



RM OF HANOVER

RECREATION FACILITIES
FEASIBILITY STUDY
FINAL REPORT

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Introduction

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1881, the Rural Municipality (RM) of Hanover is located in southeast Manitoba, approximately 20 kilometres (km) southeast of the City of Winnipeg. The RM of Hanover covers an area of roughly 740 square kilometres (km²), and is bordered by the Town of Niverville, City of Steinbach, and the RM's of Taché, Ste. Anne, La Broquerie, Stuartburn, De Salaberry, and Ritchot.

The RM of Hanover is continuing to experience rapid population growth. With a 2016 census population of 15,733 residents, the RM of Hanover is the fourth most populated municipality in Manitoba, behind only the cities of Winnipeg, Brandon, and Steinbach. The growth in Hanover is being driven by its pre-dominant agricultural sector, the growing number of newcomers to Canada, and its proximity to Steinbach, Niverville, and Winnipeg. As such, the RM of Hanover strives to provide a quality of life which appeals to a broad spectrum of lifecycle stages within both rural and semi-rural environments.

As highlighted below and shown on Figure 1.1, Hanover is home to five settlement centres:

- 1. Mitchell** is located next to Steinbach and is the fastest growing community in Hanover. From 2011 to 2016, its population increased by 32%, and is now home to 2,523 people.
- 2. Blumenort** is 10 km north of Steinbach, situated at the northwest intersection of Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) No. 12 and Provincial Road (PR) 311. Blumenort is the second fastest growing community in the RM. Its population was 1,675 residents in 2016, representing a 19% growth rate since 2011.
- 3. Grunthal** is located roughly 25 km southwest of Mitchell along PR 205. Its population, which increased by over 39% from 2006 to 2011, has since leveled off to 1,680 residents in 2016.
- 4. Kleefeld** is situated equidistant between Mitchell and Grunthal along PR 216. It is one of the smaller communities in the RM of Hanover. Kleefeld had a population of 765 people in 2011 (2016 census data is not available).
- 5. New Bothwell** is 15 km northwest of Mitchell, also along PR 216. It is also one of the smaller communities in Hanover, with a 2011 population of 595 residents (2016 census data is not available).

The RM of Hanover recognizes that parks and recreation facility development needs to support community growth. While the federal government assumes responsibility for national and international sport, and co-funds recreation facility infrastructure through agreements with the Provinces, the provincial governments recognize that direct recreation services are best managed by municipalities which are closest to the people for whom the services are being provided. As such, there is both a legal and jurisdictional basis for the provision of parks and recreation services by local governments across Canada.

The RM of Hanover acknowledges its role in providing local parks and recreation services, which it further regards as an essential service. Parks and recreation nurtures community connections, and maintains and restores personal health and community wellbeing. Parks and recreation facilities and programs exist in each of Hanover’s five settlement centres, which serve both local residents in each community as well as the RM more broadly. In addition to the role fulfilled by Hanover’s Recreation Department, the RM’s parks and recreation network is led by dedicated volunteers in each community, serving on community centre boards in each settlement centre and/or specific sports and leisure organizations.

The RM also recognizes that recreation services need to evolve to suit changing needs and trends. What was once focused on traditional organized sports and recreation activities have grown to include programs, facilities, and infrastructure for individual sports, new active pursuits such as yoga, pilates, walking, or biking, and passive recreation activities such as gardening and birdwatching. Though the ways in which people engage in recreation may have changed over time, the benefits of recreation remain the same.

With the current COVID-19 crisis, public health restrictions continue to present challenges to the delivery of recreation programs and the design of new and upgraded recreation facilities. But these challenges only reinforce the important role of parks and recreation services in supporting personal health, community development and wellbeing, and future recovery strategies in the RM of Hanover.



1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Since 2013, the RM of Hanover Recreation Master Plan (RMP) has guided recreation delivery and development in the municipality. The 2013 RMP also served as the basis for a Recreation Facility Feasibility Study in 2017, which focused on the need for upgrading or replacing the arenas in Mitchell and Grunthal as well as developing a new community centre in Blumenort. Some of the long-term recommendations from the 2013 RMP, and all of the recommendations from the 2017 Recreation Facility Feasibility Study remain pending. As such, the RM recognized the need for the enclosed Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study (Study) as a means to provide an overall framework to guide the development and improvement of Hanover's recreation facilities for the next 20 years.

The scope of this Study includes all communities and areas within the RM of Hanover. It shall serve as a strategic document in conjunction with the 2013 RMP and Development Plan, and inform decision-making around:

1. The needs of Hanover stakeholders and residents in relation to current and future recreation facility requirements in the community.
2. The merits of community-based, standalone facilities, relative to the option of having one multi-use regional facility in the RM of Hanover, with an analysis of each approach to determine the best path forward.
3. Recommended next steps for current recreation infrastructure.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

This Study reflects the principles that recreation planning should be evidence-based, inclusive, visionary, and realistic. Its final preparation evolved on the basis of the following inputs and processes:

1. A review of pertinent background reports, socio-economic information (demographic; household), and recreation information in the community (facilities and their use; policy, governance, and service delivery; operating and capital budgets) as well as site visits to certain recreation facilities.
2. Community and stakeholder engagement by facilitating a community-wide online survey, and conducting interviews with recreation stakeholder organizations, which supplemented the background data to further confirm and/or refine Study trends and issues.
3. Collaborations with the RM's Recreation Director, the Recreation, Heritage and Sustainability Committee (a sub-committee of the RM Council) and RM Council to vet proposed ideas, strategies, and recommendations in response to the data and trends analysis.
4. A public open house (September 23, 2021) and a RM Council meeting (November 17, 2021) to present the draft Study report and draft final Study report, respectively. See Appendix C for a report on the public open house.

Figure 1.1 RM of Hanover Context Map



Parks and Recreation: Benefits & Trends

2.0 PARKS AND RECREATION: BENEFITS & TRENDS

2.1 BENEFITS

Research since the 2013 RMP continues to reinforce the benefits of parks and recreation for participants and communities; the support for including parks and recreation services as an essential municipal service; and the role of parks and recreation in contributing directly or indirectly to the five pillars of community sustainability (governance, environment, economy, societal and culture). Of particular note and as summarized below and on Table 2.1, the National Benefits HUB, a national research database established through a partnership between the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), captures the benefits and role of parks and recreation services in a community:

1. **Parks and recreation services are essential to personal health and wellbeing:**

- > Increased leisure time and physical activity improves life expectancy.
- > Regular physical activity helps children learn at school and outside of school.
- > Participation in physical activity and access to green spaces has been linked to a number of health and wellbeing benefits, including reduced risk of obesity; reduced reliance on the health care system; stress reduction and improved mental health; reduced social isolation and increased social inclusion and acceptance.

2. **Parks and recreation provide provide a foundation for quality of life:**

- > High quality public spaces and structured sport and recreational activities can enhance the sense of community.
- > Community sport facilities have positive benefits related to increased accessibility, exposure, participation, perceptions of success, and improved sport experiences.

3. **Parks and recreation reduce self-destructive and anti-social behaviour:**

- > Youth participation in recreational activities increases leadership and social capacities.
- > Participation in recreation and leisure related activities by low income and other at risk children and youth populations can result in decreased behavioural/emotional problems, and enhanced physical and psycho-social health of families.
- > Teen athletes are less likely to use illicit drugs, smoke, or to experience suicidal thoughts.

4. **Parks and recreation are a significant economic generator:**

- > Providing high quality recreation and leisure services has the potential to shape the competitive character of a community by enhancing both its innovative capacity and the quality of place so crucial to attracting and retaining skilled workers.

5. Green spaces are essential to environmental and ecological wellbeing:

- > Increasing green spaces in urban centres has a number of positive environmental outcomes which can increase sustainability and lower long term infrastructure costs.
- > When children and youth have positive experiences with parks and green spaces, they are more likely to have stronger attitudes towards conservation and preservation of the environment as adults.

TABLE 2.1 BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Outcome	Personal	Social	Economic	Environmental
PERSONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS	✓			
KEY TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	✓			
ESSENTIAL TO QUALITY OF LIFE	✓	✓		
REDUCES ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	✓	✓	✓	
BUILDS STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES		✓	✓	
PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER			✓	
MAJOR ECONOMIC GENERATORS			✓	
ENHANCES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS				✓

Source: *The Benefits Catalogue (1997)*, CPRA, Ottawa

2.2 TRENDS

Municipalities must allocate limited economic resources in setting priorities about investing in recreation development based on an assessment of which services will provide the greatest community benefit. Tracking changes in society that will impact recreation development can assist in anticipating how best to allocate available resources. Research in support of – and pursuant to – the 2013 RMP continue to see the following general trends which are affecting parks and recreation facility development strategies.

1. Aging Recreation Infrastructure

Communities across Canada are faced with aging recreation infrastructure, as many older facilities are deteriorating rapidly. Most of the recreation facilities in Canada were developed in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Canadian communities are now faced with expensive retrofitting, renovation, and increasing repair costs. The future cost of facility development and maintenance for local governments are potentially significant, given population growth, increased demand, changing interests, and rising development costs.

2. Partnerships

The role of the public sector is to ensure a balance of service provision, fill gaps where they exist, defer to other service providers as the market demands, and ensure that public funds achieve public good. The reality of maintaining infrastructure, and the high cost to replace existing facilities has prompted governments to rethink traditional funding models and ensure that their focus is on core services and facilities. Many municipalities have shifted their emphasis from a reliance on tax dollars to a reliance on partnerships with not-for-profit organizations, schools, volunteers, and the private sector to both supplement current operations and to fund future projects. The City of Winnipeg, for example, recently indicated that it is looking for community partners to fully take over future responsibilities for both arena development and operations.

3. Shift in Facility Roles

Across Canada, indoor arenas attract use from approximately 10% of the population. This has compelled municipalities to think strategically, not only about how to optimize the distribution of limited financial resources across the public service, but also about how to adapt existing facilities to better meet more diverse demands. One option is the increased focus on multi-use facilities instead of stand-alone arenas. For example, there has been a shift in arena design from single pad arenas to multi-pad facilities, complete with leisure ice surfaces to encourage and accommodate casual public skating. Moreover, many communities across Canada are considering closing single rink facilities as well as converting and expanding facilities to include more community services.

The potential benefits of such actions are multifold:

- > There is opportunity to create operational efficiencies, attract a wider spectrum of users, and accommodate diverse groups at the same time in such facilities.
- > Adaptive reuse of recreation facilities can be less costly than developing new facilities.
- > Adaptive reuse of space and being able to re-configure spaces, features, and amenities within a recreation facility can be more responsive to changing recreation trends and user group needs. For example, in order to better accommodate the needs of developmental levels of hockey, Hockey Canada recently mandated the use of mini rinks by dividing regulation ice surfaces into halves or thirds for all hockey participants under eight years of age.
- > Multi-purpose facilities are often developed in partnership with other service providers such as libraries, schools, and social service organizations to further capitalize on economies of scale.

4. Public and Drop-In Use

An on-going common trend for public indoor arenas in particular, is to cater to organized hockey programs for users that represent a fraction of the community's population. This results in limited time for public skating, lessons, and casual and drop-in use. For example, across the 12 City of Winnipeg rinks, there are 720 hours of prime-time ice available per week, but only 16 hours (or 2.2%) of this time is made available for public skating.

5. Facilities and Community

Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey (2016) states that municipalities own over 98% of all culture, recreation, and sport facilities in Canada. This underscores the role of municipalities in helping to shape the health and wellbeing of Canadians.

As highlighted below, there are growing expectations to demonstrate stewardship and sensitivity in recreation facility planning and operations:

- > Planning recreation facilities to complement the site on which they are located, including integrating indoor and outdoor recreation features (e.g. indoor/outdoor walking trails and child play areas) and linking facilities to adjacent recreation infrastructure (e.g. parks, green space, and trails).
- > Ensuring that recreation facilities – through their design, amenities and features – not only respond to changing needs (see above), but are also modernized (e.g. Wi-Fi) for, and accessible to, all participants and user groups, and further serve as a community gathering place during peak and non-peak hours (e.g. common spaces, meeting rooms, public cafeterias, and restaurants).

6. Volunteerism

Based on Statistics Canada data from 2010 and 2018, volunteerism has declined, a trend that affects recreation service delivery:

- > In 2010, over 13.3 million people (or 47% of Canadians aged 15 and over), did volunteer work. They devoted almost 2.07 billion hours to volunteer activities, a volume of work that was equivalent to just under 1.1 million full-time jobs.
- > In 2018, the number of volunteers decreased to roughly 12.7 million people (or 41% of Canadians aged 15 and over). The volume of volunteer work similarly declined to 1.7 billion hours, representing and equivalence to just over 863,000 full-time jobs.

Without question, a lack of time and the inability to make a long-term commitment continue to pose the biggest barriers to people becoming involved in volunteering. As a result, a smaller proportion of volunteers are being faced with having to do more of the work, which is creating gaps in leadership and affecting succession planning.

7. Recreation Participation Trends

Changing recreation participation patterns affect the long-term demand for, and supply of, various types of recreation facilities. Balancing the needs of competing interest groups with those of the broader community can also pose challenges. There are many activity trends that will have an effect on facility use over the next 20 years. The most prominent of these trends are the following:

- > **Focus on Wellness:** The trend in physical activity is to focus on health-related outcomes rather than on narrow measures of fitness.

- > **Indoor / Outdoor Pursuits and Environmental Learning:** Outdoor experiences such as hiking, cross-country skiing, walking, and cycling are continuing to grow in popularity, and there is increased interest and opportunities to engage in environmental stewardship activities such as interpretive programs, and environmental education (e.g. learning about flora and fauna, bird watching). Such activities attract local users and tourists, which not only provides health benefits, but also environmental and community economic development opportunities. Research also indicates that there are important benefits to indoor play in a “controlled” environment that include improved communication, small and large motor skill development, risk taking, socialization, critical thinking, and creativity.
- > **Risk and Adventure Recreation:** Combined with the interest in outdoor recreation is a growth in risk and adventure recreation. Activities such as skateboarding, snowboarding, climbing, and mountain biking have all gained in popularity. These activities are well-aligned with programs for at-risk youth and those not interested in organized and regulated activities.
- > **Active Transportation:** Active modes of transportation and multi-use trails are being used more than ever, as people are becoming more environmentally and health conscious, taking advantage of the economic benefits over owning and operating a private vehicle, and choosing to live closer to employment, commercial, and entertainment nodes. Beyond being active transportation corridors, multi-use trails also provide green infrastructure. They offer stormwater retention, flood control, carbon reduction, air and water pollution reduction, and the preservation of natural habitats.
- > **Youth Physical Activity and Healthy Living:** Parents, schools, and communities are continuing to react to child and youth obesity and inactivity. Between 1981 and 2009, the Canadian Health Measures Survey (Statistics Canada) concluded that the fitness levels of Canadian children and youth (as well as adults) had declined significantly. More recently, a 2018 report card from ParticipACTION gave Canadian children and youth a D+ for not being active enough. Likewise, only 24% of youth meet the Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines recommendation of no more than two hours of recreational 'screen time' per day.
- > **Team Sport to Lifetime Sport Pursuits:** There has been a shift from team sport to 'life sport' activities. Recent surveys that track participation patterns of Canadians all report that the trend has been moving away from organized recreation and toward individual life sport activities. Many are choosing activities that can be done at convenient times and places at or near home.
- > **Decline and Shifts in Youth Sport Participation:** Interest in sport participation is continuing to decline among Canadian youth. Data from Statistics Canada indicates that sport participation of Canadians aged 15 and over had declined from 57% to 51% between 1992 and 2005; in 2018, 48% of Canadian youth 12 and over had participated in organized sport and recreation programs.

As children continue to become less active, chronic disease levels have increased in children and youth, creating concerns for long-term health impacts, and the growing demand for programs that encourage young people to be more active and make healthier choices.

Of note, across Canada there has been a decline in hockey participation particularly as a percentage of the population. It is estimated that approximately 8.4% of Canadian youth 5-21 years of age participate in minor hockey, meaning over 90% do not. A Bauer/Hockey Canada study attributed this decline to multiple factors, including concerns about safety, harassment and abuse; the popularity in other sports such as soccer, basketball, and swimming due to changing demographics, immigration, and cultural diversity; the growing popularity of other professional sports leagues in Canada such as Major League Soccer and the National Basketball Association; competition for participants; the commitment required to participate; the cost of the sport; and lack of fun. One bright spot however, is Canadian women's hockey, in that between 1990 and 2016, participation grew from 8,146 to 88,541 across the country.

- > **Workplace Shifts:** Traditional job descriptions are becoming increasingly obsolete. As more people are self-employed, have more flexible work schedules, or work part-time, there will be increased demands on day-time use of facilities and parks, as well as informal drop-in use.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

With increasing awareness of the environmental impact of major facility development, the trend is toward sustainable facilities that seek to achieve green design standards to minimize environmental impact and employ energy efficient design.

Just as climate change will affect many aspects of recreation, parks, and tourism so too will recent health challenges affecting our behaviour and participation patterns. The current COVID-19 pandemic is a case in point and will influence the future design and development of both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

COVID-19 is presenting immediate challenges to the delivery of recreation services (e.g. cancelled activities, programs, and events; recreation facility closures; decreased revenues). Longer-term, it is also raising questions on how to best design new and upgraded recreation facilities in response to physical distancing and other potentially sustained public health regulations (e.g. spectator seating, circulation areas, air quality systems, group sport program rules, virtual and interactive instruction, reduced participation loads).

Other long-term potential implications of COVID-19 on recreation service delivery include:

- > Traditional work schedules could become even more obsolete during the recovery phase, leading to more intensified demands on day-time use of facilities and parks, as well as informal drop-in use.
- > Engaging in lifetime recreation and leisure pursuits at home and outdoors could continue to increase, as such activities can more easily accommodate physical distancing protocols.
- > While some infrastructure stimulus programs may be part of recovery efforts, it is anticipated that local municipalities will have to continue to rely heavily on local sources of support for developing and delivering recreation resources and services.

2.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION IN HANOVER

There is no doubt of the social, economic, and environmental benefits of parks and recreation services in a community. Still, these benefits must be balanced against the trends cited above, including the challenge that the RM of Hanover, like all other local governments across Canada, is compelled to assess which services will provide the greatest benefit for the overall community using limited tax dollars. This, along with the other factors and trends noted, will be further explored later in this report in regards to their potential effect on parks and recreation facility development in the RM of Hanover over the next 20 years.



Parks and Recreation Framework

3.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FRAMEWORK

3.1 STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK

Recently, a national discussion on recreation development in Canada resulted in a “National Framework for Recreation in Canada” (2015). This document describes the following five goals that include underlying values and principles related to public sector recreation development:

- > **Goal 1** – Active Living: Foster active living through physical recreation.
- > **Goal 2** – Inclusion and Access: Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.
- > **Goal 3** – Connecting People and Nature: Help people connect to nature through recreation.
- > **Goal 4** – Supportive Environments: Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities.
- > **Goal 5** – Recreation Capacity: Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

The Province of Manitoba followed with the development of “Manitoba’s Policy for Recreation Opportunities” (2015) that articulates principles, guidelines, and policies designed to strengthen recreation service provision in municipalities across the Province. This document, in conjunction with Provincial enabling legislation, provides the over-arching framework for local government recreation and park service delivery in Manitoba. It also recognizes that each municipality is unique with different issues, challenges, assets, and resources.

Local governments strive to develop programs and services that ensure all residents have access to, and share equally in, the benefits associated with parks and recreation services. Increasingly, recreation is viewed as an essential local government service. The costs associated with delivering recreation services are viewed as an investment in social, cultural, environmental, and economic development of the community and its citizens.

While the authority and powers of local governments are outlined in provincial legislation, each local government functions as an autonomous organization in interpreting how best to carry out its mandate for recreation and parks services. Vision Statements are an important tool in this regard, as they represent what Municipal Councils believe their citizens want their communities to be like in the future. They form the basis for establishing local governance and development priorities, which are then captured in Strategic Plans. Strategic Plans are living documents that are periodically reviewed and adjusted by Councils and their administrations to address evolving community needs and issues.

Since 2012, the RM of Hanover Strategic Plan has been reviewed in 2015, 2017, and 2019. The RM’s Vision Statement, as excerpted below, was not adjusted over this period:

"We will ensure the provision of quality municipal services and programs based on the identified needs of a growing population including recreation and economic development, both as a municipality and as a region.

Recognizing that we have a solid agricultural and commercial based foundation, we will have established a positive economic climate, will be investment ready, and have an investment attraction strategy that encourages diversified business growth."

The 2019 Strategic Plan identifies five overall strategic directions for the RM of Hanover, one of which regards recreation service delivery and development. Two goals are cited, as follows:

1. To coordinate recreation service delivery, in which the RM of Hanover accepts operational responsibilities where there is a local desire for this to happen.
2. To confirm the merits of developing a multi-use regional facility in the RM of Hanover.

Hanover's Vision Statement is infused in the structural framework for parks and recreation service delivery in the community, which is highlighted below:

1. The RM's Recreation, Heritage and Sustainability Committee is a sub-committee of Council that provides oversight for local parks and recreation services. This Committee works with the RM's Recreation Department, whose mandate is to provide all age groups with an opportunity to participate in recreational, social, athletic, and cultural activities.
2. The Recreation Department is supported in each of the five settlement centres – Mitchell, Blumenort, Grunthal, Kleefeld, and New Bothwell – by a volunteer community centre board. The community centre boards work with volunteer recreation providers in their respective communities. Each board, which is governed by RM By-laws, receives municipal funding for operations and capital projects.
3. The RM of Hanover entered into a Joint Use Agreement with the Hanover School Division (HSD) in 2015, the intent of which is twofold, namely: to improve HSD's access to community recreation facilities to support its physical education curricula; and to improve local groups' access to HSD schools to support their recreation and leisure pursuits. It is recognized that the Provincial government recently proposed legislation to replace Manitoba's 37 school divisions with 15 super-regions overseen by a provincial oversight body. The extent to which this legislation will ultimately affect the current Joint Use Agreement framework is uncertain.

3.2 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Beyond the 2013 RMP and 2019 Strategic Plan, the RM of Hanover's planning framework for recreation-related development is supported by the Development Plan and Zoning By-law. Recreation-related policies and regulations in these core planning documents are highlighted below:

1. The RM of Hanover Development Plan (2018) contains policies on land use, transportation, recreation, economic development, and the environment as they relate to how, where, and when growth should occur within the municipality. As summarized below, the Development Plan relies on the 2013 RMP to guide the development of the RM's recreation services and amenities:
 - > Section 1 (Introduction): Section 1.4 (Vision and Planning Goals) in particular outlines eight planning goals, their purpose of which is to inform the objectives and policies in the Development Plan. They speak to the positive role of parks and recreation services in creating 'complete communities' (sustainable, connected, accessible, age-friendly), improving personal and public health, and supporting economic development by enhancing the 'quality of place';
 - > Section 2 (General Policies): This section builds on the planning goals by providing overarching objectives and policies for land use and development in Hanover. In regards to parks and recreation services, the general policies reinforce the need for:
 - > facility and park designs that are 'green' (eco-friendly), 'universal' (caters to all community members), compatible and connected (on-site and off-site) and aesthetically pleasing (Section 2.1);
 - > protecting lands having a high potential for parks and recreation for sustainable public use, ensuring parks and open space are critical considerations in the subdivision process, and 'encouraging' indoor recreation facilities to locate in Hanover's five settlement centres (Section 2.4);
 - > promoting the roles of active transportation (utilitarian and recreational), and accommodating active transportation through shared (on municipal roads) and/or separated (sidewalks and paths) means in support of developing an inter-connected transportation network (Section 2.8); and
 - > exploring cooperative solutions through inter-municipal service delivery and tax sharing agreements prior to duplicating services in the region (Section 2.12);
 - > Section 4 (Urban Policies): This section contains policy areas to support land use and development in Hanover's five settlement centres. Sections 4.1 (General Policies), 4.3 (Residential Policy Areas) and 4.6 (Parks, Recreation and Institutional Policy Areas) reinforce the critical role that parks and recreation plays in these communities, as summarized below:
 - > choice: communities shall provide a variety of housing choices as well as an adequate mix of parks and recreation services (public and private; passive and active) that are conveniently located, compatible (on-site and off-site), and accessible by walking and cycling;
 - > accessibility: communities shall be pedestrian friendly and barrier free with sidewalks and pathways providing intra- and inter-community linkages;

- > livability: communities shall have a compact urban form that fosters efficient use of land and infrastructure;
 - > sustainability: communities shall ensure urban development, including parks and recreation services, is harmonious with the natural environment; and
 - > quality: community and site-specific developments shall be aesthetically pleasing to the eye, and benefit from green spaces connecting housing, activity, and shopping areas.
2. One of the main tools to implement the Development Plan is the Zoning By-law. The Zoning By-law sets out specific rules for land use and development in the municipality, and must generally conform to the Development Plan. As such, the RM of Hanover Zoning By-law (2418-18) establishes an Open Space (OS) Zone to support areas where the primary land uses are buffer areas, public parks, cemeteries, recreation facilities, and schools and school grounds, with associated minimum site development standards.

3.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION IN HANOVER

Hanover's Vision Statement, along with the structural and planning frameworks that support the delivery of parks and recreation services in the community, reflect the personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits of parks and recreation cited in Chapter 2. They also reinforce the importance of parks and recreation services in the RM's governance model as well as the role of the settlement centres in supporting strategic recreation initiatives, as reflected in Development Plan policy.

With the structural and planning context in mind, it is equally critical to note that local government decisions related to the type and supply of facilities and the scope and scale of development are influenced by the socio-economic profile of a community, and how it could change over time. The size, growth, and make-up of a community, and understanding how these influences affect participation in recreation activities, are important determinants in setting priorities to address future requirements for various services, including parks and recreation facilities.

Community Profile

4.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

As a municipality comprising an area of roughly 740 km² in southeast Manitoba, the RM of Hanover has historically been a rural farming community with a diverse agricultural sector. Located adjacent to six RM's (Taché, Ste. Anne, La Broquerie, Stuartburn, De Salaberry, and Ritchot), the RM of Hanover is approximately 20 km southeast of the City of Winnipeg, and is also bordered by the Town of Niverville and the City of Steinbach. To varying degrees, these urban communities serve as the main regional service centres for Hanover residents.

4.1 POPULATION

Though agriculture continues to play a major role in Hanover's economy and identity, the municipality has experienced rapid population growth, especially in Mitchell, Blumenort, Grunthal, Kleefeld and New Bothwell. The RM's population, which was 11,871 in 2006, has since grown by 33%. With a 2016 census population of 15,733 people, the RM of Hanover is the fourth most populated municipality in Manitoba, behind only the cities of Winnipeg, Brandon and Steinbach. A noteworthy portion of Hanover's growth has been due to immigration. In 2016, 22% of RM residents (or 3,440 people) were foreign born, of which 38.8% (or 1,335 people) had immigrated within the past 10 years.

Based on projections prepared in support of the RM of Hanover Development Plan, Hanover's population is projected to more than double by 2036. As shown on Table 4.1 below, the projections anticipate that the RM's settlement centres will accommodate most of this growth.

TABLE 4.1 HANOVER SETTLEMENT CENTRES – POPULATION DATA

Settlement Centre	Census Population:			% Change:		Projected 2036 Population:
	2006	2011	2016	2006-2011	2011-2016	
Mitchell	1,492	1,915	2,523	28.4%	32.0%	8,980
Grunthal	1,176	1,640	1,680	39.5%	2.4%	6,535
Blumenort	924	1,404	1,675	52.0%	19.3%	6,000
Kleefeld	703	765	N/A	8.8%	N/A	2,160
New Bothwell	527	595	N/A	12.9%	N/A	1,665
Total	11,871	14,026	15,733			

Population totals include rural areas.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016

4.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

In general terms, the population in the RM of Hanover has been almost evenly divided between male (50.8%) and female (49.2%) since 2006. Furthermore, Hanover's population continues to be young in age, relative to the rest of the Province: since 2006, the RM's median age has remained in the range of 27 years, compared to a median age that has similarly remained in the range of 38 years in Manitoba.

More specifically, and as shown on Table 4.2 below, the population in the RM of Hanover has been grouped into the following age cohorts for this Study, and indicates the population growth in the RM of Hanover has occurred across every age cohort since 2006:

TABLE 4.2 HANOVER POPULATION – AGE COHORT DATA

Age Cohorts:	Census Population:			% Change:	
	2006	2011	2016	2006-2011	2011-2016
0-4 (pre-school)	1,060	1,295	1,550	22.2%	19.7%
5-14 (elementary / junior high)	2,695	3,005	3,060	11.5%	1.8%
15-19 (secondary school)	1,075	1,480	1,505	39.7%	1.7%
20-24 (post-secondary school)	760	905	1,225	19.1%	35.4%
25-44 (early career)	3,255	3,525	3,970	8.9%	12.6%
45-54 (mid-career)	1,385	1,760	1,890	27.1%	7.4%
55-64 (pre-retirement)	865	1,060	1,395	22.5%	31.6%
65-74 (retirement)	470	605	735	28.7%	21.5%
75+ (post-retirement)	310	375	405	21.0%	8.0%

The following five highlights are offered from Table 4.2:

1. The population growth in the pre-school, early career and retirement age groups has been the most gradual, compared to all the other cohorts in the RM.
2. The most dramatic population growth in Hanover is observed in the post-secondary school age group. Though less dramatic but still significant is the population growth in the pre-retirement age group, particularly since 2011.
3. The most significant decreases in population growth in the RM have occurred in the elementary / junior high, secondary school, mid-career, and post-retirement age groups.
4. As reflected in Hanover's median age, the school age cohorts continue to represent a major share of the RM's total population: 39% of Hanover's population are under 19 years old, and close to 47% are under 25 years of age.
5. The RM's population breakdown is close to evenly split between those progressing through the educational stream and into the career, retirement and post-retirement life stages.

4.3 HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

The 2016 census for the RM of Hanover indicates that 68% of those 15 years of age and older are either married or living common-law (most of these couples – 63.8% – are married). Though the significant ratio of married couples in Hanover is generally similar to the 2011 census data, a slight 1% increase in those couples living common-law is also noted from 2011 to 2016.

Table 4.3 provides an overview of other household structural changes in the RM, relative to the population growth that has occurred since 2011.

TABLE 4.3 HANOVER HOUSEHOLDS – CENSUS FAMILY DATA

	Census Data:			% Share of Households:		
	Year		% Change	Year		% Change
	2011	2016	2011-2016	2011	2016	2011-2016
Census family households:	3,470	4,030	16.1%			
No. of couples with children	2,200	2,440	10.9%	63.4%	60.5%	-2.9%
No. of couples without children	1,055	1,320	25.1%	30.4%	32.8%	2.4%
No. of lone parent households	215	270	25.6%	6.2%	6.7%	0.5%

As highlighted on Table 4.3, the number of couples with children continues to be the dominant family household type in the RM, although the slight increases in overall share for those couples without children (2.4%) and lone parent households (0.5%) is also noted from 2011 to 2016.

4.4 SCHOOL ENROLMENT

As noted above, the school age cohorts, in representing a major share of Hanover’s total population, are continuing to ripple through the educational stream and into the career, retirement and post-retirement life stages. With this in mind and in light of the Joint Use Agreement between the RM of Hanover and the HSD, it will be critical to strategize about how current and future community recreation facilities can support HSD’s physical education curricula; and how HSD schools can accommodate local groups’ recreation and leisure pursuits.

Table 4.4 highlights school enrolment data in HSD schools within the RM of Hanover in the census periods since 2006, and most recently in 2019.

TABLE 4.4 HSD SCHOOL ENROLMENT – RM OF HANOVER

School	Centre	Grades	School Year			
			2006	2011	2016	2019
Blumenort	Blumenort	K-9	413	425	398	387
Bothwell	New Bothwell	K-9	195	195	124	108
Green Valley	Grunthal	5-12	517	517	478	478
South Oaks Elementary	Grunthal	K-4	397	397	391	360
Mitchell Elementary	Mitchell	K-4	309	309	427	459
Mitchell Middle	Mitchell	5-9	322	322	294	337
Kleefeld	Kleefeld	K-9	447	447	355	371

The following three highlights are offered from Table 4.4:

1. School enrolment has generally remained stable in Mitchell, Blumenort and Grunthal. This reflects the slowing population growth that has occurred in the RM amongst the elementary / junior high and secondary school age groups. It also reflects the role of Green Valley School in Grunthal, in that it is the only secondary school in the RM of Hanover and as such, is positioned to absorb the growth that has occurred in the secondary school age group specifically.
2. The moderate growth in enrolment at Mitchell Elementary School mirrors the gradual population growth that has occurred in the pre-school age group.
3. School enrolment has generally declined in Kleefeld and New Bothwell. This trend, in addition to those noted above, indicates the extent to which the slowing population growth in the RM amongst the school age groups is being absorbed by the schools in Mitchell, Blumenort and Grunthal.

4.5 IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION IN HANOVER

Population, demographic and growth trends in a community – or a municipality such as the RM of Hanover with a number of settlement centres – are snapshots in time. The availability of current data, in conjunction with other evolving factors (e.g. social, economic, market, available services / amenities) emphasizes this point, and reinforce the need to review and update these trends periodically, such as during Development Plan reviews which typically occur every five years. Still, for the purposes of this Study, and based on growth projections in the Development Plan as well as current growth trends, it can be reasonably assumed that the following population and settlement centre growth trends can be expected to continue in the RM of Hanover over the next 20 years:

1. Based on projections prepared in support of the RM of Hanover Development Plan, Hanover's population is projected to more than double by 2036, and the RM's settlement centres will accommodate most of this growth. If or when realized, such growth will put added pressures on recreation facility resources and needs in the RM.
2. The RM's demographic composition, which is close to evenly split between those progressing through the educational stream and into the career, retirement and post-retirement life stages, should also continue to unfold in a manner similar to current trends.
3. Mitchell is, and can be expected to remain, the primary settlement centre in the RM of Hanover.
4. Blumenort and Grunthal are, and can be expected to remain, secondary settlement centres in the RM.
5. Kleefeld is, and can be expected to remain, an emerging secondary settlement centre in Hanover.
6. New Bothwell is, and can be expected to remain, a tertiary settlement centre in the RM of Hanover.

Parks and Recreation Facility Profile

5.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY PROFILE

5.1 PUBLIC FACILITY INVENTORY

The 2013 RMP includes a public recreation facility inventory for each settlement centre within the RM of Hanover. This inventory has been carried forward and updated in Table 5.1 below, and is also shown graphically on Figures 5.1 to 5.5. As Table 5.1 indicates, the recreation facilities in Hanover consist of indoor, outdoor, and school facilities, ranging from picnic shelters and playgrounds to indoor arenas and hardcourt surfaces. There are also a number of affiliated organizations such as the Hanover Agricultural Society and private sector interests that contribute to recreation and leisure in the community.



Figure 5.1 Mitchell Public Recreation Facility Inventory

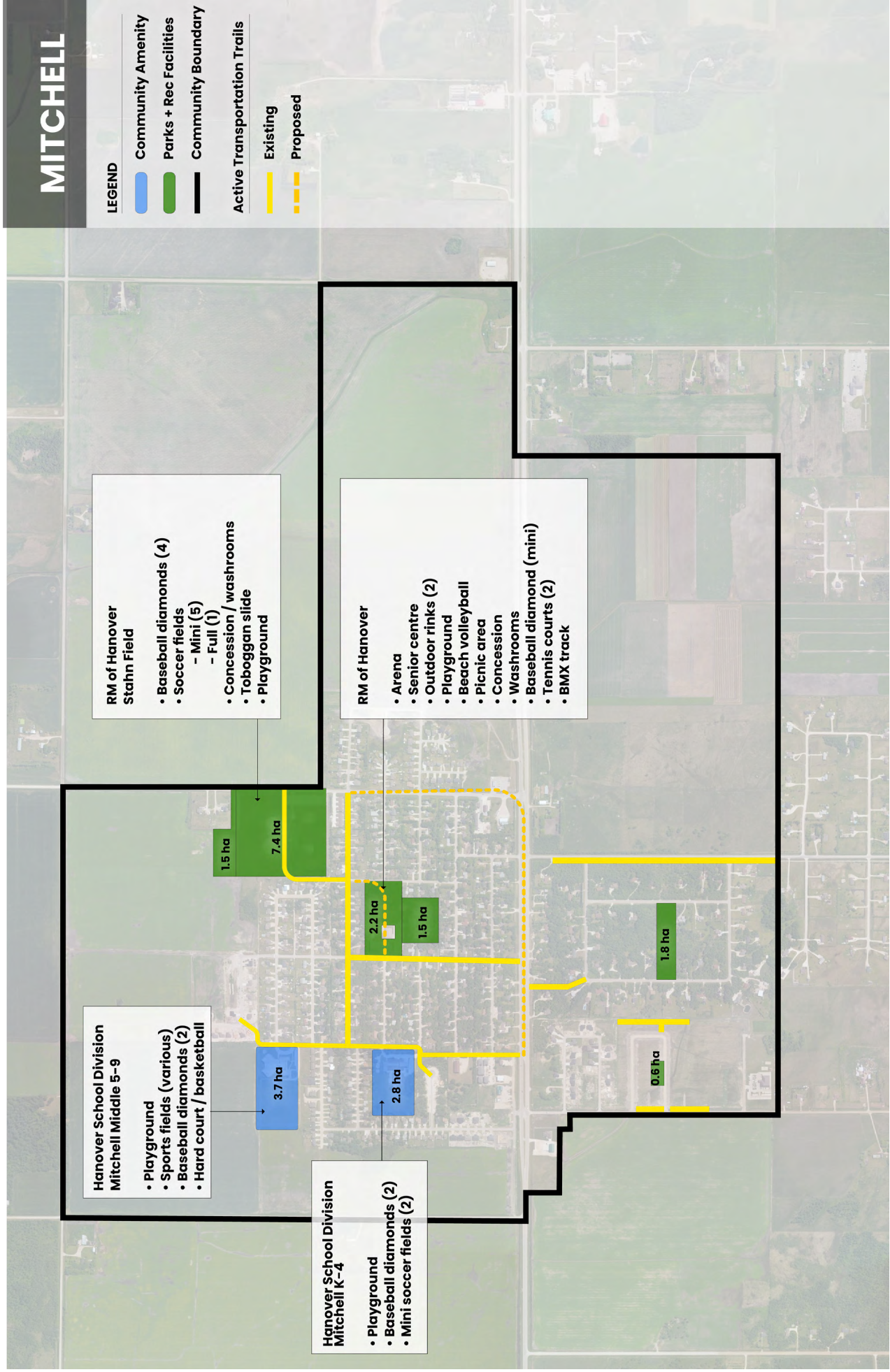


Figure 5.2 Blumenort Public Recreation Facility Inventory

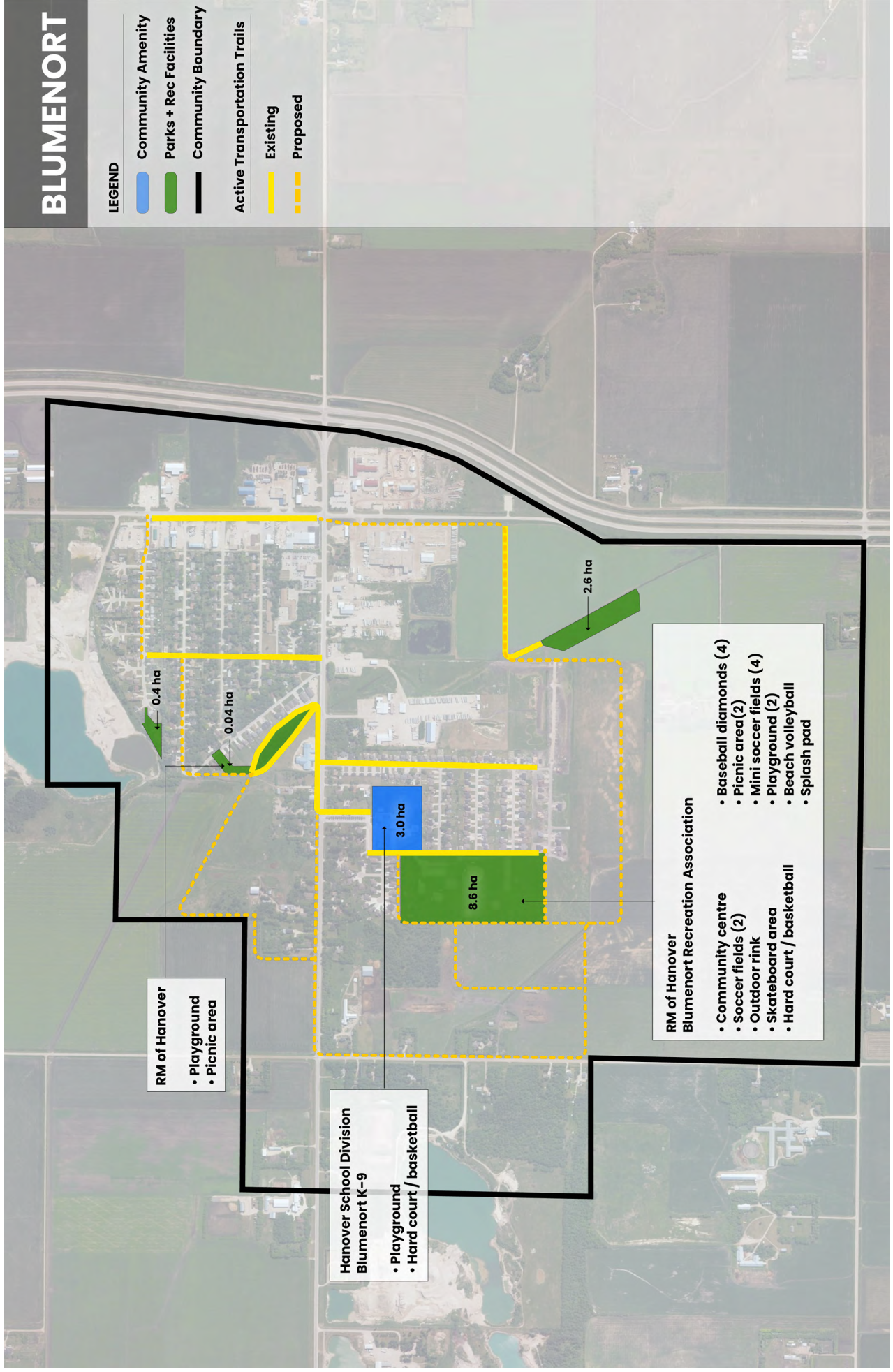


Figure 5.3 Grunthal Public Recreation Facility Inventory

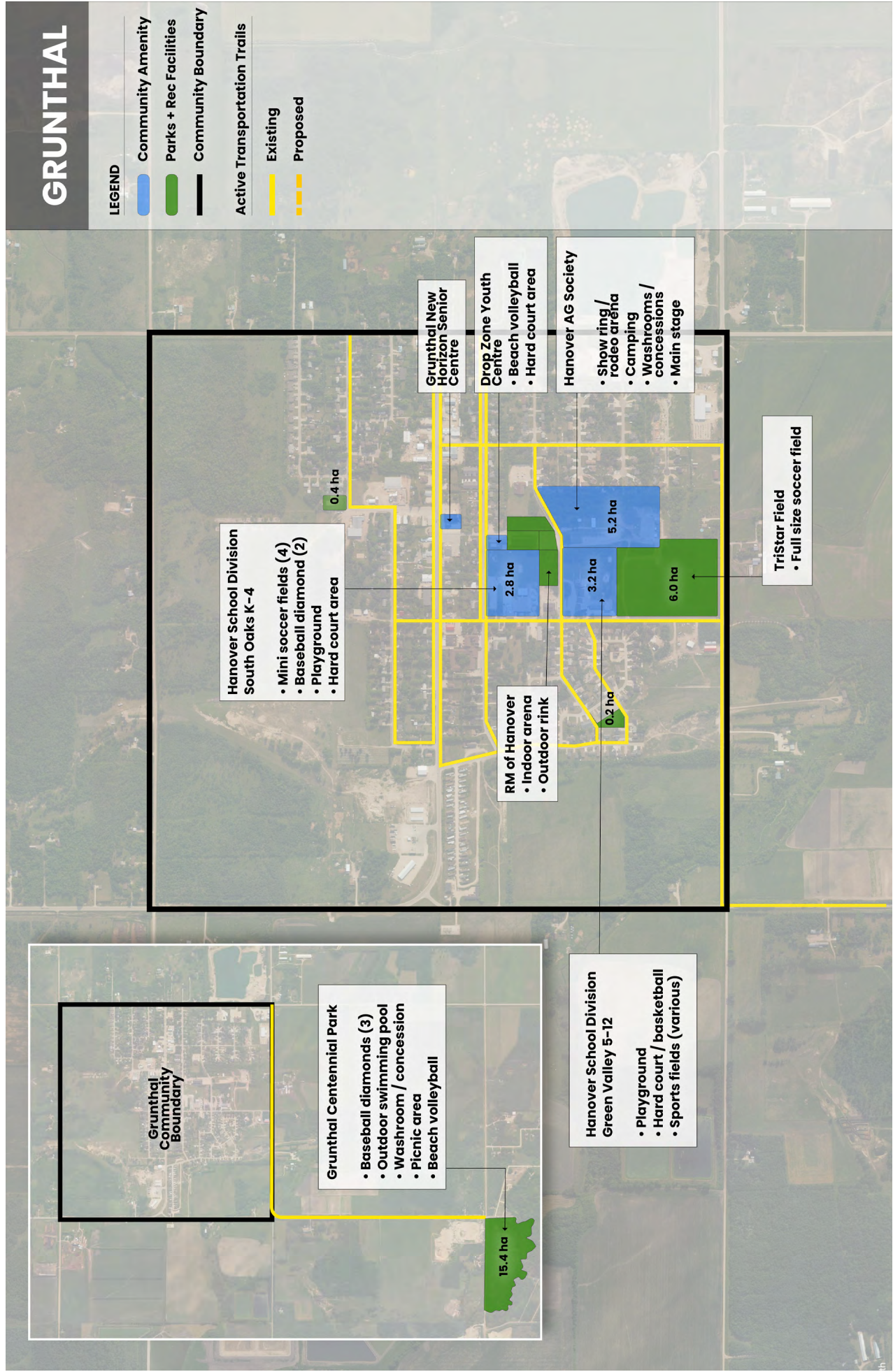


Figure 5.4 Kleefeld Public Recreation Facility Inventory

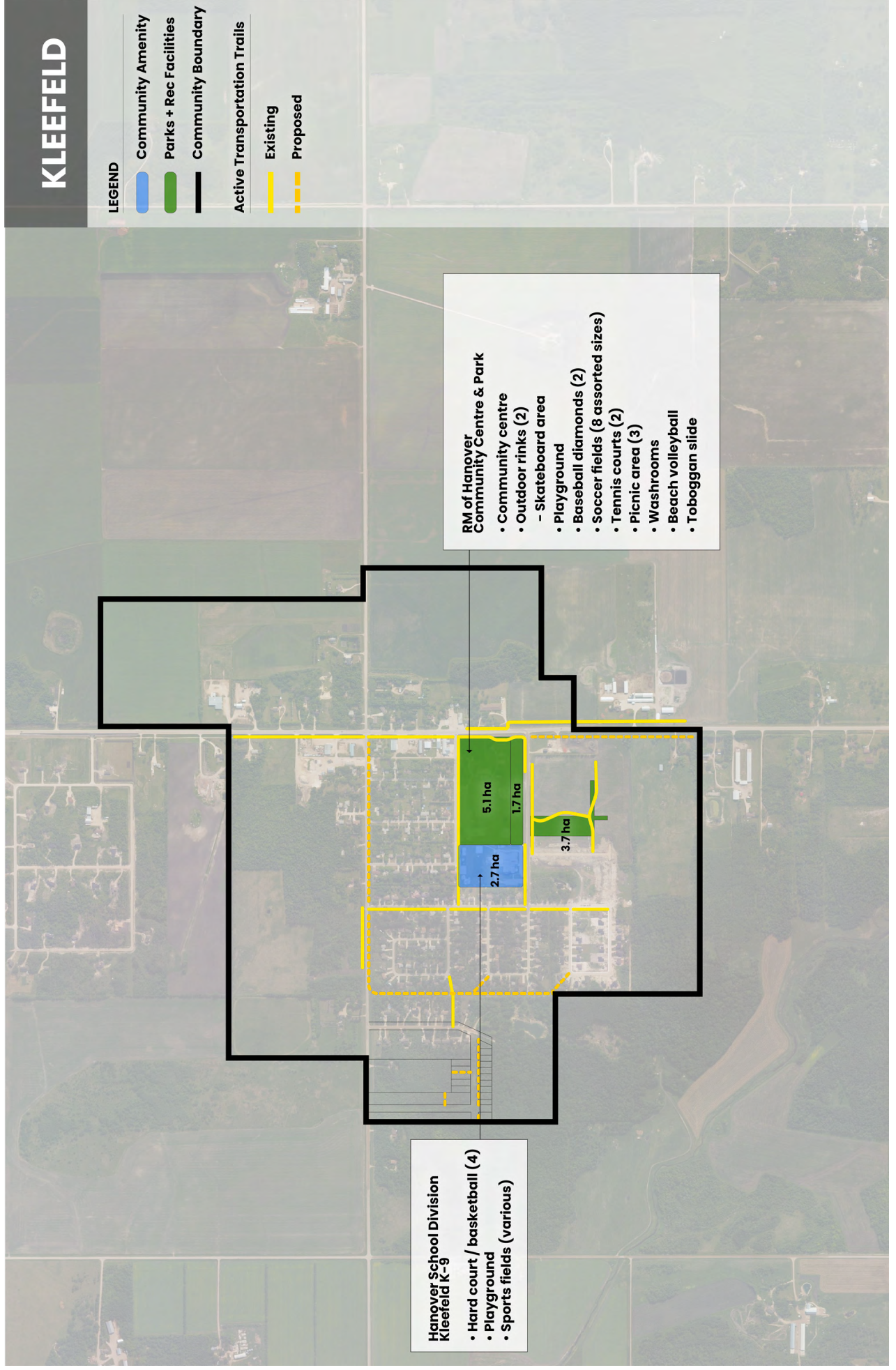


Figure 5.5 New Bothwell Public Recreation Facility Inventory

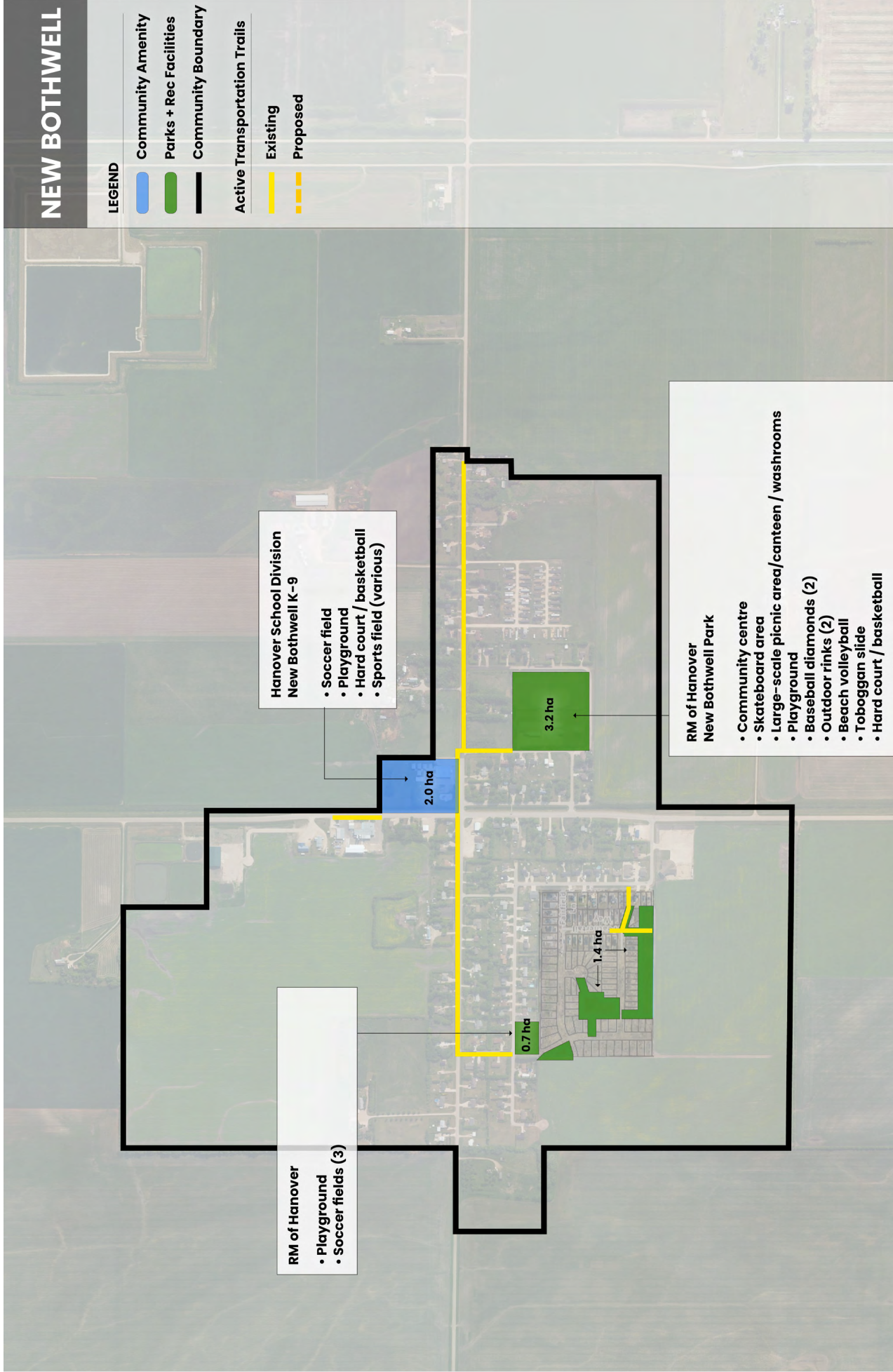


TABLE 5.1 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY – RM OF HANOVER

Facility Type	Mitchell	Blumenort	Grunthal	Kleefeld	New Bothwell	Total
Indoor Arena	1		1			2
Outdoor Rink	2	1	1	2	2	8
Outdoor Pool			1			1
Splash Pad		1				1
Community Centre		1		1	1	3
Picnic Area	1	3	1	3	1	9
Outdoor Stage				1		1
Playground	2	3		1	2	8
Skateboard Area		1		1	1	3
BMX Track	1					1
Tennis Court	2			2		4
Walking Path	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Baseball Diamond	5	4	3	2	2	16
Soccer (mini size)	5	4		7	2	18
Soccer (full size)	1	2	1	1	1	6
Beach Volleyball	1	1	1	2	1	6
Basketball Court		1			1	2
Toboggan Slide	1			1	1	3
Senior Centre	1		1			2
Park Size (ha.)	15.0 ha	14.6 ha	22.0 ha	10.5 ha	5.3 ha	67.44 ha
% of Total:	22%	22%	33%	15%	8%	100%
Schools:	2	1	2	1	1	7
Playground	2	1	2	1	1	7
Ball Diamond	4		2			6
Soccer – Mini Size	2		4			6
Soccer – Full					1	1
Sports Field (various)	1		1	1	1	4
Basketball Court	1	1	2	4	1	9

5.2 MUNICIPAL BUDGETING CONTEXT

In the RM of Hanover, the community centre boards receive municipal grant funding for recreation facility operations and capital projects, based on a 1.25 mil rate. Additional recreational revenues are derived in each community through such means as program registration and facility user fees, facility rentals and community events. Tables 5.2 to 5.6 below summarize the financial status for parks and recreation services in each of the RM's settlement centres since 2018. In this regard, it is noted that:

1. The annual expenses summarized in Tables 5.2 to 5.6 include both operating and minor capital expenditures.
2. Larger capital projects often require funds to be transferred from general reserves in order to balance the respective budgets; these funds are included in the total revenues highlighted in Tables 5.2 to 5.6.
3. As the information in Tables 5.2 to 5.6 is a summary only, details on individual capital projects and their expenditures in each settlement centre are not provided.

TABLE 5.2 RECREATION BUDGET INFORMATION (2018-2020) – MITCHELL C-C

Budget Item	Year		
	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Total Revenues	302,325	311,496	289,093
Operating and Minor Capital Expenses	483,120	294,014	228,878
Net Total	(180,795)	17,482	60,215
Reserve Transfers	(100,503)	17,482	60,215
RM Funding to Mitchell	211,753	130,200	112,500
Total RM Funding	551,445	471,260	606,862
Mitchell Share	38%	28%	19%

TABLE 5.3 RECREATION BUDGET INFORMATION (2018-2020) – BLUMENORT C-C

Budget Item	Year		
	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Total Revenues	132,550	82,285	229,260
Operating and Minor Capital Expenses	120,007	72,616	210,323
Net Total	12,543	9,669	18,937
Reserve Transfers	22,300	9,669	18,937
RM Funding to Blumenort	85,050	66,500	115,179
Total RM Funding	551,445	471,260	606,862
Blumenort Share	15%	14%	19%

TABLE 5.4 RECREATION BUDGET INFORMATION (2018-2020) – GRUNTHAL C-C

Budget Item	Year		
	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Total Revenues	273,147	291,345	257,910
Operating and Minor Capital Expenses	259,185	262,553	268,480
Net Total	13,962	28,792	(10,570)
Reserve Transfers	35,400	43,700	0
RM Funding to Grunthal	98,550	104,082	130,700
Total RM Funding	551,445	471,260	606,862
Grunthal Share	18%	22%	22%

TABLE 5.5 RECREATION BUDGET INFORMATION (2018-2020) – KLEEFELD C-C

Budget Item	Year		
	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Total Revenues	80,570	152,410	249,686
Operating and Minor Capital Expenses	185,272	123,651	211,111
Net Total	(104,702)	28,759	38,575
Reserve Transfers	(24,956)	28,759	38,575
RM Funding to Kleefeld	74,056	107,245	203,733
Total RM Funding	551,445	471,260	606,862
Kleefeld Share	14%	23%	33%

TABLE 5.6 RECREATION BUDGET INFORMATION (2018-2020) – NEW BOTHWELL C-C

Budget Item	Year		
	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Total Revenues	147,158	119,525	87,975
Operating and Minor Capital Expenses	116,879	97,343	54,533
Net Total	30,279	22,182	33,442
Reserve Transfers	14,465	22,182	33,442
RM Funding to New Bothwell	82,036	63,233	44,750
Total RM Funding	551,445	471,260	606,862
New Bothwell Share	15%	13%	7%

5.3 MUNICIPAL RESERVE FUNDING CONTEXT

Each year, the RM of Hanover contributes 0.25 mils of its 1.25 mil rate for parks and recreation services to regular reserve accounts. Their intent is to support municipal asset management planning, as they allow for funds to be set aside to manage assets throughout their lifecycle. The funds are split between each of the five settlement centres and the rural area, based on the assessment in each area. As the community centre boards have gradually been folded into the RM of Hanover for financial reporting, these reserves have absorbed any savings the boards may have had from operating independently. Table 5.7 highlights the funds in each regular reserve account in Hanover since 2015.

Until 2019, every building lot in Hanover was charged a lot fee for development. Of this lot fee, a percentage was added to the recreation reserve account for the appropriate area. This ceased in 2019 with the creation of a land acquisition reserve to align with the cash-lieu of parkland provisions under the Planning Act. The funds collected through this provision are split between the five settlement centres only. Table 5.7 also highlights the funds in each land acquisition account in Hanover since 2019.

TABLE 5.7 REGULAR AND LAND ACQUISITION RESERVE FUNDS (2015–2020) – RM OF HANOVER

Reserve Fund	Year					
	2015 (\$)	2016 (\$)	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Regular:						
Mitchell	71,918	102,429	133,933	136,752	203,810	257,862 Share: 10%
Blumenort	72,054	83,983	95,939	111,142	210,481	230,976 Share: 9%
Grunthal	39,580	40,819	178,494	211,828	259,374	121,032 Share: 5%
Kleefeld	93,311	66,919	88,256	98,358	219,194	180,260 Share: 7%
New Bothwell	23,202	41,259	135,431	155,994	179,917	214,683 Share: 8%
Rural Area	425,024	521,409	717,068	837,226	1,052,070	1,576,448 Share: 61%
Sub-Total:	725,089	856,818	1,349,121	1,551,300	2,124,846	2,581,261
Land Acquisition:						
Mitchell					9,441	71,233
Blumenort					3,092	7,642
Grunthal					27,479	35,791
Kleefeld					6,394	17,650
New Bothwell					-	3,050
Sub-Total:					46,406	135,366
Total:	725,089	856,818	1,349,121	1,551,300	2,171,252	2,716,627

5.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION IN HANOVER

The following observations are noted in support of this Study:

1. As illustrated in Table 5.1, in municipalities such as the RM of Hanover with a number of settlement centres, there has been a tendency to duplicate recreation facilities where larger population clusters exist but have populations at the neighbourhood level. Several of these facilities are more viable at the community or regional level because they require a critical mass of participants large enough to financially sustain their operations.
2. While Table 5.1 represents an update to the recreation facility inventory in Hanover since the 2013 RMP, it is noted that major parks and recreation facilities in the RM has been limited to date, apart from the splash pad in Blumenort as well as pathway and open space improvements in each of the RM's settlement centres. As such, the focus has mainly been on continuing to support the management of Hanover's existing recreational assets through their respective lifecycle stages.
3. The importance of municipal funding in sustaining parks and recreation services in the RM of Hanover cannot be overstated. This reinforces the RM's critical role in providing these services, which it regards as essential to nurturing public health and community wellbeing.
4. Since 2018, the proportional share of assessment-based municipal property tax funds for parks and recreation services in each of the RM's settlement centres further reflect their respective roles in supporting Hanover's future growth:
 - > Mitchell (a 28% share, on average) is, and can be expected to remain, the primary settlement centre.
 - > Blumenort (an average 16% share) and Grunthal (a 21% share, on average) are, and can be expected to remain, secondary settlement centres.
 - > Kleefeld (with a proportional share that more than doubled since 2018) is, and can be expected to remain, an emerging secondary settlement centre.
 - > New Bothwell (a 12% share, on average) is, and can be expected to remain, a tertiary settlement centre.
5. As per Table 5.7, the projected 20-year growth and development trends in the Development Plan should continue to support – and bolster – RM contributions to its Land Acquisition Reserve Fund on a year-to-year basis.

Stakeholder & Community Engagement

6.0 STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A critical goal of this Study was to receive feedback from stakeholder groups and the broader community about recreation issues in the RM of Hanover, and the need for new and/or improved recreation services, both now and over the next 20 years. To obtain this input, a series of stakeholder interviews was conducted from September 24 to October 8, 2020 and a community online survey was administered from October 5 to October 31, 2020.

6.1 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Stakeholder interviews were conducted from September 24 to October 8. Twelve interviews were held involving community centre boards, recreation organizations and the HSD. The main intent of the interviews was to gain an over-arching perspective on recreation needs and issues in Hanover; a supplementary intent was to request information about the recreation facilities, their use and/or the demographic profiles of program participants. Eleven interviews were in-person sessions and one was conducted virtually via Zoom. For a complete interview list, see Appendix A.

In general, the important role that parks and recreation services fulfills in the RM of Hanover was reinforced by interview participants. This perspective was reflected not only in regards to the RM of Hanover as a whole, but also within – and between – each of the RM’s settlement centres. This has helped to generate a strong sense of ‘community pride’, and a dedication to collaborate in helping the RM Recreation Department fulfill its mandate, both on a local and broader municipal scale.

Although a wide range of topics was discussed, a common theme cited by interview participants was that population growth in the RM of Hanover is putting added pressures on an already strained recreation service network. Supporting comments are summarized below:

- 1. An upgrade or replacement strategy is needed in regards to the arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell, as both are operating passed their expected life expectancy, and continuing to struggle to meet basic user and amenity needs and/or standards:
 - > **Grunthal Arena (opened in 1968):** the dressing rooms are inadequate in terms of number, size and accessibility for male and female participants; the main floor lobby is small and its amenities are outdated; the ice pad is undersized (27.4 metres (m). x 54.9 m.) which is a disadvantage when local participants (i.e. minor hockey, figure skating) compete on larger ice surfaces elsewhere; the undersized ice surface also makes the use of mini rinks (as mandated by Hockey Canada) less effective; the cooling pipes do not extend across the full ice pad width which affects ice quality; there is insufficient storage; and due to the above issues, the Grunthal Skating Club in particular cannot host figure skating tournaments at the facility.
 - > **Mitchell Arena (opened in 1978):** the dressing rooms are inadequate in terms of number, size and accessibility for male and female participants; the main floor lobby is small and its amenities are outdated; the ice plant is old and needs to be replaced; there is insufficient storage; and there should be a direct link to the adjacent Mitchell Seniors Centre to enhance inter-facility recreation and leisure programming opportunities.

2. A similar upgrade or replacement strategy is needed in regards to the community centres in Blumenort [256 square metres (m²)], Kleefeld (223 m²) and New Bothwell (290 m²). These facilities are aging; their service amenities are either lacking or sub-standard (e.g. canteen, kitchen, washrooms); they are too small to accommodate larger social gatherings, and/or fitness-wellness programs (e.g. sports clinics / training, studio-type classes, performing arts classes); and their interior spaces cannot be re-configured to respond to changing recreation trends, user group and/or inter-generational needs.
3. Aspirational comments were received in regards to the recreational and leisure needs of seniors, focusing on the lack of indoor walking facilities as well as fitness-wellness programs in Hanover (e.g. studio-type classes, performing arts classes, past inter-generational programs in partnership with the HSD). This need, which is more pronounced during the winter months, is compelling seniors to seek recreation and leisure pursuits outside the RM (e.g. use of indoor shopping facilities for walking and/or private fitness facilities in Steinbach).
4. Facilities such as the arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell as well as the soccer pitches in Grunthal and Blumenort are operating near-or-at-capacity when programs are in-season. This in turn, is contributing to maintenance issues and/or restricted access, and further inhibiting recreation planning and/or unstructured recreation opportunities (e.g. organized hockey is restricting leisure / public skating at the arenas; soccer pitch conditions in Grunthal and Blumenort are being affected by their over-use; the popularity of soccer in Grunthal is limiting access to the soccer pitch for other programs such as Ultimate Frisbee).
5. Additional, more 'regular' lifecycle maintenance issues are impacting user needs. Specific facilities were cited in Blumenort (picnic shelter, tennis courts, playground equipment), Grunthal (outdoor skating rink ice flooding; Green Valley School grounds maintenance), Kleefeld (outdoor shelter) and New Bothwell (outdoor skating rink pad).
6. Stakeholders also raised concerns about the Joint Use Agreement with the RM of Hanover, stating that the HSD gyms are operating near-or-at-capacity and are too expensive to rent. These challenges have compelled recreation groups in Hanover to seek facility use opportunities in other communities, and to no longer view HSD gyms as a local recreation resource.

Additional feedback on HSD gyms focused more specifically on Blumenort School, Green Valley School and New Bothwell School. It is noted that the comments received were similar to those regarding the community centres in Blumenort, Kleefeld and New Bothwell, and prompted similar considerations regarding these gyms specifically and HSD facilities more generally: that an upgrade strategy is needed regarding gym size and interior space configurations to enable the HSD gyms to better accommodate fitness-wellness programs (e.g. sports clinics / training, studio-type classes), court-sport activities (e.g. volleyball, basketball) as well as changing recreation trends, user group and/or inter-generational needs.

7. The growing international demographic profile in the RM due to immigration is contributing to Hanover's transition beyond its more traditional sporting fares. Interview participants have observed the continuing increase in popularity for soccer, swimming, baseball, basketball, tennis and skateboarding at their respective facilities, particularly in the younger age groups. Such comments reflected formal program registration numbers and more informal drop-in use of the facilities. Aspirational comments were also received in regards to adding facility capacity to better accommodate practices / training, drop-in use, organized / recreational games and tournaments, either specifically in: Blumenort (tennis); or Grunthal (change room expansion at Centennial Park due to over-crowding from swimming and/or baseball programs); or Grunthal and Blumenort (soccer pitches);

or Blumenort (baseball diamonds); and/or having such recreational opportunities incorporated together as part of a regional multi-purpose facility to reduce the pressures on 'local' recreational resources.

8. Inter-community partnerships in support of delivering sports and recreational programming within the RM of Hanover remain strong. The Joint Use Agreement with the HSD is one testament to this, despite the fact that its success appears to be constraining the capacity of HSD gyms to accommodate external user demands. Other examples point to cross-over accommodations, wherein RM residents are encouraged to participate in programs, regardless of where they reside. Such accommodations are also arranged more strategically in order to address in-season community-to-community roster needs.
9. The aforementioned challenges regarding volunteer recruitment and retention – the lack of time to volunteer, and the inability to make long-term commitments to volunteer – are impacting recreation service delivery throughout the RM of Hanover. This issue has continued to persist since the 2013 RMP, and has worsened due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, an already confined volunteer resource pool in each community is shrinking even further, compelling current volunteers to assume more responsibilities in supporting local recreation needs. This is leading to volunteer burnout, gaps in leadership and succession planning, and uncertainties about whether volunteer resources will be able to continue to support parks and recreation services in Hanover.
10. The COVID-19 crisis has had severe negative impacts on the delivery of recreation services in the RM of Hanover, through cancelled activities, programs and events; recreation facility closures or limited facility access; difficulty attracting coaches and volunteers; and/or decreased revenues.

Anecdotally, interview participants observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the already-growing focus on lifetime health and wellness as well as outdoor pursuits (e.g. online exercise classes at home, walking, running, cycling, gardening, family use of parks and picnic shelters). The pandemic only reinforced aspirational comments received regarding the need for more park space as well as multi-use pathway extensions, both within and linking each settlement centre. It was acknowledged that supporting and enhancing such recreation and leisure activities can more easily accommodate physical distancing protocols, while still supporting personal health and encouraging familial and community re-connections during the post-pandemic recovery phase.

11. The feedback received regarding the need for a regional multi-purpose facility was mixed. On the one hand and despite the strength of the inter-community partnerships noted above, some interview participants advocated for their own 'community', whether that meant the settlement centre in which they resided and/or the recreation group or community centre board they represented. The willingness to travel to other locations for recreation services was also questioned. This is not surprising, given intra-community connections and the competition for limited recreation resources, relative to other needs and priorities, whether on a household, local or municipal-wide scale. On the other hand, an equal number of interview participants also acknowledged that the RM of Hanover is at a transition point. As the RM continues to grow, there will be an increasing need to develop or upgrade the RM's parks and recreation infrastructure, and to do so using a more regional approach.

6.2 COMMUNITY ONLINE SURVEY

The community online survey was launched using the Survey Monkey platform on October 5. Public awareness was supported shortly after survey launch by both RM staff and the HSD: a public notice was posted online (i.e. RM website, social media), and sent by e-blasts to local recreation stakeholder groups and HSD student families; local media interviews were conducted by RM staff; and reminder notices were posted online and sent by e-blasts the week prior to survey close-out on October 31.

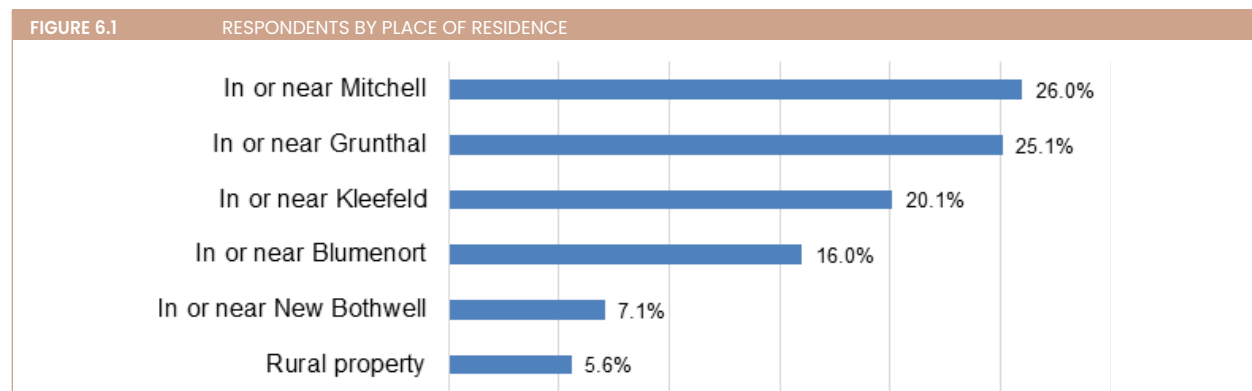
All RM of Hanover residents were invited to participate in the survey. As such, the survey methodology was neither random nor controlled for demographic and economic factors. While these factors limit the ability to generalize the results across the community, it does not diminish the value of the responses, drawn from a broad cross-section of residents, on the community's values, opinions, attitudes and perceptions of current recreation services and future needs. Furthermore, a similar survey was conducted for the 2013 RMP, which provided the opportunity for several questions to be replicated for this Study in order to determine changes in perceptions, attitudes, opinions and preferences.

550 surveys were received. Data cleaning uncovered 31 instances in which two surveys had been submitted from the same IP address: one containing partial responses to some of the survey questions, and the other containing the same responses but in a fully completed survey. Because this suggested a duplication of responses, the 31 partially completed surveys were deleted, resulting in a residual total of 519 valid survey responses.

6.2.1 Respondent Profiles

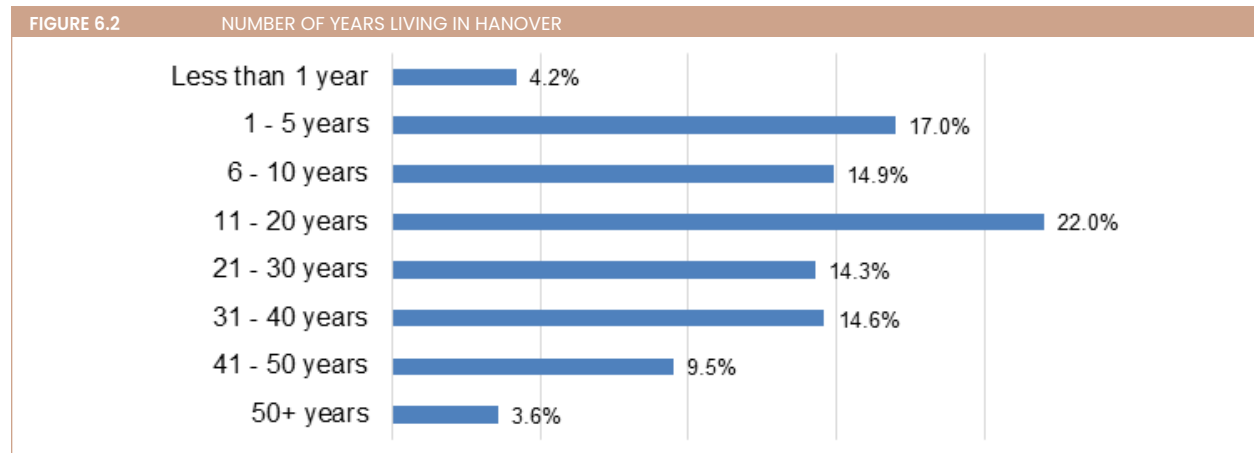
Place of Residence

Just over half of the survey respondents indicated that they lived in or near either Mitchell (26.0%) or Grunthal (25.1%). Residents of Kleefeld or area comprised 20.1% of the respondents, with fewer respondents living in or near Blumenort (16.0%), New Bothwell (7.1%) or on a rural property (5.6%). This distribution of respondents is similar to those who had participated in the 2013 RMP survey.



Length of Residency

Survey respondents were a mix of both recent and longer-term residents of Hanover. Just over one-third (36.1%) had moved to the RM within the past ten years, while one-in-four (27.7%) had lived in Hanover for more than thirty years.

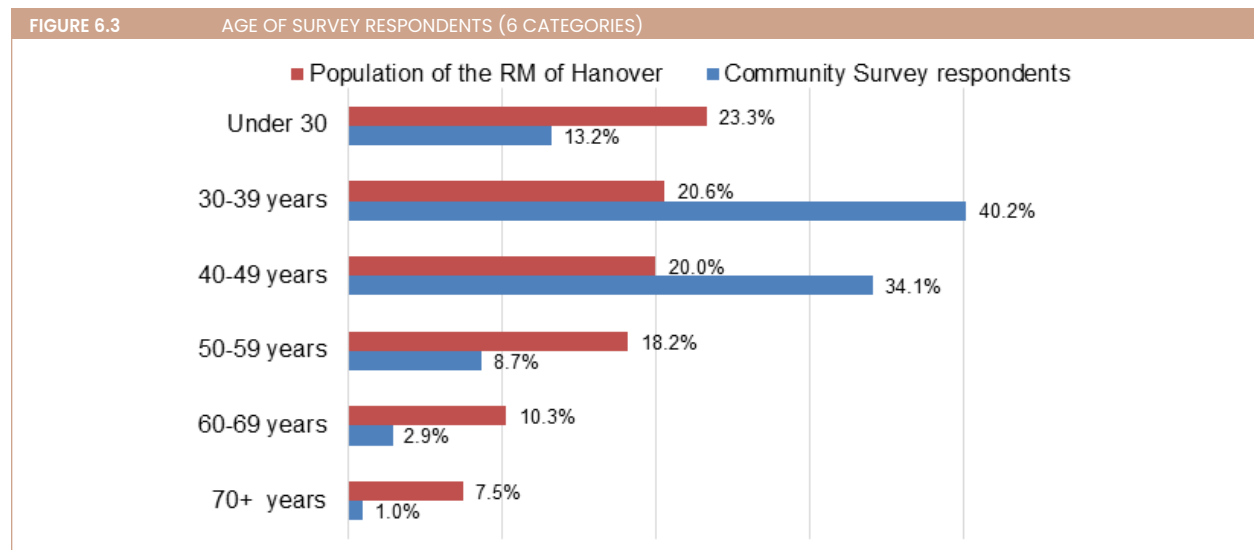


Gender of Respondents

A majority of the survey respondents (59.3%) were female; 34.7% were male. The remaining respondents either preferred not to reveal their gender identities or they provided another answer (5.9%). It is noteworthy that female respondents had also outnumbered male respondents in the 2013 RMP survey, but by a smaller margin. Furthermore, based on the 2016 census data for Hanover, 50.8% of RM residents were female which, when compared to the general population, could convey that the current survey may slightly over-represent females.

Age of Respondents

The survey respondents ranged in age from 21 to 79 years, with an average age of 39.3 years. Just over one-half of the respondents (53.4%) were under the age of 40, and very few respondents (3.9%) were aged 60 years or older. While an effort was made to hear from a broad cross-section of RM residents, Figure 6.3 shows that, when compared to the 2016 census population in Hanover, there were lower proportions of respondents under the age of 30 and over the age of 50, and an over-representation of respondents aged 30 to 49 years.

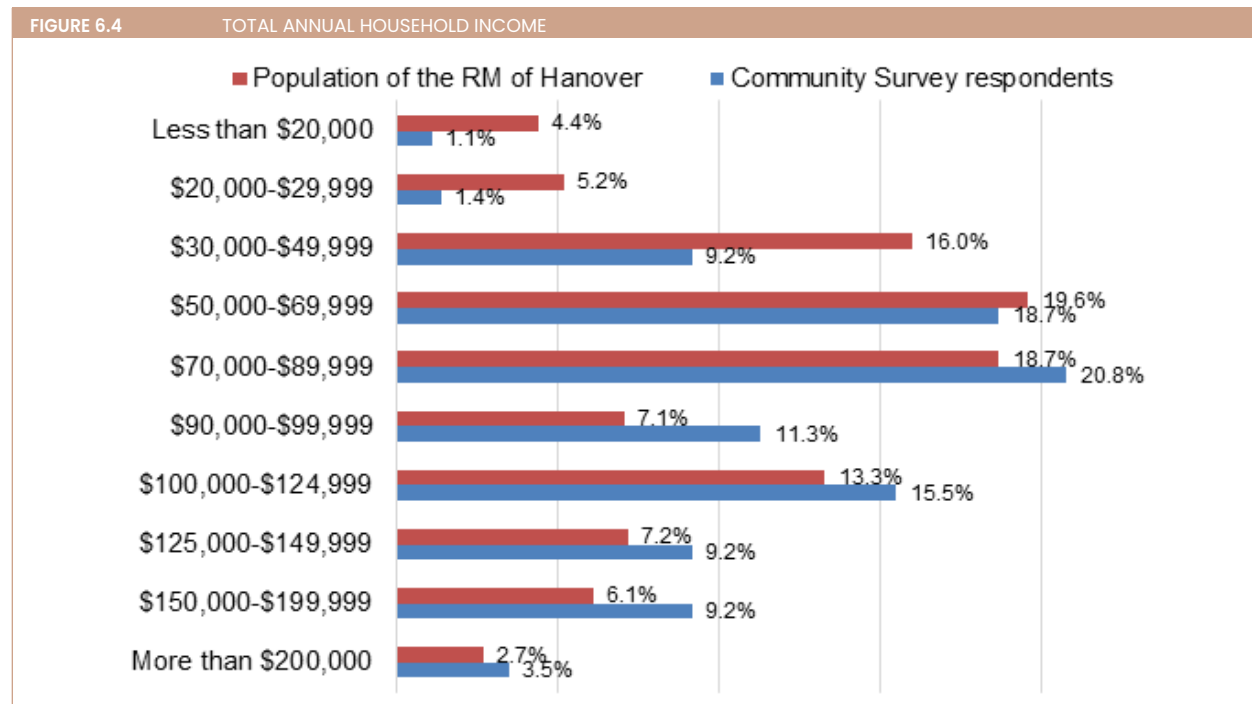


Marital Status and Household Composition

The vast majority of survey respondents (87.3%) indicated that they were married; the rest were divided almost equally among those either in common-law relationships, single, separated or divorced, or widowed. A similar majority (86.5%) stated that they had at least one child under the age of 18 living in the household, with most of the households containing either two (29.6%) or three (24.3%) children. By contrast, the 2016 census data for Hanover indicated lower percentages of both married couples (63.8%) and households with children (67.2%).

Household Income and Employment Status

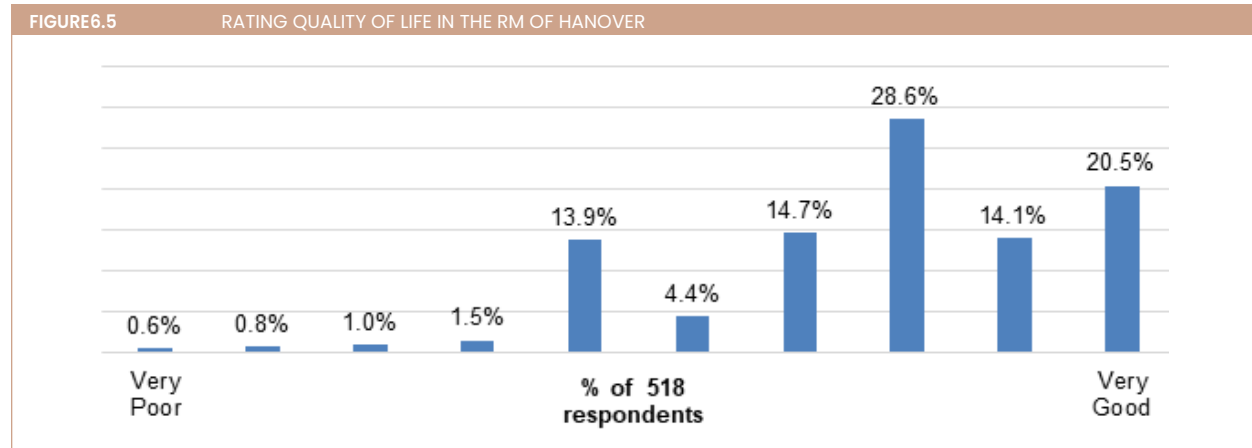
It could appear that the survey respondents represented higher income households, relative to the median household income of approximately \$75,000 in the 2016 census, in that just over 10% of the survey respondents had an annual household income of less than \$50,000, while almost half (48.7%) had an annual income of at least \$90,000. But it is difficult to accurately compare the incomes of the survey respondents with those of the general population, as survey respondents can be reluctant to answer questions about income. In this survey for example, over one-third of the respondents did not answer this question, and about 10% indicated that they were unaware of their household income.



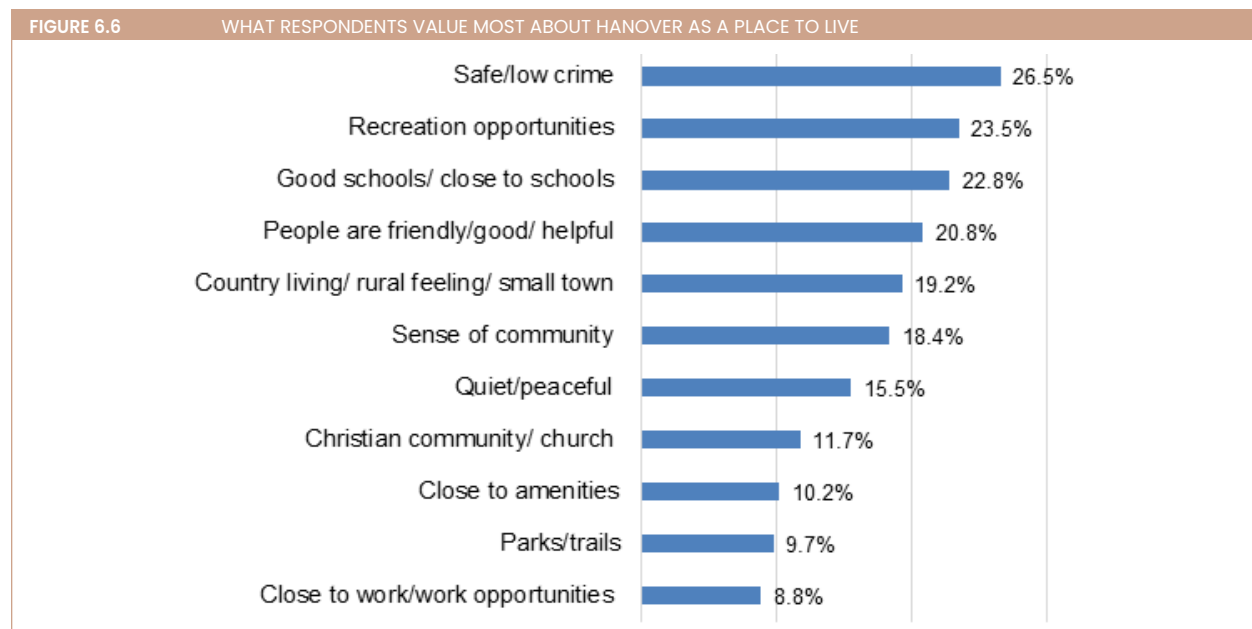
Regarding employment status, most of the survey respondents (82.5%) were employed either full-time (65.8%) or part-time (16.7%). A small proportion indicated that they were unemployed (13.4%), students (1.2%) or retired (3.0%). By contrast, the 2016 census data for Hanover indicated a lower employment rate in the RM at close to 70% (compared to just under 62% province-wide), with 77% of adult residents having had worked during the previous year.

6.2.2 Quality of Life in Hanover

Survey respondents were asked to rate their perceptions of the quality of life in the RM of Hanover on a scale that ranged from 1=very poor to 10=very good. Most of the respondents rated the quality of life favourably: the average rating was 7.70, and almost two-thirds (63.2%) of the respondents gave a higher rating of at least 8 out of 10. This average rating is however, slightly lower than the average 7.94 rating given in the 2013 RMP survey.



Survey respondents were then asked to identify up to three factors that they felt contributed to their quality of life in Hanover. The most frequently cited factor was the safety of the community and lack of serious crime (26.5%). But the second most frequently mentioned factors were recreation opportunities (23.5%) [note an additional 9.7% of the respondents specifically mentioned parks and trails] and the quality of the schools (22.8%). Factors associated with ‘community character’ were also important to respondents, including the friendliness of residents (20.8%), small-town feeling (19.2%), sense of community (18.4%), peace and quiet (15.5%), and the strong Christian values in the community (11.7%). For a complete list of factors that respondents valued, see Appendix B.

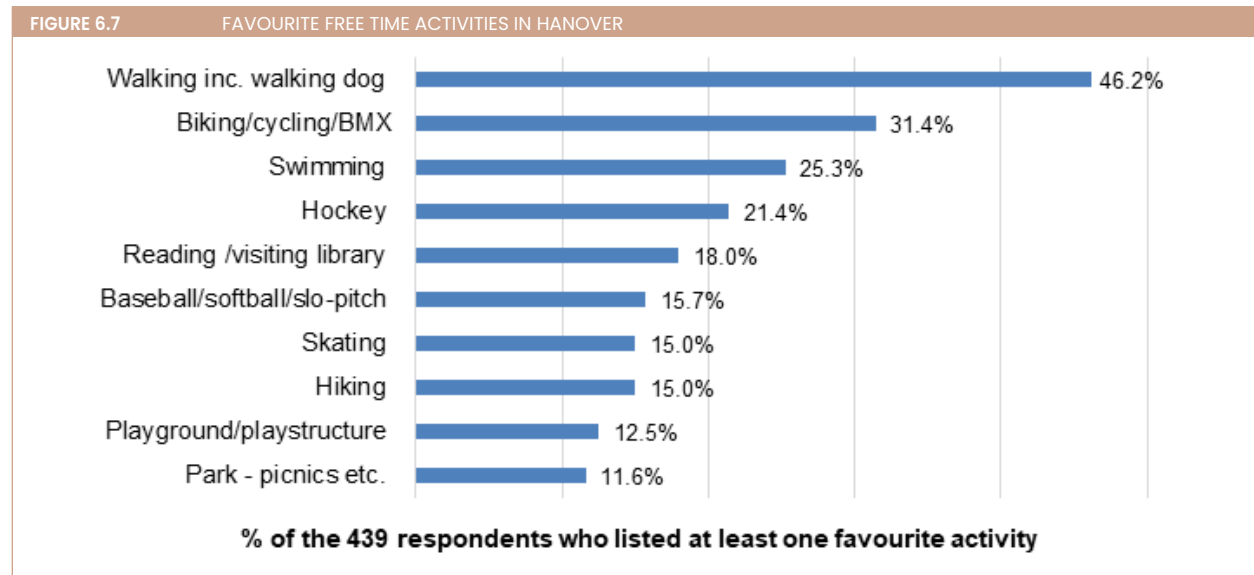


6.2.3 Free Time Activities: Participation and Satisfaction

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about the types of free time activities they currently do or would like to try if they had the opportunity.

Favourite Free Time Activities

Firstly, survey respondents were asked to list up to five free time activities that they currently enjoyed. Just under one-half of the respondents (46.2%) indicated that they enjoyed walking, and almost one-third (31.4%) listed biking. Swimming (25.3%) and hockey (21.4%) or skating (15.0%) were also popular free time activities. There were 57 other activities mentioned, but by fewer than 50 respondents. For a complete list of the activities cited, see Appendix B.

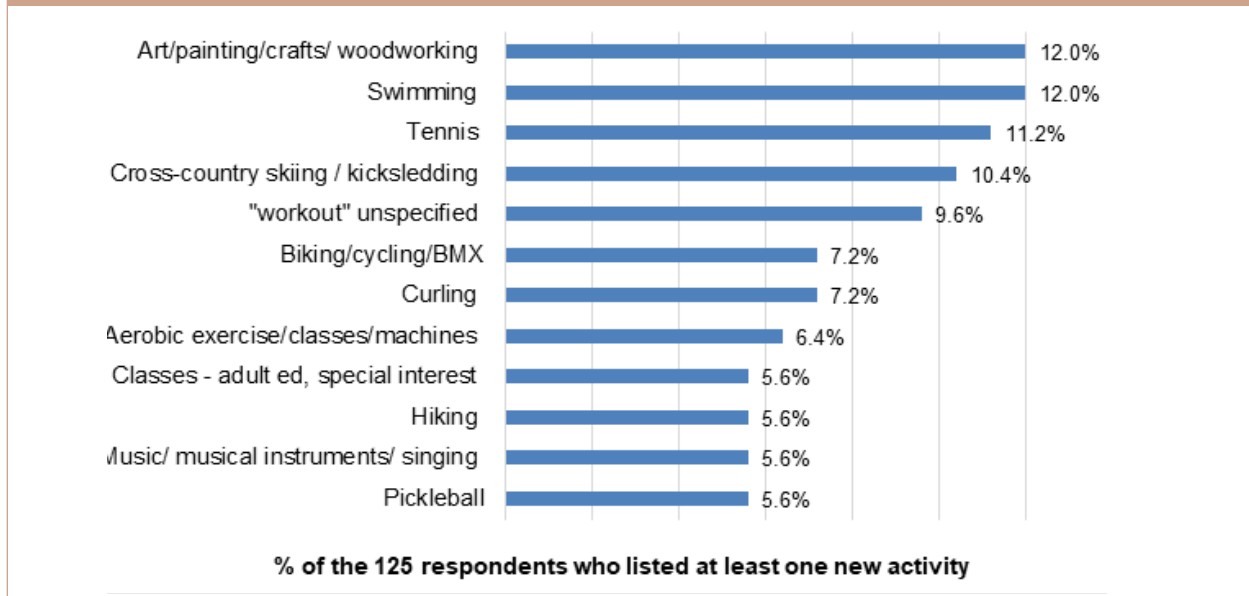


Secondly, survey respondents were asked if there were any free time activities that they were not currently doing, but would like to try. One-third of the respondents (33.2%) stated 'yes', about one-half (48.5%) were uncertain, and only one in five (18.3%) indicated there were no such activities. Interestingly, respondents who were married were less likely to state that there was a new free time activity they would like to try (31.6%) than those who were not married (68.0%).

Survey respondents who expressed an interest in trying new free time activities were then asked to list these activities. A wide range of activities were provided (54 different activities in total), but none were cited by more than 15 respondents. The five most frequently-mentioned activities were crafts, art or woodworking, swimming, tennis, cross-country skiing or kick-sledding, and working out. For a complete list of the activities mentioned, see Appendix B.

FIGURE 6.8

NEW FREE TIME ACTIVITIES RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO TRY IN HANOVER



Thirdly, survey respondents were asked to consider where they engage in free time activities, and to indicate the percentage of these activities that take place in the RM of Hanover, Steinbach, Winnipeg or elsewhere. The highest percentage of free time activities, on average, were done in the RM of Hanover (47.8%), followed by Steinbach (21.3%). A smaller proportion of free time activities on average, were done in Winnipeg (14.4%) or elsewhere (9.5%). For a complete breakdown of the percentage of activities done in each community, see Appendix B.

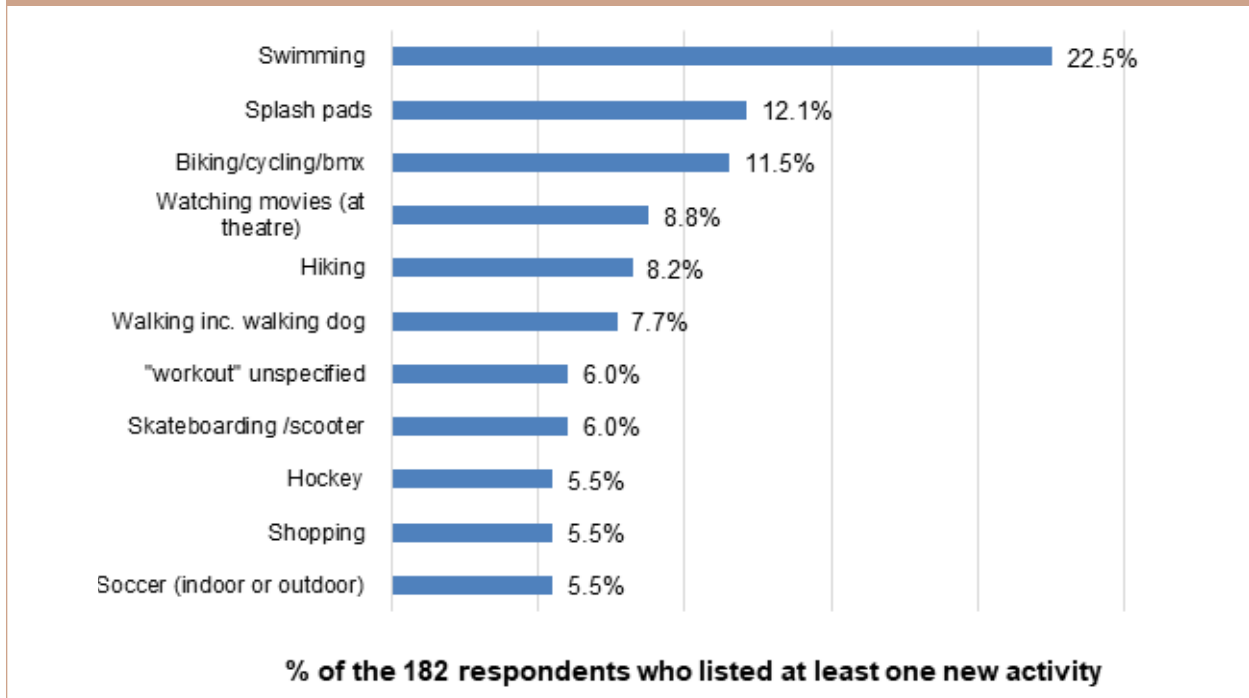
Finally, survey respondents were asked if there were free time activities that they currently do in locations other than the RM of Hanover that they would prefer to do in Hanover if they were available. Almost one-half of the respondents (46.1%) stated 'yes', 26.6% were uncertain, and 27.3% stated there were no such activities. Responses were impacted by the following factors:

- 1. Income:** Higher income respondents (59.1%) were more likely to state there were free time activities they would like to do in the RM than lower income respondents (39.3%).
- 2. Length of residency:** 57.9% of those who had lived in the RM for ten years or less stated that there were free time activities they would like to do in the RM; 35.9% of respondents who had lived in Hanover for at least 30 years answered similarly.
- 3. Place of residency:** Residents of Mitchell were more likely to state there were free time activities they would like to do in the RM (66.7%), while Grunthal (37.6%) or rural (15.8%) residents were less likely.

Survey respondents who expressed an interest in trying new free time activities in the RM of Hanover were then asked to list up to three of these activities. The most frequently-mentioned activity was swimming (22.5%), followed by visiting splash pads (12.1%) and biking (11.5%). Fewer than 20 respondents mentioned any of the other 58 activities listed. For a complete list of the activities mentioned, see Appendix B.

FIGURE 6.9

NEW FREE TIME ACTIVITIES RESPONDENTS WOULD LIKE TO DO IN HANOVER



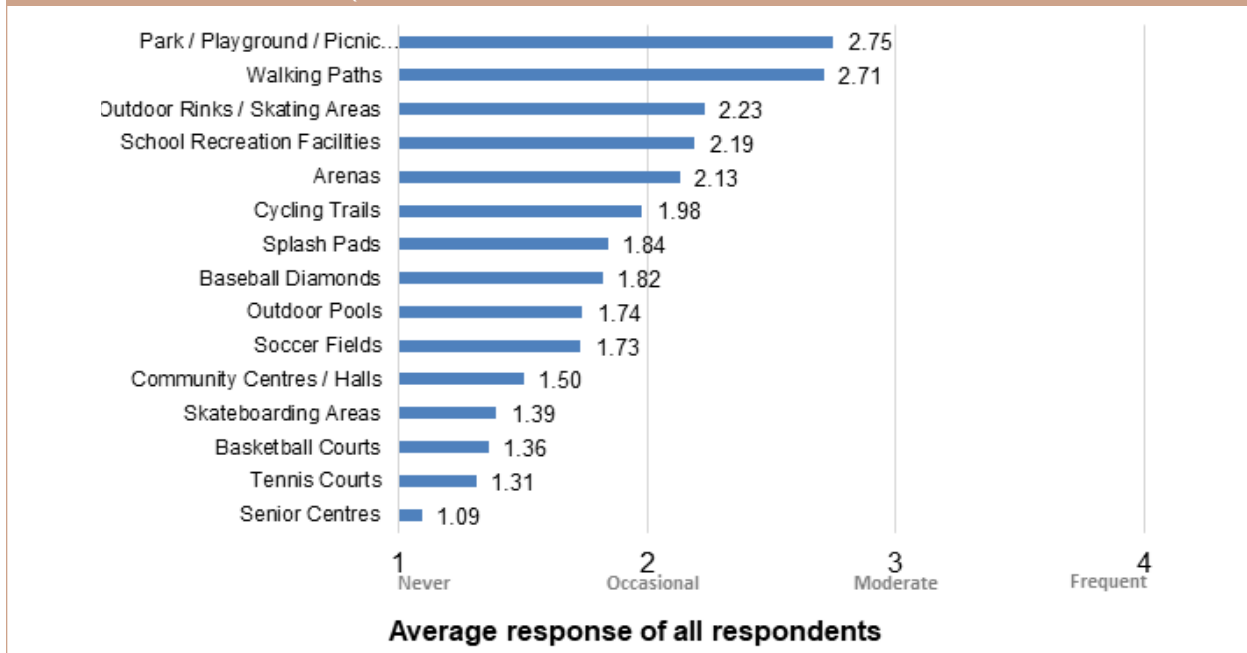
Current Use of Recreation Facilities

The survey included a list of the indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that are currently available in the RM of Hanover. Survey respondents were asked about how frequently they used these facilities: ‘never’, ‘occasionally’, ‘moderately’ or ‘frequently’. For ease of reference, the average responses for each facility was calculated, from 1=never to 4=frequent. For the percentage of all responses, see Appendix B.

On average, over one-half of the survey respondents indicated that they used parks (58.8%) and walking paths (57.2%) moderately or frequently in Hanover; for both amenities, the more frequent users tended to be younger in age, and female. Other frequently used facilities in the RM included outdoor rinks or skating areas, school facilities, and arenas.

FIGURE 6.10

FREQUENCY OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY USE IN HANOVER



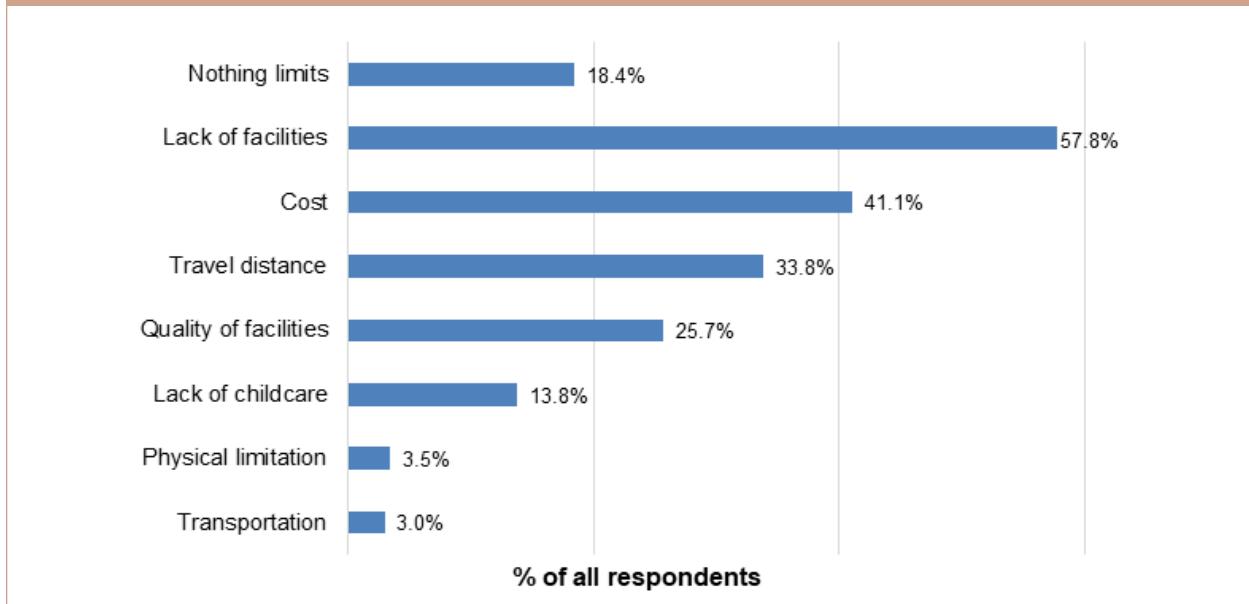
Barriers to Participation

Survey respondents were asked to identify factors that impacted their ability to participate in free time activities in the RM of Hanover: 83.5% of respondents with children living in their households felt that they faced barriers, and 68.9% of respondents without children in their households felt similarly. About one in five respondents (18.4%) indicated that there was nothing preventing them from participating in free time activities.

It is also interesting to note that:

1. Respondents who were over the age of 60 years were more likely to feel that that nothing impeded their participation, compared to younger respondents.
2. Almost three-fifths (57.8%) of respondents indicated that the lack of recreation facilities prevented them from participating in free time activities, and over one-quarter (25.7%) stated that the quality of the facilities was a barrier. Higher income respondents, and those who were employed, were more likely than other respondents to identify the lack and quality of facilities as a barrier, as were those respondents who indicated that they would like to try new free time activities or to do the activities they already participate in closer to home.
3. About two in five respondents (41.1%) felt that cost prevented them from engaging in free time activities. Not surprisingly, negative sentiments over cost were expressed more by lower income (52.8%) than higher income (28.7%) respondents, and more often by respondents who were not employed (57.6%) than employed (37.1%).

FIGURE 6.11 LIMITATIONS TO PARTICIPATING IN FREE TIME ACTIVITIES

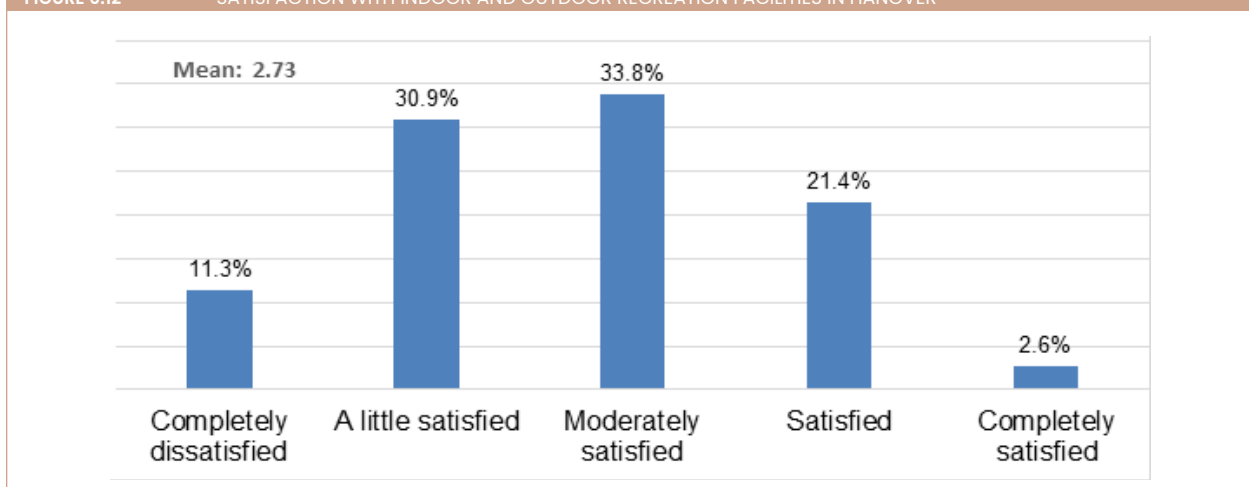


Satisfaction with Recreation Facilities and Opportunities

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about their satisfaction with the supply and quality of current indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover, as well as their satisfaction with the opportunities for free time activities targeting various age groups and interests. For each question, respondents used a five-point scale ranging from 1=completely dissatisfied to 5=completely satisfied. Respondents were also given the option to state that they did not know or have an opinion about these questions, which was more frequently used if a specific age group or area of recreation interest was not relevant to them or their household.

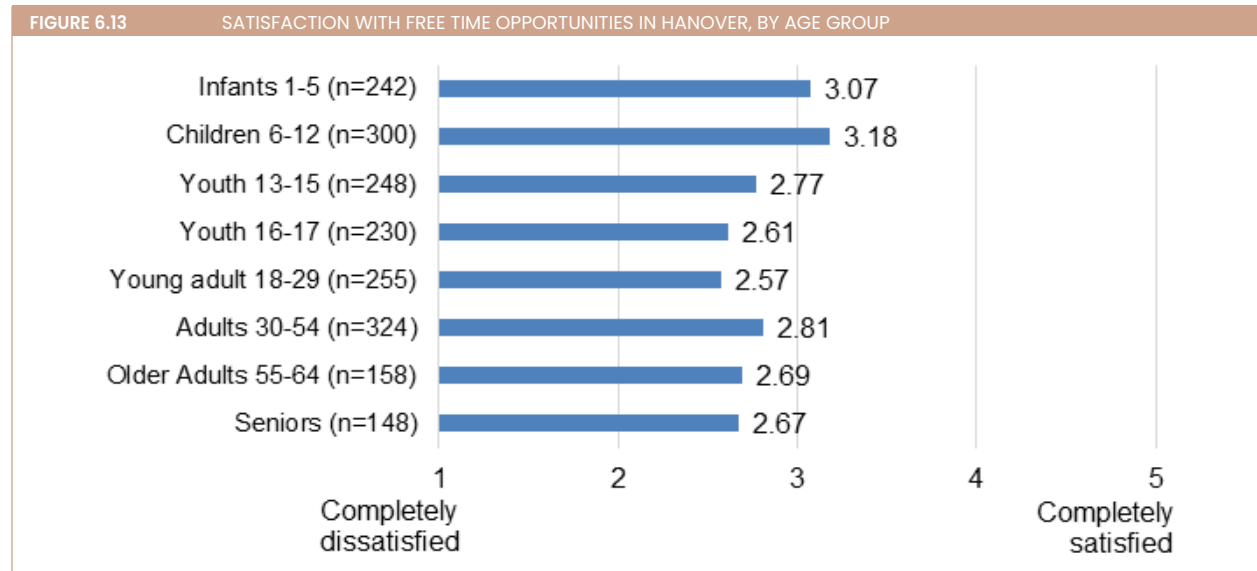
First, survey respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the supply and quality of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover. About one-third of the respondents (33.8%) were moderately satisfied, while about one-quarter (24.0%) were satisfied or completely satisfied. The average rating score was 2.73, or between ‘a little satisfied’ and ‘moderately satisfied’.

FIGURE 6.12 SATISFACTION WITH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES IN HANOVER

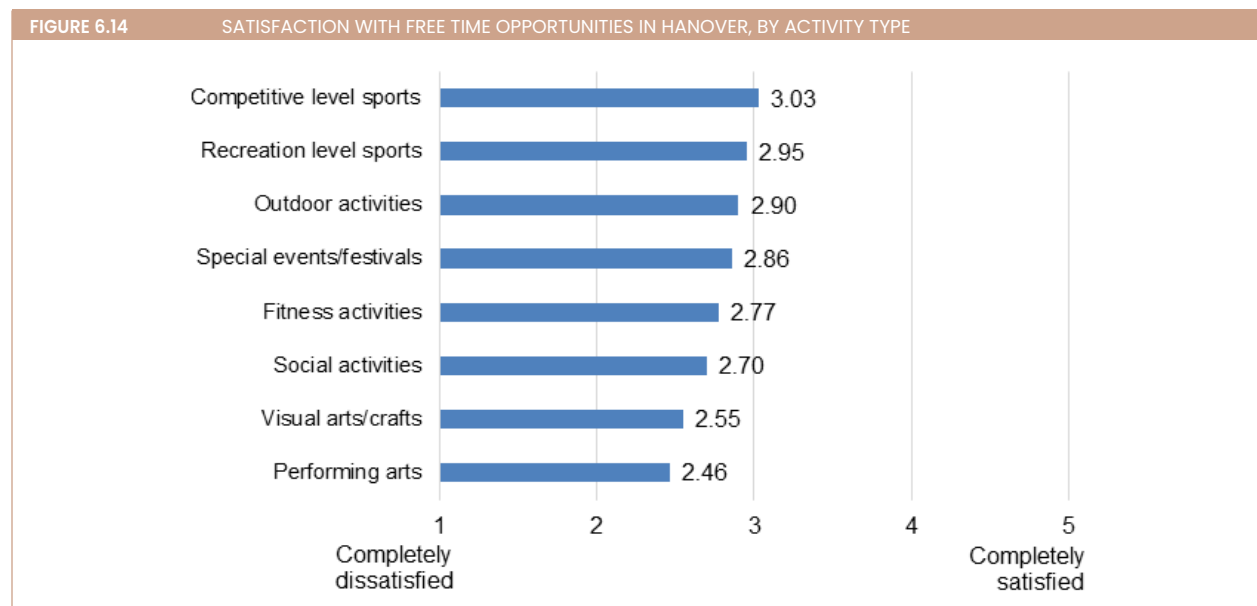


Next, survey respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the current opportunities for free time activities for a variety of activity types and target populations:

1. Recreation opportunities for children and infants ranked highest on average, but the average ratings for the other age groups were also quite stable, ranging from 2.57 for young adults, to 2.81 for adults aged 30–54 years.



2. Among the opportunities to participate in various types of free time activities, the highest ratings of satisfaction were, on average, given for competitive-level sports, followed by recreation-level sports; the lowest average rating was given for visual and performing arts opportunities.

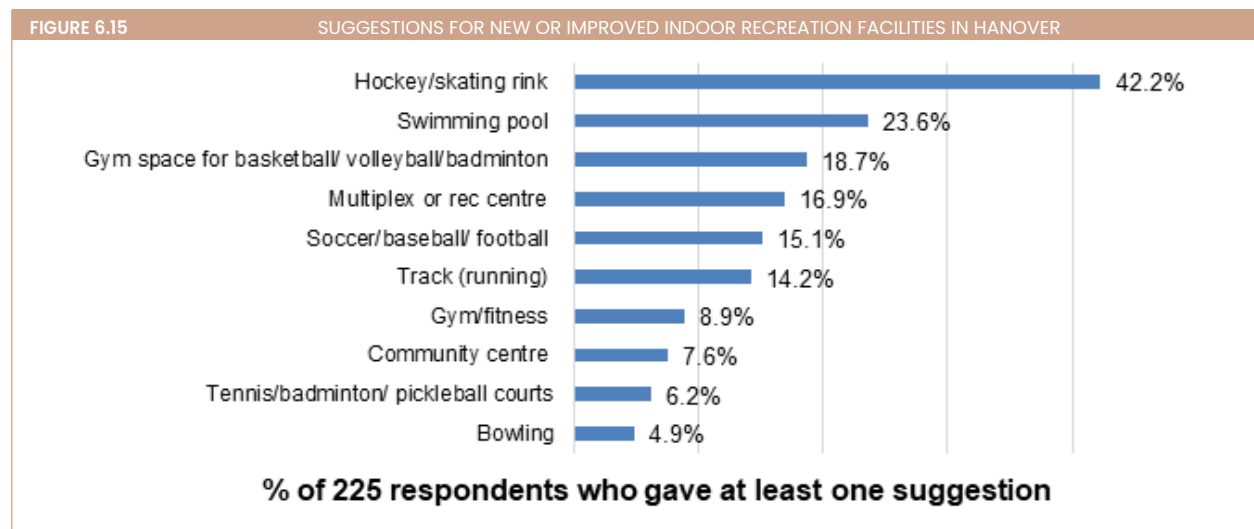


3. For most of the ratings, males tended to rate their satisfaction levels with recreation opportunities in Hanover higher than females. In addition, those with lower household incomes tended to rate their satisfaction with recreation opportunities in the RM higher than respondents with higher household incomes.
4. Place of residence impacted satisfaction levels with recreation opportunities in Hanover in only a few instances, in that:
 - > Satisfaction ratings were highest amongst residents in Kleefeld, Mitchell and the rural areas, and lowest in New Bothwell.
 - > For special events such as festivals and fairs, the highest satisfaction ratings were cited by residents of New Bothwell, Kleefeld and the rural areas. These residents were also more likely than those in Mitchell, Blumenort and Grunthal to cite high satisfaction levels regarding outdoor recreation opportunities.

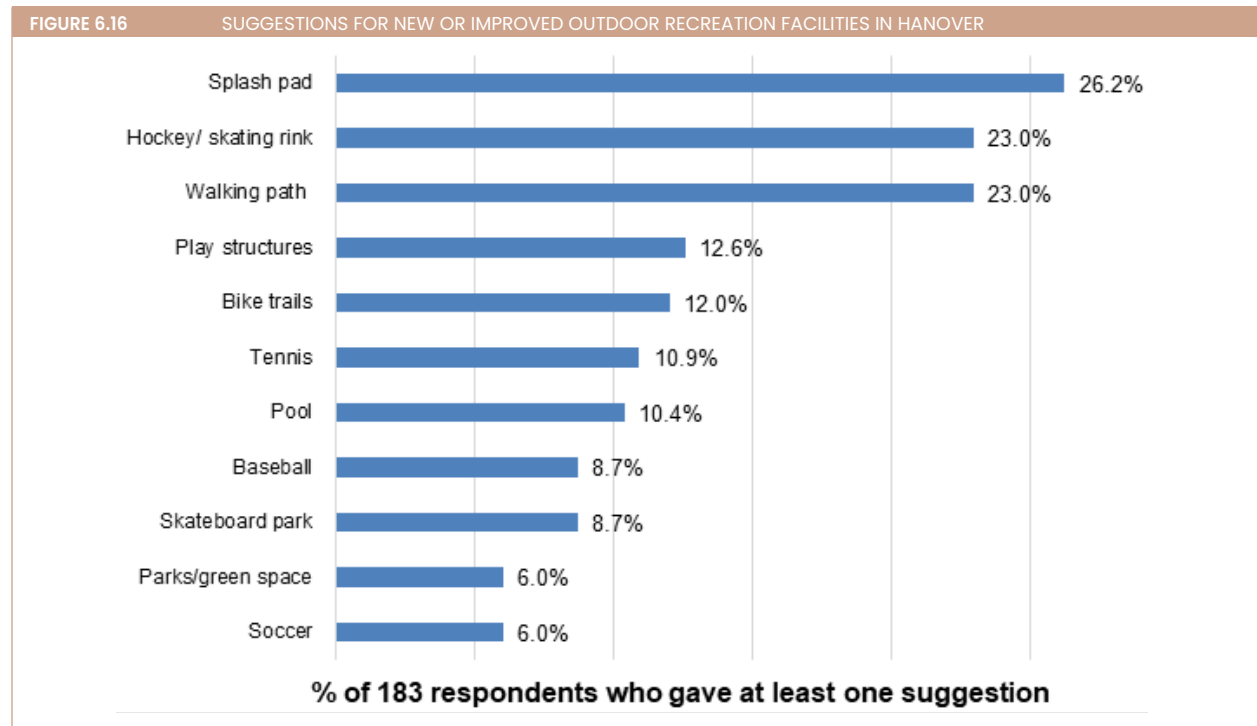
6.2.4 Development of New or Upgraded Recreation Facilities

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about the types of new or upgraded indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that they view are needed in the RM of Hanover.

Firstly, over two-thirds (67.6%) of survey respondents indicated that new or upgraded indoor recreation facilities were needed in the RM of Hanover, compared to 50.0% of respondents from the 2013 RMP survey. These respondents were then asked to list up to three new facilities they would like to see developed. Overall, the most frequently-mentioned indoor facility was a hockey or skating rink (42.2%). About one-quarter of these respondents mentioned an indoor swimming pool (23.6%), and many respondents cited open gym space for activities such as basketball, volleyball or badminton (18.7%). About one in six respondents (16.9%) specifically mentioned the need for a multi-purpose facility. For a complete list of the indoor facilities mentioned, see Appendix B.



Secondly, over one-half (55.6%) of survey respondents stated that new or upgraded outdoor recreation facilities were needed in the RM of Hanover, compared to 38.2% of respondents from the 2013 RMP survey. These respondents were also asked to list up to three new facilities they would like to see developed. Among the most frequently-mentioned were those for younger children, including splash pads (26.2%) and play structures (12.6%). About one-quarter of respondents (23.0%) mentioned outdoor hockey/skating rinks and expanded walking paths (23.0%) and bike trails (12.0%). For a complete list of the outdoor facilities mentioned, see Appendix B.



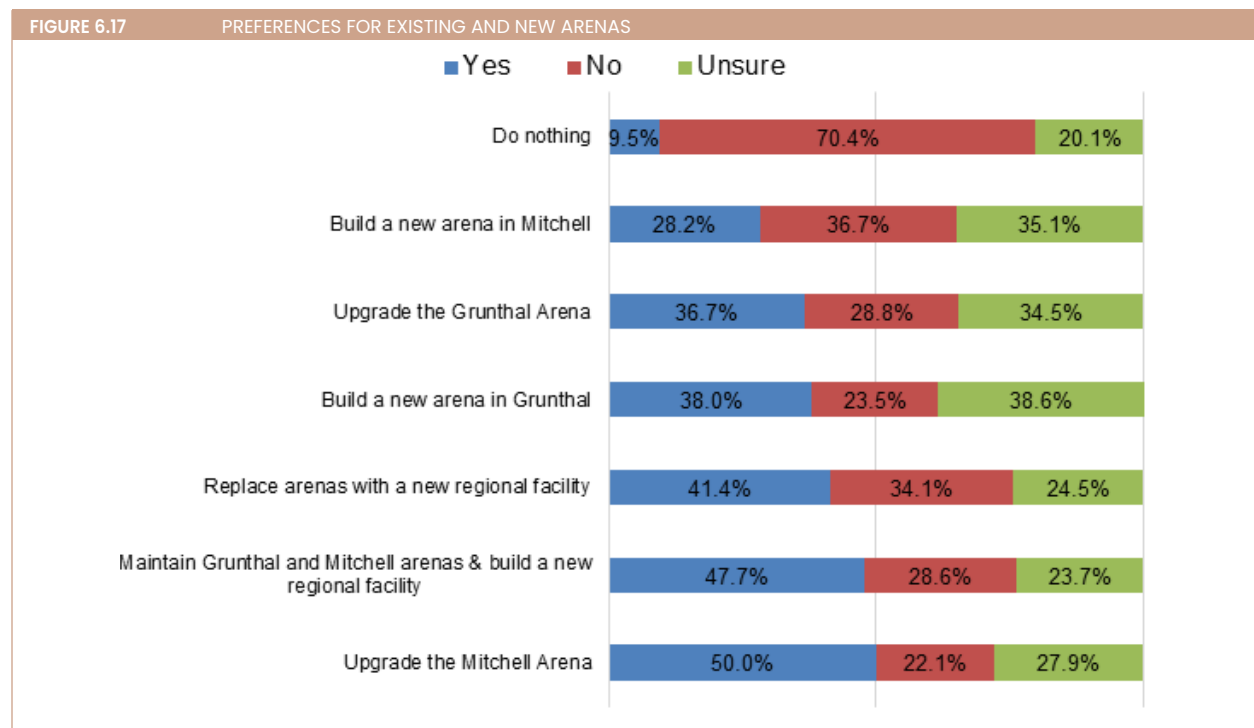
Although the support for new or improved indoor facilities was greater than that for outdoor facilities, the characteristics that impacted their support were similar:

1. Respondents who had rated the quality of life in the RM of Hanover as lower, were less satisfied about the quality and supply of recreation facilities, and the opportunities for free time activities for all age groups and activity types. In fact, those who were less satisfied with opportunities for younger residents and for most activity types were more willing to support a new multi-purpose facility in Mitchell.
2. Respondents were more likely to feel that they faced barriers to participating in free time activities, and also that there were new recreation activities they would like to do or try closer to home.

Other highlights are as follows:

1. Respondents who had used the outdoor rinks were more likely to support the development of both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and those who had used the arenas were more likely than respondents who did not use them to support the development of indoor recreation facilities.
2. Support for the development of new indoor facilities was stronger among higher income households and employed respondents.
3. Support for new indoor facilities was strongest among those living in Grunthal, and lowest among those living in New Bothwell.

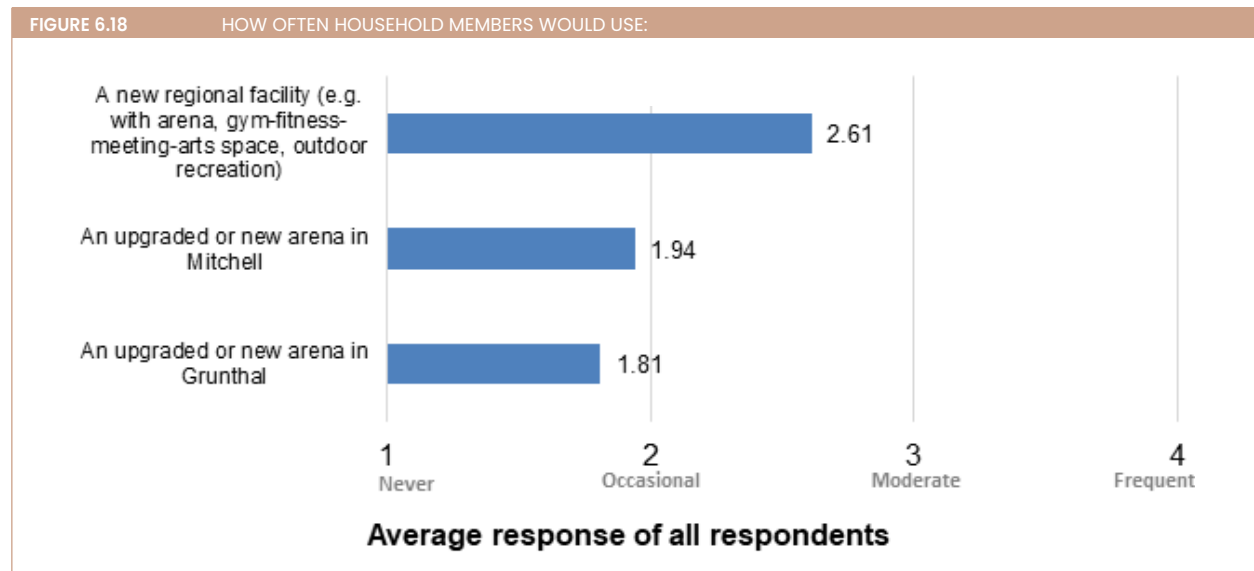
The survey then advised respondents that the indoor arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell were over 40 years old, and asked about options to either upgrade or replace these facilities. Almost all of the respondents felt that some action was needed: only 9.5% of respondents stated that nothing should be done about these arenas, and 70.4% of respondents rejected this option outright.



Just over one-quarter of the respondents (28.2%) supported a new arena in Mitchell, while one-half supported upgrading this arena. In Grunthal, 36.7% supported upgrades to the arena, while 38.0% preferred to see a new arena built. Support for a new regional multi-purpose facility was strong, whether that meant replacing the existing arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell (41.4%) or maintaining them as needed (47.7%) along with developing a new multi-purpose facility. Looking at the other options, however, there is a less consistent pattern.

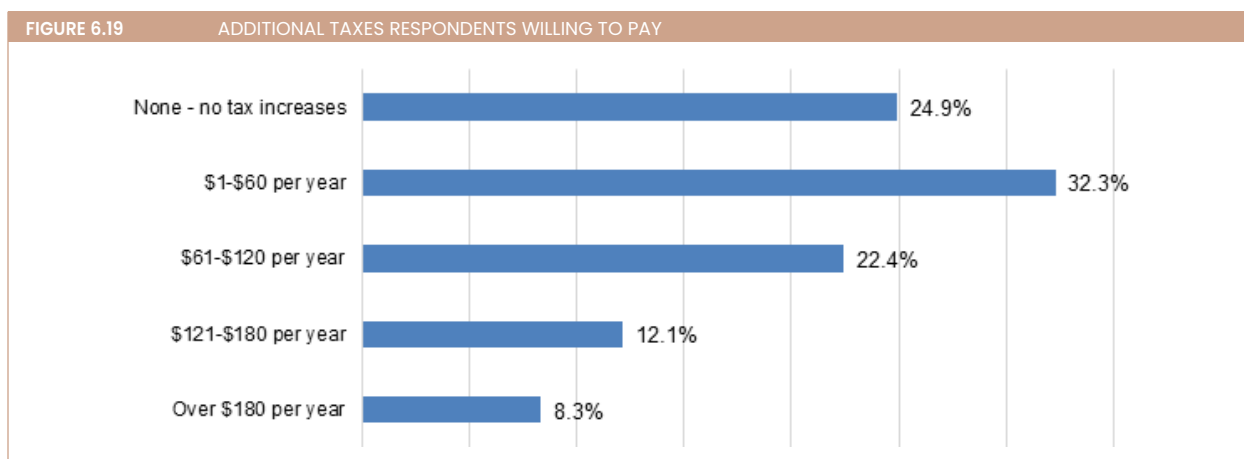
Survey respondents were then asked about their commitment to use new or upgraded facilities, should such developments occur:

1. Respondents indicated that they would use a new multi-purpose facility more frequently, on average, than an upgraded or new arena in either Mitchell or Grunthal. Only 16.0% of respondents reported that they would never use a new multi-purpose facility, compared with 46.4% who would never use an upgraded or new arena in Mitchell, and 55.0% who would never use an upgraded or new arena in Grunthal. The commitment to use the multi-purpose facility was greatest for residents of Grunthal, Mitchell and Kleefeld, and least for residents of New Bothwell and Blumenort.
2. Not surprisingly, the intention to use new or improved recreation facilities was lower among respondents who supported the status quo option.



Since any new or improved recreation facilities could potentially impact the finances of the RM of Hanover, the survey advised respondents that a typical home in the RM of Hanover has an assessed value of \$250,000 and pays about \$140 of the municipal portion of property taxes toward recreation and parks services. Respondents were then asked to identify the maximum increase in annual property taxes they would be willing to pay for new or upgraded recreation facilities:

1. About one-quarter of the respondents (24.9%) would not be willing to pay any more in property taxes for recreational development. However, over one-half of the respondents (54.7%) would be willing to pay up to \$120 more in property taxes a year, and one in five respondents (20.4%) would accept an even higher property tax increase.



2. Longer-term residents were more willing to pay higher property taxes than those who had recently moved to the area.
3. For most of the types of current recreation facilities listed (such as arenas, community centres and walking trails), respondents who used the facilities were more willing to pay higher property taxes than those who did not use the facilities.

6.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION IN HANOVER

The following summative observations from the stakeholder interviews and community online survey will be used to support the review of parks and recreation facility requirements in the RM of Hanover over the next 20 years:

1. In general, the importance of parks and recreation services in the RM of Hanover was reinforced by both interview participants and survey respondents. This has helped to generate a strong sense of 'community pride', and a dedication to collaborate in helping the RM Recreation Department fulfill its mandate, both on a local and broader municipal scale.

Furthermore, the quality of life rating from the community online survey remains favourable at 7.70 out of 10, despite it being slightly lower than the rating from the 2013 RMP survey (7.94). Access to recreation opportunities, when combined with use of parks and trails, represents the most important factor that respondents felt contributed to their quality of life in Hanover.

2. Survey respondents who gave a higher rating of quality of life in the RM were typically satisfied with: the current supply and quality of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; the opportunities for all age groups to engage in free time activities; and their own access to free time activities in the community. They were also interested in wanting to try new recreation activities, and participate in their favourite recreation activities closer to home. Conversely, survey respondents who gave a lower rating of quality of life in Hanover were typically less satisfied about the quality and supply of recreation facilities, and the opportunities for all age groups to engage in free time activities. They also stated that they were prevented in some way from participating in free time activities, and spent a larger percentage of their free time in Winnipeg. They still however, expressed interest in trying new recreation activities, and preferred to participate in their favourite recreation activities closer to home, if such activities were available.

While these responses reinforce the over-arching social, economic and environmental benefits of parks and recreation services, it must still be recognized that, on average:

- > Respondents' satisfaction levels regarding the supply and quality of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities rated between 'a little satisfied' and 'moderately satisfied'.
- > Among the opportunities to participate in various types of free time activities, the highest ratings of satisfaction were given for competitive-level sports, followed by recreation-level sports and visual and performing arts opportunities, respectively.
- > Almost three-fifths of respondents indicated that the lack of recreation facilities prevented them from participating in free time activities, and over one-quarter stated that the quality of the facilities was a barrier.

These responses reflect some of the trends and stakeholder interview themes stated earlier, such as the ongoing focus on competitive-level sports which presents perceived barriers to the use of recreation facilities for other growing pursuits such as casual or drop-in use or individual life sport activities. The importance of parks and trails, which over one-half of the survey respondents indicated were used moderately or frequently in Hanover, also reflects the growing popularity of outdoor appreciation and passive recreation activities as well as active transportation.

Perceived barriers to participating in free time activities were mentioned more often by survey respondents who were dissatisfied with the availability of recreation opportunities (by age and by activity type), and by those who were dissatisfied with the quality and availability of current recreation facilities. These respondents were more likely than those not facing these barriers to support the development of new indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and were more willing to pay more property taxes to facilitate such developments. It is also acknowledged that respondents who cited cost as a barrier were less likely to be satisfied with the quality and supply of recreation facilities in Hanover, but equally less supportive of developing – and paying more property taxes for – new recreation facilities.

3. Residents of Grunthal and those in the rural area spent the highest percentage of their free time in Hanover, whereas residents of Mitchell and New Bothwell spent the lowest percentage. In further contrast, of the free time spent in Steinbach, residents of Blumenort, Kleefeld and Mitchell spent the highest proportion and residents of Grunthal, the least. But it appears that place of residence impacted satisfaction levels with recreation opportunities in Hanover in only a few instances. Though not stated explicitly, it could be reasonably assumed that the strength of the inter-community partnerships with the RM's Recreation Department (i.e. the cross-over accommodations, wherein RM residents are encouraged to participate in programs, regardless of residency; the more strategic accommodations to address in-season community-to-community roster needs) could have a role to play here.

4. The aspirational feedback from the stakeholder interviews regarding the need for new or upgraded indoor and outdoor recreation facilities was also expressed by a majority of survey respondents as well as by a higher percentage of respondents, compared to the 2013 RMP survey:
 - > The most frequently-mentioned indoor facility was a hockey or skating rink, followed by a swimming pool, open gym space, and a multi-purpose facility, respectively.
 - > The most frequently-mentioned outdoor facility was splash pads, followed by play structures, outdoor hockey/skating rinks, and expanded walking paths and bike trails, respectively.
5. Just over one-quarter of the survey respondents supported a new arena in Mitchell, while one-half supported upgrading this arena. In Grunthal, just over one-third supported upgrades to the arena, while a near equal ratio preferred to see a new arena built. Respondents who had used the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas moderately or frequently were more likely to support either their replacements or upgrades, and were more willing to pay more property taxes to facilitate such developments. Conversely, respondents were more likely to support, or to be undecided about, the status quo option about the existing arenas if they were less frequent users of either facility.
6. Whereas the feedback received from the stakeholder interviews regarding the need for a new regional facility can be categorized as 'mixed', the survey responses indicated a strong support for such a facility, whether that meant replacing the existing arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell or maintaining them as needed along with developing a new multi-purpose facility. Survey respondents indicated however, that they would use a new multi-purpose facility more frequently, on average, than an upgraded or new arena in either Mitchell or Grunthal.

Intentions to use both arenas and a new multi-purpose facility were strongest for: residents of Grunthal, Mitchell and Kleefeld (and weakest for residents of New Bothwell and Blumenort); arena and outdoor rink users; those who supported the development of indoor recreation facilities; and those who were less satisfied with the supply and quality of recreation facilities in Hanover. In fact, those who were less satisfied with opportunities for younger residents and for most activity types were more willing to support a new multi-purpose facility in Mitchell.
7. Over one-half of the respondents would be willing to pay up to \$120 more in property taxes a year, and one in five respondents would accept an even higher property tax increase to support the development of new or upgraded indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. For most of the types of current recreation facilities listed (such as arenas, community centres and walking trails), respondents who used the facilities were more willing to pay higher property taxes than those who did not use the facilities.
8. In summary, as shown in Table 6.1, the stakeholder interviews and community survey responses identified a diverse wish list of new, improved, or expanded indoor and outdoor recreation facility needs in the RM.

TABLE 6.1 RECREATION FACILITY WISH LIST

Indoor Facility Preferences	Outdoor Facility Preferences
1. Replace Indoor Arena in Grunthal	1. Expand Grunthal Pool Swim Tank
2. Upgrade Indoor Arena in Mitchell	2. Upgrade Grunthal Pool Change Rooms
3. New Regional Multiplex	3. New Soccer Pitches (Grunthal/Blumenort)
4. New Day Care Space	4. New Baseball Diamond Lighting (Blumenort)
5. New Blumenort Community Centre	5. Expand Multi-Use Pathways and Trails
6. Upgrade Community Centres in Kleefeld and New Bothwell	6. Expand Parks, Playgrounds, and Play Structures
7. Improve Joint Use Agreement (HSD)	7. New Splash Pad(s)
8. New Indoor Swimming Pool	8. New Outdoor Hockey / Public Skating Area
9. New Indoor Fieldhouse (Field Sports)	9. New Hard Court Areas (Basketball/Tennis)
10. New Walking Track	



Parks and Recreation Facility Analysis

7.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS

This section analyzes the parks and recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover. It is based on the needs expressed by Hanover stakeholders and residents in relation to current and future recreation facility requirements in the community as well as quantitative information regarding demographics in the RM of Hanover and recreation trends, both nationally and locally. As such, it focuses on a series of quantifiers and qualifiers that should be considered before capital investments in new or existing facilities are made to ensure that those investments are viable and aligned with the overall principles for recreation delivery within the RM.

7.1 FACTORS AFFECTING RECREATION DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS

As outlined below, multiple factors are influencing considerations surrounding the development of – or improvements to – parks and recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover.

- 1. Local Focus:** The proximity to, and availability of, major recreation facilities, parks and programs in the larger urban centres of Steinbach and Winnipeg has less of a role in recreation planning decisions in Hanover. According to the community survey results, close to 50% of respondents' current recreation regimen is being undertaken in the RM. Yet almost three-fifths (57.8%) of respondents indicated that the lack of recreation facilities prevented them from participating in free time activities, and over one-quarter (25.7%) stated that the quality of the facilities was a barrier. Granted, some recreation participation in Steinbach, Winnipeg, and other centres can be explained by these responses. But the extent to which local recreation services are being used by RM residents, coupled with concerns over the supply and quality of these resources, is important to recognize.
- 2. Critical Mass:** Economic performance and cost recovery objectives rely heavily on major facilities operating at or near capacity. Facilities like arenas, pools, sports fields, fitness centres and gyms require a critical mass of participants large enough to achieve appropriate cost recovery. The number of users and uses affects the long-term viability and sustainability of the facility. This is also true in relation to the potential tax burden placed on local residents. As such, municipalities must allocate limited economic resources in setting priorities about investing in recreation development based on an assessment of which services will provide the greatest community benefit, within the available financial resources.

Having stated this, population trends in Hanover suggest future growth and development similar to current rates, which will continue to add pressure on the local parks and recreation services network. As shown earlier on Table 6.1, the aspirational feedback from the stakeholder interviews and survey responses regarding the support for new or upgraded indoor (67.6%) and outdoor (55.6%) parks and recreation facilities reinforces this point; and as further reflected by the stakeholder interviews, such pressures can also present opportunities.

- 3. Community Pride:** The RM of Hanover has five settlement centres. Typically, this population configuration compels residents to identify primarily with their community rather than their municipality. Granted, there were elements of this theme expressed during the stakeholder interviews, which can be a challenge to overcome. However, the need for the RM of Hanover to transition to a more regional outlook was equally heard during these

interviews. Evidence of this is already observed in the practical programming accommodations that are currently in effect community-to-community. And when one also considers that a commute to-from these settlement centres ranges from ten-to-twenty minutes on a Provincial highway network, then perhaps it can be reasonably presumed that such insular perspectives will continue to gradually change.

4. Willingness to Pay, Capital Costs, and Partnerships: Willingness to pay for new and improved parks and recreation facilities is a critical ingredient for success. Over one-half of community survey respondents (54.7%) would be willing to pay up to \$120 more in property taxes a year, and one in five respondents (20.4%) would accept an even higher property tax increase. This suggests there may be some capacity to increase recreation spending in the RM of Hanover. However, as stated earlier, the reality of maintaining infrastructure, and the high cost to replace existing facilities has prompted governments to also rely on partnerships with not-for-profit organizations, schools, volunteers and the private sector to both supplement current operations and to fund future projects. This reality reflects the challenge facing the RM of Hanover, namely, that it is compelled to assess which services will provide the greatest benefit for the overall community.

5. Programs and Leadership: Parks and recreation facility development represents only one part of an overall strategy to provide community recreation services. A 'build it and they will come' strategy is rarely successful. A combination of positive customer service, engaged / skilled leadership, safe, comfortable and inviting spaces, and proactive marketing and communication strategies are all factors affecting recreation participation and facility use. As noted during the stakeholder interviews, the important role that parks and recreation services fulfills in the RM of Hanover has helped to generate a strong sense of community-to-community dedication to help the RM Recreation Department lead in fulfilling its mandate, both on a local and broader municipal scale.

7.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RECREATION FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

When contemplating the development of parks and recreation facilities where public funds are utilized, it is critical that efforts be made to ensure that these services focus on providing public good and meet the broadest range of community needs possible in an accessible, affordable and sustainable manner. The following principles have informed this section of the report and those that follow:

1. The development of new and/or improved parks and recreation facilities will emphasize both accessibility and affordability.
2. Long-term economic viability and sustainability in the development of new and/or improved parks and recreation facilities will be facilitated through a planning process that is responsive to evolving recreation trends, user group, and/or inter-generational needs.
3. Partnerships will be nurtured as a critical tool in ensuring the development of new and/or improved parks and recreation facilities meet the broadest range of community needs possible.
4. The planning for new and/or improved parks and recreation facilities will focus on achieving the greatest degree of flexibility and diversity of use and capitalize on economies of scale to create a more dynamic recreation experience.
5. Before new recreation facility development is contemplated, existing facilities of a similar nature will be used to their capacity.

7.3 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS

1. New Indoor Swimming Pool

The development of an indoor pool in the RM of Hanover is impractical at this time. Beyond the high capital and operating costs associated with indoor pool facilities, the RM's current population size would not generate the demand and usage level necessary to rationalize the public benefit or business case. Furthermore, there are pool facilities in Steinbach and Winnipeg in close proximity, which are available to RM residents.

However, the 20-year growth and development projections in the Development Plan will put added pressures on recreation facility resources and needs in the RM. As such, continued monitoring of RM growth, in conjunction with the regional supply of indoor pools, local demand as well as capital and operating cost factors over the medium-to-long-term, will be required. More specifically, the need for an indoor pool in Hanover should be formally re-evaluated when the RM's population reaches 25,000 people; it is apparent that current growth estimates are continuing on course; and factors such as the regional supply of indoor pool facilities at that time – and local demand for and capacity to finance the construction and operation of an indoor pool over the long-term – so dictate.

2. Replace Grunthal Arena and Upgrade Mitchell Arena

1. Context

As cited earlier, a noteworthy outcome from the stakeholder interviews and community survey regarded the need for an upgrade or replacement strategy focusing on the arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell. Common concerns expressed about both facilities were that they are operating past their expected life expectancy, and continuing to struggle to meet basic user and amenity needs and/or modern standards:

- > **Grunthal Arena:** Construction of the arena began in 1967; the facility opened in 1968. The current building is comprised of three major portions, the original 1967 construction which comprises the general rink area (ice pad dimensions of 27.4 m. x 54.9 m.), the lobby area that connects into the south wall of the rink area, and the dressing room addition that connects into the east wall of the rink area. The arena is not sprinklered.

Public and stakeholder concerns about the Grunthal Arena have focused on the following: the dressing rooms are inadequate in terms of number, size, and accessibility for male and female participants; the main floor lobby is small and its amenities are outdated; the ice pad is undersized which is a disadvantage when local participants (i.e. minor hockey, figure skating) compete on larger ice surfaces elsewhere; the undersized ice surface also makes the use of mini rinks (as mandated by Hockey Canada) less effective; the cooling pipes do not extend across the full ice pad width which affects ice quality; there is insufficient storage; and due to the above issues, the Grunthal Skating Club in particular cannot host figure skating tournaments at the facility.

- > **Mitchell Arena:** The Mitchell Arena is a cinder block facility built in 1978. It has a 26.2 m. x 57.9 m. ice surface and seating for approximately 600 spectators. Originally, the facility had a natural ice surface, and the dressing rooms were located in what is now the lobby / viewing area. It currently has a concrete ice pad with artificial ice, lower level dressing rooms, and a female dressing room on the east side of the facility adjacent to the main entrance.

Public and stakeholder issues about the Mitchell Arena have focused on the following: the dressing rooms are inadequate in terms of number, size, and accessibility for male and female participants; the main floor lobby is small and its amenities are outdated; the ice plant is old and needs to be replaced; there is insufficient storage; and there should be a direct link to the adjacent Mitchell Seniors Centre to enhance inter-facility recreation and leisure programming opportunities.

Such concerns with both facilities should not be surprising, as they had been raised previously: first, in the 2013 RMP; and secondly, as part of a Recreation Facility Feasibility Study in 2017 (2017 study) which recommended the complete redevelopment of the Grunthal Arena as well as a major renovation and expansion of the Mitchell Arena. These reports as well as more recent facility assessments, RM budget and arena user data, and other information on facility trends are referenced in the discussion that follows.

(A) Grunthal Arena

A condition assessment of Grunthal arena was undertaken during the 2017 study. It concluded that:

- > The condition of the lobby area, ice plant room and vestibule, and the ice re-surfacer rooms are in immediate need of major upgrading, whereas the rink and dressing room portions require upgrades over a longer-term horizon.
- > Structurally, resurfacing of the deteriorated top surface of the slab near the southeast exit door within the rink area and in the ice re-surfacer area should be completed before these small zones become a trip hazard. Furthermore, the building envelope and roofing in the dressing room area are deteriorated and do not adequately prevent water infiltration.
- > Architecturally, the existing building is non-conforming to the current Building Code on multiple fronts, such as barrier-free accessibility and environmental separation performance.

The condition assessment informed the recommendation in the 2017 study that a complete redevelopment of the Grunthal arena was needed (at a capital cost of \$11.0M in 2016 dollars), as renovating, upgrading, or re-purposing the existing facility to current Building Code standards would be cost-prohibitive.

Pursuant to the 2017 study, the Community Development Branch of Manitoba Municipal Relations undertook a 'Facility Consultation' assessment of Grunthal Arena in 2019, as the RM was considering redeveloping the facility at that time. The observations in this report were as follows:

- > The existing ice shed appears to be in relatively good condition. Consideration should be given to alternate uses, reducing the size of the building as may be required, or demising the space. All repairs recommended are provided if the community feels the existing ice pad has value as an ice sheet, or some other use (e.g. court-sports, skateboard park).
- > The existing Zamboni room requires upgrading for fire rating. If a new building is constructed, and this ice shed is kept as an ice surface, consider designing the new Zamboni room nearer to the existing ice shed door.
- > The current ice plant requires modification to the wall separating the ice plant from the lobby. A mass loaded vinyl sheet could be added to the wall to reduce sound transmission.
- > The chiller is past its expected service life. A new facility could be built with a dual purpose ice plant to replace

the aging unit, if two ice sheets are preferred.

- > The dressing room addition appears to have issues related to the building envelope, more pronounced over the areas where the block wall is not insulated. While this may not be a repair worth investigating, if the building is seen to still have usefulness, an inspection of the envelope, and insulation through the attic, as well as installing insulation on the face of the block wall as per the front half may be in order.
- > Plumbing vents and penetrations on the change room addition appear to use an inappropriate 'shingle' neoprene flashing, which should be replaced with proper steel roof type flashing.
- > There are a few holes in the concrete block, which has allowed the block fill to escape. These holes should be refilled with a blowing machine, and patched.
- > Despite the age of the facility, only the areas affected by proposed renovation or upgrade works would be required to meet current Building Code standards.

(B) Mitchell Arena

A condition assessment of Mitchell arena was not conducted during the 2017 study. The stakeholder engagement and background assessment work informed the recommendation to renovate and expand the facility. The proposed works focused on accessibility upgrades; encapsulating the mechanical room with a new lobby and modern dressing rooms; enhancing connectivity with the adjacent Mitchell Senior Centre; and adding multi-purpose room and daycare space (at a capital cost of \$11.0M in 2016 dollars).

In 2019, the Community Development Branch of Manitoba Municipal Relations also undertook a 'Facility Consultation' assessment of Mitchell Arena, as the RM was considering implementing the recommendations from the 2017 study. The observations in this report were as follows:

- > Connecting the arena and senior centre should be explored further prior to any other design work, given the potential capital cost and/or other risks.
- > Consider the costs associated with moving the ice plant to a separate building (possibly on the west side), as encapsulating the mechanical room with a new lobby and dressing rooms may be detrimental at a later date when the plant may need replacement with a 'skid' unit that needs to be brought in as one, factory assembled piece.
- > When replacing the unit heater in the viewing area, install a high efficiency furnace (horizontal) with suitable ducting to circulate the warm air, and ensure the appliance has the appropriate amounts of combustion air available.
- > Install new stair treads, improve the exhaust fan in the canteen area, upgrade the washrooms (e.g. metal toilet partitions, wash basins, faucets), ensure the dressing room shower controls have timed, self-mixing valves, and install a universal washroom in the main floor entry area to improve accessibility.
- > The chiller and Zamboni / service room are past their expected service life, and should be replaced. Furthermore, the need to recoat the arena roof should be confirmed.

In light of the 2017 study and the 2019 assessments of both arenas, the RM of Hanover concluded that further work was needed to mitigate the uncertainties and risks associated with redeveloping the Grunthal arena and upgrading the Mitchell arena.

2. Analysis

(A) Quantitative

In communities across Canada, the average supply of indoor arenas is approximately 1 / 20,000 population. This level of supply should not be viewed as a standard but rather, the number of arenas provided to satisfy local public demand on a 'reasonable', economic basis. Until recently, community arenas were almost exclusively provided by the public sector and were a reflection of the importance placed on hockey and the contribution it has made to Canadian cultural values. Almost every town across the country built indoor arenas over the past forty to fifty years to accommodate hockey's popularity. The present challenge is to determine when the development of additional indoor arena capacity is warranted and justified, based on cost, benefit, and demand.

As shown below on Table 7.1, the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas serve 15,733 people in the RM of Hanover. This translates into a supply of 1 / 7,867 people. By comparison, communities serving populations between 10,000-15,000 people, such as in Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, and Selkirk each have two arenas as well (or 1 / 7,500 people), while the City of Winnipeg has 46 indoor rinks (or 1 / 15,331 people). If the City of Winnipeg built arenas to a 1 / 7,867 population ratio to mirror Hanover's supply ratio, it would have almost 90 indoor sheets of ice.

TABLE 7.1 COMPARATIVE INDOOR ARENA SUPPLY

Community	Population	No. of Indoor Arenas	Arenas / Population
RM of Hanover	15,733	2	1 / 7,867
RM of La Broquerie	6,076	1	1 / 6,076
RM of Ste. Anne	5,000	2	1 / 2,500
RM of Ritchot	6,700	3	1 / 2,233
RM of Macdonald	7,162	3	1 / 2,387
RM of Beausejour	9,257	2	1, 4,268
City of Steinbach	15,800	2	1/ 7,900
City of Selkirk	10,300	2	1 / 5,150
City of Winnipeg	705,000	46	1 / 15,331
Canada (urban / rural)	37,000,000	3,300	1 / 11,200

(B) Financial

In municipalities across Canada, the industry standard for allocating annual public subsidies to fund arena operations is typically between 30-40% of a facility's operating costs. Table 7.2 below shows the five-year average of the annual operating and capital cost contributions of the RM of Hanover to support the Grunthal arena (\$33,537) and Mitchell arena (\$121,320).

TABLE 7.2 AVERAGE ARENA OPERATING AND CAPITAL MUNICIPAL GRANTS (2015-2019)

Arena	Average Base Grant (\$)	Average Capital Grant (\$)	Total (\$)
Grunthal	27,337	6,200	33,537
Mitchell	121,320	-	121,320
Total:	148,657	6,200	154,857

In addition, Table 7.3 below shows the 2019 operating revenues and expenses for both facilities.

TABLE 7.3 ARENA OPERATING REVENUES AND COSTS (2019)

Arena	Operating Revenues (\$)	Operating Costs (\$)	Net (\$)
Grunthal	88,038	136,585	(48,547)
Mitchell	145,910	226,133	(80,223)
Total:	233,948	362,718	(128,770)

Based on the information in Table 7.2 and Table 7.3:

- > The five-year average municipal base grant contribution of \$27,337 for the Grunthal arena represents 20% of its five-year average operating costs, which is below municipal standards in Canada.
- > The five-year average municipal base grant contribution of \$121,320 for the Mitchell arena represents 54% of its five-year operating costs, which exceeds Canadian municipal standards.

(C) Arena Capacity and Use

The capacity and use of a facility or service is one metric that assists in determining the actual market demand for the facility. To define the functional capacity of an arena depends on factors that include the size of the available space, regulations and standards regarding the activity, design of the facility, length and structure of the game, length of the season, climate, realistic availability of potential participants, and other factors that might limit or expand potential participation.

For the purpose of this Study, the functional capacity of an arena is defined by the time during which a majority of participants are available and likely to participate both on a daily and seasonal basis, often described as ‘prime time’. In general terms this would theoretically involve participation between 8:00 AM and 11:00 PM on weekends, and 4:00 PM and 11:00 PM on weekdays. Peak seasonal use is from mid-September through to mid-March. Daytime use and the ‘shoulder season’ are the designated ‘non-prime times’.

In calculating actual capacity, an allowance should be made for reset or ice floods between uses. Most arena operators set aside fifteen minutes between uses, so if there are six hours of weekday prime time, there are actually five time slots available for use. This is further summarized below:

Weekdays:	4:00 PM-11:00 PM (7 hours / day)	=	6 slots x 5 days = 30 slots
Weekends:	8:00 AM-11:00 PM (15 hours / day)	=	12 slots x 2 days = 24 slots
			Total = 54 slots / week
Season:	September 14, 2019 to March 15, 2020:		Total: 26 weeks
Prime Time:	54 slots / week X 26 weeks:		Total: 1,404 hours

Both the Grunthal arena and Mitchell arena open at 12 noon on Sundays. It is acknowledged that throughout the season, exceptions are made to this policy to accommodate tournaments and special events. Still, the net effect is that the capacity of both facilities is reduced by three time slots per week over a 26 week season (or 78 total hours), which reduces the overall capacity to 1,326 hours at both facilities.

Table 7.4 below shows the 2019 actual and potential revenues at each arena, based on user bookings and their respective hourly rental rates. The potential revenues in particular, are based on use at each facility up to their 100% theoretical capacity of 1,404 hours.

TABLE 7.4 ARENA CAPACITY AND PERCENTAGE OF USE AND REVENUES (2019-2020)

Arena:	Capacity Hours	Hours Sold / Used	% Capacity	Potential Revenue (\$)	Actual Revenue (\$)	Net (\$)
Grunthal:						
Theoretical Prime Time	1,404	840	59.8%	86,570		(18,681)
Defined Prime Time	1,326	840	63.3%		67,889	
Mitchell:						
Theoretical Prime Time	1,404	977	69.5%	155,000		(40,579)
Defined Prime Time	1,326	977	73.7%		114,421	

Based on available usage data, Table 7.4 demonstrates that there are potential capacity enhancement and additional revenue generating opportunities at both arenas.

(D) Demand and Participation

Demand and participation are also key elements that influence the provision and functional operation of arena facilities. Table 7.4 and Table 7.5 below show available ice use data for the Grunthal arena (2014-2020) and Mitchell arena (2019-2020), respectively.

TABLE 7.5 GRUNTHAL ARENA PRIME TIME ICE USE (2014-2020)

Division ¹	Total Hours	Average / Year	% Use (2014-2020)	Total Hours (2019-2020)
Minor Hockey	2,529	422	50.9%	448
Skating Club	701	117	14.1%	77
Private Rentals	695	116	13.9%	112
Ringette	572	95	11.5%	65
Red Wing Juniors	231	39	4.7%	46
Red Wing Seniors	203	34	4.1%	37
Women's Recreation League	35	6	0.7%	4
Total:	4,966	829	100%	840

¹ It is acknowledged that the HSD used a total of 299 hours of ice time at Grunthal arena from 2014-2020, representing an average of 50 hours per year. However, HSD's arena use was during non-prime time periods, and has been excluded from Table 7.5 for this reason.

TABLE 7.6 MITCHELL ARENA PRIME TIME ICE USE (2019-2020)

Division	Total Hours	% Use
Minor Hockey	437	44.7%
Adult Leagues	289	29.5%
Skate K-4 / Skate 5-9	85	8.7%
Eastman Ringette	42	4.3%
U-18 Female	37	3.8%
Private Rentals	32	3.3%
Recreational Group 1	20	2.1%
Recreational Group 2	20	2.1%
Public Skating	15	1.5%
Total:	977	100%



Table 7.7 shows available indoor ice registrant data for the Grunthal arena and Mitchell arena.

TABLE 7.7 INDOOR ICE USER REGISTRANTS – RM OF HANOVER

Arena / Division	Season						Average
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Grunthal Arena							
GRUNTHAL MINOR HOCKEY							
U7	19	25	18	14	10		18
U9	27	29	24	31	20		26
U11	17	16	26	29	28		23
U13	21	17	17	13	23		18
U15	11	21	23	15	14		17
U18	16	18	12	21	18		17
Total:	111	126	120	123	113		119
Male	101	112	108	107	102		106 (89%)
Female	10	14	12	16	11		13 (11%)
OTHER DIVISIONS							
Skating Club					30		
Adult Users					85		
Ringette					17		
Red Wing Juniors					17		
Red Wing Seniors					17		
Women's Recreation League					15		
Breakfast Club					15		
Total:					196		
Mitchell Arena							
MITCHELL MINOR HOCKEY:							
Divisional data N/A							
Total:		186	156	182	172	176	175
Male		177	152	176	162	166	167 (94%)
Female		9	4	6	10	10	8 (6%)
Other Divisions:							
Adult Users					120		
Skate K-4					14		
Skate K-9					14		
Eastman Ringette					32		
U-18 FEMALE					18		
Recreational Group 1					20		
Recreational Group 2					20		
Total:					238		

The information shown in Tables 7.5 to 7.7 highlights the following:

1. Grunthal Minor Hockey and Mitchell Minor Hockey represent major users of indoor prime time ice in Hanover, at close to a combined average of 50% of the defined prime time hours at both arenas.
2. Registrations in minor hockey have remained consistent since 2015 / 2016, averaging 119 players in Grunthal Minor Hockey and 175 players in Mitchell Minor Hockey. It is interesting to note that:
 - > Equally consistent is the predominance of male players in both organizations (at a combined average of 91.5%), which is contrary to the growing popularity of women's hockey across Canada.
 - > Given that the RM's recent population growth has been close to evenly split between those progressing through the educational stream and into the career, retirement, and post-retirement life stages, the consistent registration numbers in minor hockey demonstrate that the popularity of the sport has not kept pace with the RM's overall population growth. This signifies that the number of minor hockey participants, as a percentage of the population, has actually decreased over time. This is consistent with the decline in minor hockey participation, particularly as a percentage of the population, across the country.
3. Approximately 70% of the prime time ice booking hours at the Mitchell arena and 82% of the prime time ice booking hours at the Grunthal arena are serving participants aged 4-19 years. When looking at this demographically across the entire RM, relative to the number of indoor ice user participants in this age bracket, it appears that just over 10% of youth under 19 years of age in Hanover are using a combined average of close to 75% of available indoor prime time ice hours. This trend is a concern, in light of the 57.8% of survey respondents who indicated that the lack of recreation facilities is preventing them from participating in free time activities.

Based on the above, the current supply of indoor arenas exceeds current and predicted demand from a quantitative perspective over the near-to-medium term. Going forward however, the 20-year growth and development projections in the Development Plan – if realized – will put added pressures on recreation facility resources and needs in the RM. Based on future growth estimates, relative to national indoor arena supply / population ratios, there could be a need for up to three indoor ice pads in Hanover over the long-term. As such, continued monitoring of RM growth will be critical. As outlined in the discussion that follows, this issue compels the need for a long-term strategy to address the RM's indoor arena needs. This strategy will require on-going review of RM population growth, relative to community demand for a future regional multiplex facility as well as other factors regarding Hanover's two existing arenas: building age, level of service and trends in demand.

3. Community Centres

A noteworthy outcome from the stakeholder interviews and community survey also regarded the need for an upgrade or replacement strategy for the community centres in Blumenort (256 m²), Kleefeld (223 m²) and New Bothwell (290 m²). These facilities are viewed as aging; their service amenities are either lacking or sub-standard (e.g. canteen, kitchen, washrooms); they are too small to accommodate larger social gatherings, and/or fitness-wellness programs (e.g. sports clinics / training, studio-type classes, performing arts classes); and their interior spaces cannot be re-configured to respond to changing recreation trends, user group, and/or inter-generational needs.

The 2013 RMP was used as the context for the more focused assessment of the Blumenort community centre in the 2017 study. It recommended the complete redevelopment of the centre into a 2,728 m² multi-use community facility, a tenfold increase in building size compared to the existing footprint. The recommended facility components supported a wide range of social, physical, and cognitive activities for individuals of all ages and abilities, including a modern single gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, kitchen, daycare, and other supporting amenities (at a capital cost of \$11.0M in 2016 dollars). However, purpose-built multi-use community facilities, especially at significant scales, require a critical mass to support them. Such a facility is not typically viable in a community like Blumenort, given its population size (1,675 people). As such, this recommendation from the 2017 study was not pursued by the RM of Hanover.

Another option to secure additional multi-use community centre space could occur through improved community access to HSD school facilities by way of the Joint Use Agreement highlighted earlier. HSD facilities are available for public access during school and after school hours as well as on weekends, holidays, and professional administrative days, subject to the discretion of each HSD school administrator and the following conditions:

1. Group access to HSD school facilities is subject to fees and charges levied by the HSD. The base hourly rental rates vary, from \$25 per hour for facility use during school days up to \$50 per hour (plus a minimum three-hour facility use requirement) on non-teaching days and/or on Sundays and holidays.
2. The rental rates exclude administrative fees, technical assistance fees, and group insurance. Additional rates also apply, depending on the HSD facility of interest (e.g. gym, classroom, multi-purpose room, theatre).

Based on HSD school facility rental information for the 2019 academic year:

1. There were a total of 175 facility bookings from September 2019 to April 2020; only four of these bookings were on a weekend day.
2. The most common rentals were for volleyball (e.g. SE Women's Volleyball, Steinbach Volleyball Club, Providence Junior Pilots), indoor soccer (e.g. LFC Soccer), and dryland training activities (e.g. Eastman Wildcats Girls Fast-pitch, Steinbach Minor Baseball).

As highlighted earlier, common responses from the stakeholder interviews raised concerns that the HSD gyms are operating near-or-at-capacity and are too expensive to rent. Additional feedback focused more specifically on Blumenort School, Green Valley School, and New Bothwell School, and was similar to comments about the community centres in Blumenort, Kleefeld, and New Bothwell. This prompted similar considerations regarding these gyms specifically and HSD facilities more generally: that an upgrade strategy is needed regarding gym size and interior space configurations to enable the HSD gyms to better accommodate changing recreation trends, user group and/or inter-generational needs. These challenges have compelled recreation groups in Hanover to seek facility use opportunities in other communities, and to no longer view HSD gyms as a local recreation resource.

A report entitled, "A Policy Framework for Joint Use: Enabling and Supporting Community Use of K-12 Public School Facilities" was prepared by the Center for Cities and Schools at the University of California Berkeley in 2014. It espouses the benefits of viewing schools as 'community hubs':

"In the face of substantial demographic shifts, changing housing patterns, community-health and obesity

concerns, and constraints on public budgets ..., [t]he benefits of joint use of public-school facilities are substantial. Joint use of public-school facilities enables service providers for after-care, youth development, primary health care, and other wraparound services to reach children and families where they are, thus reducing the travel and time costs borne by families and public agencies. Out-of-school-time access to athletic fields, facilities, and recreational-play areas increases the opportunities and time children and adults are physically active and out of doors, thus positively affecting community health.

Joint use is at the heart of the community-school model. Under community-school strategies, public schools serve as community 'hubs', bringing together many partners to offer a range of support services and opportunities to children, youth, families and communities" (page 6).

It is interesting to see how the findings in this 2014 report can be extended to the RM of Hanover context:

1. The need for increased focus on facility use scheduling, planning, and collaboration between the school district, multiple user groups, and the municipality.
2. The fact that most schools are architecturally designed for a singular use, and are not set up to accommodate multiple users.
3. The opportunities to pursue joint use more as an intentional collaborative partnership, focusing on the following key elements:
 - > **Vision and Principles:** establishing a local vision of – and guiding principles for – public schools as community hubs, similar to public recreation facilities.
 - > **Planning:** the opportunity to incorporate community joint use into the land use and development planning process, including collaborative partnerships and co-funding arrangements on site-specific space planning of schools to further support and enhance it.
 - > **Governance:** the opportunity to build on the Joint Use Agreement framework by strengthening administrative capacity as well as inter-agency, public, and private partnerships for joint community use through such means as a joint school district-municipal committee.
 - > **Outreach:** the use of virtual and social media to communicate supporting policies, procedures, and opportunities for joint community use to residents, public agencies, recreation organizations, and user groups.

As stated earlier, the reality of maintaining infrastructure, and the high cost to replace existing recreation facilities, has prompted local governments to focus on partnerships, such as the Joint Use Agreement framework that the RM of Hanover has with the HSD. As the above discussion attests, there could be opportunities to further enhance this framework to the mutual benefit of both the RM and the HSD. However, it is recognized that the Provincial government recently proposed legislation to replace Manitoba's 37 school divisions with 15 super-regions overseen by a provincial oversight body. This lends considerable uncertainty about if – or how – the current Joint Use Agreement framework between the RM of Hanover and the HSD could – or will – be affected.

Going forward, and similar to the context surrounding the arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell, factors around building age, level of service, and trends in demand, precipitate the need to establish a long-term strategy to address the RM's community centre needs as well as community demand for a future regional multiplex facility.

7.4 OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS

1. Expand Grunthal Pool

An expansion to Grunthal pool is impractical for similar reasons regarding public aspirations for an indoor pool. Beyond the high capital and operating costs associated with such an expansion, the RM's current population size would not generate the demand and usage level necessary to rationalize the public benefit or business case, based on the following information:

1. Grunthal pool has a 100-bather limit, and is typically at capacity only 55-65% of the season.
2. Table 7.8 below shows pool operating revenues from 2014-2019 which are based on facility rentals, public swims, family passes and swimming lessons.

TABLE 7.8 GRUNTHAL POOL REVENUES (2014-2019)

Revenue Source	Year						Average (\$)
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Facility Rentals	3,700	2,550	3,250	4,600	2,500	3,900	3,420
Public Swims	3,200	2,550	3,600	5,400	3,900	4,600	3,875
Family Passes	1,300	2,100	2,100	2,500	3,600	4,000	2,600
Swimming Lessons	32,770	31,380	37,525	45,456	53,122	50,458	41,785
Total:	40,970	38,580	46,475	57,956	63,122	62,958	51,680

The revenue from swimming lessons has increased by a wide margin since 2014. This is due to the consistent increase in the number of program registrations: from 358 in 2014 to 670 in 2019, representing an average annual growth rate of 15%.

3. The revenues shown in Table 7.8, combined with a portion of municipal grant funding, are used to offset pool operating and capital expenses. Given the other amenities at Centennial Park, the specific portion of municipal grant contributions allocated to the Grunthal pool could not be determined based on available budget data. However, it can be reasonably assumed that the public subsidy required to offset the resulting capital and operating costs associated with an expansion to the pool would be substantive. Furthermore, given the close proximity of pool facilities in Steinbach and Winnipeg (which are available to RM residents), the expansion of Grunthal pool would not be feasible or advisable.

At the same time however, feedback from the stakeholder interviews focused on concerns about the size of the change rooms at Grunthal pool. It is noted that this building comprises two change rooms with twelve cubicles in each. The area of each change room is 23.8 m² (for a total building area of 47.6 m²). The issue is that public swim times are open during the baseball season, a program activity which also takes place at Centennial Park. Due to the influx of baseball players and spectators during practices and games – which can range anywhere from 150 to 300 people at a time – significant over-crowding occurs in the change rooms. Thus, a short-to-medium-term strategy will be required to upgrade the change rooms at Grunthal pool in order to address both current and future service level needs.

2. Parks, Open Space and Trails

As noted earlier, the RM of Hanover has 67.44 ha of parks and recreational open space in its five settlement centres. The breakdown of this inventory based on a 1 ha per 500 resident ratios in each settlement centre, is shown on Table 7.9 below.

TABLE 7.9 PARKS / OPEN SPACE INVENTORY (2013-2020) – RM OF HANOVER

Settlement Centre:	Census Population:		Parks / Open Space Inventory (ha.):		2020 Ratio (1 ha. / 500):
	2011	2016	2013 RMP	2020	
Mitchell	1,915	2,523	12.4	15.0	3.0 ha
Grunthal	1,640	1,680	22.2	22.0	6.5 ha
Blumenort	1,404	1,675	8.6	14.6	4.4 ha
Kleefeld	765	N/A	6.9	10.5	7.0 ha
New Bothwell	595	N/A	3.1	5.3	4.5 ha

Important qualifiers to note in this regard are as follows:

1. The inventories include recreational grounds and sports fields in each community, as most of the parks and open space is integrated into these facilities. As such, it is difficult to differentiate between recreational open space and open space that accommodates more passive, leisurely pursuits. Thus, it could appear that each settlement centre is well-served by parks and recreational open space, as indicated above. However, if the recreational grounds and sports fields are excluded from the calculations to obtain a more refined inventory of passive open space in each community, then it can be reasonably presumed the resulting ratios per 500 residents would be considerably lower.
2. The ratios exclude the RM's rural population. In this context, Hanover has 2.14 ha of parks and recreational open space per 500 residents. Again, if the recreational grounds and sports fields are excluded from the calculations, the resulting ratio of passive open space would be lower still.
3. To place the above in further perspective, the supply of parkland and open space in other proximate communities is noted below:
 - > In the communities of La Broquerie and Marchand (RM of La Broquerie), the supply exceeds 5.0 ha per 500 residents.
 - > In the communities of Grande Pointe, Ile des Chenes, St. Adolphe and Ste. Agathe (RM of Ritchot), the supply is over 3.6 ha per 500 residents.
 - > In the RM of Macdonald, the supply exceeds 4.0 ha per 500 residents.

Recognizing that the dispersion of the population outside of Hanover's main settlement centres creates challenges in terms of parkland distribution, a short-term strategy will be required that employs all the tools available to the RM to acquire and develop new parkland and open space to serve future growth. When coupled with other associated amenities such as play structures, splash pads and multi-use trails, this strategy responds proactively to:

- > The aspirational feedback from local stakeholders and residents.
- > The growing popularity of lifetime wellness and passive outdoor activities as well as active transportation pursuits, which has become more evident during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- > The role of parks, open space and trails in improving personal health, facilitating inter-personal and broader community connections, and advancing environmental stewardship.

As part of the RM's long-range parks and open space planning efforts, it should consider formalizing the adoption of a parkland classification policy as a short-term measure which could then be used to inform an overall strategy regarding the use of the Land Acquisition Reserve Fund to acquire and develop parks, open space and trails. The parkland classification policy was a key recommendation in the 2013 RMP and is increasingly pertinent, given future growth projections and the trends in recreation that heighten demand for such outdoor amenities. Furthermore, it is reasonable to assume that the RM's Land Acquisition Reserve Fund will continue to grow in conjunction with future development, further supporting the development of parks, open space and trails over the near-to-long-term.

3. Soccer Pitches (Grunthal / Blumenort)

As stated earlier, a component of the population growth in the RM of Hanover is due to immigration. As such, interview participants have observed the continuing increase in popularity for soccer, among other more non-traditional sporting fares. Those representing soccer in Blumenort and Grunthal provided aspirational feedback about the need for additional soccer pitches in their communities to better accommodate practices, clinics, games and tournaments. It was also acknowledged that such opportunities could be incorporated as part of a future regional multi-purpose facility, as it could accommodate their needs and also reduce the pressures on their respective local resources.

Information provided by those representing the soccer programs in Blumenort and Grunthal soccer indicates the following:

1. The soccer program in Blumenort operates over an eight-week period, from May to June. Soccer registration numbers have been strongest in the mini soccer program, averaging 85 players per year since 2016. Over this same period, registration numbers in the U10 to U14 divisions have been lower, averaging 50 players per year. Blumenort soccer has also had difficulty fielding teams in the U15-and-older age group divisions. As shown on Figure 5.5, Blumenort currently has four mini soccer pitches and two full-size fields in close proximity, which are used extensively in-season.
2. The soccer program in Grunthal operates over an eight-week period (from May to June), with soccer camp clinics also offered in the Fall. Registration numbers have averaged 200 players per year since 2016, with participation equally split across age groups (i.e. U10, U12, older youth, adult). As shown on Figure 5.2, Grunthal currently has four mini soccer pitches at the South Oaks Elementary School and one full-size pitch to the south, next to the Green Valley School grounds. The full-size soccer pitch in particular, is used by the soccer club every day and evening during the soccer season as well as to support the soccer camp clinics in the Fall. The field is also used by the HSD for its physical education curricula as well as other organizations and groups, including Ultimate Frisbee and the Hanover Agricultural Society.

Based strictly on supply:

1. It is challenging to rationalize the need for additional soccer pitches in Blumenort, given its population size (1,675 people) relative to the current number of mini soccer pitches (four) and full size fields (two). Furthermore, while mini soccer registration numbers continue to be strong, it appears the registration numbers in the older age group divisions have been more difficult to maintain. As such, the critical mass needed to justify additional soccer capacity at the local level within Blumenort cannot be made at this time. Rather, local strategies should be determined about whether existing facility resources both in Blumenort and/or in other RM settlement centres could be further optimized for support in the interim.
2. The more consistent historic growth in soccer participation in Grunthal over the Spring and Fall months, coupled with the extensive use of the one full-size soccer field in the community for soccer and other recreational and leisure needs, cannot be overlooked. Such conditions indicate that there is the critical mass in the short-to-medium term to justify the need to install an additional full size soccer field in Grunthal. It would also appear that there is sufficient land to accommodate it next to the existing full-size pitch. The feasibility of this concept however, would need to be further examined during the future design phases.

4. Baseball Diamonds (Blumenort)

Further evidence of the influence of immigration on Hanover's population growth was observed during the interview with Blumenort Minor Baseball. Aspirational feedback was received about the interim need for lighting to be installed at the main baseball diamond at Penn-co Field, and the longer term need for additional baseball capacity, either in the form of another baseball diamond or a fieldhouse. Addressing these needs would better accommodate practices, clinics, games, and tournaments. It was also acknowledged that such long-term projects could be incorporated as part of a future regional multi-purpose facility, as it could accommodate local needs and also reduce the pressures on local resources.

The Blumenort Minor Baseball season operates from April through to July / August, with a Fall baseball program offered for an additional seven weeks, beginning in late August. As per Table 7.10, information provided by Blumenort Minor Baseball shows that since 2016, registration numbers have been consistent, and strongest in the younger U7, U9 and U11 divisions. Overall participation has gradually declined in the older age groups. It is interesting to note that similar feedback was received from Mitchell and Kleefeld Minor Baseball representatives during the stakeholder interviews. This has prompted the Mitchell and Blumenort organizations to send older-aged players to/from their respective teams as well as to teams in Steinbach in order to address roster needs, as season-to-season registration numbers dictate.

TABLE 7.10 BLUMENORT MINOR BASEBALL REGISTRANTS (2016-2019)

Stakeholder / Divisions	Season				Average	% of Total:
	2016	2017	2018	2019		
Blumenort Baseball:						
U9	19	26	24	25	24	25%
U11	21	25	21	34	25	26%
U13	24	25	22	13	21	22%
U15	21	22	11	17	18	19%
U18	7	9	6	9	8	8%
Total:	92	107	84	98	96	100%

During the season, Blumenort Minor Baseball uses the four local diamonds as well as one of the diamonds in Mitchell for try-outs, practices and games. Based on available information, Table 7.11 below shows the extent of use of each local diamond for these purposes during the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

TABLE 7.11 BLUMENORT MINOR BASEBALL – FIELD USE (2018-2019)

Field	No. of Try-Outs	No. of Practices	No. of Games	Total (27 week program)	Average Use Per Week
2018					
Penn-co Field (Diamond 1)	2	26	14	42	1.5 times
Diamond 2	-	21	12	33	1.2 times
Diamond 3	-	9	9	18	0.7 times
Diamond 4	-	21	13	34	1.3 times
Fall Baseball	-	63	-	63	2.3 times
Total:	2	140	48	190	7.0 times
2019					
Penn-co Field (Diamond 1)	-	23	20	43	1.6 times
Diamond 2	-	26	8	34	1.2 times
Diamond 3	-	18	12	30	1.1 times
Diamond 4	-	22	12	34	1.2 times
Fall Baseball	-	63	-	63	2.3 times
Total:	-	152	52	204	7.4 times

It is also noted that most of the baseball program (i.e. a 20-week minor baseball season plus a 7-week Fall Baseball program) typically takes place Monday to Friday (there were two try-outs and one practice on the weekends in 2018; and four practices and one game on the weekends in 2019).

The potential benefits of installing lighting at Penn-co Field are acknowledged, in that the facility could then be used longer into the evening hours, accommodate more practices, clinics, games, and tournaments, and become a spectator hub. However, the need for additional baseball diamond capacity in Blumenort cannot be justified at this time. Based on the information in Table 7.11, the local diamonds were used a combined average of just under twice per week during the 2018 and 2019 baseball seasons. This issue is made even more challenging, given Blumenort's population base (1,675 people), relative to the current number of baseball diamonds, both within the community and elsewhere in the RM of Hanover (16 baseball diamonds total). This is consistent with the aspirational feedback provided by Blumenort Minor Baseball, which indicates that such a need could be revisited as the program continues to evolve over the long-term.

7.5 REGIONAL MULTIPLEX FACILITY

In deciding upon matters regarding the highest and best use of municipal assets, which could include the decommissioning of an asset such as an arena or a community centre, there are a number of considerations to contemplate, including:

1. Does the asset fall within the realm of 'public good' or is its use 'market-based'? Notwithstanding the philosophical debates as to what constitutes 'public good', this distinction is important. Public good implies equal access for all citizens and ratepayers; market-based implies that the asset will be managed to align with the target market willing to pay for the use of the asset. As assets age, particularly those that were originally built as 'public good assets', the reality is that they tend to veer away from public good toward market-based.
2. What is the intended 'level of service'? Level of service refers to items such as hours of operations, amenities, and user and spectator comfort. As assets move toward 'market-based' assets, the intended level of service increases in significance. Simply stated, people have choice. As the competitive landscape across the region continues to change with the introduction of new assets in close proximity to existing ones, the risk of decreasing revenues rises at the same time that the cost of maintaining the assets increases due to the age of the facilities.

The arenas and community centres in the RM of Hanover are cases in point:

1. The arenas are not universally accessible for people with disabilities (though some accessibility upgrades have been incorporated); they are not structured to provide gender equity in sport (i.e. affording the same level of service to female and male athletes); and they are struggling to meet other basic user and amenity needs and/or standards. Furthermore, when considered against supply and demand benchmarks:
 - > Hanover's arena supply exceeds the Canadian average.
 - > There appears to be available user capacity within both arenas.
 - > Just over 10% of youth under 19 years of age in Hanover are using a combined average of close to 75% of available indoor prime time ice hours.

- > Given that the RM's recent population growth has been close to evenly split between those progressing through the educational stream and into the career, retirement, and post-retirement life stages, the consistent registration numbers in minor hockey demonstrate that the popularity of the sport has not kept pace with the RM's overall population growth, which is consistent with the decline in minor hockey participation, particularly as a percentage of the population, across the country.

As a result, the facilities are drifting toward the 'market-based' category, relying on revenues generated from users as they continue to operate past their expected life expectancy.

2. Community centres are an equally important element in community identity, preserving local history, and fostering local pride. While social and recreation trends have changed, community centres continue to have an important role in community development, particularly with programming tailored to local community needs and interests. However, the community centres in Hanover are also aging; their service amenities are either lacking or sub-standard (e.g. canteen, kitchen, washrooms); they are too small to accommodate larger social gatherings, and/or fitness-wellness programs (e.g. sports clinics / training, studio-type classes, performing arts classes); their interior spaces cannot be re-configured to respond to changing recreation trends, user group and/or inter-generational needs; and they are located in relatively small settlement centres.

While built as community amenities and despite the varied levels of capital upgrading over the past decade, the fact remains that these facilities are not meeting modern standards for level of service today, and are progressing through the life cycle process towards obsolescence. Furthermore, the outcomes of the 2017 study and the 2019 assessments of both arenas have borne uncertainty and risk associated with the strategies to redevelop the Grunthal arena and upgrade the Mitchell arena. Similar uncertainty and risk is also evident in regards to advancing the redevelopment of the community centre in Blumenort, as also recommended in the 2017 study. It can be reasonably assumed however, that these strategies, either in isolation, in combination or in extension to the other community centres in Hanover, would require significant public investment to implement (as the 2017 study demonstrates), all within a regional landscape that is continuing to grow, change, and modernize rapidly.

Long-Range Indoor Facility Strategy

The long-range strategy for the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas as well as the community centres in the RM remain a significant challenge when it comes to need and demand for new or improved indoor recreation facilities. The 2013 RMP and 2017 study devoted significant attention to this issue. However, the situation remains more or less the same today. Although the RM's contributions to these facilities may be potentially sustainable in the short to medium-term, factors around building age and level of service, as well as trends in demand and user needs, precipitate the need to strategize for the long-term.

A long-term strategy addressing such a complex issue requires a balanced approach, one that not only reflects the philosophical spectrum of 'public good' versus 'market-based' considerations, but also the more pragmatic pressures from specific community interests for new and/or improved indoor arenas and community centres in the local context. The feedback received from the stakeholder interviews and community survey about the need for a regional multi-purpose facility reflected this dynamic. As stated earlier, some interview participants advocated for their own 'community', while an equal number acknowledged that the RM of Hanover is at a transition point, and needs to adopt a more regional approach to developing and/or upgrading its parks and recreation infrastructure.

Regional Focus

A greater sense of common ground was observed however, regarding the ‘community’ that such a regional multi-purpose facility would need to serve: RM of Hanover residents. Reflecting the strong sense of community pride, interview participants focused on Hanover’s ability to rely on its own resource capacity, particularly given previous inter-municipal efforts to do otherwise. Equal emphasis was placed on the need for a regional multi-purpose facility to address the current issues and challenges facing Hanover’s parks and recreation infrastructure, especially the needs of a broader demographic. Such an approach could not only address user group and multi-generational needs, it could also garner more public support by doing so. In essence, a regional multi-purpose facility could symbolize that, while community growth and development has put pressure on Hanover’s parks and recreation services, it can also present opportunities.

Pursuit of Multiplex Option

Thus, the option to completely redevelop the Grunthal arena, upgrade the Mitchell arena, and redevelop and/or upgrade each of the RM’s community centres is likely no longer viable. Should the decision be made to pursue the necessary upgrades and improvements, then the recommendation would be to consider eventually decommissioning and/or repurposing these facilities (e.g. indoor soccer / court sports, fieldhouse, lifetime health and wellness pursuits, indoor market / festival venues); pursuing collaborative community use of school strategies with the HSD; collaborating with the independent community centres in Friedensfeld, Pansy, and Sarto on accommodating lifetime health and wellness pursuits; and ultimately building a regional multiplex facility.

A regional multiplex facility should be developed in stages, incorporating multi-use community spaces, fitness and gym facilities, indoor arena, outdoor amenities such as public / leisure skating, park / playground area, and other community services for year-round indoor and outdoor use as a recreation, sports, and community hub.

Location Criteria

In terms of location for the multiplex, criteria should focus, at minimum, on the following:

1. Proximity to existing and projected catchment population clusters.
2. An alignment with the RM’s long-range planning and development objectives, including the Development Plan which encourages such significant recreation infrastructure to be located within a settlement centre.
3. Compatibility with adjacent uses, including potential integration with other recreation facilities and municipal government services.
4. Site considerations, including infrastructure, accessibility characteristics, proximity to transportation links to other communities, and land area to accommodate service expansions in response to evolving community needs and recreation trends over a longer-term horizon.

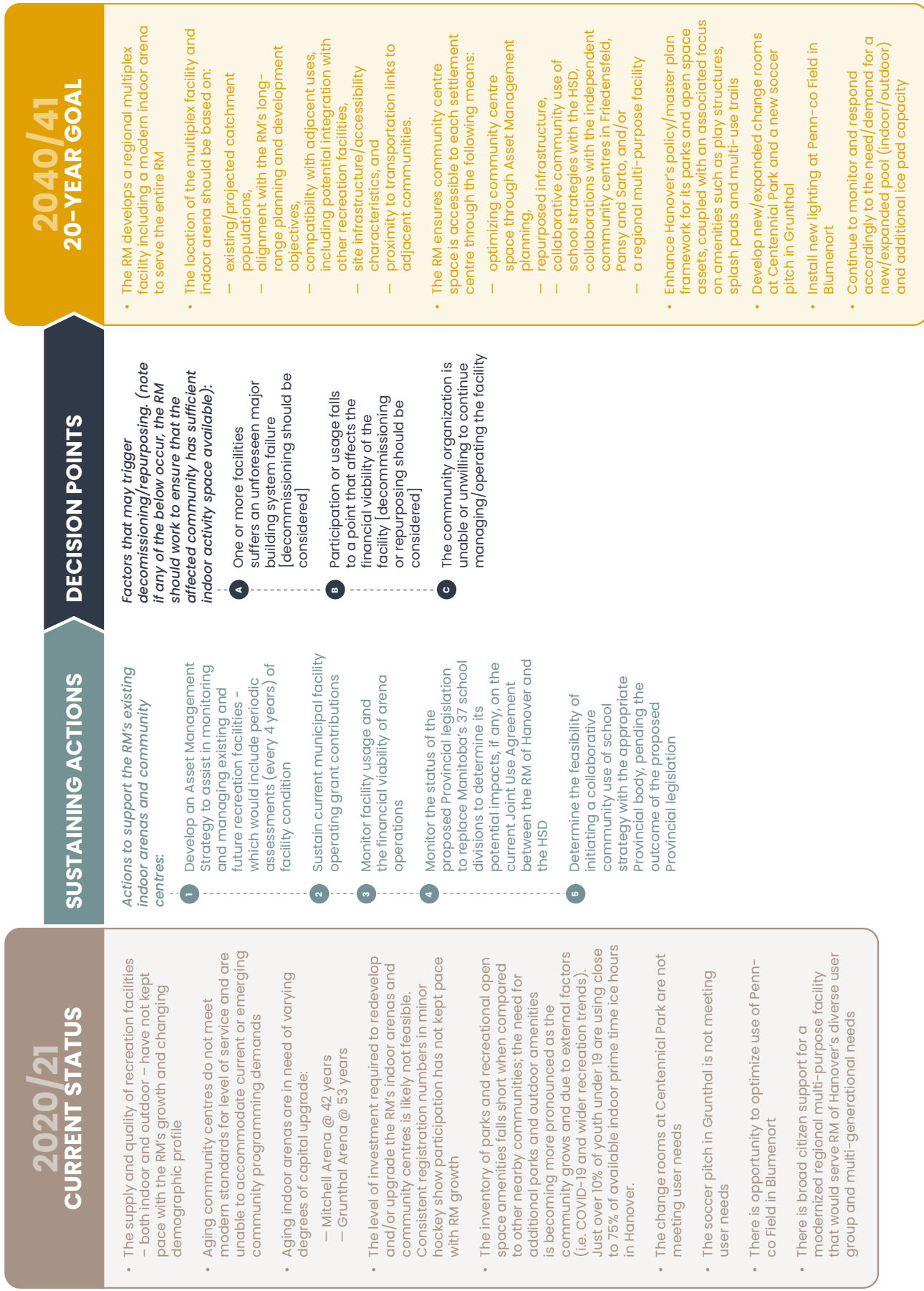
Sustaining Operations for Indoor Facilities

Figure 7.1 outlines the interceding actions to sustain indoor arena operations over the next 20 years, as the RM works to balance current needs with future aspirations to develop a regional multi-purpose facility. It also outlines the decision points or factors that may trigger the requirement for the RM to consider decommissioning or repurposing one or more of this infrastructure at some point during this planning horizon.

Integral to these actions is the need for detailed condition assessments of the indoor arenas and community centres. These assessments would support a subsequent asset management strategy that should include life-cycle maintenance requirements to anticipate and plan for when operating systems, equipment, and maintenance deficiencies will need to be addressed in order to achieve a baseline operational and safety standard at these facilities. This would give the RM of Hanover flexibility in planning for the eventual decommissioning and/or repurposing of the arena and community centre facilities, and enable plans for a future regional multi-purpose facility to unfold in a concurrent manner.

Figure 7.1 Hanover 20–Year Recreation Facility Analysis and Strategy

HANOVER 20–YEAR INDOOR FACILITY STRATEGY



Regional
Multiplex
Recreation
Facility Concept

8.0 REGIONAL MULTIPLEX RECREATION FACILITY CONCEPT

This section of the report provides the rationale and justification for the development of a regional recreation facility as well as a concept plan, definition of each component, and a functional space plan for the proposed multiplex facility. It is based on the following key components of this Study:

- > the outcome of the data and trends analyses;
- > the community wish list regarding the need for new and/or improved indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; and
- > the factors and principles affecting recreation facility development decisions.

8.1 REGIONAL MULTIPLEX CONCEPT

As shown in Figures 8.1 and 8.2, the regional facility for the RM of Hanover is proposed as a year-round recreation multiplex located centrally to equitably serve all residents of Hanover and provide a variety of high-quality physical, social, and cultural recreation experiences for all ages and interests. Its purpose is to provide a focus for affordable, accessible, and diverse activities that will promote a sense of community and contribute meaningfully to the quality of individual and community life.

The development of a regional recreation complex is consistent with the vision of the RM of Hanover

“The purpose of the Rural Municipality of Hanover is to provide leadership and services that will enhance our citizen’s quality of life.”) and reflects the mission of Hanover Recreation “to ensure that all residents have access to and share equally in the benefits of park use and recreation participation that contributes to improved health, sustainable communities and enhanced quality of life.”

8.2 SUMMARY OF MULTIPLEX COMPONENTS

Initially, the program and facility focus of the centre is to accommodate court sport-based activities, fitness and wellness programs, developmental recreation, arts and cultural pursuits for all ages, and a community wide meeting place for special events and social interaction. A mix of facility rental, in-house recreation program development, and casual drop-in use would all be encouraged.

Also included in the long-term multiplex plan are both new and replacement facilities that are currently built at the community level and deteriorating. As they age and reach end of life, they continue to satisfy an important need in the municipality that might be more efficiently developed as a component of a regional complex. This is particularly reflective of the two indoor arenas in the RM. Once one arena reaches its end of life, its replacement would be part of the multiplex. For this reason, the 20-year plan for the regional complex might be phased in over time to accommodate the replacement of aging facilities and other lower priority components based on the overall capital cost impact. The recommended indoor recreation components for Phase 1 and 2 that will be described in detail later in this section include:

Phase 1

- > Full size gymnasium/flexihall (stage, food and beverage serving area)
- > Wellness studio
- > Walking track
- > Creative arts / crafts studio
- > All-ages games room
- > Child-minding / pre-school centre
- > Indoor children’s playground
- > Multi-purpose rooms (3)
- > Social gathering area / lobby / concession
- > Administration / office zone

Phase 2

- > Indoor arena (NHL size and full-service modern services)
- > Complementary outdoor recreation facilities or amenities

Over the course of the 20 year build-out of the multiplex plan it is proposed that as an indoor arena in the RM reaches end of life it be replaced at the site of the multiplex.

A full-service modern NHL size arena would include an 26 m. x 61 m. ice surface, complete with six dressing rooms, spectator seating, meeting and administration spaces, music room, concession and social gathering/ observation area, and support space totaling approximately 3,250m².

Complementary Outdoor Facilities

If it is deemed appropriate, in order to enhance its year-round appeal, the 20-year plan for the site could include associated and complementary outdoor recreation components such as:

- > Outdoor Rink and Public Skating Trail
- > Toboggan Slide
- > Children's Play Structure
- > Splash Pad and Water Feature
- > Parent Observation Area

8.3 LOCATION

As outlined in Section 7.5, the location for a regional recreation facility should align with the RM's long-rang planning and development objectives and centralized relative to the RM's overall settlement patterns and future projected growth. Upon review of the RM's land inventory, the site of the RM of Hanover municipal offices, located along Highway 52, was selected for the location of the proposed multiplex, offering direct access to the surrounding major urban centres within the municipality. As shown in Figure 8.2, the proposed multiplex and outdoor community amenities fit within the existing land holdings surrounding the municipal offices. However, the RM should consider acquiring lands adjacent to the western property boundary - between 1.3 and 1.6 ha - to accommodate a potential future arena that could be connected to the multiplex.

It is recognized that this Study represents an initial step in a long-term strategy that is dynamic and will be subject to on-going monitoring and possible change. As such, the strategic process needs to be equally responsive to the evolving environment within which recreation facility planning and design decisions will ultimately be made by the RM of Hanover.

The recommended location of the regional multiplex is a case in point. Granted, at present, it satisfies the factors affecting recreation facility development decisions cited earlier. However, future conditions and circumstances - which cannot be foretold - may compel an alternative site to be considered by the RM of Hanover that also addressed these same locational criteria and principles. The inherent flexibility in this Study accommodates such strategic processes to unfold as intended, to the benefit of the RM of Hanover and its residents.

8.4 OWNERSHIP, OPERATION, AND GOVERNANCE

It is anticipated that the facility would be developed in partnership with public, private, and community partners and would be owned and operated by the RM of Hanover and staffed by municipal employees.

It would be strategic to appoint an advisory board of representative community leaders and RM Council members to provide oversight regarding budget and finance, operating policies and priorities, and marketing and communication. The advisory board would provide an opportunity for community participation and a sense of ownership by all urban centres.

8.5 REGIONAL MULTIPLEX PROPOSED FUNCTIONAL SPACE PROGRAM

Scope and Scale of Facility Components

1. Gymnasium / Flexihall

To accommodate each of the components, shown in Figure 8.1, within the overall gymnasium / flexihall enclosure, an allowance of approximately 1,022m² should provide ample space to include a full-size high school level gymnasium, storage, administration office, modest bleacher seating dressing/change rooms (2), stage, and food and beverage service bay on the lower level. A walking track is proposed within the gym enclosure on the second level.

- > **Gymnasium** - The gymnasium is a 15mx26m (390m²) court space with floor markings for basketball, volleyball, badminton and pickleball, and a safety run off area between 1 to 3 m wide. The ceiling height required to accommodate these court sports is an unobstructed height of 7.5m and the courts should be designed to accommodate both full and half court play with an appropriate means to divide the courts.
- > **Stage** - A performance or presentation stage located at one end of the gymnasium is proposed to accommodate music, theatre, educational and commercial presentations. The stage could accommodate storage under the structure and have a modest built-in curtain, sound, and lighting capacity. When not in use, the stage area can be used as a staging area for gym events, separate meeting space, or complementary gym programs.
- > **Special Event Gathering Support Space** - The gym and stage offer an ideal setting for special events, social gatherings, and large-scale assemblies and presentations. These could include leased or self-programmed community social gatherings and celebrations, large school functions, and music or theatrical artistic performances. The flexihall space would be adjacent to a food and beverage service room with warming ovens and refrigeration capacity for catered events. Due to the complexity of operation, a full-service kitchen is not recommended.

Programmable Space Requirement

Gym floor	390m ²
Gym run off (1.5m allowance)	124m ²
Stage 24m x 11m	254m ²
Food and beverage service bay, Bleacher seating, storage, WC/Lockers (2 @ 46m ²)	240m ²
Total	1,008 m ²



2. Wellness Component

A cardio resistance training area would be incorporated around a walking track to be cantilevered above the gymnasium and extend into the second floor of the multiplex. Equipment would include treadmills, recumbent bicycles, elliptical trainers, rowing machines, strength training equipment, cybex machines, free weights, benches, balls, and mats.

The wellness area would have its own storage, shower, and change room facilities and monitored access to the facilities. Group fitness and wellness programming would have scheduled access to the gymnasium and multi-purpose rooms for aerobics, yoga, Zumba, pilates, as well as regular access to the walking track.



Programmable Space Requirement

Walking Track Allowance	390 m ²
Cardio Area Allowance	93m ²
Shower/Dressing Rooms (2)	186m ²

3. Child-Minding Facility

A child-minding area could provide several options for program development. It could serve as a location for existing pre-school programs such as P.E.E.R, Day Care or Tiny Tots on a leased basis; a self-programmed pre-school or after school program for young children; and a child-minding space as a service to parents engaged in multiplex recreation programs on an as needed basis. During out of school periods the space could also serve as a pre-school day camp or summer camp facility.

Programmable Space Requirement

204m²



Indoor Playground Water Table

4. Indoor Children's (Creative/Adventure) Playground

An indoor children's playground is proposed in recognition of Manitoba's four-season climate and typically harsh winters. It would also serve as a complementary facility to the child-minding component and meet the full-service objective of the multiplex by providing services that appeal to all age groups. Components could include features that require creative solutions, decision making, challenge, exploration, and team work through such means as participant activities, group challenge, flexible / mobile structures rather than rigid built structures, and the use of tactile amenities such as sand and water.

Programmable Space Requirement

93m²

5. All-Ages Games (Interactive/Activity) Room

A (passive) integrated and interactive activity centre within the facility would be available for all ages, genders, and interests and offer opportunities to socialize and compete in friendly organized or spontaneous electronic and table games such as crokinole, checkers, and chess.

Programmable Space Requirement

93m²



Interactive Intergenerational Activity Space

6. Multi-Purpose Rooms (MPR) (3)

The multiplex would provide up to three multi-purpose rooms of varying sizes to accommodate a wide range of community-based programs and activities from meetings and workshops to physical activities and cultural pursuits. They would also serve as staging areas for special events and programs.

Each of the rooms would be designed with maximum flexibility but room amenities including flooring type, sound attenuation, storage capacity, lighting, and colour might vary based on its primary focus. Each room could be developed to be sub-divided if necessary for various group sizes and activities.

MPR Room 1 | Creative Arts Focus

186m²

While intended for general use the space would focus on visual arts by providing ample natural lighting, wet and dry activity spaces, project storage, appropriate lighting, and environmental conditions to support craft and artistic projects such as painting, sketching, weaving, fiber arts, sculpting, photography, and quilting.

It would provide scheduled classes and drop-in studio time for participants and encourage the display of completed works throughout the multiplex to promote public art.



MPR Room 2 | Group Fitness Focus

279m²

The MPR would be equipped to serve as a place for drop-in and group physical activities including yoga, pilates, yoga and Zumba with an appropriate floor surface, water stations, electronic connections, sound attenuating, natural lighting, and window/privacy coverings. In addition, the space could be used for fitness and nutrition education, fitness assessment, foot clinics, and educational programs by the Regional Health Authority.

MPR Room 3 | Community Activity Focus

186m²

The focus of this space would support community recreation functions and services including smaller size social gatherings, older adult drop-in programs, community association meetings, and educational seminars.

The space should be designed to provide adequate audio-visual support, snack and coffee station, appropriate lighting, and room darkening capacity.

Total MPR Programmable Space Requirement

650m²

7. Entry, Administration, and Common Areas

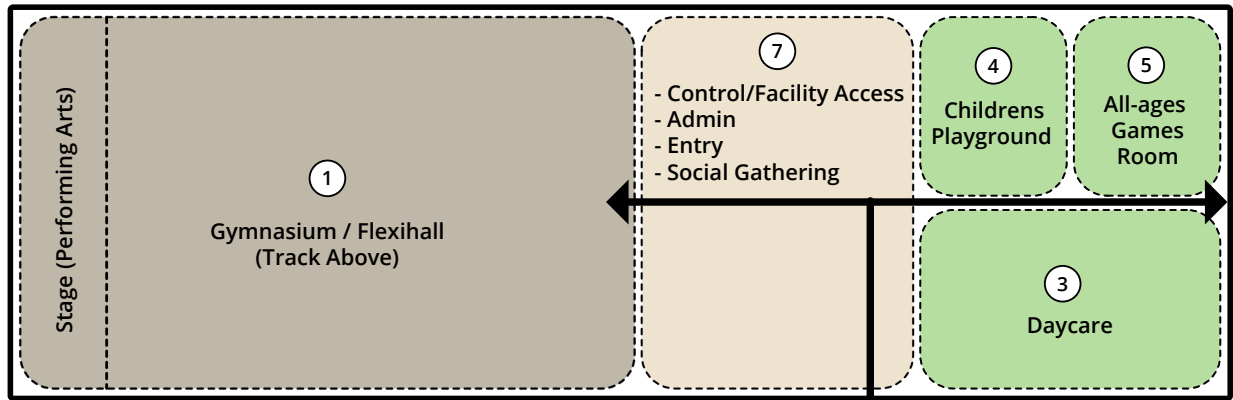
The multiplex entry control point, administration office space, lobby and social gathering area, and other miscellaneous common areas and spaces include:

- > Main entry, lobby, and foyer 140m²
- > Reception and control 28m²
- > Public washrooms 65m²
- > Concessions 37m²
- > Office, staff, and board room 56m²
- > Maintenance room and storage 46m²
- > Building systems - mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. 93m²

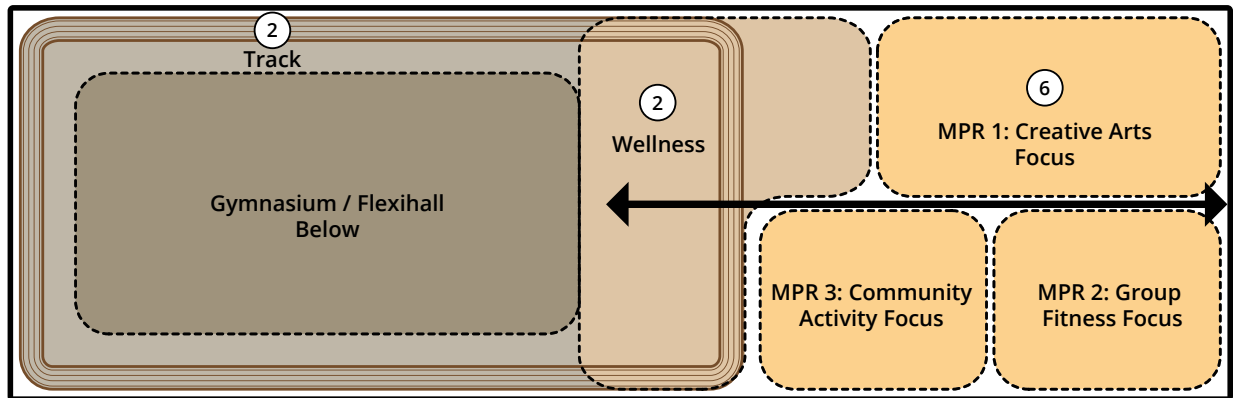


Programmable Space Requirement
465m²

Figure 8.1 Regional Multiplex Schematic Space Plan

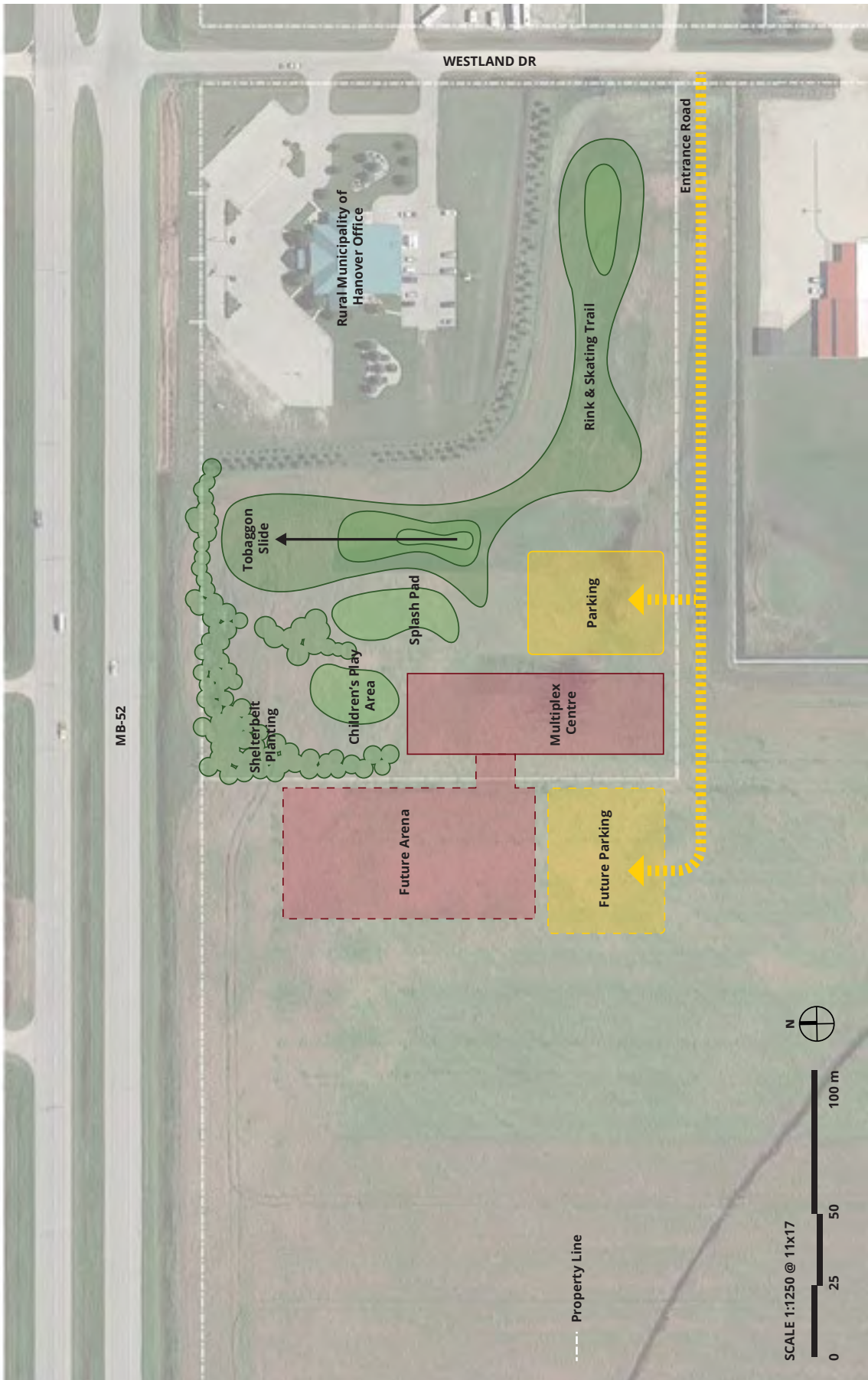


First Floor (Approximate Footprint)



Second Floor (Approximate Footprint)

Figure 8.2 Regional Multiplex Conceptual Site Plan



PHASE 1 – SUMMARY OF MULTIPLEX FUNCTIONAL SPACE PLAN

Facility Component	Program Area (sm)
1. Gymnasium / Flexihall	1,008
2. Wellness component -track	390
Cardio area allowance	93
Shower and dressing rooms	186
3. Daycare	204
4. Children's playground	93
5. All-ages games room	93
6 Multi-purpose rooms (3)	650
7. Entry, administrative, and common area	465
Sub-total	3,182
Gross-Up @ 15%	477
Total	3,660

PHASE 1 – MAGNITUDE OF CAPITAL COSTS

Facility Component	Program Area (m)
Multiplex Space Program	3,660
Construction @ \$300/.09m ² ¹	\$11,820,000
Soft Costs @ 25% ²	\$2,955,000
Site Development Allowance	\$750,000
Total Capital Cost ³	\$15,525,000

¹ Construction costs - \$300 per .09m² (2021 dollars)

² Soft costs include design and engineering fees, legal, furniture and fit-out, contingency, etc.

³ Excluding applicable taxes

PHASE 2 – SUMMARY OF TYPICAL INDOOR ARENA BUILDING PROGRAM

Facility Component	Program Area (sm)
Ice Surface (25.9 m. x 61 m.)	1,579
Players Benches/Timer/Penalty Box	42
Dressing Rooms (6 @ 46.5 m ²)	279
Referee Room	23
Lobby/Viewing Area/Concession	186
Office/Control/First Aid	19
Public Washrooms (2 @ 27.8 m ²)	56
Storage	93
Electrical/Mechanical	28
Ice Plant	33
Maintenance/Workshop	93
Zamboni/Storage	28
Sub-total	2,457
Gross-Up @ 20%	491
Total	3,000

PHASE 2 – MAGNITUDE OF CAPITAL COSTS

Facility Component	Program Area (m)
Indoor Arena	3,000
Construction	\$10,000,000
Soft Costs @ 20%	\$2,000,000
Total Capital Cost ⁴	\$12,000,000

⁴Excluding applicable taxes

Implementation + Recommendations

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION + RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Over the next 20 years, the RM of Hanover will have to make important decisions around implementing the recommendations included in this Study. For major facility development involving substantial capital investment, the objective should be to leverage local resources with other public and private sector partners. This could involve local or regional businesses who share an interest in the project, community foundations, and senior levels of government. It is also desirable to engage RM residents as well as potential users and stakeholders as partners in the project design.

Overall, it is critical to ensure the scope of future projects is realistic and within the capacity of the RM to achieve. In recent years, senior governments have established infrastructure grant programs that have supported many local government recreation facility projects. The theoretical cost sharing formula for government supported capital funding has been based on a one-third contribution from each partner. However, in reality, local governments have been responsible for funding up to 70% of the capital costs of recent recreation projects in Manitoba, as senior levels of government have pulled back or discontinued previous programs.

Furthermore, the current COVID-19 crisis has created a degree of uncertainty in terms of recreation funding and priorities from Federal and Provincial government sources. While new infrastructure stimulus programs may be implemented as part of pandemic recovery efforts – and could include parks and recreation as a focal point – it remains to be seen what, if any, funding programs might be available in the near term.

9.2 IMPLEMENTATION

This Study contains a series of short, medium, and long-term facility recommendations to address the issues identified herein, which are summarized in the implementation table below. Recognizing the RM of Hanover's continued growth and evolving trends in recreation, it is imperative that RM Council remain adaptable to changing circumstances over time. Therefore, the RM should:

1. Review all proposed recreation-related initiatives and investments to ensure alignment with the findings and recommendations in this Study.
2. Undertake a formal review of the findings and recommendations in this Study every five years to ensure currency and relevancy to future circumstances.

STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

INDOOR FACILITIES

	PRIORITY					COST IMPLICATION
	IMMEDIATE	SHORT-TERM	MID-TERM	LONG TERM	ONGOING	
1	Monitor the status of the proposed Provincial legislation to replace Manitoba’s 37 school divisions to determine its potential impacts, if any, on the current Joint Use Agreement between the RM of Hanover and the HSD.					N/A
2	Determine the feasibility of initiating a collaborative community use of school strategy with the appropriate Provincial body, pending the outcome of the proposed Provincial legislation cited above.					N/A
3	Develop a responsive Asset Management strategy to support the provision of accessible community space in each settlement centre.					TBD
4	Ensure community centre space is accessible to residents in each settlement centre through the following potential options: (a) collaborative community use of school strategies with the HSD; (b) collaborations with the independent community centres in Friedensfeld, Pansy and Sarto; (c) repurposed arena facilities; and/or (d) a regional multi-purpose facility.					TBD
5	The need for an indoor pool in Hanover should be formally re-evaluated when the RM’s population reaches 25,000 people; it is apparent that current growth estimates are continuing on course; and factors such as the regional supply of indoor pool facilities at that time – and local demand for and capacity to finance the construction and operation of an indoor pool over the long-term – so dictate.					TBD
6	The need for additional indoor ice pad capacity in Hanover, (over and above the recommendations outlined herein regarding the long-term Asset Management strategies regarding the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas and the need for an indoor arena as part of a future regional multiplex facility) should be formally re-evaluated when the RM’s population reaches 25,000 people; it is apparent that current growth estimates are continuing on course; and factors at that time – such as the condition of the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas, the status of pre-planning, funding and/or development efforts regarding the regional multiplex facility, local use and demand trends, the capacity to finance the construction and operation of additional indoor ice pad capacity over the long-term – so dictate.					Capital cost of new indoor arena: \$12M
7	Confirm life safety upgrade priorities for the RM’s arena facilities and develop an Asset Management strategy to monitor the condition and viability of the continued use of the RM’s arena facilities as they age.					TBD

STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

	TIMELINE					COST IMPLICATION	
	IMMEDIATE	SHORT-TERM	MID-TERM	LONG TERM	ONGOING		
OUTDOOR FACILITIES							
8	Engage in design and development of a new / expanded change room facility at Centennial Park.	●					\$150,000 - \$200,000
9	Engage in design and development of a new soccer pitch in Grunthal.	●					\$80,000 - \$150,000
10	Engage in design and development of new lighting at the Penn-co Field (Diamond 1) in Blumenort.	●					\$150,000 - \$180,000
11	Prepare parks, open space, and trails policies as part of a Development Plan amendment that reflects the 2013 RMP and current best practices.		●				\$10,000 - \$12,000
12	Prepare a Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan to support parks, open space, and multi-use trail strategic planning, design, and development, including identifying opportunities for strategic land acquisitions through such means as direct purchase by way of funds allocated in the RM's budget or monies raised through cash-in-lieu of land dedications; land exchanges / land swaps; and/or donations, gifts, or bequests from individuals or organizations.			■			\$35,000 - \$45,000
REGIONAL MULTIPLEX							
13	Engage the strategic path toward the development of a regional multiplex facility and modern arena (taking into account location criteria) and the eventual decommissioning and/or repurposing of the RM's arena facilities.			■			Phase 1: Multiplex - \$15.5M Phase 2: Indoor Arena - \$12M Site Development and Outdoor Amenities - \$1 - \$1.5M
14	Leverage local resources with other public and private sector partners, and engage RM residents, potential users, and stakeholders as partners in decommissioning and/or repurposing strategies for the RM's arena facilities as well as the design and development phasing process for the regional multiplex facility.					●	N/A

Appendix

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A:

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

1. Stakeholder interviews held in-person on September 24/20 with:
 - Grunthal Minor Hockey
 - Blumenort Recreation Association
 - Blumenort Minor Baseball
 - New Bothwell Recreation Association and New Bothwell Chamber of Commerce
 - Kleefeld Recreation Association
 - New Horizons and Mitchell Seniors Centres
 - Mitchell Recreation Association

2. Stakeholder interview held via Zoom on October 5/20 with Hanover School Division

3. Stakeholder interviews held in-person on October 8/20 with:
 - Community Centres (Pansy Hall, Sarto)
 - Grunthal Soccer Club
 - Grunthal Skating Club
 - Grunthal Community Centre Board / Arena Board

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

SURVEY RESPONSES:

- On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being 'very poor' and 10 being 'very good', what is your perception of the overall quality of life in the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
1 – Very poor	3	.6%
2	4	.8%
3	5	1.0%
4	8	1.5%
5	72	13.9%
6	23	4.4%
7	76	14.7%
8	148	28.6%
9	73	14.1%
Very good – 10	106	20.5%
Total	518	100.0%

- What do you value most about the RM of Hanover as a place to live, work, and play? Please list up to three responses. *(Up to 3 responses were coded. 452 respondents gave at least one response.)*

Feature Valued	#	Feature Valued	#
Safe/low crime	120	Platitudes such as Live Work Play	17
Recreation opportunities	106	Taxes are reasonable / good value	17
Good schools / close to schools	103	Lots of space, large lots	16
People are friendly / good / helpful	94	Good services / facilities	16
Country living / rural feeling / small town	87	Good local government	15
Sense of community	83	Close to nature / natural beauty	13
Quiet / peaceful	70	Progressive / growing community	13
Christian community / church	53	Good / shared values	12

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Feature Valued	#	Feature Valued	#
Close to amenities	46	Community events (fairs, etc.)	10
Parks / trails	44	Accommodating / accepting	9
Close to work / work opportunities	40	Location / mix of rural and urban	8
Affordable homes	38	Cultural diversity	6
Family-oriented / family-friendly	36	Good farm land / agricultural	5
Clean / fresh air	31	Low / slow traffic	4
Infrastructure is good (roads)	30	Far enough from larger city	2
Local business community	23	Friends / family nearby	2
Close enough to larger city	20	Where I grew up/familiar	2
Good neighbourhood / community	17	Younger population	1
Privacy / freedom	12		

3. Please list up to five of your favourite free time activities. (*Up to five responses coded. 439 respondents gave at least one response.*)

Favourite Activity	#	Favourite Activity	#
Walking including walking dog	203	Basketball	13
Biking / cycling / BMX	138	Music / musical instruments / singing	13
Swimming	111	Splash pads	13
Hockey	94	Tennis	13
Reading / visiting library	79	Tobogganing / tubing	13
Baseball / softball / slo-pitch	69	Skateboarding / scooter	12
Hiking	66	Restaurant / coffee shop / food vendor	11
Skating	66	Boating / canoe / kayak	9
Playground / play structure	55	Cross-country skiing / kick-sledding	9
Park / picnics, etc.	51	Horseback riding	8
Camping / cabin	45	Football / rugby	7
Yard work /gardening / landscaping	45	Religious activities / church	7
Socializing - visiting family / friends	43	Rollerblading	7
Family time / playing with kids	37	Time with animals / pets	6
Fishing	37	Downhill skiing / snowboarding	6
Art / painting / crafts / woodworking	34	Hobbies	5

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Favourite Activity	#	Favourite Activity	#
Soccer (indoor or outdoor)	34	Home renovations / DIY / cleaning	5
Being outdoors	31	Photography	5
ATV / dirt-biking	31	Relaxing	5
Golf	28	Shopping	5
Video games / TV / Movies at home	25	Target / trap / skeet shooting	5
Watching movies (at theatre)	25	Volunteering	5
Sports, unspecified	24	Aerobic exercise / classes	4
Hunting	22	Badminton	4
Running / jogging	22	Bowling	4
"workout" unspecified	20	Work-related physical activity (construction, farming etc.)	4
Spectator sports	20	Beach	3
Cooking / baking / BBQ	19	Beach volleyball	3
Bonfires / sitting around fire	18	Dancing / dance classes	3
Community events (fairs, etc.)	18	Escape rooms	3
Volleyball	17	Martial arts / self-defence	3
Cards / cribbage / board games / puzzles	16	Race car driving/ Motocross	3
Driving / sightseeing / travel	16	Spa	3
Snowmobiling	14		

4. Are there any new free time activities that you are not doing now, but would like to try?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	152	33.2%
No	84	18.3%
Unsure	222	48.5%
Total	458	100.0%

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

5. If you answered yes to Question #4, please list up to three new free time activities that you would like to try. *(Up to 3 responses coded. 125 respondents gave at least one response.)*

New Activity	#	New Activity	#
Art / painting / crafts / woodworking	15	Fishing	3
Swimming	15	Football / rugby	3
Tennis	14	ATV / dirt-biking	3
Cross-country skiing / kick-sledding	13	Roller hockey	3
"workout" unspecified	12	Skating	3
Biking / cycling / BMX	9	Skydiving / hang gliding	3
Curling	9	Snowshoeing	3
Aerobic exercise / classes / machines	8	Youth programs / centres	3
Classes – adult education / special interest	7	Boating / canoe / kayak	2
Hiking	7	Cards / cribbage / board games / puzzles	2
Music / musical instruments / singing	7	Community events (fairs, etc.)	2
Pickle ball	7	Dog park	2
Splash pads	6	Hockey	2
Yoga / Pilates	6	Indoor walking specifically	2
Camping / cabin	5	Parkour	2
Golf	5	Playground / play structures	2
Rock climbing	5	Running / jogging	2
Soccer (indoor or outdoor)	5	Seniors programs / centres	2
Hobbies	4	Snowmobiling	2
Racquetball / squash	4	Strengthening exercises / machines	2
Badminton	3	Target / trap / skeet shooting	2
Baseball / softball / slo-pitch	3	Tobogganing / tubing	2
Dancing / dance classes	3	Track and field / marathon / triathlon	2
Disc golf	3	Walking including walking dog	2
Downhill skiing / snowboarding	3	Watching movies (at theatre)	2
Driving / sightseeing / travel	3	Waterpark	2
Exercise path	3	Zip-line / bungee-jumping	2

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

6. Approximately what % of your regular free time activities do you do in recreation facilities in each of the following locations?

	RM of Hanover	Steinbach	Winnipeg	Another Location
None	10.9%	20.8%	41.0%	66.2%
1-10%	10.9%	28.1%	28.3%	10.1%
11-20%	7.5%	14.8%	7.8%	8.1%
21-30%	8.6%	15.1%	7.8%	7.3%
31-40%	8.3%	5.5%	3.4%	1.3%
41-50%	11.7%	8.3%	5.7%	2.3%
51-60%	5.5%	.8%	1.0%	1.6%
61-70%	6.5%	1.0%	1.6%	.3%
71-80%	12.2%	3.6%	1.3%	1.3%
81-90%	8.8%	1.3%	.5%	.5%
91-99%	1.8%	.3%	.3%	.0%
All of it	7.3%	.5%	1.3%	1.0%
Mean	47.8%	21.3%	14.4%	9.5%
Median	50%	15.0%	5.0%	0%
Mode	50%	0%	0%	0%

7. Are there any free time activities that you do outside the RM of Hanover that you would prefer to do within the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	196	46.1%
No	116	27.3%
Unsure	113	26.6%
Total	425	100.0%

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

8. If you answered yes to Question #7, please list up to three free time activities that you would prefer to do within the RM of Hanover. *(Up to 3 responses coded. 182 respondents gave at least one response.)*

Activity in Hanover	#	Activity in Hanover	#
Swimming	41	Badminton	3
Splash pads	22	Cross-country ski / kick-sledding	3
Biking / cycling / BMX	21	Family time / playing with kids	3
Watching movies (at theatre)	16	Go-carts	3
Hiking	15	Golf	3
Walking including walking dog	14	Mini-golf	3
"workout" unspecified	11	Museums / art gallery	3
Skateboarding /scooter	11	Rock climbing	3
Hockey	10	Rollerblading	3
Shopping	10	Skating	3
Soccer (indoor or outdoor)	10	Sports, unspecified	3
Camping / cabin	8	Virtual reality arcade	3
Infant / child activities and programs	6	Yoga / Pilates	3
Park / picnics etc.	6	Baseball / softball / slo-pitch	2
Playground / play structures	6	Basketball	2
Restaurant / coffee shop	6	Beach	2
Volleyball	6	Cards / cribbage / board games / puzzles	2
Waterpark	6	Curling	2
Bowling	5	Hobbies	2
Dancing / dance classes	5	Horseback riding	2
Fishing	5	Hunting	2
Target / trap / skeet shooting	5	Indoor walking specifically	2
Tennis	5	Music / musical instruments / singing	2
Aerobic exercise / classes / machines	4	Race car driving / Motocross	2
Dog park	4	Racquetball / squash	2
Downhill skiing / snowboarding	4	Recreational hockey (specifically)	2
Football/rugby	4	Snowshoeing	2
ATV / dirt-biking	4	Trampoline park	2
Reading / visiting library	4	Track and field / marathon / triathlon	2
Attending theatre / concerts	4	Zoo	2
Tobogganing / tubing	4		

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

9. What most limits or prevents you from participating in free time activities? Please check all that apply.

Barriers to Participation	Percent
Lack of facilities	57.8%
Cost	41.1%
Travel distance	33.8%
Quality of facilities	25.7%
Nothing limits	18.4%
Lack of childcare	13.8%
Physical limitation	3.5%
Transportation	3.0%
Time / other commitments	2.4%
COVID restrictions	.8%
Timing / scheduling of activities	.8%
Lack of information about activities	.3%

10. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being 'completely dissatisfied', 3 being 'moderately satisfied' and 5 being 'completely satisfied', how satisfied are you with the existing free time opportunities in the RM of Hanover for each of the following age categories?

Target age	# of Respondents	Completely Dissatisfied	A Little Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Satisfied	Completely Satisfied
Infant	242	12.8%	20.2%	26.9%	27.7%	12.4%
Children aged 6-12	300	4.0%	23.3%	32.7%	31.0%	9.0%
Youth aged 13-15	248	12.5%	29.4%	30.2%	23.8%	4.0%
Youth aged 16-17	230	17.8%	32.6%	24.8%	20.0%	4.8%
Young adult 18-29	255	18.0%	33.7%	25.1%	19.6%	3.5%
Adults aged 30-54	324	13.0%	28.1%	28.7%	25.0%	5.2%
Older adults aged 55-64	158	21.5%	25.3%	20.9%	27.2%	5.1%
Seniors aged 65+	148	23.0%	26.4%	16.9%	28.4%	5.4%

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

11. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being 'completely dissatisfied', 3 being 'moderately satisfied' and 5 being 'completely satisfied', how satisfied are you with the existing opportunities in the RM of Hanover for each of the following activity categories?

Activity Type	# of Respondents	Completely Dissatisfied	A Little Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Satisfied	Completely Satisfied
Fitness Activities	334	16.5%	26.9%	27.2%	22.2%	7.2%
Recreation-level Sports	336	11.6%	23.5%	29.8%	28.6%	6.5%
Competitive Sports	272	11.4%	22.8%	26.1%	31.3%	8.5%
Social Activities	326	13.5%	33.7%	26.7%	21.5%	4.6%
Special Events	325	11.7%	27.7%	30.2%	24.3%	6.2%
Visual Arts	251	24.3%	30.3%	17.9%	21.5%	6.0%
Performing Arts	255	31.8%	23.5%	18.4%	19.6%	6.7%
Outdoor Recreation	341	8.5%	29.9%	30.8%	24.9%	5.9%

12. How frequently do you use the following indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover?

Facility	Never	Occasionally	Moderately	Frequently
Arenas	38.0%	27.1%	19.1%	15.8%
Outdoor rinks	23.0%	41.9%	24.1%	11.0%
Outdoor pools	47.9%	33.2%	15.6%	3.3%
Splash pads	43.7%	31.9%	20.9%	3.6%
Community centres	54.3%	41.9%	3.3%	0.6%
Senior centres	91.7%	7.5%	0.8%	0.0%
Parks	5.2%	35.9%	37.8%	21.0%
Skateboard parks	75.0%	14.3%	7.7%	3.0%
Soccer fields	49.6%	32.0%	14.0%	4.4%
Baseball diamonds	51.8%	24.5%	1.8%	9.9%
Tennis courts	74.3%	20.7%	4.7%	0.3%
Basketball courts	75.4%	15.7%	5.8%	3.0%
Walking paths	14.5%	28.2%	29.0%	28.2%
Cycling trails	46.7%	22.4%	16.9%	14.1%
School facilities	36.1%	27.0%	19.0%	17.9%

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

13. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being 'completely dissatisfied', 3 being 'moderately satisfied' and 5 being 'completely satisfied', how satisfied are you with the supply and quality of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
Completely dissatisfied	39	10.9%
A little satisfied	107	30.0%
Moderately satisfied	117	32.8%
Satisfied	74	20.7%
Completely satisfied	9	2.5%
Do not know / no opinion	11	3.1%
Total	357	100.0%

14. Are there new or upgraded INDOOR recreation facilities needed in the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	246	67.6%
No	35	9.6%
Unsure	83	22.8%
Total	364	100.0%

15. If you answered yes to Question #14, please list up to three INDOOR facilities. *(Up to 3 responses coded. 225 respondents gave at least one response.)*

Indoor Facility	#	Indoor Facility	#
Hockey / skating rink	95	Billiards / Shuffle board	4
Swimming pool	53	Go-karts	4
Gym space for basketball / volleyball / badminton	42	Mini golf	4
Multiplex or rec centre	38	Skate park	4
Soccer / baseball / football	34	Shooting range	3
Track (running)	32	Youth activity centre	3
Gym / fitness	20	Dance studio	2
Community centre	17	Improve handicap accessibility	2
Tennis / badminton / pickle ball courts	14	Programming, not facilities	2
Bowling	11	Senior centre	2
Squash	9	Splash pad	2

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COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Indoor Facility	#	Indoor Facility	#
Unspecified	9	Trampoline park	2
Art centre / performing arts	8	Yoga studio	2
Basketball	8	Arcade	1
Indoor play structure	8	Board gaming cafe	1
Library	8	Club / Dancing / Pub	1
Movie theatre	7	Daycare centre	1
Convention centre / meeting rooms	6	Dog park	1
Waterpark	6	Driving range (golf)	1
Escape room / gaming centre/ laser tag	5	Roller skating rink	1
Rock climbing	5		

16. Are there new or upgraded OUTDOOR recreation facilities needed in the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	198	55.6%
No	40	11.2%
Unsure	118	33.1%
Total	356	100.0%

17. If you answered yes to Question #16, please list up to three OUTDOOR facilities. (Up to 3 responses coded. 183 respondents gave at least one response.)

Outdoor Facility	#	Outdoor Facility	#
Splash pad	48	Toboggan / tubing hill	4
Hockey / skating rink	42	Exercise path / park	3
Walking path	42	Fair grounds	3
Play structures	23	Hiking trails	3
bike trails	22	Off-road / ATV trails	3
Tennis	20	Ski trails / horseback riding trails	3
Pool	19	Track	3
Baseball	16	Sand volleyball	2
Skateboard park	16	Waterpark	2
Parks / green space	11	Archery	1
Soccer	11	Camping	1
BMX trails	7	Community garden	1

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Outdoor Facility	#	Outdoor Facility	#
Park amenities (bathrooms, shelters, etc.)	7	Fishing	1
Dog park	6	Motocross park	1
Unspecified	6	Paintball / laser tag	1
Basketball	5	Target range	1
Mini golf	4		

18. Currently, the indoor arenas in Grunthal and Mitchell are over 40 years old. In terms of future options to either upgrade or replace these facilities, which of the following options do you support?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Upgrade the Mitchell Arena	50.0%	22.1%	27.9%
Maintain the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas as required and build a new regional facility	47.7%	28.6%	23.7%
Replace the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas with a new regional facility	41.4%	34.1%	24.5%
Build a new arena in Grunthal	38.0%	23.5%	38.6%
Upgrade the Grunthal Arena	36.7%	28.8%	34.5%
Build a new arena in Mitchell	28.2%	36.7%	35.1%
Do nothing	9.5%	70.4%	20.1%

19. How often would you or members of your household use:

	Never	Occasional	Moderate	Frequent
An upgraded or new arena in Grunthal	55.0%	20.2%	13.5%	11.4%
An upgraded or new arena in Mitchell	46.4%	25.7%	15.2%	12.8%
A new regional facility (e.g. with arena, gym-fitness-meeting-arts space, outdoor recreation)	16.0%	29.4%	32.1%	22.4%

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20. Currently, a typical home in the RM of Hanover has an assessed value of \$250,000 and pays about \$140 of the municipal portion of property taxes toward recreation and parks services. If new or upgraded recreation facilities were developed in the RM of Hanover, what is the maximum increase in your annual property taxes you would be willing to pay for these facilities? Please choose only one item.

	Frequency	Percent
None - no tax increase	78	23.4%
\$1 to \$60 more per year	101	30.3%
\$61 - \$120 more per year	70	21.0%
\$121 - \$180 more per year	38	11.4%
\$Over \$180 more per year	26	7.8%
Do not know/ no opinion	20	6.0%
Total	333	100.0
Other	12	

SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Female	200	59.3%
Male	117	34.7%
Prefer not to answer / other	20	5.9%
Total	337	100.0%

What is your marital status?

	Frequency	Percent
Single, never married	11	3.3%
Common-law	18	5.3%
Legally married	295	87.3%
Separated	4	1.2%
Divorced	8	2.4%
Widowed	2	.6%
Total	338	100.0%

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How old are you?

	Frequency	Percent
Under 30	41	13.2%
30 - 39	125	40.2%
40 - 49	106	34.1%
50 - 59	27	8.7%
60 - 69	9	2.9%
70 +	3	1.0%
Total	311	100.0%

What is your approximate total household income?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than \$20,000	3	.9%
\$20,000-\$29,999	4	1.2%
\$30,000-\$49,999	26	7.7%
\$50,000-\$69,999	53	15.6%
\$70,000-\$89,999	59	17.4%
\$90,000-\$99,999	32	9.4%
\$100,000-\$124,999	44	13.0%
\$125,000-\$149,999	26	7.7%
\$150,000-\$199,999	26	7.7%
More than \$200,000	10	2.9%
Do not know / prefer not to answer	56	16.5%
Total	339	100.0%
Missing	180	
	519	

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COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

What is your employment status?

	Frequency	Percent
Employed / self-employed full time	221	65.8%
Employed / self-employed part time	56	16.7%
Unemployed	45	13.4%
Student	4	1.2%
Retired	10	3.0%
Total	336	100.0%

Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

No. of Children	Frequency	Percent
0	45	13.5%
1	42	12.6%
2	99	29.6%
3	81	24.3%
4	50	15.0%
5	12	3.6%
6 or more	5	1.4%
Total	334	100.0%

No. of Adults	Frequency	Percent
1	20	6.0%
2	262	78.4%
3	39	11.7%
4 or more	13	3.9%
Total	334	100.0%

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How long have you lived in the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 year	14	4.2%
1 - 5 years	57	17.0%
6 - 10 years	50	14.9%
11 - 20 years	74	22.0%
21 - 30 years	48	14.3%
31 - 40 years	49	14.6%
41 - 50 years	32	9.5%
50+ years	12	3.6%
Total	336	100.0%

Which of the following best describes your place of residency in the RM of Hanover?

	Frequency	Percent
In or near Grunthal	85	25.1%
In or near Mitchel	88	26.0%
In or near Blumenort	54	16.0%
In or near New Bothwell	24	7.1%
In or near Kleefeld	68	20.1%
Rural property	19	5.6%
Total	338	100.0%
Other	1	
Missing	180	
Total	181	

ADDITIONAL SURVEY COMMENTS:

If you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make regarding recreation facilities in the RM of Hanover please note them in the space below.
(Verbatim, not edited except to ensure respondent confidentiality)

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<p>Important to have in each community own facilities LT vision on capital asset mgmt Phased approach arena then Add on multiplex. Change facility as needs of community change demographics etc facilities are adaptable and have year end use</p>
<p>A campground would cost far less than a Rec facility and children would learn much more about how this world exists and learn to socialize. Parents would have more opportunities to spend time with their children rather than dropping them off at a Rec centre for someone else to baby sit them. Society needs to change back to where families spend more time together. So whatever is decided make sure there is a place families can be together. Kids need parents to be with them as much as possible and not Rec programs to take time away from families being together.</p>
<p>A new central arena would be appreciated. It might make sense to have more than 1 ice surface in the central arena and have the other 2 arenas be supported by the residents or private citizens of those towns if they so chose. I'm not convinced we need a gym or performing arts facilities, but a nice area for meetings appeals to me</p>
<p>Access to outdoor washrooms at all parks is appreciated.</p>
<p>An new arena in Grunthal would be a good thing. However the arena needs to meet everyone's needs. Needs a pool, gym, track, splash pad, outdoor rinks. Not just for hockey. Also needs to be located in a good area. The ag grounds are not a good area at all. Put it beside the exist one or south of the soccer field. Imo this would be great for the town and area but personally I'm not in favor of my taxes going up.</p>
<p>Arena Upgrades in Mitchell Please.</p>
<p>As a club volleyball coach, I have used the school facilities to coach. With the number of activities and athletes, we are all stretched in terms of facility. Would love to see a multi use facility. Thanks for putting out this survey.</p>
<p>Blumenort is very lacking in recreational options. This has been amplified due to COVID. We have a splash park and that's great for kids up to 5-6 years old, but after that interest falls off. The play structure at the school gets used, but that's not an RM facility. As for adults, there's very limited options. We have some sidewalks and that's about it. Tennis courts would be nice (sad to see we lost those). A paved path to Steinbach, or even a wide paved shoulder on the 12, would be awesome for biking</p>
<p>Blumenort would benefit from an indoor rink.</p>
<p>Bothwell needs more activities for youth and teens. Splash park for summer would be good and more parking space</p>
<p>Bothwell needs some form of outdoor water activity. As well as better walking paths, ones that do not wash away from the rain, nor become unusable during the winter months/heavy down pours.</p>
<p>Build a dog park in Grunthal. If new regional facility is built in Grunthal, get rid of old arena, but still have an outdoor rink option in town.</p>

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Build a place for cadets in this multiplex they are a great addition to the community.
Build it and they will come, tax us to death over it and no one can afford to come.
Build more stuff for kids 😊☐
Build south of soccer fields or at the coop gas station corner to expand town. NOT IN FAIR GROUNDS THATS A TERRIBLE SPOT NOT TO MENTION OT DESTROYES THE Ntural forest in town
Create a dirt bike track for all the yahoos tearing up our roads.
Do not sacrifice road or drainage maintenance/upgrades for recreation.
Don't spend money
Ensure project taxes are clear marked on all tax bills, and mandated to be removed upon project completion
Every community deserves their own easily accessible space to gather for recreation. Part of belonging to a small town is the sense of community pride which would be diminished by a regional facility. I was under the impression that a new Grunthal arena was already approved some time ago so I am confused as to why we are now be considered together with Mitchell. Mitchell and Grunthal are two very different communities with different needs. A new Grunthal arena is long overdue, as is a space for community events.
Extra fees for library and swimming in steinbach shouldn't happen
Free access to rinks and pools
Get it done. The costs are only going up every year you wait.
Groomed snowmobile trail to mitchell
Growth and sustainability for smaller communities is often overlooked due to the high demand of the more populated regions, however as an RM there is a responsibility fiscally and demonstratively to these communities as a vital part of the framework.
Grunthal desperately needs a new arena.
Grunthal has done a good job with upgrading the pool and walking paths and ball diamonds to meet recreation demand. Lets stick with the town goals of having the arena built which I'm sure was on the list of goals in Grunthal from past rec groups. With the town steeped in hockey tradition it makes sense that a new arena be built with a conference room attached to host banquets, socials and general meetings. Hockey and ringette being a 5 month sport is still affordable and with an upgrade in facility the enrollment numbers would really improve. Lastly there are lots of programs for children and teens but not much for parents / seniors. Recreation seems to stop when students graduate. a Recreation director would most likely solve this problem. Also make the gyms in Hanover more accessible for adults in the evening. Less expense for users. Have a recreation director communicate with hanover school division to organize adult nights. 50 -60\$ a night to use the gym is too costly and it prevents a lot of people from using it.

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<p>Grunthal has many families that frequent the arena daily during the winter months, and I feel that a new facility could also bring in programs year round for all ages from young children to seniors. Grunthal has a fantastic base for recreational programs which could be built on with a newer facility! My family plus many others from the surrounding areas frequent the arena in winter months and as much as we love our old barn...it's time for upgrades/ a new facility!</p>
<p>Grunthal is a full service agricultural town. Why would a town with both elementary and high school, seniors residence, fire station, restaurants, grocery, pool, baseball soccer have its citizens go to another community for hockey/ringette skating?</p>
<p>Grunthal really needs a spray pad in town by the arena or the school. Some families can not access st pierres spray pad</p>
<p>Hanover is extremely behind in recreational services that meets needs of small communities. We are short on green spaces. We lack vision from the planning committee in bringing balance to communities. It seems they rubber stamp any development but do not look at the over benefit to the communities</p>
<p>Hanover needs to move into the 21st century and stop focusing on hockey and baseball. There's multiple other rec functions that are being completely ignored. Council rarely listens to anyone presented outside of these two sports or community festivals. Open your eyes!!!! There's more than hockey and baseball happening in your communities.</p>
<p>Hockey isn't for everyone. An indoor soccer facility that also has some squash, racquetball, or handball courts would be welcome.</p>
<p>How much would renewing the present arenas cost versus building new? Where would new arenas be built?</p>
<p>I appreciate the new paths that Kleefeld has made. Keep them coming:) the path around the park could be maintained a little better. Lots of breaking that is dangerous for bikers.</p>
<p>I appreciate the opportunity to complete this survey. Please make this more visible and accessible to the entire RM of Hanover. I only know about because I received an email through HSD.</p>
<p>I believe that the RM of Hanover is large enough to sustain 2 regional multi use facilities(north & south). I also believe that new rec. facilities will assist in stimulating growth in the RM as well. I'm also disappointed that this is the third study in the past decade with no new major facilities coming to fruition out of these studies.</p>
<p>I can see value in recreational buildings to strengthen our communities. That said, my family and I find more cost-effective ways to participate therefore facilities like this would not benefit us.</p>

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I don't mind contributing a minimal amount via taxes to help fund any recreation upgrades, however I believe the best strategy is to raise fund via community fundraising, sponsorships, naming rights etc. I lived in Landmark for the first 50 years of my life - during that time two arenas were built. The original arena was built almost exclusively with community donations and labour in the 1970's. When the current recreation facility was built in the 90's there was some government funding, but again the bulk was financed by community and corporate donations and fundraising. The residents in effect decide the value of these facilities, with the local government offering guidance and support. I suggest a community committee be set up with councillors, residents and business representatives. This way, the whole community will be engaged in the discussion.

I have 4 kids in the GMHA and soon to be 5. Please, we need a new arena so the kids can keep playing!

I have really enjoyed the walking paths around Grunthal! This is a huge improvement to the community and promotes physical activity outside for people of ALL AGES! Swimming pools are also a great place for people of all ages to be physically active and I would love to see another indoor pool within the RM. The Steinbach pool is very busy and access swimming lessons is difficult if you do not live in the city. This means that for some of us we take our children to the city for lessons. Swimming is an important life skill and all children should have access to lessons. I am happy to see there are discussions around a multipurpose complex and NOT just another arena. If the RM moves forward on a multipurpose recreational complex I would like to see more public consultation to ensure it can support the needs of everyone in the community not just people who play hockey.

I hope the idea for covering the outdoor rinks is off your radar for good. If there are funds available, spend it on maintaining/repairing these facilities and upgrades to outdoor rink flooding equipment or snow making equipment that can shared by the different outdoor rinks? Something to make the process quicker in Kleefeld would be great. I'm sure other towns have similar challenges. "Outdoor rink" would change to an "underfunded indoor rink" very quickly if you go back to the tarp covers option. There has been some significant growth in Kleefeld recently, would be nice to have some real basketball courts to compliment the tennis courts at the park. (the schools basketball hoops are not up to par. Upgrade or repair the skate park ramps as well. I think these were fundraised for the original setup but are needing repairs or replacement coming up. I know lots of people are wanting a splash park in Kleefeld, I feel this is to soon to setup, we need more of a long term plan funds saved up. Maybe a few more years of population growth and this could be a legit option.

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I suppose that geographically a facility in Kleefeld or Mitchell makes the most sense. One idea/suggestion that I would have, is that with Hanover being so spread out geographically, it's difficult to have a central location that has infrastructure. Randolph would be the best central location, but there are no services. Essentially either Mitchell or Kleefeld would make the most sense. Grunthal is too far away from all the other towns in the RM so a regional facility in Grunthal would be a white elephant. The other major factor that would need to be addressed in order to have more rate payers on board, would be to re-negotiate the minor hockey boundaries in the area. As of right now, Blumenort kids play in Steinbach or Ste Anne, and New Bothwell kids play in either Landmark or Niverville. It used to be that they played in Mitchell. So, in my opinion, the best way to ensure sustained usage of a regional facility would be the requirement that those kids whose parents reside within the Hanover boundaries, would be required to play for either Mitchell or Grunthal (or perhaps the entire RM of Hanover is a new merged hockey association). I have always found it perplexing that residents of RM towns like New Bothwell and Blumenort have to send their kids to a different City or RM where they are not utilizing the facilities that their tax dollars are going towards. A regional facility needs to be used by as many of the residents as possible in order to get regional buy in. If a child is required to play hockey or ringette in a town outside of the RM due to the Eastman Hockey boundary map, those people would be apathetic to a new facility as their child doesn't get to use it anyway.

I think a regional arena would be a major mistake. Arenas and community centres are more than mere locations where activities occur. They are the heartbeat of the community. They are a draw for new residents. They draw visitors that support local businesses. They foster a sense of pride and belonging in the community. A regional arena would do substantial damage to the communities that would then be without.

I think a tennis court and hockey arena in Grunthal is a great way to build the community

I think more opportunities for infants and young children would be great. Programming for them, like dance classes would be great, but there is no real facility in our municipality for that. An indoor pool would be great for the region. A splash pad in Grunthal would be great for kids. A new recreational facility should not just be geared towards hockey players. There are other great sports that need more attention. While Grunthal does need a new arena, don't just make it an arena. It needs to be multi-faceted and be something every age group can use. Seniors also have very little in the way of options in our community, really other than the walking paths throughout the town.

I think there is definitely more room for program development in Blumenort before considering major renovations or upgrades to existing facilities. We need to be using what we do have.

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<p>I think there is a lack of recreation activities for kids from 12 and up. But I believe our taxes are high enough. I travel on gravel roads that are terribly maintained and have limited services (internet cable) no sewer and have a well. So not sure where all of Mitchell's tax dolks are going? As it is not to recreation or activities</p>
<p>I think we should not be forced to pay for something we do not use. Plus because we live out of town, we have to pay extra yet to use these things. I am opposed to the add on to my taxes!</p>
<p>I thought the maintain versus replace arena questions were difficult to answering without knowing more details on cost, challenges, and potential. If upgrading the current facilities can buy another 50 years of efficient use that may make more sense</p>
<p>I would be in favor of an updated and expanded facility in Grunthal. I dont want to have to drive to Steinbach to do yoga or play pickleball or play tennis or swim in the winter</p>
<p>I would like to see more bike trails or quadding trails in and around Kleefeld.</p>
<p>i would love to see upgrades to the mitchell town park. (splash pad, play structure) we would love to see a play structure on the south side of town so we dont have to cross the hwy. the current playground is made of trees and it SUCKS!</p>
<p>I'm really hoping that with Covid, the outdoor skating rinks are up and running this year. Perhaps even earlier than usual if possible.</p>
<p>if we dont live in mitchell or grunthal then we do not wanna have our taxes increase</p>
<p>It feels like we are constantly driving to Steinbach to visit the library, the pool, the splash park, to go for walks on the sidewalks. It would be so nice if more was right here in the community of Grunthal!</p>
<p>it would be nice to have crafting activities like la broquerie has for kids</p>
<p>It would be nice to have more trees planted at Stahn Field</p>
<p>Just build something. The dressing rooms in Mitchell arena. are a disgrace and embarrassment. Turn the ball diamond by the arena into a good kids diamond.</p>
<p>Just more courts to play games on in grunthal . For volleyball basketball badminton at the park and in town of grunthal.</p>
<p>Kleefeld has a lot of young children in town and would be great to see a splash park or pool Would be nice to walk there and hang out with fellow kleefelders</p>
<p>Kleefeld needs a splash park!!! So many families would benefit and being the community closer!!!</p>
<p>Kleefeld rec center too small to hold activities. Also no air-conditioning makes it very uncomfortable to use in the summer. I would appreciate a larger indoor space to have gatherings and classes and activities.</p>
<p>Make a space to host community garage sales/craft sales/ bake sales</p>
<p>Make spaces more available during the daytime to local home school families.</p>

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Many things being accessible for people in wheelchairs and for strollers. Have a family member who might need to grow up not being able to walk and hope that the community puts in the effort to make life easier for those who have limitations
Many responses are off due to COVID restrictions. We are also new to Kleefeld. I prefer to use outdoor recreation facilities in the town I live in (and send kids to activities in that town) so I don't have much opinion for upgrades to Mitchell or Grunthal. I would want my tax dollars to support upgrades or activities local to Kleefeld.
Mitchell needs basketball hoops. They are non existent. We have tennis, soccer, skating, hockey, baseball BUT NO BASKETBALL INDOORS OR OUTDOORS!!!
More accessibility for disabled persons within the RM. especially indoor arenas recreational centres. Everyone should be able to access these buildings.
More accessible children's programs, and sports near kleefeld would be amazing
More outdoor areas to enjoy ie. bike paths, walking trails, parks, etc.
More programs need to be available for children ages 2-4
More wheel chair approved in the grunthal arena and other areas.
Need long walking and biking trails to Steinbach that are paved.
Need programming, less focus on facilities. Bring people together in many ways in order to build stronger communities
New blumenort park is amazing but we need walking trails etc as streets are plagued by unsafe drivers. Would love to see an indoor arena and willing to help fundraise
No need for more government run projects. More private investor friendly environment.
Not interested. Don't want higher taxes either
Off leash dog park!
One reason of moving to Mitchell was for cheaper living expenses. Don't need taxes to go up for recreational centers that won't benefit my household.
Pay for any new arena or rec Center with user fees
Please be careful with spending!
Please build a dispensary. Lots of people smoke, more than not. Shouldn't have to drive 40 minutes just to obey the law
Please start focusing in ALL areas versus just one or two Communities. Instead of rebuilding the same thing in each community, consider spreading out what each community has to make each area a place others would want to attend. I would rather drive to Winnipeg where what we get is always wonderful. Then drive to another local community for a half baked version.
Quit putting bandaids on and build something to be proud of.
Recreation facilities should be privatized; the ones using them should pay for. Just like a camp site.

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<p>Recreation facilities, opportunities are an absolute necessity for all age groups in Hanover. Not only promoting health and well being, but providing options for persons, families, also providing reasons for persons to stay and others to move to the area</p>
<p>Soccer Field house and/or gym rec plex is necessary for future development of sport in our communities. Everything is still in Wpg only!!</p>
<p>Some of the mini parks in Mitchell could use equipment geared toward toddlers. More play structures.</p>
<p>The council of the RM needs to understand their community is changing and they need to be bold enough to build the things residents want and consider the new residents moving here. Most people likely can handle a modest tax increase. Hockey is not as big as it once was and people want local community buildings for day care and getting together and major a complex centrally located. Also they need to communicate better what the plan is for developments to fund these services. Sidewalks and bike paths, pocket parks need to be built into these plans and constructed while they are building not years later.</p>
<p>The grunthal arena needs to be made better for strollers and wheelchairs . Having a kid in hockey and one in a wheelchair doesn't work . The one in the wheelchair can't even come watch their sibling</p>
<p>The ice surfaces are fine in Mitchell and Grunthal, knock down the entry and dressing rooms and update those. Maybe think of an all encompassing rec Center but it has to be in the middle of all three towns S of Mitchell, E of Kleefeld and N of Grunthal. For it to be a quick joint down the road or else others will not use or feel burdened to travel to for play, classes, games etc</p>
<p>The RM of Hanover is very concentrated on Hockey. If they would build a new facility it should without a doubt include indoor soccer fields</p>
<p>The small towns in RM of Hanover have no walking paths besides sidewalks through town. The towns could benefit greatly by providing walking paths that go through greenspace rather than urban spaces. Areas like Kleefeld and Grunthal have as much urban forest as Fort Whyte Alive and the towns can provide huge returns to both town and citizen.</p>
<p>The summer worker for the Blumenort LUD did a fabulous job of maintaining the recreational areas this summer! Thank you also for providing an incredible fireworks show last night!</p>
<p>There is a belief in our household that too much money is poured into hockey. Put more money into splash, parks, skate parks and walking trails where average people can participate and not spend a lot of money on equipment. Why do the local guys need to support the elite in their expensive pastimes?</p>
<p>There is not much for teenagers to do in StbH, Mitchell, area. Would be fantastic to get something done. There is so many different towns that have awesome complexes please get one.</p>

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<p>This area needs a recreational centre that includes a variety of activities for families, which would include insight child care. If Niverville can afford on then Steinbach definitely can.</p>
<p>Update what we have and add a new large scale multi use Rec facility.</p>
<p>Upgrade facilities to wheel chair and stroller Assessable.</p>
<p>User PAY Use City of Steinbach at a user pay rate.. Let them subsidize and pay for things, not always push it to hanover and make us pay for everything or build everything or do everything. Recreation is very expensive and not everyone should have to pay. as we already pay school taxes for ever.</p>
<p>user pay fees only, not everyone should pay for RECREATION.....</p>
<p>Walking paths please!!! I'm ready to move back to Stbh for that reason!!!</p>
<p>Walking paths to get people off the road.</p>
<p>We have 4 kids in hockey in Grunthal and soon to be 5. Our community needs a new arena so the kids in our arena can play locally and not drive far to a different community. We can NOT share a multiplex with another community. We will lose registration numbers!</p>
<p>We have often thought that recreation facilities need decent food. There is a need in Mitchell for a high quality relatively low cost restaurant / coffee shop near the arena or baseball fields.</p>
<p>We need a new multi-plex in Grunthal. I do not support multi-plex in a middle area - it does not get foot traffic or enable youth/ seniors to access without having to drive or be driven. I think our youth need more opportunities and things to do. A multi-plex could meet this option. Further to that a multi-plex would provide opportunities for all ages. It needs to be in a town. Where it would stimulate growth and development and provide opportunities for the community residents. It would encourage age-in place. Mitchell is too close to Steinbach- it will likely get annexed at some point and no longer be a part of Hanover.</p>
<p>We need a new variety of recreation options for those that are not interested in physical activity or sports.</p>
<p>We need more recreation activities for our kids to encourage more play time and less screen time!! There is hardly any extra activities for our kids in the RM of Hanover. There is nothing really to keep us from moving too or closer to Steinbach for our kids sake.</p>
<p>We only use the arena in Mitchell, in winter, once per month for rec. hockey.</p>
<p>We really need a multi-sport field complex. Not all kids play hockey. Our kids need winter field options for Football/soccer, etc.</p>

APPENDIX B:

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

While I realize there are political aspects to large projects, I hope that consideration for any potential new facility considers a community's proximity to Steinbach, as well as where there is already some current raw infrastructure (roads, power, sewer & water, etc.) compared to finding a new site that is 'central/neutral', but also undeveloped and much more expensive to build. Also consider the potential to work with Hanover School Division and other potential partners.

Would be nice to rent Sports equipment for a small fee

Would love a pool for surrounding areas. Would love a splash park in kleefeld. Would love a theater. Something for people to do of all ages in summer AND winter. Our winters are long and boring. Bowling ally would be great too

Would love to see a Childcare Center and youth center in Blumenort.

Would love to see Nature playgrounds, obstacle course parks and outdoor pools

APPENDIX C

SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY

MEMO

MUNICIPALITY OF HANOVER RECREATION FACILITIES FEASIBILITY STUDY

DATE: November 9, 2021

TO: Jason Peters, Manager of Recreation and Community Services

FROM: Samantha Blatz, Scatliff + Miller + Murray

RE: **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

Municipality of Hanover Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study – Public Open House Exit Survey Results.

1.0 The Public Open House for the Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study was facilitated on September 23rd, 2021 from 7-9pm at the Mitchell Senior’s Centre. The event was organized as a come-and-go format with engagement boards (Appendix A) set up around the periphery of the large meeting room. Participants were encouraged to review the boards around the room and ask questions of SMM and RM staff as they read. The purpose of this event was to share the results of the Study, including the community survey results and project recommendations, with the community and elicit their feedback.

2.0 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

The following bullet points offer an overview of the feedback received from the Exit Survey circulated at the Public Open House and online through the RM website. A full copy of the data is included as Appendix B.

- 21 respondents filled out the survey either at the event or online
- Overall, respondents found the information provided to be clear and had a general understanding of the project after reviewing the engagement boards.
- 11 respondents answered as to whether they support the recommendations from the Study.
 - 55% said Yes
 - 45% said No
 - 3 responded with Other and noted that their concern was over the location of the multi-use facility

- General comments on the project recommendations centered around the following themes:
 - Eagerness to start implementing goals
 - Concern over location of multi-use facility being too close to Steinbach and not adequately serving smaller or farther populations
 - Appreciation for presentation and information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Blatz', written in a cursive style.

Samantha Blatz, MCP
Scatliff + Miller + Murray

APPENDIX A

01

PROJECT PURPOSE + PROCESS

RM OF HANOVER

Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study

OPEN HOUSE | SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

PURPOSE:

- 1 Create a framework to guide recreation facility development and improvements in Hanover for the next 20 years.
- 2 Consider the needs of Hanover stakeholders and residents about current and future recreation facility requirements.
- 3 Review the merits of community-based facilities vs. having one multi-use regional facility in Hanover.

STUDY PROCESS:



SCATLIF • MILLER • WILBY

02

RECREATION BENEFITS + TRENDS

RM OF HANOVER

Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study

OPEN HOUSE | SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION:

Source: The Benefits Catalogue (1997), CPRA, Ottawa

Outcome	Personal	Social	Economic	Environmental
PERSONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS	✓			
KEY TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	✓			
ESSENTIAL TO QUALITY OF LIFE	✓	✓		
REDUCES ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	✓	✓	✓	
BUILDS STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES		✓	✓	
PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER			✓	
MAJOR ECONOMIC GENERATORS			✓	
ENHANCES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS				✓



TRENDS:

- Aging infrastructure + increasing costs + limited tax dollars
- Aging facilities vs. changing needs and interests
- Increase in public use + drop-in use of facilities
- Facilities as community gathering places
- Decrease in volunteerism
- Increase in wellness pursuits + environmental learning
- Increase in passive recreation + active transportation
- Shifts in youth interests and participation
- Impacts of COVID-19

SCATLIF • MILLER • WILBY

PROFILE:

HANOVER SETTLEMENT CENTRES – POPULATION DATA

Settlement Centres	Census Population:			% Change:		Projected 2036 Population:
	2006	2011	2016	2006-2011	2011-2016	
Mitchell	1,492	1,915	2,523	28.4%	32.0%	8,980
Grunthol	1,176	1,640	1,680	39.5%	2.4%	6,535
Blumenort	924	1,404	1,675	52.0%	19.3%	6,000
Kleefeld	703	765	N/A	8.8%	N/A	2,160
New Bothwell	527	595	N/A	12.9%	N/A	1,695
Total	11,871	14,026	15,733			

Population totals include rural areas

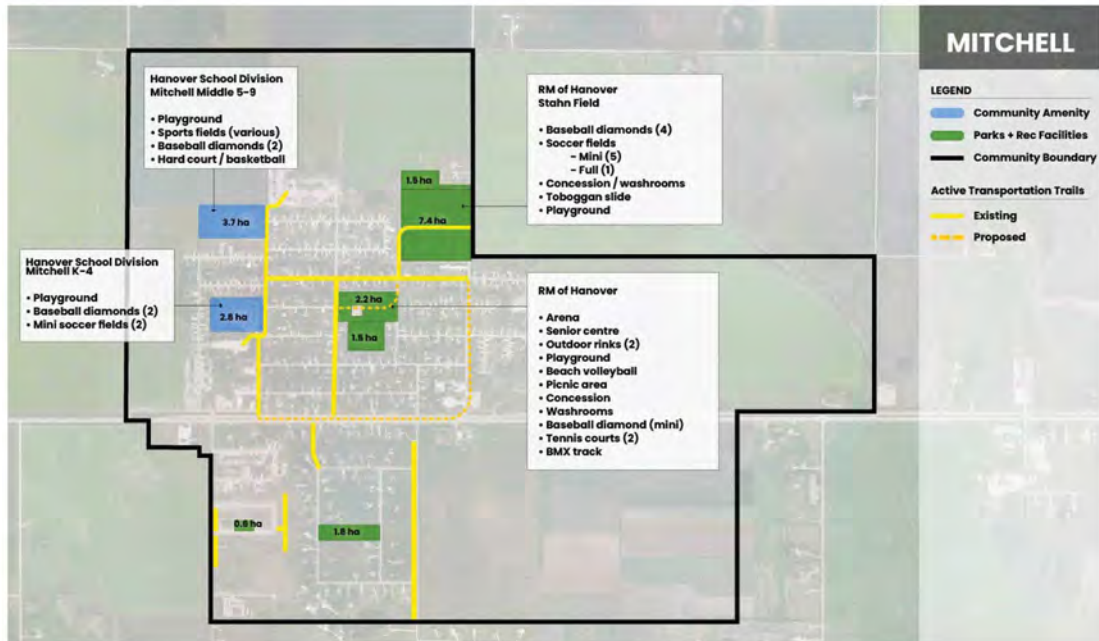
Source: Statistics Canada

- Hanover's population is close to evenly split between those in the educational stream and those in the career-to-post-retirement life stages
- Based on population and settlement growth trends:
 - o Mitchell is the primary settlement centre
 - o Blumenort and Grunthol are secondary settlement centres
 - o Kleefeld is an emerging secondary settlement centre
 - o New Bothwell is a tertiary settlement centre
- Settlement centres will continue to accommodate most of Hanover's future growth, which will put added pressures on recreation facilities and needs

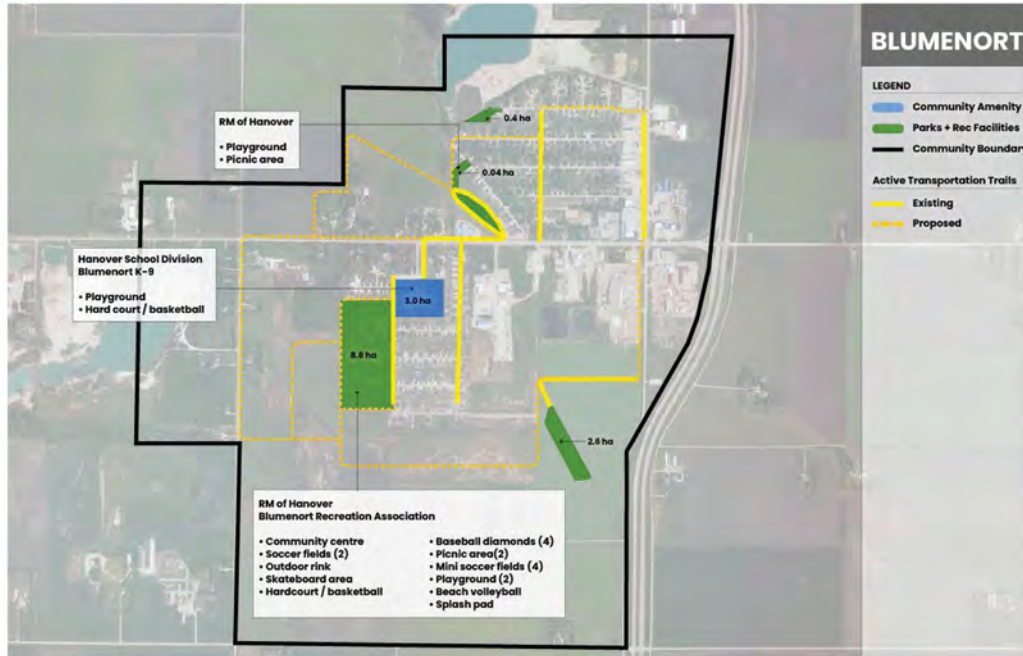
STRUCTURE:

"We will ensure the provision of quality municipal services and programs based on the identified needs of a growing population including recreation and economic development, both as a municipality and as a region"

- Hanover Strategic Plan

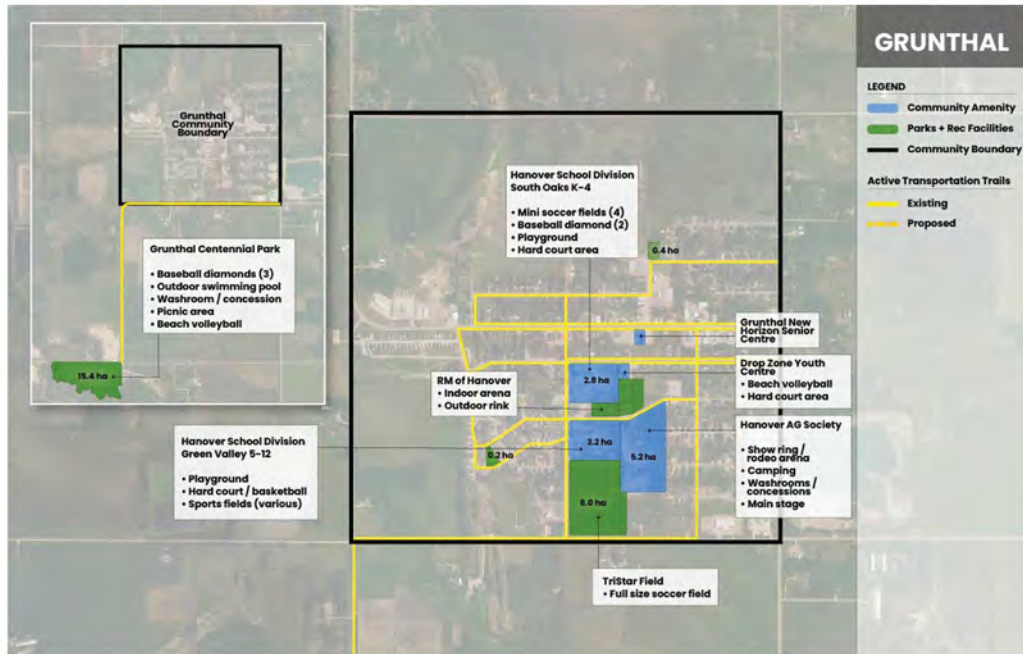


RECREATION INVENTORY: BLUMENORT



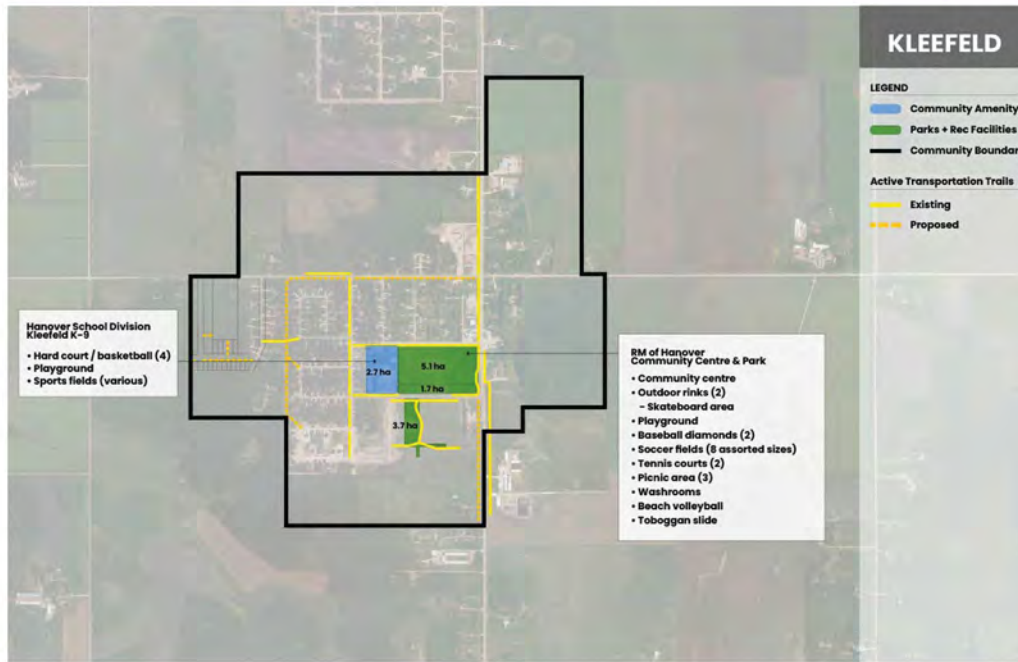
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RECREATION INVENTORY: GRUNTHAL



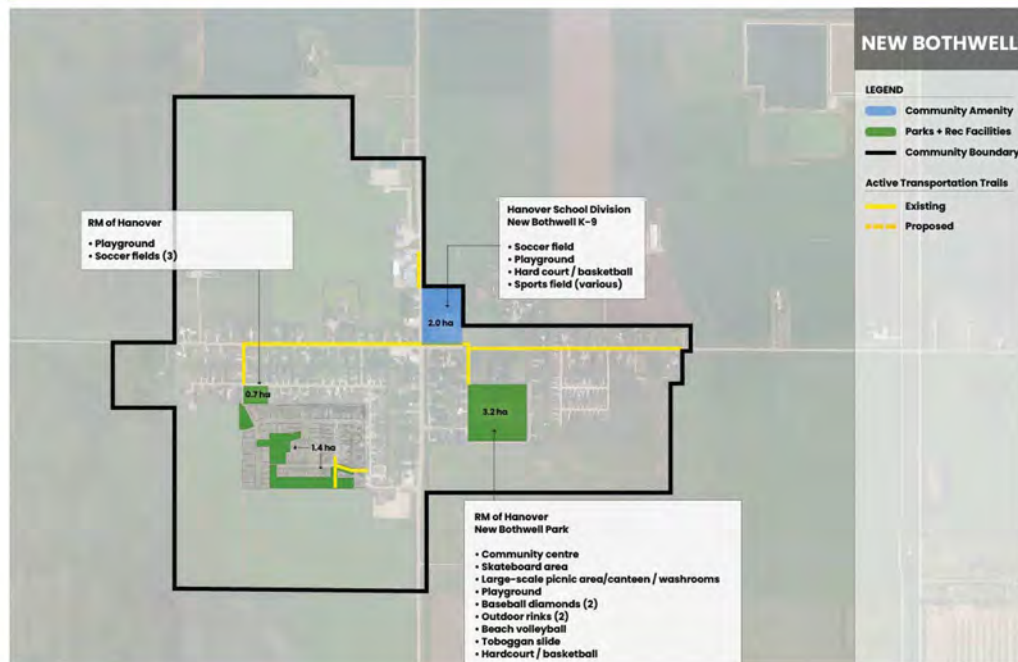
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RECREATION INVENTORY: KLEEFELD



SCATLUFF + MILLER + MURRAY

RECREATION INVENTORY: NEW BOTHWELL



SCATLUFF + MILLER + MURRAY

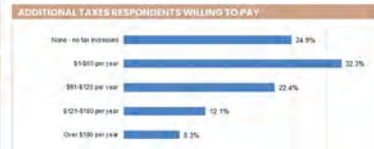
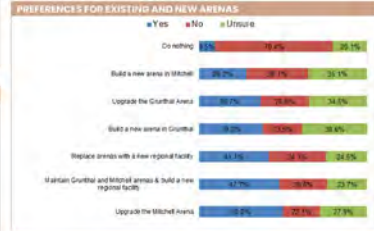
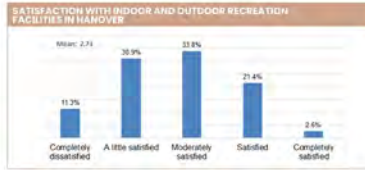
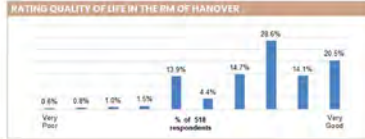
STAKEHOLDER + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

12 stakeholder interviews with community centre boards, recreation organizations and Hanover School Division from September 24 to October 8, 2020

Community online survey that was 'live' from October 5-31, 2020 (519 responses)

RECREATION FACILITY WISH LIST

Indoor Facility Preferences	Outdoor Facility Preferences
1. Replace Indoor Arena in Grunthal	1. Expand Grunthal Pool Basin Area
2. Upgrade Indoor Arena in Mitchell	2. Upgrade Grunthal Pool Change Rooms
3. New Regional Multiplex	3. New Soccer Pitches (Grunthal/Burnhamton)
4. New Day Care Space	4. New Baseball Diamond Lighting (Burnhamton)
5. New Burnhamton Community Centre	5. Expand Multi-Use Pathways and Trails
6. Upgrade Community Centres in Kiewit and New Westford	6. Expand Parks, Playgrounds, and Play Structures
7. Improve Joint Use Agreement (JUA)	7. New Splash Pool(s)
8. New Indoor Swimming Pool	8. New Outdoor Hockey / Public Skating Area
9. New Indoor Fieldhouse (Field Sports)	9. New Handout Areas (Basketball/Tennis)
10. New Walking Track	



RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS + STRATEGY

2020/21 CURRENT STATUS

- The supply and quality of recreation facilities – both indoor and outdoor – have not kept pace with the RM's growth and changing demographic profile
- Aging community centres do not meet modern standards for level of service and are unable to accommodate current or emerging community programming demands
- Aging indoor arenas are in need of varying degrees of capital upgrade
 - Mitchell Arena @ 42 years
 - Grunthal Arena @ 53 years
- The level of investment required to redevelop and/or upgrade the RM's indoor arenas and community centres is likely not feasible. Consistent registration numbers in minor hockey show participation has not kept pace with RM growth
- Just over 10% of youth under 19 are using close to 75% of available indoor prime time ice hours in Hanover
- The inventory of parks and recreational open space amenities falls short when compared to other nearby communities; the need for additional parks and outdoor amenities is becoming more pronounced as the community grows and due to external factors (i.e. COVID-19 and wider recreation trends)
- The need for more soccer pitches in Burnhamton is impractical due to current population and field supply
- There is broad citizen support for a modernized regional multi-purpose facility that would serve RM of Hanover's diverse user group and multi-generational needs
- See Board 12
 - A new indoor pool / expanded pool tank in Grunthal are impractical due to high costs and current demand / RM population (continue to monitor)
 - The change rooms at Centennial Park are not meeting user needs
 - There is consistent historic growth in soccer in Grunthal (i.e. the field is used for other programs), and baseball in Burnhamton

SUSTAINING ACTIONS

Actions to support the RM's existing indoor arenas and community centres:

- Develop an Asset Management Strategy to assist in monitoring and managing existing and future recreation facilities - which would include periodic assessments (every 4 years) of facility condition
- Sustain current municipal facility operating grant contributions
- Monitor facility usage and the financial viability of arena operations
- Monitor the status of the proposed Provincial legislation to replace Manitoba's 37 school divisions to determine its potential impacts, if any, on the current Joint Use Agreement between the RM of Hanover and the HSD
- Determine the feasibility of initiating a collaborative community use of school strategy with the appropriate Provincial body, pending the outcome of the proposed Provincial legislation

DECISION POINTS

Factors that may trigger decommissioning/repurposing (note if any of the below occur, the RM should work to ensure that the affected community has sufficient indoor activity space available):

- One or more facilities suffers an unforeseen major building system failure [decommissioning should be considered]
- Participation or usage falls to a point that affects the financial viability of the facility [decommissioning or repurposing should be considered]
- The community organization is unable or unwilling to continue managing/operating the facility

2040/41 20-YEAR GOAL

- The RM develops a regional multiplex facility including a modern indoor arena to serve the entire RM
- The location of the multiplex facility and indoor arena should be based on:
 - existing / projected population
 - alignment with the RM's long-range planning and development objectives
 - compatibility with adjacent uses, including potential integration with other recreation facilities
 - site infrastructure/accessibility characteristics, and
 - proximity to transportation links to adjacent communities
- The RM ensures community centre space is accessible to each settlement centre through the following means:
 - optimizing community centre space through Asset Management planning
 - repurposed infrastructure
 - collaborative community use of school facilities with the HSD
 - collaborations with the independent community centres in Friedensfeld, Pansy and Somo, and/or
 - a regional multi-purpose facility

REGIONAL MULTIPLEX CONCEPT

PHASE 2 - SUMMARY OF TYPICAL INDOOR ARENA BUILDING PROGRAM

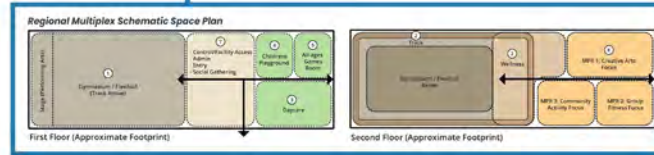
Facility Component	Program Area (sqm)
Ice Surface (26.9 m x 61 m)	1,579
Players Benches/Timer/Penalty Box	42
Dressing Rooms (6 @ 46.5 m ²)	279
Referee Room	23
Lobby/Viewing Area/Concession	186
Office/Control/First Aid	19
Public Washrooms (2 @ 27.8 m ²)	56
Storage	93
Electrical/Mechanical	28
Ice Plant	33
Maintenance/Workshop	93
Zamboni/Storage	28
Sub-total	2,457
Gross-Up @ 20%	491
Total	3,000

PHASE 1 - SUMMARY OF MULTIPLEX FUNCTIONAL SPACE PLAN

Facility Component	Program Area (sqm)
1. Gymnasium / Fieldhall	1,008
2. Wellness component - track	360
Cardio area allowance	93
Shower and dressing rooms	896
3. Daycare	204
4. Children's playground	93
5. All-ages games room	93
6. Multipurpose rooms (3)	350
7. Entry, administrative, and common area	465
Sub-total	3,182
Gross-Up @ 15%	477
Total	3,660



The municipal office lands in Mitchell currently satisfy strategic principles for facility development (see Board 10). But the Study recognizes that future circumstances – which cannot be foretold – may compel Hanover to consider a different site that also addresses these principles.



IMPLEMENTATION + RECOMMENDATIONS

STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

INDOOR FACILITIES

1. Monitor the status of the proposed Provincial legislation to replace Manitoba's 37 school divisions to determine its potential impacts, if any, on the current Joint Use Agreement between the RM of Hanover and the HSD.
2. Determine the feasibility of initiating a collaborative community use of school strategy with the appropriate Provincial body, pending the outcome of the proposed Provincial legislation cited above.
3. Develop a responsive Asset Management strategy to support the provision of accessible community spaces in each settlement centre.
4. Ensure community centre space is accessible to residents in each settlement centre through the following potential options: (a) collaborative community use of school strategies with the HSD; (b) collaborations with the independent community centres in Friedland, Pinery and Sario; (c) repurposed arena facilities; and/or (d) a regional multi-purpose facility.
5. The need for an indoor pool in Hanover should be formally re-evaluated when the RM's population reaches 25,000 people; it is apparent that current growth estimates are continuing on course; and factors such as the regional supply of indoor pool facilities at that time - and local demand for any capacity to finance the construction and operation of an indoor pool over the long-term - so dictate.
6. The need for additional indoor ice pad capacity in Hanover (over and above the recommendations outlined herein regarding the long-term Asset Management strategies regarding the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas and the need for an indoor arena as part of a future regional multiplex facility) should be formally re-evaluated when the RM's population reaches 25,000 people; it is apparent that current growth estimates are continuing on course; and factors at that time - such as the condition of the Grunthal and Mitchell arenas, the status of pre-emptive, funding and/or development efforts regarding the regional multiplex facility, local use and demand trends, the capacity to finance the construction and operation of additional indoor ice pad capacity over the long-term - so dictate.
7. Confirm life safety upgrade priorities for the RM's arena facilities and develop an Asset Management strategy to monitor the condition and viability of the continued use of the RM's arena facilities as they age.



STRATEGIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

8. Engage in design and development of a new / expanded change room facility at Centennial Park.
9. Engage in design and development of a new soccer pitch in Grunthal.
10. Engage in design and development of new lighting at the Pinery Field (Diamond 1) in Blumhardt.
11. Prepare parks, open space, and trails policies as part of a Development Plan amendment that reflects the 2013 RMP and current best practices.
12. Prepare a Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan to support parks, open space, and multi-use trail strategic planning, design, and development, including identifying opportunities for strategic land acquisitions through such means as direct purchase by way of funds allocated in the RM's budget or monies raised through cash-in-lieu of land dedications; land exchanges / land swaps; and/or donations, gifts, or bequests from individuals or organizations.

REGIONAL MULTIPLEX

13. Engage the strategic path toward the development of a regional multiplex facility and modern arena (taking into account location criteria and the eventual decommissioning and/or repurposing of the RM's arena facilities).
14. Leverage local resources with other public and private sector partners, and engage RM residents, potential users, and stakeholders as partners in decommissioning and/or repurposing strategies for the RM's arena facilities as well as the design and development phasing process for the regional multiplex facility.

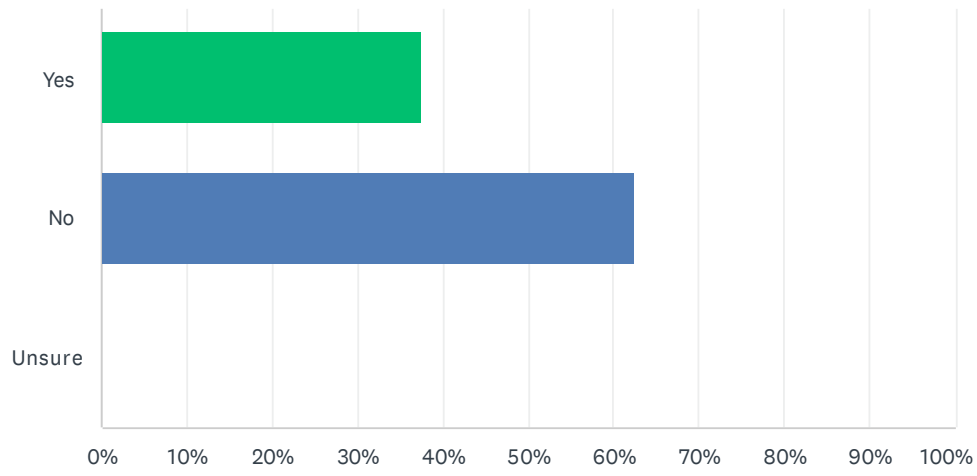


* The findings and recommendations should be reviewed every 5 years to ensure currency and relevancy to future circumstances.

APPENDIX B

Q1 Did you attend the Public Open House on September 27, 2021?

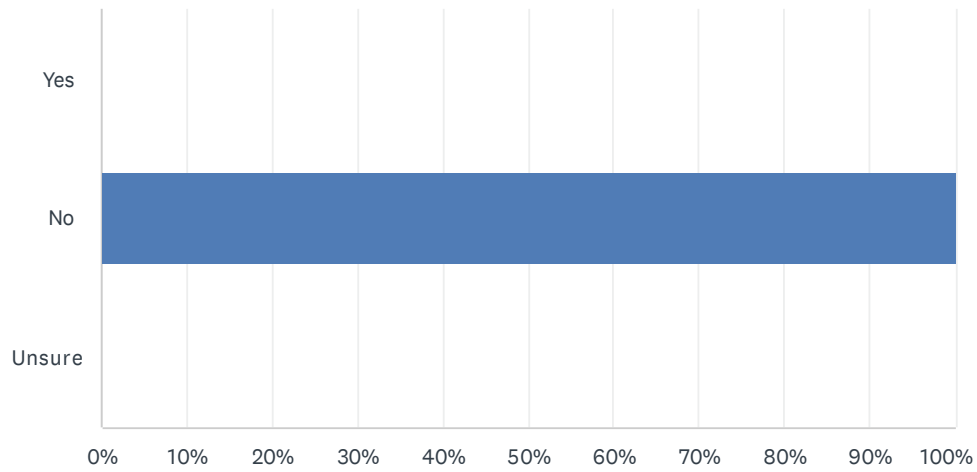
Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.50%	3
No	62.50%	5
Unsure	0.00%	0
TOTAL		8

Q2 Did you fill out an Exit Survey at the Public Open House?

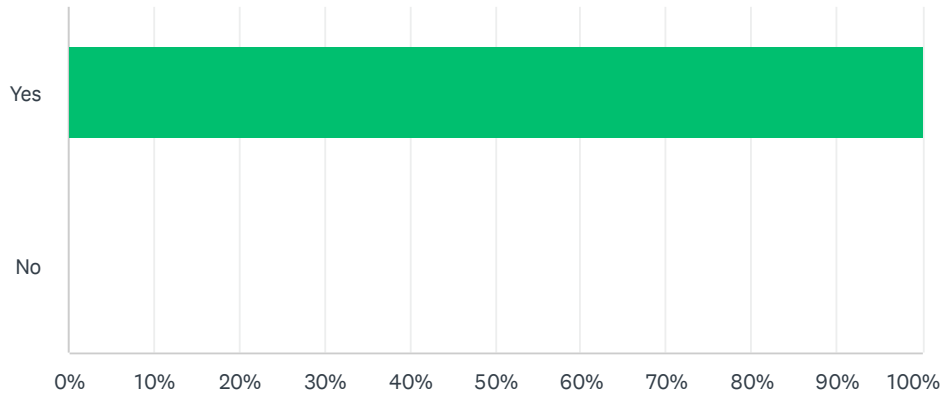
Answered: 2 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	0.00% 0
No	100.00% 2
Unsure	0.00% 0
TOTAL	2

Q3 Is the purpose of the project clear?

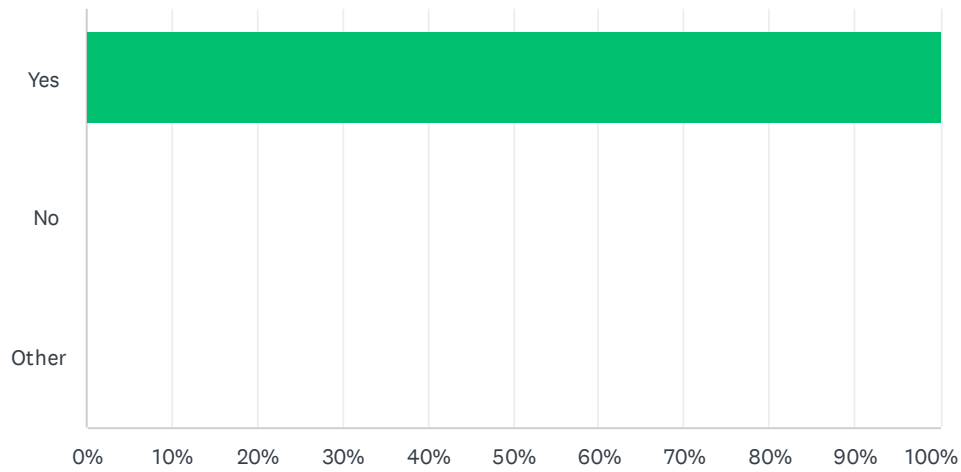
Answered: 2 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	2
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		2

Q4 Was the information provided clear?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 6

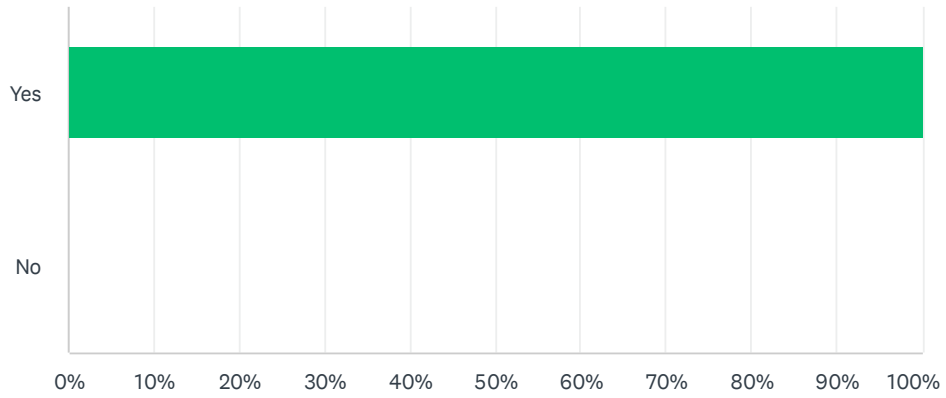


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	100.00% 2
No	0.00% 0
Other	0.00% 0
TOTAL	2

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q5 Do you support the project recommendations?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	100.00% 2
No	0.00% 0
TOTAL	2

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q6 Do you have concerns regarding the project recommendations?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No.	9/27/2021 1:46 PM
2	It was very good to get a better understanding of the issues faced by the RM - not being able to upgrade facilities and the cost of replacement of equipment/buildings vs building new. As much as I prefer each community having its own facilities - I can see this is no longer feasible. I am concerned about repurposing what's already in place.	9/24/2021 12:06 PM

Q7 Are there any additional comments you would like to share about this project?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 7

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	<p>In speaking with the representatives at the meeting, and listening to concerns regarding location, being a Mitchell resident I love the idea of having the proposed facilities located next to the RM offices. However, in trying to take into consideration how the residents from the other communities feel about the location and the fact it would be located so close to Steinbach, could it make sense for the facility to be located just west of Mitchell. It would be right in the area of population growth, not located in Randolph (which is not experiencing significant growth) but a bit further away from Steinbach. The west side of Mitchell is being developed into an industrial area which is great and this could possibly be located just west of this - thus servicing the south side of Mitchell - within walking distance. In looking at the plans, I'm wondering if a library might be feasible some time in the future. I understand RM of Hanover residents need to pay for accessing the library in Steinbach. I'm very supportive of the day care space in the facility - something very much needed in this area. It was good to get an understanding as well re what the population needs to be at for a pool to be built for the region. For the sake of the Grunthal residents - who are in greatest need of arena upgrades and would have quite a distance to drive to access the new facilities - I would love to see some funding set aside to maintain the pool in their area. It has a wonderful path from the Grunthal Community and so much work has been done to provide great play structures, etc. - I think a little known treasure. I'm also wondering if we need some sort of a depreciation fund - so we don't find ourselves in this situation again in the future - likely difficult though given that residents already feel taxes are too high. That's our contribution for what it's worth. Thanks very much for allowing us to view so clearly the issues, the evidence and the possible solutions. Great job and kudos to all our Councillors and representatives that work so hard for us! Much appreciated. Great job with Willow Street in Mitchell and we would definitely support the name change of Stanway Bay to Stanway South and Stanway North.</p>	9/24/2021 12:06 PM

SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY

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