building possesses few code deficiencies and benefits from an accessible lift and washrooms. The ice is expected to be working well with the new refrigeration system completed in 2015.

Improvements to the support spaces – in particular the food and beverage components might be considered. The kitchens are out of date and poorly laid out and updates to these should be considered. In addition, the second storey multipurpose space might see layout improvements and addition of windows to add to the publically accessible meeting space in the CVRD portfolio.

Comox Valley Aquatic Centre



Description

Built in 1999, this facility is dedicated nearly exclusively to aquatics and features an 8-lane, 25 m lap pool, an approximately 4,500 SF wave pool, two waterslides, steam room, and change rooms for men, women as well as universal change rooms. With half of the water dedicated to leisure, this facility is a significant attraction for families and children in particular.

This facility features good accessibility as it is single storey and includes enhanced accessibility changing opportunities. The pools are generally accessible with either ramps, transition walls or lifts available.

Recreation enhancements would largely be targeted towards adding to complementary fitness opportunities. The existing fitness room is small and located away from reception. Added fitness, weights and/or wellness might be located downstream of control and near the change rooms. A renovation such as this would release the existing fitness room for multi-purpose uses – even being combined with the existing multi-purpose room for more functional opportunities.



Comox Valley Sports Centre



Description

This expansive facility offers an array of recreational opportunities including two ice arenas, a 6-lane 25-metre fitness pool, wellness centre and multipurpose rooms. This building has been developed over many additions including the original community centre in 1972, Arena 1 and the pool in 1975, Arena 2 in 1998, the wellness centre in 2002.

Renovations in 2008 improved the change rooms; in 2010 a walkway connected the upper concourse of Arena 1 with the elevator at Arena 2 which provided a fully accessible facility and then 2013 saw additional improvements to the aquatic centre.

With the leisure intensive Aquatic Centre built in 1999, the Sport Centre Pool attracts less families and relies on programming of the 6-lane, 25m lap pool.

The arenas continue to be popular offering both spectator and practice rink venues. The arena change rooms have been well maintained and fine-tuned over the years to include coach, referee, and female change rooms.

The wellness centre is very popular and features an array of fitness equipment for the general public. It appears, however, that the concession sees most of its popularity from serving the local high school and sees fewer sales from actual participants of the facility.

As this building is very well maintained, it appears that maintenance upgrades are well understood by staff, so are not outlined in this report. Recreation improvements, however, might be outlined in two categories – improved layout and addition opportunities.

The building suffers somewhat from the legacy of additions which results in several entrances (main entrance and Arena 2 entrance), extensive circulation, non-central elevator, and lack of views into many of the featured recreation areas. Modest improvements to the main lobby might help create positive, attractive meeting areas and a review of the concession might support its relocation or removal.

Improved views into Arena 1 and the pool area would also add to the positive user experience.

Addition opportunities might best add to what is already offered.

Dedicated leisure ice would be a way to attract additional families and patrons looking for more opportunities for un-structured skating.

Similarly, the sports centre pool area might benefit from offering additional leisure water – in particular water that might be different and complementary to the water at the Aquatic Centre. This might include a leisure pool with two lanes for warm water activities plus shallow areas for teaching and perhaps an additional hot pool tailored to families for temperature and depth. Current aquatic trends are looking to spa experiences for inspiration with steam, sauna and hot pools as well as spacious and inviting change rooms. This type of addition might also be able to improve views into the pool and the lobby by renovating and relocating some or all of the change rooms.



The popular wellness centre might also be expanded to build on its success and offer additional complementary uses such as dry-land sports training.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on capital project requirements that the CRVD faces in the future, infrastructure funding for new or enhanced facilities will prove challenging. It is essential that a facilities master plan is in place in order to take advantage of funding opportunities through grants and partnerships.

The recommendations have been divided into Capital Recommendations and Operational Recommendations. The Capital recommendations apply to renovations and additions to the three existing facilities as well as potential new facilities. The Operational Recommendations relate to policies, partnerships and operating practices. It should be noted that these recommendations are not in order of priority. Priority will be determined by the CVRD as funding and or partnership opportunities arise.

Capital Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, our team has developed a list of potential upgrades, which are shown on the drawings that follow. The drawings indicate the description, location and relative magnitude of cost for each facility. Proposed new facilities are also included in the recommendations. The Implementation Plan includes high-level cost estimates, priorities and timing of each of the recommendations.

Curling Centre

The Curling Centre underwent extensive renovations in 2015. The following items are ones that have been requested by the Curling Club.

Facility Recommendations for the Curling Centre: (not in order of priority)

1. Add windows to the banquet room, allowing for increased use



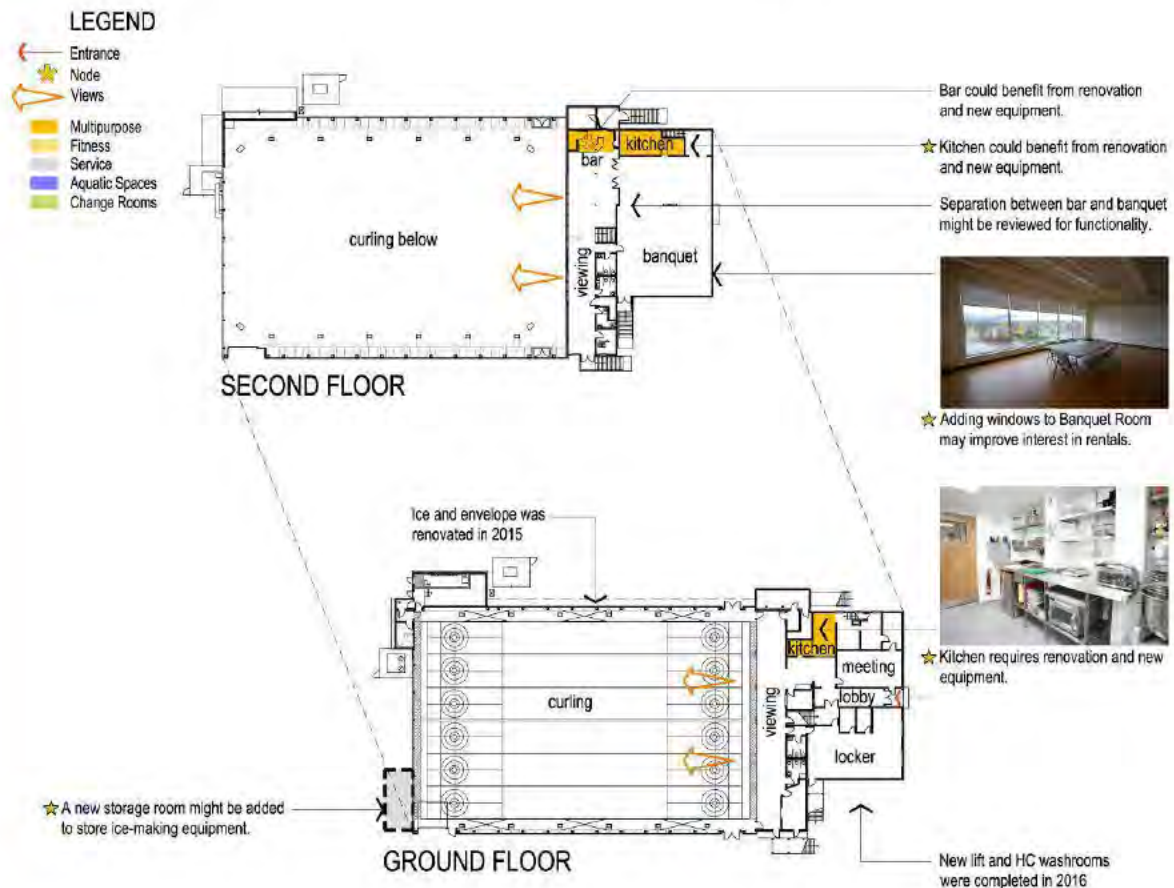
2. Improve bar and lounge area for functionality and ease of movement between areas
3. Both kitchens require renovation
4. Add a storage room for ice-making equipment to exterior of building

It should be noted that the Comox Valley Curling Club is responsible for improvements to the facility

COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT - RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

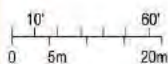
CVRD Curling Centre

Leased to the Comox Valley Curling Club, this facility is recently renovated and provides a complementary series of spaces including ice, kitchens, lounges and multi-purpose spaces. Additional renovations could build on the previous improvements.



SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ★ Add windows to the banquet room and improve bar and lounge area for better functionality.
- ★ Renovate both kitchens.
- ★ Add a storage room for ice-making equipment to exterior of building.



Aquatic Centre

Facility recommendations for the Aquatic Centre: (not in order of priority)

1. Convert fitness studio into meeting room, combining it with the existing meeting room for a larger, adaptable space



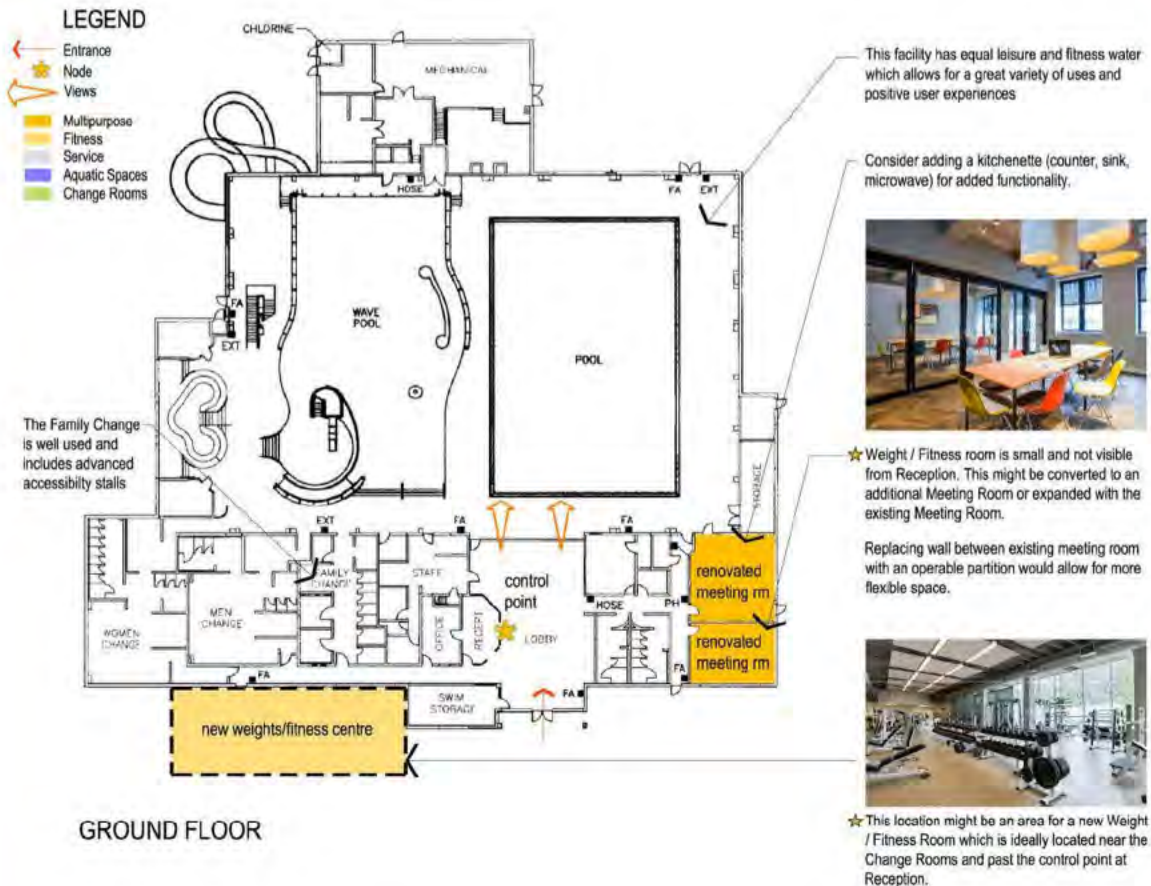
2. Develop a Fitness Centre at the front of the building, across from the pool change rooms, allowing for better control and a much more usable facility.



COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT - RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

CVRD Aquatic Centre

This well-maintained, accessible facility boasts both leisure and lap pools providing for a range of aquatic activities. Improvements to the existing support spaces and a new fitness area could provide larger, more functional spaces.



SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ★ Convert the fitness studio back into meeting space, combining it with existing meeting room for a larger, adaptable space.
- ★ Develop a new Fitness Centre at the front of the building, across from the pool change rooms allowing for better control and a more functional and larger fitness space.



Sports Centre

Facility Recommendations for the Sports Centre (not in order of priority)

1. Enhancements to the pool to provide a better experience for participants - this could include the addition of a leisure pool that is family and older adult friendly, fully accessible and with the addition of natural light
2. Add universal change rooms to serve the pool(s)



3. Improvements to spectator seating in Arena 1 - by adding bucket seats or padded bleacher planks (if there is no room for bucket seats) and railings on stairs



4. Expand the women's change room in Arena 1



5. Replace ice slab in Arena 1
6. Provide heaters for spectators in Arena 2
7. Work in partnership with Junior Hockey to facilitate the development of a dressing room facility for the Junior Hockey team (Cost to be borne by Jr. Hockey)
8. Expansion to the Wellness Centre to provide more floor space for "functional fitness" and dry land sports training
9. Reconfigure main lobby to provide gathering space with enhanced concession and better views

COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT - RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

CVRD Sports Centre

This facility has been well maintained and continues to be popular with two arenas, lap pool, and Fitness / Wellness Centre.



Expansion to Wellness Centre may provide additional uses such as **dry-land sports training**.

The existing Lobby could be reconfigured including improvements to the concession, providing more informal **meeting space and better views**. A review might support relocation or removal of the Concession.



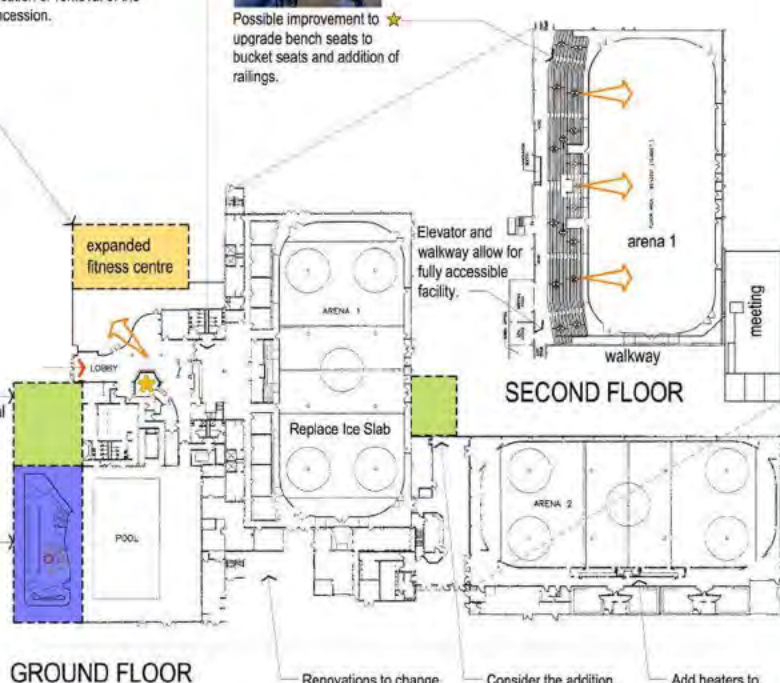
Possible improvement to upgrade bench seats to bucket seats and addition of railings.



Improvements including adding **Universal Change** would improve **accessibility** and user experience.



Leisure Pool enhancements could be added to existing pool or added adjacent, providing fully accessible water play and fitness opportunities for all ages.



LEGEND

- Entrance
- Node
- Views
- Multipurpose
- Fitness
- Service
- Aquatic Spaces
- Change Rooms

10' 60'
0 5m 20m

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ★ Plan for enhancements to the pool to provide a better experience for the users, resulting in greater attendance. Potential improvements include expanded change rooms & universal change rooms, addition of **natural light** and some 'leisure pool' elements.
- ★ Improve **spectator seating** in Arena 1, and improve **accessibility** in both arenas.
- ★ Create a **welcoming and functional lobby area**, with enhanced concession and gathering spaces.
- ★ Expansion to the Wellness Centre to accommodate **sport training** and offer additional equipment.
- ★ Addition of a Junior Hockey Dressing Room

The following are proposed new facilities.

1. Develop an indoor tennis facility to potentially include indoor pickleball.
Based on the participation rates, particularly at the junior level, and the fact that there is no public indoor tennis outside of Victoria, it is recommended that the CVRD explore the development of an indoor tennis facility, possibly in partnership with Pickleball.

It is also proposed that the CVRD explore a partnership with the School District, the Comox Valley Tennis Club and the Comox Valley Pickleball Association for the development of such a facility. A potential site for this facility is the Comox Valley Sports Centre and Vanier Secondary School site. This partnership location would allow greater participation by students, bringing more future players into the sport of tennis. Another possibility is the school district lands next to the Community School in the village of Cumberland.

A feasibility study would be required to proceed. The study would closely review the options relating to indoor tennis and indoor pickleball sharing a facility - specifically areas such as washrooms and change rooms and any other amenity areas. The study would also determine location options and include a detailed cost estimate.



2. Review opportunities for an additional ice surface for the Comox Valley.
Based on the current use of the two arenas and the projected population growth, the Comox Valley will need another arena. The two CVRD arenas are nearing capacity and are supplemented by the public use of the arena on the 19 Wing base.
Reviews of the current and future demand for ice both in this study and past studies indicate the need for additional ice. Opportunities for a public/private partnership or a public/public partnership for the development of an arena complex should be pursued.

Operational Recommendations

The following is a list of “operational” recommendations that come out of the public input and operational review during the course of this study.

1. Work with the group that is reviewing the Exhibition Grounds to explore opportunities for indoor recreational uses of the proposed update to the Agricultural Exhibition Centre Building (Agriplex). These could include an indoor track, indoor soccer and pickleball.
2. Undertake discussions with the leadership at the 19 Wing Comox base to increase public access to the recreation facilities. The current method of booking their facilities requires community groups to demonstrate that their needs cannot be accommodated elsewhere. As the base has the only full size gymnasium, well-equipped fitness areas, an arena and a pool, greater access would help alleviate the shortage of adequate municipal and Regional District facilities.
3. Set up a task force/working group to include CVRD staff, municipal representation, the Comox Valley Tennis Club, the Comox Valley Pickleball Association, School District 71 and the In Your Court Tennis and Fitness Academy to explore the development of an indoor tennis and pickleball facility. The group should look at funding methods including government grant applications, public and private partnerships, fund raising, and taxation. Building methods should be investigated including fabric options. Site locations should be discussed and analyzed.
4. Pursue partnerships with North Island College and North Island Hospital, both on adjoining lands, for use of the Fitness Centre.
5. Work with the City of Courtenay, the Town of Comox and the Village of Cumberland in the development of a Cultural Master Plan for the preservation and enhancement of arts and culture facilities and programs in the Comox Valley. This Plan should include a review potential options for a future renovation or replacement of the Sid Williams Theatre.
6. Consider the implementation of a “single pass” for community recreation facilities to encourage greater participation and flexibility for users.
7. Continue efforts to implement the CVRD Corporate Energy Plan recommendations, including retrofits to existing facilities and best management practices in new facilities.

SUMMARY

This Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan has provided a list of recommendations to assist the CVRD in their decision making regarding future facility enhancements and new facilities. The recommendations have not been provided in order of priority, to allow the CVRD the flexibility to determine the rate of implementation based on funding and/or partnership opportunities for each recommendation.

The Master Plan will be an important document when applying for government infrastructure funding and or developing partnerships for both the capital and operational aspects of new facility.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

No.	Recommendation	Priority High Medium Low	Timing Short 1-3 yrs Medium 4-6 yrs Long 7-10 + yrs	High Level Construction Cost Estimate
Curling Centre				
1	Add windows to banquet room	L	Long	\$25,000
2	Improve bar functionality	H	Short	\$50,000
3	Renovate both kitchens	H	Short	\$250,000
4	Add storage room for ice-making equipment	M	Short	\$100,000
	Sub-total Curling Centre			\$425,000
Aquatic Centre				
1	Develop new fitness centre at front of building	M	Medium	\$600,000
2	Convert fitness studio into meeting space	M	Medium	\$30,000
	Sub-Total Aquatic Centre			\$630,000
Sports Centre				
1	Add leisure pool elements & natural light	M	Medium	\$2,500,000
2	Add Universal Change room	M	Medium	\$1,000,000
3	Add bucket seats to Arena 1 and railings on stairs	H	Short	\$150,000
4	Expand Women's dressing room	H	Short	\$50,000
5	Replace ice slab in Arena 1	H	Short	\$600,000
6	Provide heaters in Arena 2	H	Short	\$50,000
7	Facilitate Junior Hockey Change Room (cost to be borne by Junior Hockey)	L	Short	\$300,000
8	Expansion to Wellness Centre	L	Long	\$1,000,000
9	Lobby Improvements, enhanced concession	L	Long	\$250,000
	Sub-total Sports Centre			\$5,900,000
New Facilities				
1	Conduct Feasibility Study for Indoor Tennis, with option for Pickleball courts	H	Short	\$30,000
2	Explore partnerships for additional ice surface	M	Long	Operational
Operational Recommendations				
1	Exhibition grounds - explore opportunities for indoor recreational use	H	Medium	Operational
2	Expanded partnership with 19 Wing	H	Short	Operational
3	Tennis & Pickleball Task Force	H	Short	Operational
4	Partnership with College and hospital re fitness centre	M	Medium	Operational
5	Develop Cultural Master Plan in partnership with municipalities	H	Short	\$40,000 (CVRD portion)
6	Investigate "single pass" options	M	Short	Operational
7	Continue implementation of Corporate Energy Plan	H	Short	Annual budget

APPENDIX A