



Regional Recreation Facility Needs Assessment

Summary Presentation

Presentation Overview

1. Needs Assessment Purpose and Process Overview
2. Recommended Infrastructure Strategies (Summary of Key Themes)
3. Questions



Study Purpose

- Assess the current state of regional recreation amenity needs (trends, changes, gaps, etc.).
- Review and update priorities from the 2019 Regional Recreation Strategic Plan.
- Provide a resource that will help ensure future decision making is based on sound data and rationale.

***The focus on the Needs Assessment was on regionally supported recreation infrastructure and is not intended to supersede local municipal planning and priorities.**

Study Process & Inputs

Summary of the Needs Assessment Research and Engagement Methods



Feedback from over 1,000 residents through a resident survey and other in-person engagement opportunities.



Feedback from 49 community organizations and interest groups through discussions sessions and a targeted community organization survey.



Analysis of facility utilization and capacity.



Analysis of key population and demographics indicators.



Review of regional, provincial, and national trends and best practices.



Spatial analysis and mapping to assess resident access, proximity, and potential facility gaps.



Service level benchmarking of amenity service levels in the Cowichan Valley with other comparator regions.

**Research and
Engagement
(Summer - Fall 2025)**



**Analysis of Data and
Priority Identification
(Late 2025 - early
2026)**



**Needs Assessment
(Spring 2026)**

Recommendations and Priorities

The study contains **strategies for 11 different types of recreation amenities**, including those that currently exist at regionally significant facilities or may warrant future consideration for regional provision.

A **3-Step Prioritization Framework** was used to inform the strategies.



Key Strategy Themes

Strategies Aimed at Sustaining Aging Infrastructure

- Recommended as an **overarching priority** for the CVRD and regional partners.
- Reinvestment into **existing arenas, aquatics facilities, community programming spaces, the Cowichan Sportsplex (including track replacement), and Cowichan Performing Arts Centre** to sustain existing service levels and best position these facilities for the future.

Key Strategy Themes

Planning Required for Potential Major Facility Development (Strategies to Help Plan the Next Generation of Regional Facilities)

- 1-2 new **ice sheets** by 2040, ideally as part of a multi-sheet facility.
- Concept planning and cost validation for a third regional **indoor aquatics facility** to serve the south.
- Options for a **smaller scale performing arts venue** to complement the CPAC.
- As part of future major future facility development, identify opportunities to **efficiently meet other amenity needs (gymnasiums, indoor walking tracks, and fitness spaces)**.

Key Strategy Themes

Strategies Suggesting that Trends Monitoring or Further Needs Analysis is Required

- Feasibility study or regional pickleball strategy to explore a **major ‘hub’ pickleball site**.
- Cowichan Sportsplex investments to explore: **Covering the Weyerhaeuser Thunderbox and improvements to the natural surface infield** to improve functional capacity (surface improvements, drainage upgrades, lighting).

***Improved data collection practices for casual / spontaneous use amenities are also recommended to help inform future planning.**



Thank You!