

# Community Recreation Center Feasibility Study



## City Council Presentation Community Engagement Summary

Phase I - December 2023

### Introduction

This project is one of the City Council Goals for 2023 and builds on the recommendations of the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and ongoing conversations in the community. This feasibility study is an opportunity to re-engage with the community to identify needs, opportunities, and desire to support the City's development of a new recreation center. This process included one-on-one conversations, a Steering Committee, two Townhall Meetings, and an Online Questionnaire, representing nearly 2,000 participants.

### Purpose

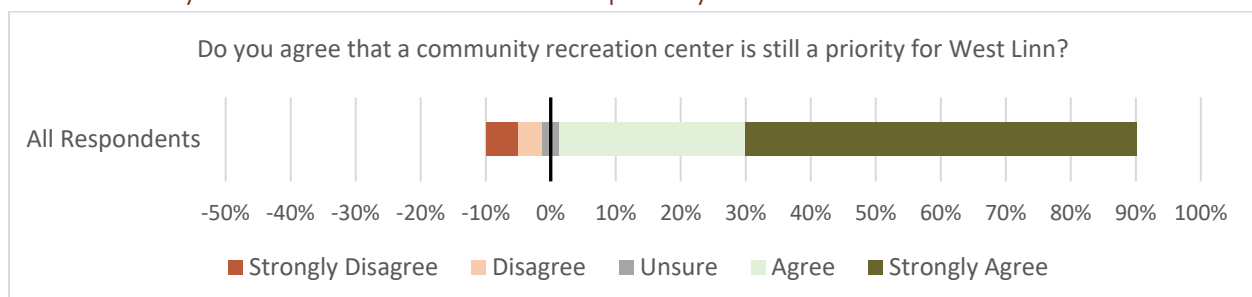
This stage of work aimed to establish two things:

1. The general level of support for pursuing this as a priority.
2. The types of spaces desired in the community, to provide a shared understanding of what a community recreation center could be.
3. Develop preliminary costs for capital and operations to allow more testing of the community's willingness to pay.

### Major Themes

The following themes are drawn from all the community engagement activities.

#### A Community Recreation Center remains a priority for West Linn



Number of respondents=1,492

Respondents to the questionnaire confirmed that a community recreation center is still a priority, across all demographic breakdowns. This question can continue to be explored, with more specifics about cost impacts, in the next phase of work.

### Active, indoor recreation spaces are the most interesting

Over 1,000 respondents to the online questionnaire indicated interest in the following, supporting findings from other conversations: running, jogging, walking, strength training, health, wellness, cardio, yoga/Pilates, recreation programs, classes/instruction, arts, and crafts. The need for indoor spaces for teens, opportunities for local jobs, and safe places during heat/smoke/pandemic events also emerged.

### Aquatics, Swimming, and Pool space are important

The direction from the adopted 2019 plan and City Council is to include aquatics in later phases of a future facility. This facility can be a first step toward a desired pool facility. 949 questionnaire respondents indicated aquatics/pool space was the most important type of space, 250 of these followed up by writing in reasons they felt this was critical. Ten of those comments indicated that a pool was necessary for their support.

### Some clarifications are needed, and concerns remain

The cost impact (taxes) to build and operate this facility is the most frequently mentioned concern, coming up in discussions and indicated in 44 questionnaire results. Participants also lacked clarity on the availability of similar existing spaces (such as school gyms).

### Benefits of a community recreation center identified by the community

The benefits identified include: providing a place for the community to come together; helping people meet their needs in West Linn, rather than having to travel to nearby communities; and creating safe, indoor spaces considering the pandemic, wildfire, and heat.

## Initial Building Program

Drawing from the combined results of the community engagement, a preliminary building program (the types and amounts of space) includes:

- Gymnasium (2 court)
- indoor walking track
- Weight and cardio space
- Group exercise rooms (2)
- Flexible community room with stage
- Commercial/Catering kitchen

## Community Engagement 2023

August 15, 2023 - Virtual Town Hall meeting conducted [Video of Town Hall](#)

August 23, 2023 - In-person Town Hall meeting held at the Adult Community Center

September 5, 2023 - Update to City Council at Work Session [Video Here](#)

October 2, 2023 - Survey Questionnaire Open

October 16, 2023 - Survey Questionnaire Closed