

Welcome back fellow residents of White City, and those reading from the surrounding area, for the April 2022 edition of the White City Councillor Blog. This month's blog will focus on the Multi-Use Recreation Centre (the Recreation Centre).

White City continues its commitment to advance the Recreation Centre – a major investment in the future of our community and our quality of life. In conjunction with the Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan, the Recreation Centre would create a community hub for sports, recreation and culture. This is a huge opportunity to increase our quality of life, health and wellness and culture. It would also support economic development for our community and help realize a vibrant Town Centre, becoming the heart of our community.

In January 2021, White City Town Council (Council) approved a Public Engagement and Communications Plan for the Recreation Centre, and the results were presented to council on June 14, 2021. On July 12, 2021, Council approved the next stage of the proposed Recreation Centre. Stage 3 of the project anticipated finalizing the concept plans for Phase I (two arenas) and II (fieldhouse), incorporating community feedback received during the public engagement.

The Spring 2021 public engagement provided helpful feedback. Key takeaways included:

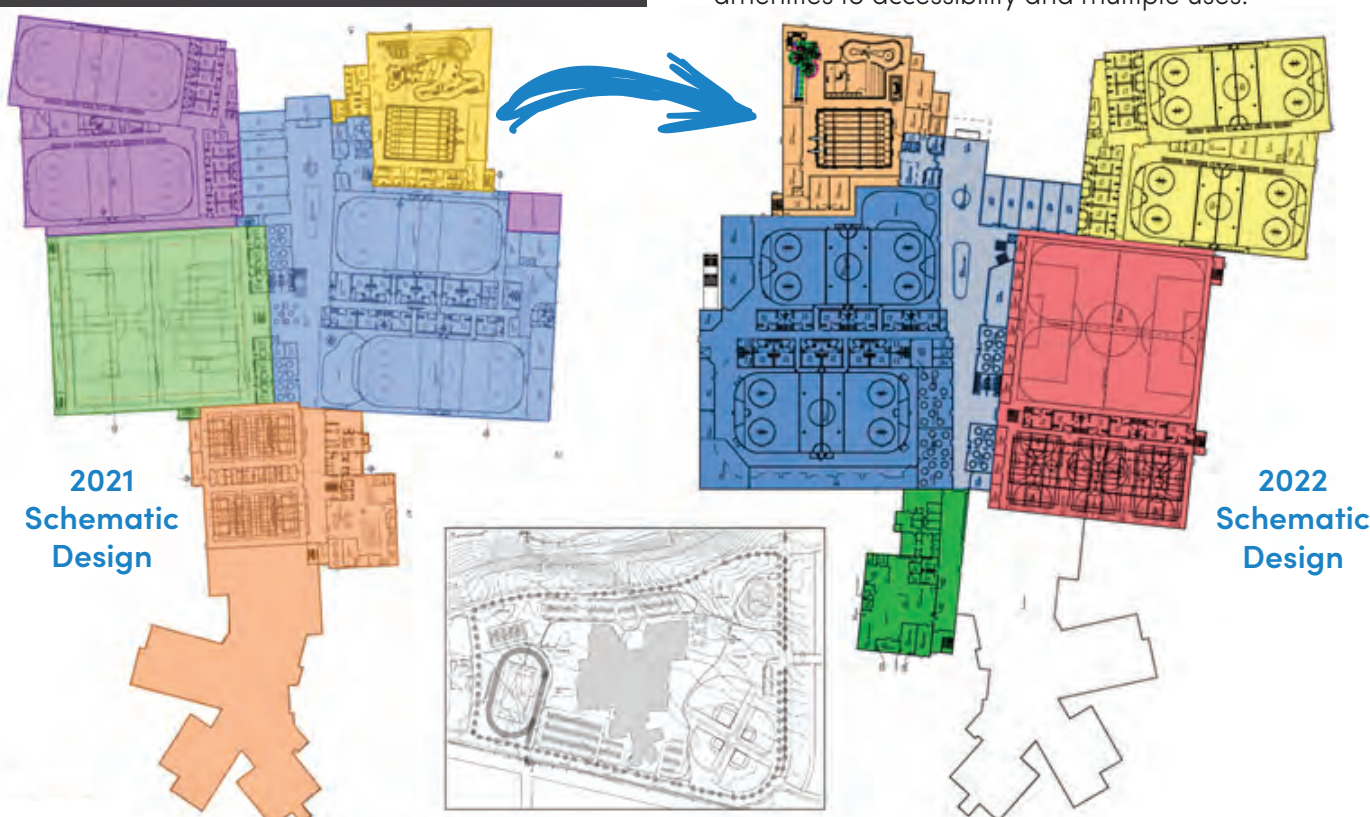
Be Visionary: Consider not just today and tomorrow but the future community, being prepared for the needs of the future when the facility is fully built out.

Think Beyond: Be really, REALLY multi-use – truly multipurpose of the entire facility. This facility needs to be flexible and be used by everyone, providing amenities to support a broader representation of the community; not a "sports" multi-use facility but a "community" multi-use facility.

Be Adaptable: Ensure flexibility if/when things change. This means being ready to go with whichever phase makes the most sense based on community need and desire.

Resulting from that feedback, the concept plan (schematic design) has evolved, resulting in, among other elements, the following:

- Realignment/integration of the gymnasium with the fieldhouse enabling more and varied indoor sports activities with related amenities.
- Expansion of the spectator arena to accommodate increased spectator seating and related amenities to enable additional community events such as tournaments, concerts, and tradeshow.
- Redesign of common areas and multi-use areas for enhanced accessibility and various uses.
- Alterations to the community arena to provide enhanced family/community usage and participation.
- Refinement to the aquatics area for enhanced amenities to accessibility and multiple uses.





On February 22, 2022, Council approved advancing detailed design development (architectural drawings) for the two arenas, combined multi-use/fieldhouse and aquatics. This approach will allow the Town to continue to advance the phases/project when we are ready and able to do so. Over the coming months, the Town will be sharing updated concept plans and design details.

After Stage 3 (architectural drawings), the Town will assess the next steps as a significant portion of the facility is intended to be funded through development and associated development levies. Progress on this project and development of the Town Centre has been impacted by wastewater capacity.

White City's wastewater treatment, capacity and storage is managed by the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority (WMA). The WMA is an equal partnership between White City and the RM of Edenwold. In 2018 construction began on a Wastewater Treatment Plant that would provide sufficient wastewater capacity for a population up to 15,000 in White City and the surrounding areas in the RM. Prior to the confirmation that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was fully operational, lagoons located outside the WMA's jurisdiction were decommissioned resulting in a significant decrease to wastewater capacity. Shortly after, the newly constructed Wastewater Treatment Plant was deemed a failure due to not being able to treat effluent to provincial standards. Because of this the WMA did not have enough capacity to support the current population in the catchment area, which resulted in delays to Town Centre Developments and the Recreation Centre.

After considerable work, the WMA's Wastewater Expansion Project is now back on track. However, substantial funding has been diverted from other projects, including the Recreation Centre, to get us back on track. The Town's investment in Stage 3 represents an opportunity to advance the project (whichever phase is subsequently determined) towards being ready when the time is right.

If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information, or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email townoffice@whitecity.ca or call 306-781-2355 – we look forward to hearing from you!

– Councillors Boschman, Moen & Krzysik

