



**NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL WINNER**  
**BISMARCK PARKS AND**  
**RECREATION DISTRICT**  
 Est. 1927

**Facilities Master Plan**  
**Open Public Forum**  
**January 9, 2019**



# 2019 FACILITIES FAST FACTS



1 each

- amusement park
- arts and science center
- BMX bike complex
- botanical garden dedicated
- community recreation center with three gyms, racquetball and community space
- curling rink with four sheets of ice
- dog park with three fields
- domed athletic facility
- full service catering facility
- horse arena
- horseshoe complex
- indoor and outdoor archery range
- indoor driving range
- junior golf course
- motocross complex
- outdoor recreation area with recreational trails, picnic shelters, public beach,
- pollinator garden
- sledding hill
- splash pad
- sun dial
- swimming, boating and fishing
- to trees
- zoo

# 2019 PROGRAMS, PARKS, PEOPLE



Adult Volleyball: 7,586 participants  
 • 380 summer teams, 285 fall teams and 297 winter teams

Adult Basketball: 855 participants  
 • 19 women's teams and 70 men's teams

Youth Basketball: 715 participants  
 • 60 total teams in 3rd-5th grades  
 Youth Baseball - 491 participants  
 Elementary Cross Country - 740 participants  
 Elementary Track Meet - 1,100 participants  
 Youth Golf - 772 participants  
 Youth Golf Free Days - 1,581 participants  
 Youth Soccer - 580 participants  
 Youth Tennis - 684 participants  
 Youth Volleyball - 563 participants

BLAST (Bismarck's Life After School Time; after school care)  
 • 652 participants 2018-2019 at 18 elementary school sites

Activity Centers Summer - 638 participants  
 Safety Village - 236 participants

Swimming Lessons  
 • Outdoor: 1,279 participants  
 Indoor: 2,321 participants  
 Private: 602 participants

Community Leisure and Recreation  
 • 47,659 outdoor pool attendance  
 • 3,721 picnic shelter and community rooms reservations  
 • 9,595 people enjoyed the outdoor skating rinks  
 • 1,101 visitor nights in tents at Sibley Campground  
 • 7,471 visitor nights in RV's at Sibley Campground  
 • 75,436 rounds of golf  
 • 8,617 open gym participants  
 • 72,897 visitors/users at World War Memorial Building  
 • 28 events held on the trail system  
 • 12,242 participants in group fitness classes  
 • Average of 106 cross country skiers per day at Riverwood Golf Course

Impact of BPRD partner groups on BPRD facilities

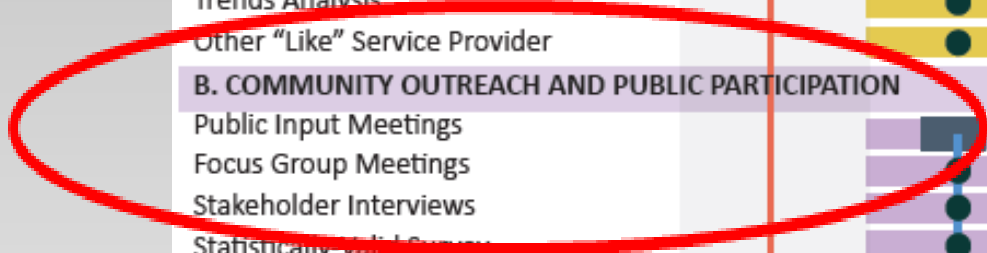
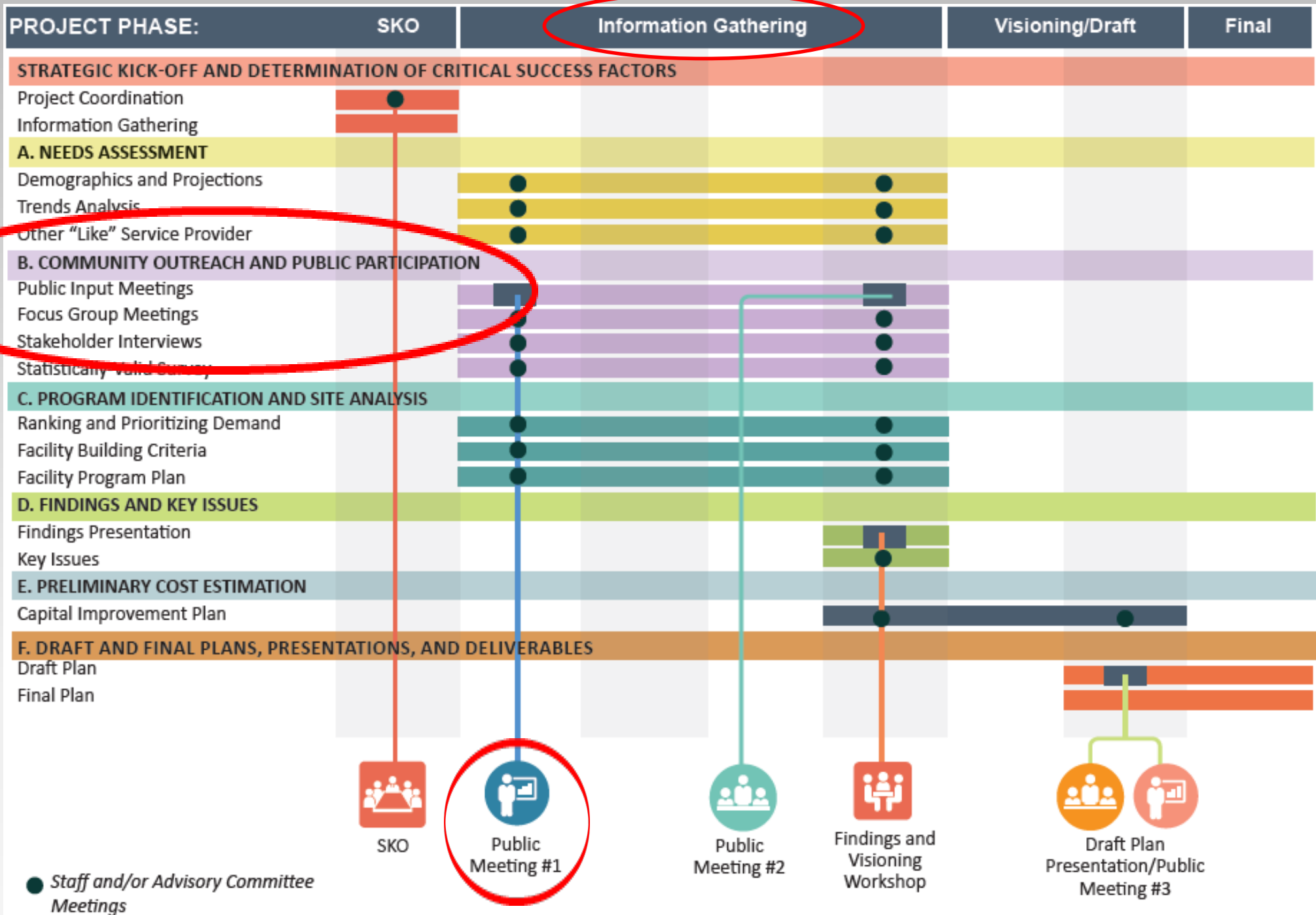
- 25 swimming meets with 3,462 participants
- 1,785 participants in youth hockey tournaments
- 2,202 youth participants in Dakota United Soccer
- 945 participants in adult golf tournaments
- 100,000+ guests at Lady J's Catering at the Municipal Country Club
- 100 folks enjoyed remote controlled aircraft
- 150,000 visitors to Dakota Zoo
- 40,239 visitors to Gateway To Science
- 1,100 runners in the Krol's Diner Bismarck Marathon events
- 2,100 attendees at Kids Summer Stage at Custer Park
- 328 adult league/clinic tennis players
- 111 kids in Shade Tree Players
- 240 participants in Bismarck Figure Skating
- 656 kids in Bismarck Youth Football League
- 3,700 attendees at BisMarket
- 3,942 participants in adult softball
- 2,915 participants in gymnastics
- 350 participants in adult indoor archery
- 396 adult and youth participants in the Capital Curling Club
- 32,748 people attended Bismarck Bobcat Hockey games
- 529 plots rented in the Community Gardens
- 528 participants in youth golf tournaments
- 692 kids in Bismarck Hockey Boosters
- 5,200 participants at the McQuade's Softball Tournament
- 600 participants in Theo Art School art camps
- 88,300 visitors to the SuperSlide Amusement Park
- 9,700 attendees to Sleepy Hollow Summer Theater performances
- 898 kids in Bismarck Youth Baseball
- 200 participants in youth fastpitch softball
- 6,227 hours of ice time by various partners
- 300 participants in Aquastorm
- 85 youth participants in Bismarck Mandan Lacrosse Association
- 54,600 attendees at Bismarck Larks baseball games

## 2018 Events

- Thirteen State or Regional Tournaments in/on BPRD facilities in 2018
- Aquastorm Category 5 Swim Meet - 438 athletes
  - ND Long Course State Swim Meet - 380 athletes
  - JV State Baseball Tournament - 9 teams
  - 16-18 year-old Babe Ruth Baseball Tournament - 8 teams
  - Women's Masters State Tournament - 16 women's teams
  - Women's Rec III State Softball Tournament - 26 teams
  - Men's Rec III West State Softball Tournament - 66 teams
  - Men's Class C/D State Softball Tournaments - 32 teams
  - WDA Boys and Girls Cross Country Meet - 282 participants
  - State Indoor Archery Tournament - 275 participants
  - Men's Challenge Round Curling Borspiel - 8 Teams
  - Regional U14 Curling Playdowns - 11 Teams
  - State PeeWee A Hockey Tournament - 14 Teams

## 2019 Events

- State Boys Swimming and Diving Meet - March 1-2
- State 15U Girls Hockey Tournament - March 1-3
- WDA High School Baseball Tournament - May 23-25
- Central Dakota State Junior High School Rodeo - TBD
- Central Dakota State High School Rodeo - TBD
- ND 13U State Golf Tournament - July 9
- ND Golf Association State Junior Championship - July 22-23
- ND Long Course State Swim Meet - July 26-27
- Babe Ruth 13-15-year-old World Series - August 8-15
- State Girls Swimming and Diving Meet - Nov 15-16



We want your input

No decisions have been made

# Information Gathering

## ➤ **6 Focus Groups, 125+ Participants**

➤ Parents, Seniors, Chamber of Commerce, Businesses, Healthcare, Developers, Bismarck Public Schools, City of Bismarck, YMCA, Organizations, Cultural Arts, Colleges, Sports Associations - Lacrosse, Football, Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Tennis, Wrestling, Track, Swim Teams, Golf, and others, Teachers, Burleigh County, Police.....

## ➤ **Staff Focus Groups, 58 Participants**

## ➤ **Stakeholder Meetings, 19 Participants**

## ➤ **Site and Facility Tours**

## ➤ **Meetings with Bismarck Parks and Recreation District**

# Length of residency in Bismarck?

<b>8.4%</b>	<b>&lt;5 years</b>
<b>7.2%</b>	<b>5-9 years</b>
<b>19.3%</b>	<b>10-15 years</b>
<b>14.5%</b>	<b>16-20 years</b>
<b>50.6%</b>	<b>20+ years</b>



What are the **strengths** of  
Bismarck Parks and Recreation  
District's facilities?



# Strengths

- Good diversity, variety of activities and programs
- Affordability/Availability/Accessibility
- Good locations/covering community, easy to access – geographically
- Staff/Employee pride
- Quality facilities, well maintained/well run
- Inclusive
- Updated and new facilities
- Riverfront trails and access
- Community and culture
- Good communication with public
- Partnerships
- Conscientious planning
- Employ a large number of residents
- Green space ordinance has been great
- Trail system is awesome





Conversely, what are the facility weaknesses that need to be addressed through Bismarck Parks and Recreation District's Facility Master Plan?



# Weaknesses

- Need more tennis
- Age of some of the facilities
- Where facilities are located, need ice and softball in north end of Bismarck
- Need more ice
- Keeping up with the growth of the city – expanding out – distribution of facilities throughout the city - NW
- Need year around facility for activities – indoor turf, bring outdoor activities indoors
- Need Gymnasiums
- Not keeping up with other communities
- More indoor multi-purpose facilities
- Need indoor playground, park for kids
- Lack of integrated waterfront access
- Population is outgrowing the facilities



# Weaknesses

- Lack of connectivity between different trail systems
- Parking
- Accessibility – ADA
- Aging infrastructure
- Lack of designated green space – natural play space for kids
- Need more wildlife habitat and pollination areas
- Hours of access (open later at night)
- Need more indoor aquatics facilities
- Need accessible playground equipment for young children
- World War Memorial Building needs updating or sell
- More activity, meeting, office, shop and storage space
- Shop space and equipment
- Maintenance yard
- Updated technology
- Need to update the Fore Seasons Center for more of a soccer facility
- Scheduling ice time, too many groups, not enough ice.



# Weaknesses

- Need more staff to cover ice and maintain facility – short staffed
- No air conditioning for non-ice summer activities in arenas
- Need programs for adults
- Need more room to work in shop areas – carpentry room, welding room, wash bay



What additional activities do you feel should be offered at Bismarck Parks and Recreation District's facilities that are currently not available?



# Desired Additional Activities

- More basketball/volleyball
- Indoor/outdoor – training for soccer, lacrosse, baseball
- Behavioral health opportunities
- Programming for all abilities
- Indoor livestock facility
- Organized winter programs/lessons like cross-country and snow shoe
- Orchestra and band opportunities
- More public art, more outdoor stages, more for performing arts
- Indoor rock climbing or bouldering
- Riverwalk arts and cultural festival
- CPR training opportunities, spaces to hold training
- More events – sports, dances, etc.



# Desired Additional Activities

- Indoor roller skating
- Host more large-scale tournaments – tennis
- Indoor walking track
- Activities that will bring people in from all over the state and the region; resulting in an economic benefit
- Low cost family activities
- Indoor recreation facility that is open to the public and not structured
- Riverfront development including arts that would help market the community.
- Expanded hours
- Indoor lacrosse
- Provide broad based opportunities for the youth



What new amenities or enhancements would you like to see at Bismarck Parks and Recreation District's facilities?





# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- Commercial kitchen for community
- Better parking/accessibility
- Larger Fore Seasons Center space
- Locker rooms in current ice rinks
- Enhance VFW Sports Center – more seats, different types of seats (box seats, suites, bar stool seats),
- Nicer concessions for VFW and Tom O’Leary
- Waterpark/public pool on north side of town
- More riverfront recreation
- Better gymnastics space
- Indoor dog play space



# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- New/expanded clubhouse at Riverwood Golf Course
- BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center – larger family restrooms, larger shower space and other enhancements at all facilities
- BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center – Indoor walking track
- Raised community gardens
- Additional regional park on the north side
- Restrooms at the Tom O’Leary tennis area along the trail
- Additional lacrosse space
- More disc golf opportunities
- Snow tube facility with people mover
- Additional trees and shrubs to the parks
- Expanded indoor archery facility



# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- Facilities to bring conference, regional and national tournaments to Bismarck – wrestling, club hockey, swimming/diving
- Additional indoor tennis courts
- Additional sheets of curling ice
- Indoor picnic shelters
- More seating, concessions area, meeting rooms and upgraded technology at the BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center to host national events



# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- VFW Sports Center better circulation, better storage, improved concessions area, more seating
- Golf tournaments would like to have a place to have meals, etc.
- Mobile concessions stand for BPRD – place for a food truck to set up
- Locker rooms for athletes different than locker rooms for the general public (dry and wet locker room).
- Classroom space at BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center for teaching classes
- Need adequate bathrooms at soccer complex for changing and water fountains
- Small indoor water play area



# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- Rentals along the river – bikes, kayaks, etc.
- More competitive pool space with locker rooms, more space for gathering areas and spectator seating
- Performing arts space
- Gymnastics area needs spectator seating, more space
- Birthday party spaces
- More storage at outdoor sites for sports equipment
- Safe public beaches along the river
- Safe public areas with beach along the river for families that don't have boats, etc.



# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- Expanding golf course facilities to have tournaments (example restroom facilities)
- Add basketball courts to BSC Aquatic & Wellness Center
- Access to river from BSC
- Meeting space for non-profits in the community
- Facility for arts and music that could also bring in events
- Area to go in winter months to recreate that isn't programmed



# Desired Amenities and enhancements

- Practice facilities at the golf courses for junior golf
- Air conditioning at ice facilities for dryland activities
- Accessibility at the Fore Seasons Center - adaptive
- World War Memorial Building – more accessibility for sports wheelchairs
- Upgrades/improvements to stage and lighting at HPASC
- Line fields and cut grass more frequently at Cottonwood for soccer and lacrosse
- Update the Cottonwood soccer facility
- Add archery station to outdoor range at Nishu Bowmen Archery Range
- 300 meter indoor track, 8 lanes for track and field
- Indoor equine facility



Are there any populations within the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District that are underserved?





# Underserved

- Special Olympics athletes
- Youth and adults with disabilities
- At risk youth
- Seniors
- Homeless youth
- Female fastpitch softball
- Teenagers – all teenagers whether or not they are involved in sports
- North and northeast sides of the community
- Native Americans
- Dogs



How do you believe the recommendations that result from the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District Facilities Master Plan should be financially supported?



# Financial Support

- Grants
- Dedicated source (Examples: bond issue, hospitality tax)
- Sales tax
- Donations
- Partnerships
- User fees
- Resident/nonresident user fees
- Fundraising
- Associations and Organizations
- Naming Opportunities
- Tenant rents
- City/County/Schools
- Private/public partnerships



Who are the key partners and stakeholders in the community with regards to assisting with the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District Facilities Master Plan implementation?



# Key Partners and Stakeholders

- City
- Sanford Health
- Medical industry
- Higher education
- Builders' groups
- Hospitality
- Energy
- Petroleum
- Scheels
- Other sports retailers
- Developers
- Burleigh County, County Parks, BSC, University of Mary, School District and those entities that use Park District facilities
- Look outside the community/national brands; especially groups that have ties to Bismarck



# Key Partners and Stakeholders

- United Way
- NDSU Extension
- ND Game and Fish
- Corps of Engineers
- Mandan Parks and Recreation
- Bobcat/Doosan
- United States Tennis Association, Junior Golf, other user groups
- Part time work force
- Bobcats hockey
- Bismarck Larks
- Bucks football
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Corporate sponsors
- Hotels



What are the key issues and values that the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District needs to consider?



# Key Issues and Values

- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Inclusivity
- Workforce shortage
- Build beyond capacity for growth and future
- Look to build for tourism needs
- Safety, cleanliness and keeping facilities updated
- Keeping up the trends and keeping people in Bismarck
- Bismarck is an outdoor recreation community – best in the state – we play hard all months, not just in the summer





# Key Issues and Values

- Don't lose sight of neighborhood parks, access to trails, social activities
- We are changing culturally
- Community has a positive outlook on BPRD and don't be afraid to leverage that. Keep up the "yes we can" attitude
- Sense of family at current facilities
- The river is a key value
- Family
- Opportunity for older and disabled people
- Information/education on programming



What are the priorities that the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District needs to consider?

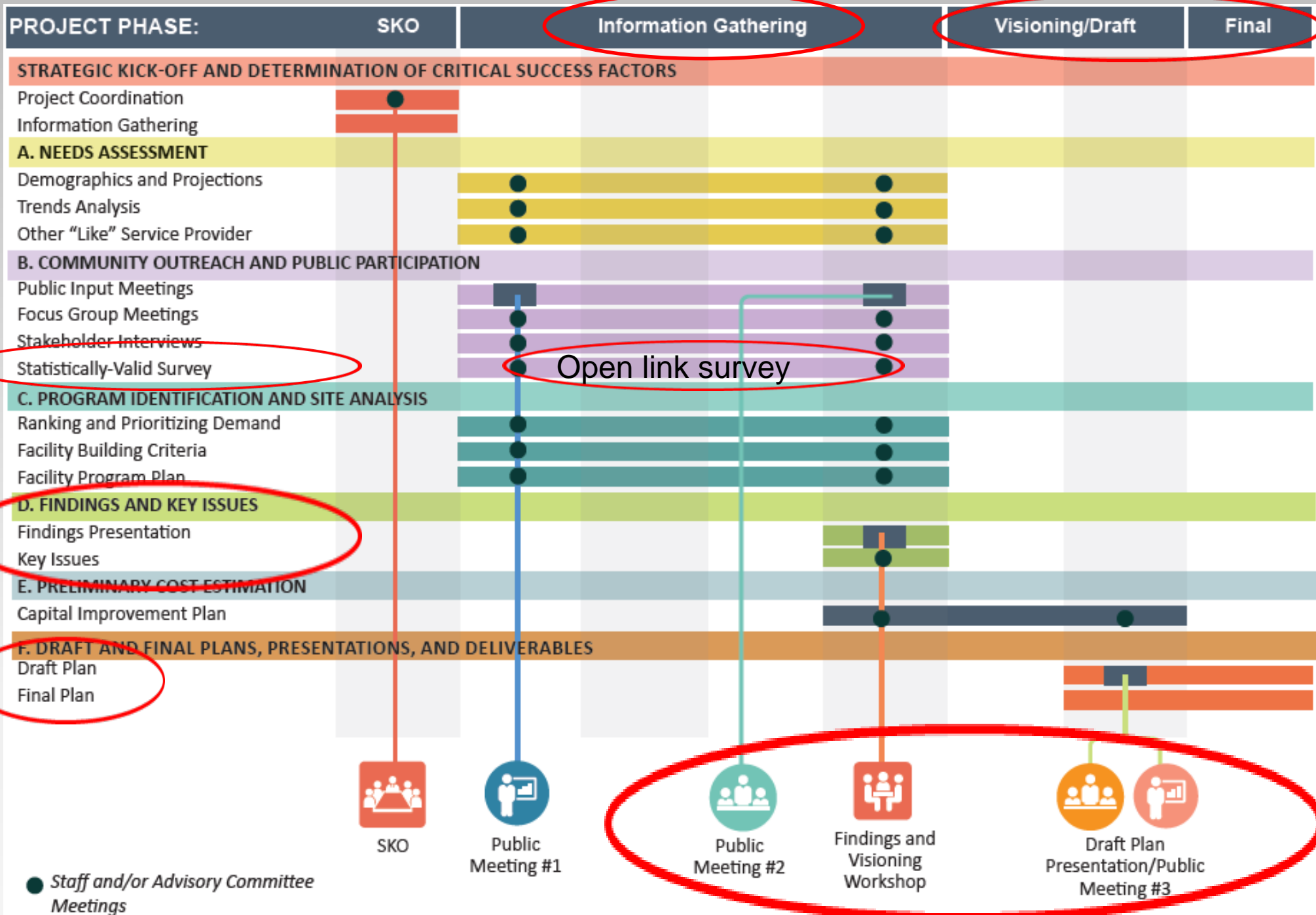


**In no particular order**

- **Take care of/enhance what we have**
- **Gymnasium/multi purpose building**
- **Indoor Artificial Turf Fields/Multi-Use Field**
- **Indoor Tennis and Pickleball**
- **More Ice**
- **Aquatics (indoor/outdoor)**
- **Trails and connectivity**
- **River access**



**Other comments,  
suggestions, feedback?**



Statistically-Valid Survey

Open link survey

D. FINDINGS AND KEY ISSUES

Draft Plan



# Thank You For Your Time & Consideration!



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RECREATION DISTRICT**  
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