Agenda – Council – September 24, 2026

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – September 8, 2026

Item No. 1 St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park
(St. Boniface Ward)

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 15, 2026, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the following to Council:

1. That, subject to funding through the annual budget process, Provencher Park be approved as the location for the future St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Agenda – Council – September 24, 2026

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – September 8, 2026

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 15, 2026, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 8, 2026, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Brian Boychuk submitted a communication in opposition to the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
S. Sawatzky	C. Fernandes	T. Graham	M. Dryburgh, Acting for J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service recommends Provencher Park as the location for the development of the St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park. The new, larger, destination outdoor pool would replace the existing Outdoor Pool.

In 2024, the Public Service was asked to consult with the community about future aquatic needs in the St. Boniface Ward. Six possible sites were reviewed for a new outdoor pool. The study identified Provencher Park and the Water Tower District as the top two options.

Provencher Park is the recommended site because:

- It received the highest overall ranking in the site review.
- It is expected to have the lowest development cost.

Building the new pool at Provencher Park would support equitable access in an area with higher poverty. It would replace the existing pool, which is near the end of its useful life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, subject to funding through the annual budget process, Provencher Park be approved as the location for the future St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to confirm Provencher Park as the location of the proposed St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Financial:

The recommendations have no direct financial implications. Additional funding is not being requested. Council has previously approved sufficient funding to allow preliminary design of the St. Boniface Aquatic Park to proceed. Once a Class 3 estimate is obtained, additional funding will be required for detailed design and construction of the facility.

Operational:

Approval of a preferred site for the St. Boniface Aquatic Park will allow the Public Service to proceed with preliminary design of the facility to obtain a Class 3 estimate.

There are no legal, environmental, or human resource implications associated with the recommendations of the report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On March 20, 2024, Council adopted the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget and directed the Public Service to undertake a consultation project in the St. Boniface ward to discuss the future of aquatics in St. Boniface and assess the residents' aquatics needs for the long-term future.

Feasibility Study and Community Engagement Process:

In spring 2024, the Public Service retained McGowan Russell Group to undertake a site assessment and feasibility study for the development of a new, large destination outdoor pool in the St. Boniface ward. The scope of work also included community engagement, conceptual design, and preparation of a Class 5 estimate for a preferred location.

In alignment with the Winnipeg Recreation Strategy, a new destination outdoor pool would serve an area of approximately four kilometres and be designed to provide more play and leisure value for all ages. As an inclusive and accessible facility, the proposed outdoor pool would support use by individuals and families with a range of recreational needs. The proposed outdoor pool would be of comparable size and have similar components to the pools that have been updated at Kildonan Park and Transcona Aquatic Park. This would include ramped access, sloped beach entry, spray features, and water slides.

To start the planning process, six park locations with potential capacity to accommodate a new destination outdoor pool were identified:

1. Coronation Park
2. Happyland Park
3. Norwood Community Centre
4. Provencher Park
5. Water Tower District
6. Winakwa Community Centre

Site assessment criteria and conceptual diagrams were developed to evaluate the opportunities and constraints of each site. The assessment considered policy alignment with the Winnipeg Recreation Strategy, the Winnipeg Parks Strategy, and the Urban Forest Strategy. Technical components including regulatory requirements, environmental concerns, and servicing capacity were also considered. Based on the weighted scoring, the following three locations ranked highest:

1. Provencher Park
2. Norwood Community Centre
3. Water Tower District

Stakeholder and public engagement for the project occurred in November 2024 and gathered input on the evaluation criteria, the three highest ranked sites, and the desired amenities for the proposed St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park. The Public Service has actively worked with the Ward Councillor on this project, including in the selection of sites for consideration.

The overall feedback for a new aquatic park was positive. There were also stakeholder groups and participants that preferred retaining the existing outdoor pools over investing in a new destination pool, even if it meant that amenities associated with a destination outdoor pool (beach/sloped entries, water slides, etc.) would not be developed. Of the three highest ranked locations (Provencher Park, Norwood Community Centre, and Water Tower District), participant feedback was mixed and did not identify a clear preferred site. The Public Engagement Summary (Attachment A) and the associated appendices (Attachment B) provide more detail on the process and the results.

Since the top three sites were close in ranking, the project's scope was expanded to develop preliminary conceptual designs and budget estimates for all three sites. The more detailed conceptual design would enable better comparison of spatial requirements, storm water management requirements, and estimated capital costs to construct.

Following the more detailed review of the concept designs, stormwater management requirements, and capital costs, it was determined that Provencher Park and Water Tower District would be feasible options for an outdoor aquatic park. It was also determined that the Norwood Community Centre site would not be a feasible choice as City stormwater management requirements could not be met on that site.

More detail on the analysis can be found in Attachment C: St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Feasibility Study.

Recommended Location:

Of the two feasible options identified in the Study, the Public Service is recommending Provencher Park as the preferred location for the new St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Facility.

Provencher Park scored the highest in the site assessment and is also currently estimated to cost less than the Water Tower District to develop.

Locating the new aquatic facility at Provencher Park provides the opportunity to improve the level of service offered while:

- Replacing the existing Provencher Outdoor Pool, which is reaching the end of its useful life.
- Supporting equitable access to recreation in a geographic area of higher poverty.

Capital Cost and Funding:

The current Class 5 estimates for developing a new aquatic park at Provencher Park range from $18 million to $21 million and will be further refined during preliminary design.

Capital funding towards development of a new destination outdoor pool in the St. Boniface ward was approved in both the 2025 and 2026 Adopted Capital Budgets. At present, $2.526 million has been approved to support the design and construction of the new facility. An additional $2.217 million is forecasted from 2027-2031. See Attachment D: 2026 Adopted Budget Capital Detail Sheet.

Next Steps:

Upon Council's approval of the Provencher Park location, the Public Service can proceed with obtaining a preliminary design and Class 3 estimate. Funding was approved in the 2025 and 2026 Adopted Capital Budgets to allow preliminary design to proceed. Once the Class 3 cost estimate is obtained, additional funding will be required to advance detailed design and construction. Future funding needs will be considered through the City's annual budget process.

Reconfiguring the existing park and site amenities in Provencher Park will be required to accommodate the aquatic park. The current concept includes retaining the existing spray pad in its current location while replacing the existing outdoor pool, expanding the parking lot, addressing land drainage requirements, and relocation of courts. Tree removals within the park will also be required to create sufficient space for the project. There will be compensation requirements to replace the value of the canopy removed as a result of this project. The extent of these impacts has not yet been determined; however, minimizing impacts to existing trees and tree protection for the whole construction envelope will be a key consideration during the preliminary design process.

Further internal and external stakeholder consultation to identify and address operational considerations/impacts will be required throughout the design and development process. This will include consulting with other organizations and service providers on site such as parks users, Louis Riel High School, Notre Dame Community Centre, and Club Eclipse.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: July 29, 2026

Project Name:

St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park

COMMENTS:

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

Council has previously approved sufficient funding in the 2025 and 2026 capital budgets to allow preliminary design work for the St. Boniface Aquatic Park to proceed.

Once a Class 3 estimate is obtained, additional funding will then be required for detailed design and construction of the facility.

Ozzy Garrett CPA - July 29/26

Ozzy Garrett CPA - July 16/26
Manager of Finance
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Parks & Open Space Division, Public Works Department
- Municipal Accommodations Division, Assets & Project Management Department
- Office of Public Engagement, Customer Service & Communications Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The information in this report is consistent with OurWinnipeg 2045 Goals and Policy Direction:

Leadership and Good Governance: 1.4 Integrated Knowledge and Resources
Coordinate inter-departmental systems, project and resources, making the best use of internal and external expertise to better understand service needs, find the most appropriate solutions, optimize resources, and maximize community outcomes.

Leadership and Good Governance: 1.7 Equitable Service Access
Identify and provide access to, a base level of municipal services to everyone, directly or facilitated through partnerships. Remove systemic barriers to participation, based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family status, physical or mental ability, official language used, citizenship status, socio-economic status, geographic location or climate change vulnerability.

Economic Prosperity: 3.16 Optimize Facility Access
Maximize the use of existing municipal assets to promote recreation, community development, and social interaction, while optimizing equitable access, infrastructure reinvestments, service delivery methods, and resource management.

Good Health and Well-Being: 4.9 Inclusive Public Places
Provide and promote the amenities, and the design and maintenance standards, necessary to ensure accessible, safe and sanitary conditions in gathering spaces frequented by the public.

Good Health and Well-Being: 4.11 Equitable Service Access
Prioritize equitable access to recreation and parks systems, services, and infrastructure, in order to: enable active living; connect people and nature; create supportive environments; build community capacity; and achieve desired health outcomes, with a focus on children and youth.

Social Equity: 5.1 Equitable Service Access
Provide municipal services through an age-friendly lens that promotes equitable access for all, with a focus on the youngest, oldest, and systemically disadvantaged members of the community

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Opportunity #5: Low Carbon and Energy Efficient Buildings
Direction 5.2 Increase Energy Performance of New Buildings

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible
10-year Objectives: A. Residents have equitable access to City services, in particular demographic groups who experience marginalization B. Community development models and collaborative approaches are enhanced or initiated for service planning and delivery in areas of higher poverty. C. Use of City tools and resources are maximized to reduce systemic inequities.

Action 6.7 Assessment of Capital Investment Needs of Rec Facilities in Areas of Higher Poverty - Assess the capital investment and operating budget requirements in City recreation facilities serving areas of higher poverty, that will maximize use of facilities, support partnership development and create community gathering places, in areas where these gaps exist in the community.

Action 6.8 Equity in Capital Infrastructure Project Prioritization - Review capital infrastructure projects ranked by the Asset Management Prioritization tool with an equity lens in order to inform decision making on priority investments that reflect diverse needs in the community.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Asset Management
Prepared by: S. Sawatzky
Date: July 30, 2026
File No: CMS-2026-17
Attachments:
Attachment A: Public Engagement Summary – St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Park

Attachment B: Public Engagement Summary Appendices – St. Boniface Aquatic Park

Attachment C: St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Feasibility Study

Attachment D: 2026 Adopted Budget Capital Detail Sheet – St. Boniface Outdoor Aquatic Facility