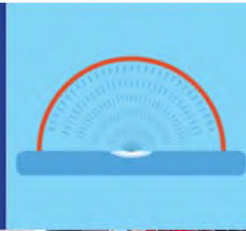
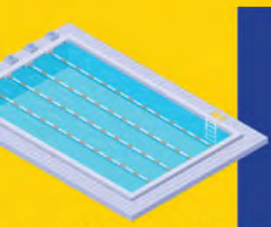




# Aquatic Service and Facility Review Phase 1a: Current State Report

November 2023 (DRAFT)





City of Greater Sudbury

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DRAFT





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## LIMITATIONS

This report was prepared by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd., Aquatic Design & Engineering, and The JF Group (herein referred to as “the Consulting Team”) for the account of the City of Greater Sudbury. The material in this report reflects the Consulting Team’s best judgment in light of the information available to it at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. The Consulting Team accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by a third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report.

# Section 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project Overview

The City of Greater Sudbury Council has expressed interest in undertaking a comprehensive review to rationalize and modernize the City's aquatics facilities and services. The primary purpose of the Aquatic Service and Facility Review is to assess the current state of publicly funded indoor, beaches, and splash pads and to create a strategy informed by community engagement to guide the City's aquatic system for the next 25 years.

The outcome is a series of short- and long-term recommendations intended to ensure that Greater Sudbury's aquatic facilities remain relevant, responsive to changing needs, and sustainable into the future. The study seeks to support the City's goals of creating a healthier community, modelling asset management and service excellence, and incorporating climate change considerations. This study also makes recommendations related to aquatic services and programs where these directions may influence the capacity and relevance of facilities.

Specifically, this study assesses the following facility types<sup>1</sup> operated by the City of Greater Sudbury:

- **indoor pools**, including the proposed Lionel E. Lalonde Centre Therapeutic/Leisure Pool;
- **supervised waterfront beaches**, with consideration of the Kalmo Beach 10-Year Plan and the work of the Lively Recreation Advisory Panel; and
- **splash pads**.

Community partnerships play an important role in offering a full range of aquatics services and this review also considers non-municipal facilities – such as indoor pools owned and/or operated by the Sudbury YMCA and Laurentian University – to provide recommendations as to how they can contribute to the overall community aquatic delivery system. This review offers an opportunity to establish common principles and to enhance collaboration and planning between the City and community providers, recognizing that full implementation of the study will require the City to work with stakeholders and optimize external funding opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Private and non-supervised public beaches, the Splash N Go inflatable water park on Ramsey Lake (operated by a third party), and the Northern Water Sports Centre (paddle sports venue) are beyond the scope of this study.

## 1.2 Aquatic Services in Greater Sudbury

Swimming and related aquatic activities are among the most popular recreational pursuits in Canada and these services and facilities play a critical role in the quality of life of Sudburians by enhancing personal health and wellbeing, community vibrancy, and economic development.

The City of Greater Sudbury plays a key role in delivering aquatic programming and leisure opportunities for residents. The City owns and operates:

- 5 indoor pools, all of which are more than 40-years old (the City does not operate any outdoor pools);
- 7 public beaches, which are supervised daily between mid-June and late-August; and
- 17 splash pads, many of which have been developed in the past ten years within public parks.

Together, these spaces and amenities offer the community with a wide range of seasonal and year-round opportunities such as:

- learning to swim;
- benefitting from lifelong participation in fitness swimming;
- accessing inclusive recreational and play opportunities;
- participating in sports and training;
- cooling off on warm days;
- socializing and connecting with others; and
- developing aquatic leadership training skills that are necessary to sustain operations (e.g., lifeguarding).

Not only are these services fun for residents and visitors, but they also build valuable skills that contribute to the safety and resiliency of the community. For example, aquatic services and facilities help to educate residents and build the skills they need to prevent drowning deaths, an important consideration for Greater Sudbury given its 330 lakes (more than any municipality in Canada).

**“Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for children under five years old, and statistics show that children under 12, boaters, young men and seniors 65+ are at greatest risk.”<sup>1</sup>**

## 1.3 Key Drivers behind the Aquatics Review

Pools can support activities such as instructional swimming, recreational swimming, aquafitness, training/ competition, and more. They offer important lifesaving and physical health services.

The average age of the City-operated indoor pools is 49 years (average build year 1974) and most are in the latter stages of their expected lifespan. The last indoor pool built by the City of Greater Sudbury was the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre in 1983 – 40 years ago. All municipal pools are traditional 25-metre rectangular tanks (except the Onaping Pool which is much smaller) and most are not fully barrier-free. Further, three of the City’s five pools are stand-alone facilities that are not part of multi-use recreation centres, limiting their operational benefits and relevance to residents.

Given their age, most pools are experiencing rising capital renewal costs and are at greater risk of unplanned closures. While the design of pools has changed significantly over the years – with a focus on welcoming, safe, bright, and inclusive spaces – most the City’s pools were built in a different era that limits their ability to address the needs of all age groups and interests. In short, the City’s inventory of pools is aging and has not kept pace with changing design requirements and the growing

recreational needs of Greater Sudbury residents and organizations. Given their age, the creation of a 25-year vision for aquatic facilities means that all facilities will be assessed and affected by this review.

There have been several attempts to rationalize and/or modernize the City's pool inventory over the years, but the City has found ways to keep its five indoor pool locations open and functioning. In 2020, Laurentian University closed its 50-metre pool, causing the City to significantly modify its pool schedules to accommodate those organizations and users displaced by this closure. And the Sudbury YMCA has also recently indicated that its operations (which include an indoor aquatics facility built in 2000 as part of this fitness and wellness centre) are financially unsustainable and is working with the City to review the partnership agreement for the Centre of Life.

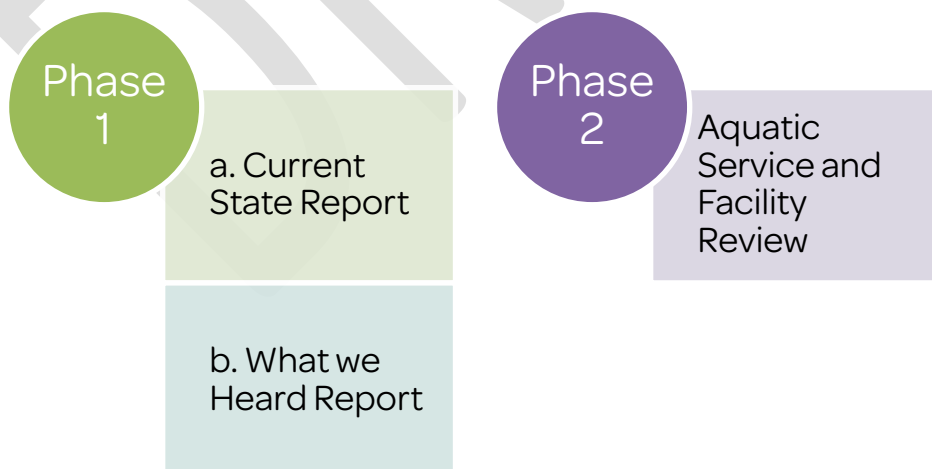
Although indoor pools are among the most expensive facilities within the recreation portfolio, almost all municipalities with sufficient populations invest in them because of their direct and indirect benefits to their communities. Given the age and increasing cost to maintain its facilities, the City must be strategic about its investment in aquatic facilities, at the same time recognizing that pools and recreation facilities are just one of many capital priorities for the City. Having a relevant, forward-looking, and actionable strategy in place is critical to ensure that the City and community providers are aligned in their capacities to deliver on these needs.

Furthermore, opportunities for outdoor aquatic experiences have broadened over the years with the proliferation of splash pads and expanded demand for beach activities. These outdoor venues provide affordable outlets for children, families, and people of all ages. Barrier-free accessibility is a key requirement for these spaces and is a notable challenge for many public beaches in Greater Sudbury. These and other considerations are examined further in this and subsequent reports.

## 1.4 Project Phasing

The Aquatic Service and Facility Review is being developed through a two-phased approach, to be completed by September 2024.

Figure 1: Aquatic Service and Facility Review Phasing



**Phase 1 (Research and Consultation)** consists of background research into local initiatives and past approaches to facility provision/investment, analysis of aquatic usage and trends, consideration of the City's current and future community profile, and the preliminary assessment of capital priorities through site visits and asset management data. This research is contained in this **Current State Report**.

Note: This Phase 1a Current State Report does not contain any recommendations, which will be the focus of Phase 2. This report will form part of the Aquatic Service and Facility Review and should be considered draft until the full report is approved by City Council.

Phase 1 also includes a robust public and stakeholder engagement program that is documented in the **What We Heard Report** (under separate cover). This stage seeks to better understand barriers to participation, potential gaps, and public priorities. Tactics included a community survey, pop-up input opportunities in facilities and parks, public information sessions, interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (e.g., swim clubs, school boards, and facility operators), staff workshops, and interviews with members of City Council. Preliminary findings and directions for further consideration are identified at this stage.

**Phase 2 (Aquatic Service and Facility Review)** consists of detailed facility needs assessments that consider geographical distribution and future service delivery, an implementation strategy, and final consultations, including presentation of a comprehensive Aquatic Service and Facility Review to City Council.

Where available, the data presented within the study is based on several years of data pre-dating the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as more recent data generated following the pandemic. 2019 represents the last full year for which there were no COVID-related impacts on indoor aquatic programming and has been used as a baseline for much of the analysis. 2022 data has also been considered, but it is noted that participation trends through this period may have been influenced in various ways by the pandemic. The collection and evaluation of full-year data for 2023 will be considered in the final Aquatic Services and Facilities Review.

## Section 2. Planning Context

This section identifies key contextual information about the project, including summaries of related initiatives in Greater Sudbury and notable population statistics that may have an impact on future aquatic service and facility needs.

### 2.1 Corporate Priorities and Supporting Studies

#### Strategic Plan (2019)

Decision-making for the City of Greater Sudbury is guided by the corporate Strategic Plan, which spans the years 2019 to 2027. The Strategic Plan sets out the following vision for the City.

**“To be a centre of excellence and opportunity – a vibrant community of communities living together.”**

The Strategic Plan identifies seven overarching strategic priorities:

1. Asset management and service excellence
2. Business attraction, development and retention
3. Climate change
4. Economic capacity and investment readiness
5. Housing
6. Create a healthier community
7. Strengthen community vibrancy

Aquatic facility developments and progressive aquatic program offerings are in keeping with the City’s mission of fulfilling the needs of all those who work, live, visit, invest and play in Greater Sudbury. The following Strategic Plan objectives are relevant to consider as part of the Aquatic Service and Facility Review:

- **Create a Healthier Community** – “Invest in infrastructure to support community recreation with focus on quality of life.”
- **Strengthen Community Vibrancy** – “Where relevant, incorporate the objective of community vibrancy into the development of new municipal facilities and infrastructure.”
- **Asset Management and Service Excellence** – “Optimize Asset Service Life through the Establishment of Maintenance Plans “ and “Demonstrate Innovation and Cost-Effective Service Delivery”

#### Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2019) & Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2023)

In response to the City’s climate emergency declaration in May 2019, a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCCAP) were developed and endorsed by City Council.

The CCEP is a proactive program that addresses energy use, emissions production, and climate change issues and opportunities in Greater Sudbury. The report establishes 18 goals structured around the following 8 strategy sectors:

1. Compact, complete communities
2. Efficient buildings
3. Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste



4. Low-carbon transportation
5. Industrial efficiency
6. Local clean energy generation
7. Low-carbon energy procurement
8. Carbon sequestration

Examples of CCEP goals that may have relevance to this Aquatics Review include (but may not be limited to):

- Periodically increase the energy efficiency of new buildings until all new buildings in 2030 onward are Passive House energy efficiency compliant.
- The existing building stock is retrofit for 50% increased energy efficiency by 2040 and large buildings are routinely recommissioned.
- Achieve net-zero emissions in City buildings by 2040.

The purpose of the CCCAP is to provide guidance for the City, businesses, and residents when adapting to current and future climate change events. The document recommends 17 objectives related to the following six themes:

1. Built environment
2. Natural environment
3. Local economy
4. Cultural and social cohesion
5. Community health and well-being
6. Enabling actions

Examples of CCCAP actions that may have relevance to this Aquatics Review include (but may not be limited to):

- Create resilient, all-season uses and opportunities for schools, faith centres, community centres, cultural venues and traditional gathering places.
- Continue education and outreach to support healthy lakes, shorelines and soils.
- Increase available shade in the community.

### [Enterprise Asset Management Policy & Plan \(2021\)](#)

This plan provides details to facilitate the best possible decisions regarding construction, operation, maintenance, renewal, replacement, expansion and disposal of infrastructure assets while minimizing risk and cost, and maximizing service delivery. While this version of the plan does not address aquatic facilities, future versions will.

The following goals of the Enterprise Asset Management Policy provide a framework for decision-making that can be applied to all asset classes:

- Ensure legislative requirements are achieved;
- Create understanding about and optimize asset life-cycle costs while maintaining acceptable levels of service;
- Ensure existing and future asset needs are prioritized;
- Link investment decisions to service outcomes;
- Demonstrate financial sustainability through full life-cycle cost planning;
- Focus on long-term considerations and decision making.

## Core Services Review (2020)

Opportunities to reallocate resources to optimize services within the City's budget are influenced by the 2020 Core Services Review document. The Core Services Review identifies the top ten opportunities for Greater Sudbury:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Rationalize facilities                     | 6) Review user fees and cost recovery      |
| 2) Creation of a digital city                 | 7) Expand facilities management systems    |
| 3) Implementation of a lean management system | 8) Optimize office space                   |
| 4) Review of school board agreements          | 9) Review maintained parkland requirements |
| 5) Modernizing phone systems                  | 10) Outsource ski hills                    |

Opportunities requiring further study related to aquatics include:

- Partner with communities to improve pool services (Priority #27)
- Rationalize the number of pools (Priority #39)
- Review recreational programming services (Priority #86)

## Population Health Safety and Well-Being Plan (2021) and Population Health Call to Action (2018)

In 2018, a 10-year population health strategy was developed with its focus moving to individual wellbeing. The initiative identifies ten priorities:

- |                       |                          |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Indigenous youth   | 5) Housing               | 9) Holistic health  |
| 2) Families           | 6) Resiliency            | 10) Healthy streets |
| 3) Compassionate city | 7) Age-Friendly strategy |                     |
| 4) Mental health      | 8) Play opportunities    |                     |

In 2021, the City expanded the discussion on the community's key priorities and risk areas through collaborative efforts to improve the overall health, safety, and well-being of the community. The largest engagement session for the Population Health Safety and Well-Being Plan was held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, with over 175 stakeholders present to discuss questions and issues surrounding these ten priorities and to determine their calls to action. The calls to actions as a result of these health priorities which are relevant to the Aquatics Review include:

- Families – Increased community activities with greater access and transportation
- Age-friendly strategy – Access to public spaces; Active and healthy lifestyle
- Play opportunities – Affordable access

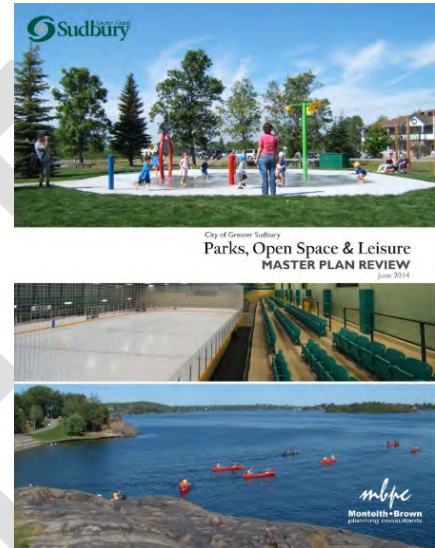
## Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (2014)

Since 2004, Greater Sudbury has prepared Master Plans to guide its parks, recreation, and leisure services and facilities. This last 2014 Master Plan reviewed aquatic facility needs along with other recreational infrastructure, building upon the 2004 Plan and other recent studies.

Through the Master Plan consultation process, the online survey indicated that swimming pools, splash pads, and a water slide park were among the most common requests for additional parks and leisure activities. The survey also examined interest in a therapeutic/leisure pool, with 55% of respondents supporting this proposal.

The following are those recommendations arising out of the 2014 Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan Review specific to aquatics facilities:

- Implement the City's **Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study** to realize the provision of a therapeutic/leisure pool at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Rayside-Balfour. (Recommendation #3)
- Undertake a **review of the City's indoor pools** to identify opportunities for operational efficiencies, increasing utilization and an evaluation of capital requirements and options for facility renewal/closure. The decision to close or re-purpose any facility should come after a one-year review period following the development of a new facility. (Recommendation #4)
- Continue to expand the municipal **splash pad** inventory through application of a 1.5-kilometre service radius within urban residential areas. Based on the present distribution, seven to eight new splash pads would be required to meet this target, including sites within Garson, Onaping/Dowling, Capreol, Sudbury, and possibly Azilda and/or Val Caron. Splash pads should be provided in community parks that have access to washrooms, change areas, and off-street parking. (Recommendation #35)
- Continue to maintain **municipally supervised beaches** and ensure that beach access routes meet or exceed the technical requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Additional public engagement should be undertaken to determine possible areas for improvement to beach areas. (Recommendation #36)



This Aquatic Service and Facility Review is part of the City's approach to implementing the aforementioned recommendations.

### Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study (2014)

In 2014 a feasibility study was prepared to provide guidance for the design, construction, and operation of a therapeutic/leisure pool at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda. The barrier-free facility would accommodate children's swim lessons, aquatic fitness, and post-rehabilitation programs for the general population within a pool that is approximately 90 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit. The study provided the City of Greater Sudbury Council with two design options for the redevelopment of the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre: (A) Therapeutic Pool – Stand-alone; and (B) Therapeutic/Leisure Pool.

Option B – which offered a larger tank (1,450 sf basin within a 7,400 sf addition) capable of accommodating a greater range of activities – was selected as the preferred design. The demand for the therapeutic pool aligns with an aging population and offers an aquatic program that is unique to the City, as well as introducing aquatic services to Azilda and surrounding area. The Study further recommended that the development of a therapeutic/leisure pool should trigger a review of other municipal pools, with the closure of an aging and/or under-performing pool being one possible outcome.



On February 26, 2015, City Council further confirmed its support of the therapeutic/leisure pool by passing a resolution to encourage fundraising efforts and grant applications for the facility. At that time, the project value was estimated at \$4.7 million, which would accommodate a wide range of opportunities to participate in swimming lessons and leisure swimming. Due to inflation, the project value increased to \$5.5 million in the City's 2021 Capital Outlook. In 2019 the City successfully applied to the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund and received a \$1,000,000 commitment towards the project. In addition, a community fundraising committee continues to leverage funding for the project.

### Meatbird Lake / Lively Recreation Project (ongoing)

In May 2021, Meatbird Lake Park in Lively was sold by the City of Greater Sudbury to Vale Canada from \$4 million. The City has initiated a community engagement process to gather public input on options for recreational amenities within the area develop new recreational opportunities and ensure local residents have access to safe ways to play in the area.

The community addressed specific concerns through a petition, including:

- The need for a pool/recreational facility as compensation for loss
- Lack of funding for Anderson Farm
- Centennial Park campers being removed from campgrounds

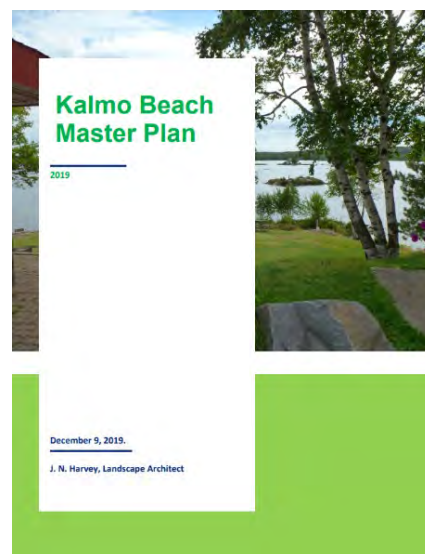
Additional public engagement and research is currently being undertaken to inform the decision regarding potential capital improvements to recreational amenities in the Lively area. The work is being led by an Advisory Panel comprised of community members, the Ward Councillor, and key City staff members.

### Kalmo Beach 10-Year Plan (2019-2022)

In 2022, the City of Greater Sudbury Council highlighted the need to implement a 10-year plan for Kalmo Beach to incorporate both community input and accessibility requirements. The purpose of the plan is to be a guide for future improvements to the facility which will enhance user experience for families, youth and older adults.

Public consultation sessions resulted in requests for the redevelopment of existing Kalmo Beach amenities, including parking improvements, modifying road layouts for site safety, and shore front rehabilitation. Requests for new amenities and services included play structures for children, wildlife rehabilitation, and the installation of a gazebo or shelter structure. These comments speak to the demands of participants for Kalmo Beach, which may also provide insight for other supervised beaches in Greater Sudbury.

The draft master plan concept prepared in 2019 proposes new features while maximizing the use of existing features. Areas of focus include improving parking and circulation, tiered decking, an additional boat launch, naturalizing areas of the park, additional trails, and off-grid washrooms and change rooms. The plan is recommended to be implemented in phases.







## 2.2 Socio-demographic Considerations and Population Growth

Understanding who lives in Greater Sudbury now and who may be living in the community over the next 25 to 30 years is important to ensure that the study responds to local needs. This section examines available socio-demographic data and recent population forecasts for consideration at the next stage of the study process.

### Population

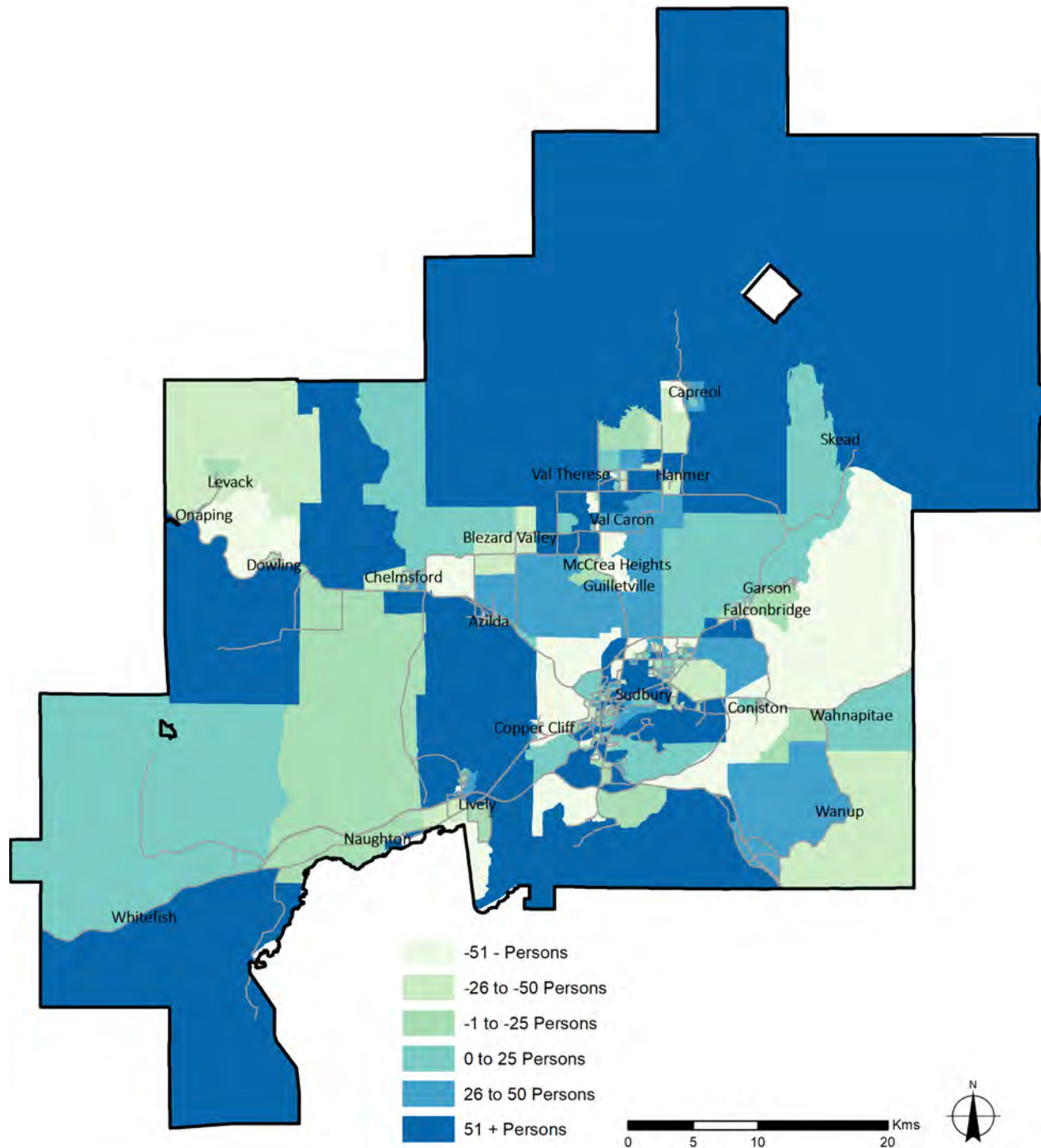
Greater Sudbury's population was recorded at 166,004 persons by the 2021 Census (note: population forecasts prepared in 2022 have updated this figure to 170,250 to reflect Census under-coverage). This population has grown by 3.5% since the 2011 Canadian Census (an average of approximately 570 persons per year), noted as one of the city's largest increases in population in several Census periods.<sup>2</sup> Growth in the total population has the potential to place pressures on existing aquatic facilities and create demand for new or expanded services.

The map on the following page illustrates the degree to which the population in various areas of Greater Sudbury has changed from 2011 to 2021. Much of the city's growth is evident in several

<sup>2</sup> City of Greater Sudbury. (2022) A Year of Economic Growth in Greater Sudbury. Retrieved from <https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/news-and-public-notice/2022/2021-a-year-of-economic-growth-in-greater-sudbury>

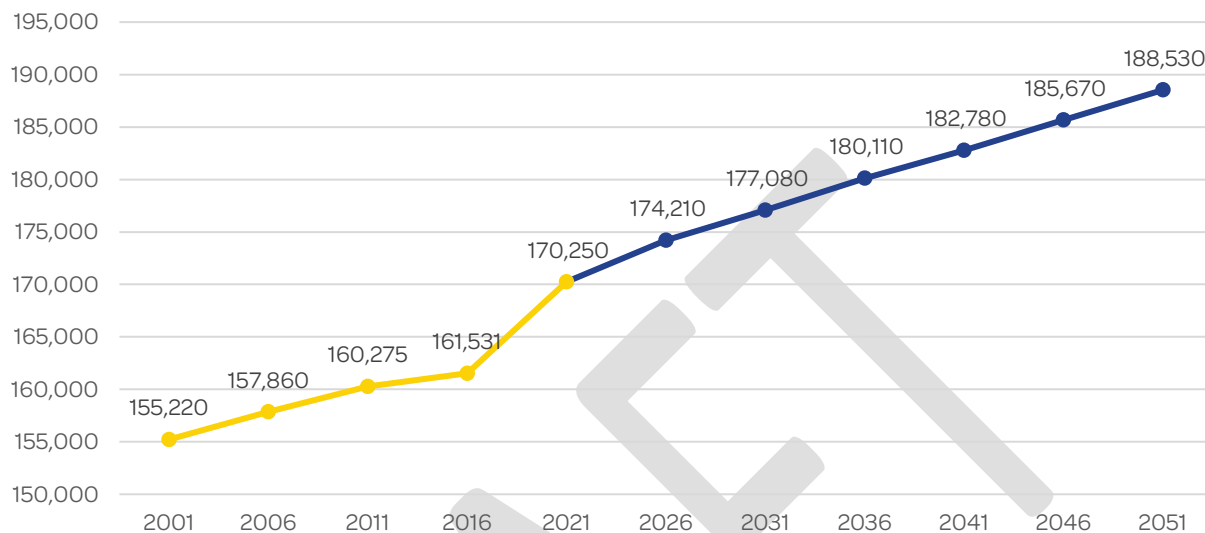
neighbourhoods through the community of Sudbury, as well as Valley East and areas outside of settlement areas.

Figure 2: City of Greater Sudbury Population Change 2011 vs. 2021 (Source: Statistics Canada)



The city's population is projected to increase to 188,530 in the year 2051, an increase of 10.7% (a total of 18,280 persons or 610 persons per year) from the 2021 estimate.<sup>3</sup> This represents a significant but steady growth trend over the next 25 to 30 years.

**Figure 3: City of Greater Sudbury Historical and Projected Populations (Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.)**



To inform and guide this Aquatic Service and Facility Review, Greater Sudbury's communities have been combined into groupings that represent potential catchment zones for higher-order services such as those being studied herein. These groupings recognize the city's expansive geography and typical travel patterns, generally reflecting drive times of approximately 20 minutes (this may be affected by inclement weather, traffic volumes, etc.).

Greater Sudbury's future growth is largely being targeted to its most populated communities as they have the servicing potential to accommodate new residents. Nearly one-half (47%, or 8,590 persons) of future growth is forecasted within the Sudbury community (Greater Sudbury's largest urban settlement area), including the South End and New Sudbury. Valley East & Capreol and Azilda & Chelmsford are forecasted to account for 11% and 7% of city-wide growth, respectively. About one-quarter (28%, or 5,030 persons) of future growth is anticipated in rural areas throughout Greater Sudbury.

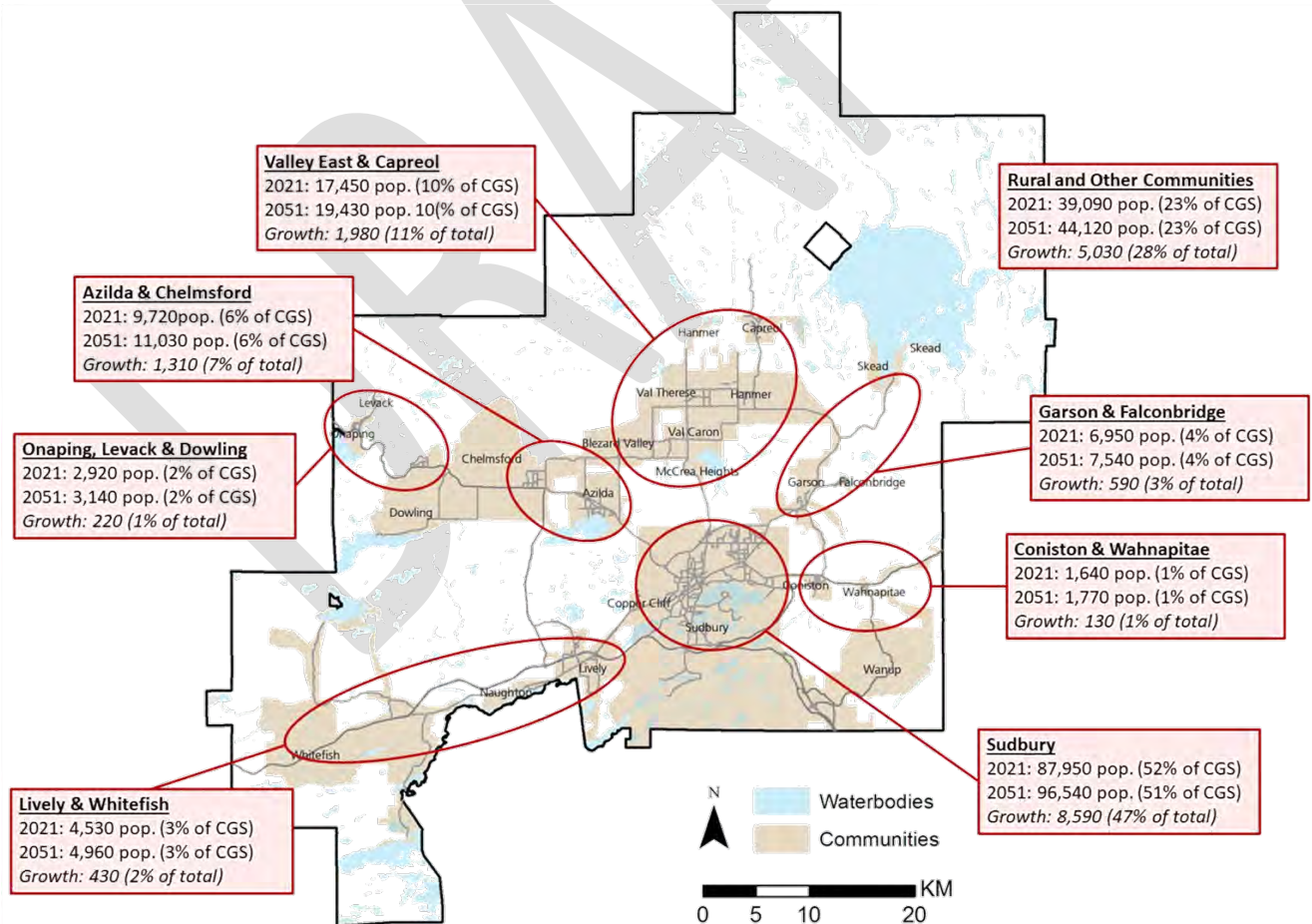
<sup>3</sup> Hemson Consulting Ltd. (2023). City of Greater Sudbury Population Projections Report.



Table 1: Population Projections by Community (Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.)

Communities	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046	2051	Change (2021-51)
Sudbury	87,950	89,840	91,100	92,540	93,670	95,200	96,540	8,590
Valley East & Capreol	17,450	17,860	18,170	18,450	18,920	19,130	19,430	1,980
Azilda & Chelmsford	9,720	10,030	10,250	10,490	10,660	10,860	11,030	1,310
Garson & Falconbridge	6,950	7,070	7,180	7,260	7,350	7,430	7,540	590
Lively & Whitefish	4,530	4,640	4,710	4,790	4,830	4,900	4,960	430
Onaping, Levack & Dowling	2,920	2,960	3,000	3,040	3,050	3,090	3,140	220
Coniston & Wahnapiatae	1,640	1,660	1,680	1,710	1,720	1,740	1,770	130
Outside of a Settlement Area	39,090	40,150	40,990	41,830	42,580	43,320	44,120	5,030
<b>Entire City</b>	<b>170,250</b>	<b>174,210</b>	<b>177,080</b>	<b>180,110</b>	<b>182,780</b>	<b>185,670</b>	<b>188,530</b>	<b>18,280</b>

Figure 4: Population Projections by Community (Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.)





## Age Structure

Indoor pools largely rely on demand from children (for instructional swimming) and seniors (for warm water aquatics), while splash pads largely service children and beaches are enjoyed by people of all ages, including families.

In examining changes in the City of Greater Sudbury's age groupings between the 2011 and 2021 Census periods, the largest change was found in seniors (ages 70 years and older), which grew by 30.2%. Conversely, the number of mature adults (ages 35 to 54 years) decreased by 12.6% during this ten-year period. The City of Greater Sudbury's population is aging, with its median age increasing from 42.3 years in 2011 to 43.2 years in 2021. The city's median age is currently older than Provincial median (41.6 years in 2021). These trends may contribute to a larger demand for services such as daytime pool times, aquafit classes, therapeutic programs, and other warm-water activities.

Notably, the number of children (ages 0 to 9 years) increased by 2.6% and the number of youth (ages 10 to 19 years) decreased by 7.4% between 2011 and 2021. These age groups are the primary participants in swimming lessons and recreational swimming.

Figure 5: City of Greater Sudbury Population by Age Group 2011 vs. 2021 (Source: Statistics Canada)

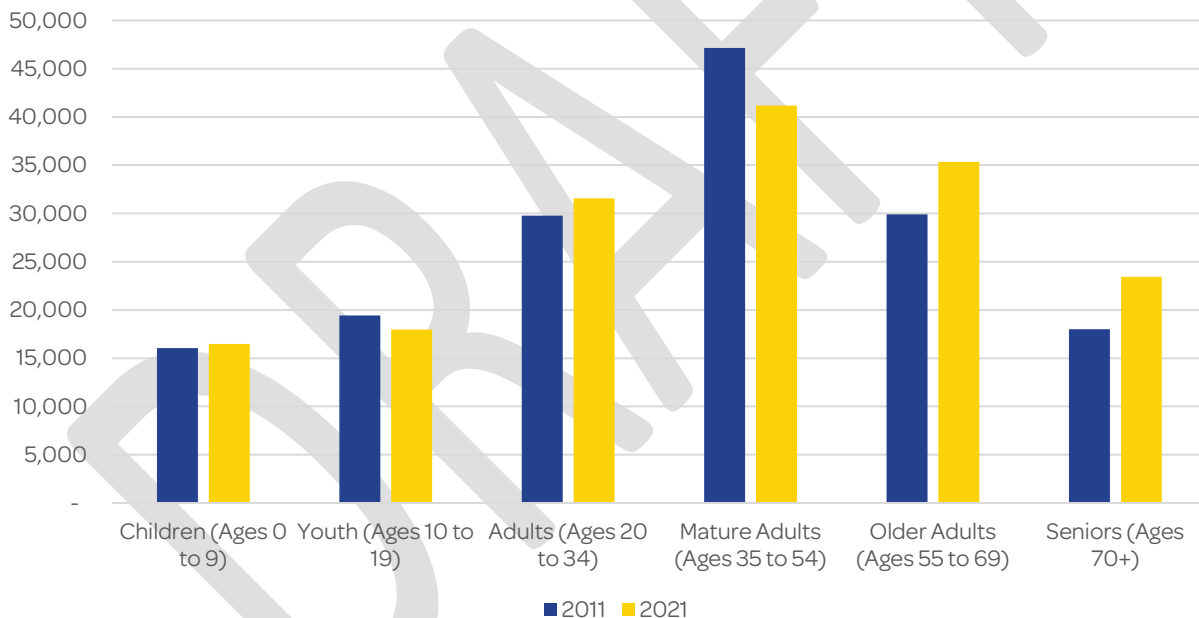


Table 2: City of Greater Sudbury Population by Age Group 2011 vs. 2021 (Source: Statistics Canada)

Age Group	2011	2021	Change (#)	Change (%)
Children (0-9)	16,060	16,475	+415	+2.6%
Youth (10-19)	19,415	17,975	-1,440	-7.4%
Adults (20-34)	29,785	31,565	+1,780	+6.0%
Mature Adults (35-54)	47,135	41,185	-5,950	-12.6%
Older Adults (55-69)	29,895	35,360	+5,465	+18.3%
Seniors (70+)	17,995	23,435	+5,440	+30.2%

Looking ahead, the largest projected increase in population by age cohort is forecasted for residents aged 60+, with an estimated 34% increase in the number of older adults and seniors between 2021 to 2051 (15,390 persons). This growth is much larger than the rates forecasted for younger age groups. The younger cohort (ages 0-14) is estimated to see an increase of 7% (1,740 persons) by 2051. The general cohort (ages 15-59) is anticipated to increase by 1.2% by 2051 compared (1,200 persons). On this basis, the City can expect to see significantly more demand in the future for services oriented towards seniors compared to other age groups.

Figure 6: City of Greater Sudbury Total Population by Age Cohort 2021-2051 (Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.)

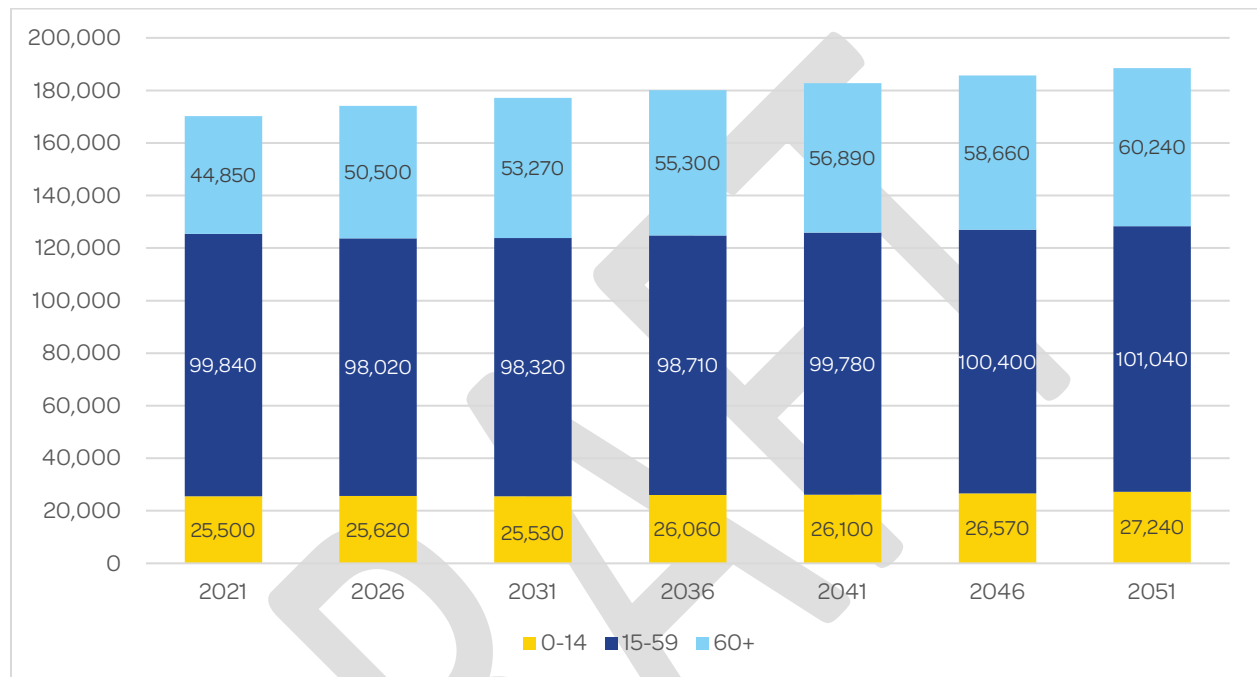
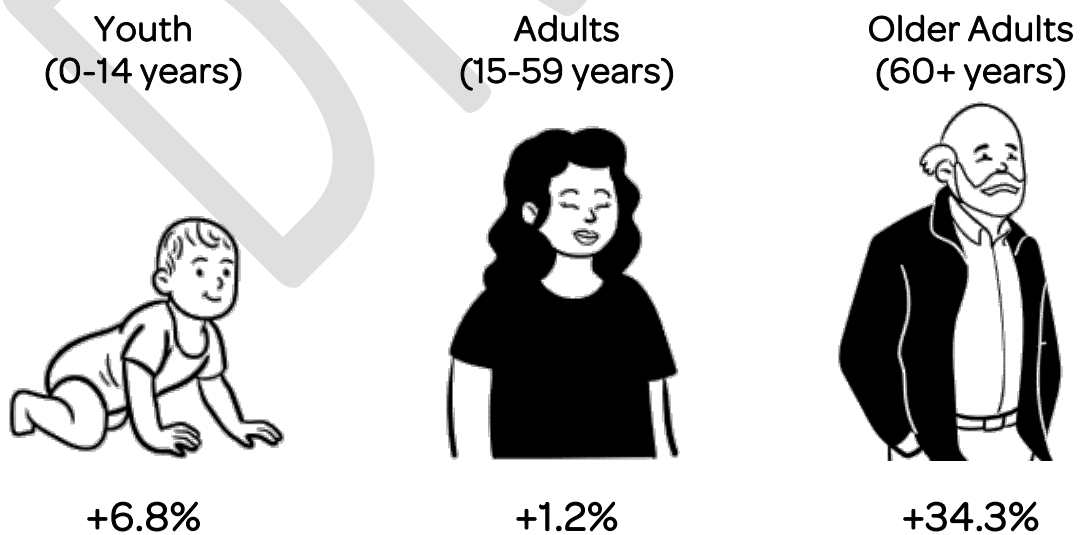


Figure 7: City of Greater Sudbury Population Increase by Age Cohort 2021-2051 (Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.)



## Income & Education

Local income statistics suggest that the cost of participating in certain aquatic programs may impact a greater percentage of households in Greater Sudbury relative to the Province. Greater Sudbury's median household income in 2020 was \$84,000, which is lower than Ontario's median household income at \$91,000. While median income may be lower, the percentage of residents living in low income households was slightly less than the provincial average (9.5% compared to Ontario at 10.1%). Since participation in aquatic recreation activities can positively influence physical activity and social interaction, affordability should continue to be an important consideration for the City through its delivery of aquatic-related programming and water play.

Another indicator of recreational participation is education attainment, with higher levels of schooling positively correlating with higher rates of participation. The 2021 Census reported that 56% of Greater Sudbury's residents have a post-secondary certification, diploma, or degree, which is slightly lower compared to the Province at 58%.

## Immigration & Diversity

Immigration levels are another factor potentially influencing aquatic interests and participation as some cultures have different practices (e.g., women-only swims) and there is a growing need to ensure that residents of all backgrounds have an opportunity to learn to swim for life safety reasons. The 2021 Census reported that 6% of residents in Greater Sudbury are immigrants which is much lower than provincial (30%) and national (23%) levels. Immigration is much more prevalent within the Greater Toronto Area, which explains why Greater Sudbury is well below provincial figures. Despite lower immigration levels in Greater Sudbury, it is important to note that recent immigrants have come from areas such as India, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Americas.

## Persons with Disabilities

One-quarter (24%) of Ontarians 15 years and older live with a disability (i.e., persons who report a limitation in their day-to-day activities) as reported by the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability. If this percentage was applied locally, this would equate to 40,000 residents of Greater Sudbury. This proportion increases with one's age, with 43% of those age 65 years and older living with disabilities. Disability is also correlated with income, with lower-income households exhibiting greater proportions of persons with disabilities.

Through its 2022-27 Multi-year Accessibility Plan, the City of Greater Sudbury endeavors to facilitate inclusive access to all its municipal programs, services, and facilities while maintaining the dignity and respect of all its residents equally. The Accessibility Plan identifies that access to recreation is a vital part in creating a sense of community for the residents of the City of Greater Sudbury and that the City will seek to continue to (among other initiatives):

- improve and increase the number of accessible parking at recreational facilities;
- improve waterfront access to public beaches;
- improve waterfront access for all members of the city; and
- prioritize and retrofit existing built environment barriers.

## Section 3. Aquatic Trends and Best Practices

Based on research and firsthand accounts from Ontario’s aquatics sector, this section provides an overview of some of the key trends and best practices pertaining to aquatic participation, service delivery, and facility provision.

### 3.1 Trends in Aquatic Participation and Services

#### Aquatic Programming and Emerging Activities

Swimming is one of the most popular leisure activities as it can be pursued by residents at any age and ability, from infants and children to adults and seniors. Swim lessons are an important source of revenue for municipal pools and are often a function of the number of children in a community. Many municipalities have seen a rise in demand for private lessons as children (and adults) are seeking greater one-on-one instruction as we emerge from the pandemic.

However, shifting demographic factors (such as an aging population, diversity, and increases in disabilities) are creating new demands and considerations for aquatic programmers and facility designers. For example, increased immigration is leading to growing demand for lessons amongst newcomers, including adults. Additionally, while gender gaps remain significant in some sports, swimming is one of the top choices for female participants. Privacy swims (female-only swim times with privacy curtains) are necessary for some newcomer populations.

Residents are placing greater demands on spontaneous, non-programmed swimming activities due to evolving household schedules and lifestyles. In many communities, participation in drop-in recreational swimming programs have been on the rise, whereas registered swimming programs have seen stable to declining participation rates. Municipalities are increasingly faced with the need to strike a balance in the provision of structured and drop-in aquatic programs.

Aquatic programming is continually evolving to capture growing segments in the population. Several innovative programs have arisen which change the way we use aquatic spaces. For example, some pools are being programmed as “liquid gyms” or “underwater workout spaces” utilizing equipment such as bikes, treadmills, steps, trampolines, floating boards, scuba equipment, and more. These programs provide accessibility to all users as the water reduces impacts on joints and lessens the intensity of the workout compared to dry land.<sup>4</sup>

Wellness, aquatic exercise, and water-based resistance training are increasingly popular activities among those looking for a low impact workout in a fun environment, particularly in communities with aging populations like Greater Sudbury. However, accessible pools and/or therapeutic tanks are preferred to support these and other inclusive activities.

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<sup>4</sup> Sports Experts. Retrieved from <https://www.sportsexperts.ca/en-CA/blog/web-series-stayingfit-with-marie-claude-perron/liquid-gym>



Other activity trends that reflect our growing focus on health and wellness programming include:

- Aquatic tai chi and yoga
- Aquatic kickboxing
- Underwater cycling
- Deepwater running
- Paddleboard yoga
- Learning to kayak
- Triathlon training
- Core strength aquatic exercise
- Warm water stretching
- Cross training programs
- Special needs programs
- Co-participation programs (parents and children)<sup>5</sup>
- Climbing walls, tarzan ropes
- Special events, such as in-water movie nights

### Competitive Swimming

According to Swim Ontario, the major obstacle the sport faces is the lack of suitable facilities as most municipal pools are under-sized or improperly shaped to address the needs of the full continuum of competitive swimmers. For competition, a rectangular tank is needed with at least 6 lanes (preferably 8 or even 10 lanes). And while a 25-metre length pool may be adequate for training and local meets, a 50-metre length pool is preferred and required for higher levels of competition. There are approximately fifteen municipal 50-metre (Olympic) pools in Ontario, including the Laurentian University pool that has been closed since 2020.

Swimming (including recreational swimming) was rated the fourth most popular physical activity among Canadian Adults in 2015 (58%), following walking (84%), gardening or yard work (74%), and exercise at home (65%).<sup>6</sup> Ontario Swim reported that as of Sept. 1, 2021, there were 140 clubs and varsity teams with approximately 15,000 registered swimmers throughout Ontario. A directional goal from Swim Canada in their Strategic Plan for 2021-2028 states “advocate for an aquatic sport friendly facility vision that enhances access and maximises training/competition opportunities for all Swim Ontario Clubs.”<sup>7</sup>

### Pool Staffing Shortages

Many municipalities across the province have recently been experiencing staffing shortages, particularly their lifeguards and associated aquatic instructors. This decline in available staff can be partially attributed to the pool shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which halted certification course training, lifeguard hiring, and swimming lessons in 2020 in many communities. Municipalities are building back to pre-pandemic staffing numbers, as many lifeguards chose to move on to other opportunities during the pandemic. For example, in 2022, Toronto only acquired two-thirds of the lifeguards required to maintain all outdoor pools, requiring the cancellation of 169 swim courses.<sup>8</sup> The province of Ontario has recently reduced the minimum age requirement to be a lifeguard from 16 to 15 years of age in an effort to potentially increase staffing. This age requirement now aligns with the

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<sup>5</sup> Swim Together: A new model of co-participation for women and girls in sport. <https://sirc.ca/blog/swim-together/>

<sup>6</sup> CLFRI (2016). <https://cflri.ca/sites/default/files/node/1428/files/PAM%202014-2015%20Bulletin%207%20Popular%20Activities%20EN.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Swim Ontario (2021). <https://admin.swimontario.com/documents/151/SOStrategicPlan.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Global News (2023). Ontario Proposes Lowering Minimum Age for Lifeguards to 15 to Ease Staff Shortages. Retrieved from <https://globalnews.ca/news/9627874/ontario-proposes-lowering-minimum-age-lifeguards-15-ease-staff-shortages/>

update established by the Lifesaving Society’s certification course. Alongside increased wages and incentives (e.g., free training<sup>9</sup>), the lifeguard shortage concerns are beginning to dissipate.

### Warm-water Swimming / Therapeutic Recreation

Aquatic wellness and therapy programs and activities are the fastest growing uses within the pool sector, driven in part by aging populations. Therapeutic pools are usually smaller warm water tanks that are mainly used for rehabilitation or therapeutic purposes (e.g. people with disabilities or injuries), but they are also available to toddlers and seniors as well as those less comfortable in water. Therapeutic pools may vary in shape and size, but most have shallow depths and feature a range of supporting amenities and assisting devices including, but not limited to, massage jets, benches, handles, ladders, chair lifts and resistance machines.

Highly valued for its restorative properties, aquatic therapy originates from spas and warm baths that were popular among Greeks and Romans during the 5th Century BC to supplement sporting activities, as well as rehabilitation qualities for those suffering from paralysis.<sup>10</sup> The use of water was religiously viewed as a healing agent and was used to treat a variety of sicknesses and diseases.<sup>11</sup> Generally speaking, aquatic therapy provides a medium for individuals to improve mobility and increase blood flow throughout the body, thereby relaxing muscles, decreasing tension, and reducing stress on joints.<sup>12</sup> The many benefits of aquatic therapy – well documented by therapeutic recreation specialists, physical therapists, massage therapists and medical doctors – are summarized below.

**Table 3: Key Benefits of Aquatic Therapy**

Physical Benefits	Psychological Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces pain</li> <li>• Facilitates relaxation and circulation</li> <li>• Reduces pressure on joints and spine</li> <li>• Reduces swelling from injured areas</li> <li>• Improves mobility</li> <li>• Increases cardiovascular function</li> <li>• Improves balance and core</li> <li>• Prevents bone marrow loss</li> <li>• Increases endurance</li> <li>• Improves pulmonary function</li> <li>• Serves as a medium for strength training</li> <li>• Improves blood circulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves body image</li> <li>• Improves quality of life</li> <li>• Reduces depression and anxiety</li> <li>• Improves self-satisfaction</li> <li>• Enhances mood</li> <li>• Creates sense of independence</li> <li>• Builds self-esteem</li> <li>• Create relationships with others</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> CBC News (2023). Waterloo aims to increase number of lifeguards by offering free certification programs. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/waterloo-lifeguards-free-aquatic-leadership-courses-1.6918856>

<sup>10</sup> M. Champion. Adult hydrotherapy. Oxford: Heinemann Medical Books.

<sup>11</sup> M. Irion. Historical overview of aquatic rehabilitation. *Aquatic Rehabilitation*. 3-13. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven Publishers. 1997.

<sup>12</sup> Knute Nelson (2023). Get to Know the Therapeutic Benefits of a Warm Water Pool. <https://www.knutenelson.org/news-stories/get-to-know-the-therapeutic-benefits-of-a-warm-water-pool>

## Cold-water Swimming

Cold water plunges are an ancient practice which have become more popular since the pandemic due to its known therapeutic and health benefits. This activity may occur within a controlled setting such as a cold barrel tub at a rehabilitation facility or outdoors in cold bodies of water such as lakes. Cold water swimming is not provided at a specific regulated temperature, and participants may wish to include ice for an enhanced experience. Research states that cold water plunges can reduce inflammation, improve mental health, and provide a social experience that people of all ages and abilities can participate in.<sup>13</sup> Common users of this technique include sports teams looking for new muscle recovery methods.<sup>14</sup> While cold-water swimming can be participated in unstructured settings, there are also opportunities provided by organizations such as Polar Plunge to take a dip in cold waters all around Ontario. In March 2023, residents of Sudbury were provided this opportunity to participate in the Polar Plunge at the Ramsey Lake Boat Launch.

### **3.2 Indoor Pool Provision Trends and Best Practices**

#### Modern Pool Design

Through public investment in leisure facilities following the Second World War, public pools have proliferated in communities across Canada and continue to be one of the most sought after facilities given their benefits. Noted as one of the most popular leisure activities in Canada, swimming is an essential life skill. Public pools offer a range of programming opportunities and also serve as a venue for neighbours to gather and form community bonds, going well beyond what can be offered within private backyard pools and area lakes.

However, many aquatic facilities across Canada are nearing end of life and require significant reinvestment to meet changing user expectations and provide safe and relevant environments for aquatic activities. The 2019 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card found that 22% of 25-metre indoor pools in urban communities were in poor or very poor condition<sup>15</sup>.

Traditional pool layouts were generally limited to a rectangular shape with a length of 25 metres (or in some cases 25 yards). However, recent trends in pool construction and retrofitting have seen an evolution in public pool design that offers more variety and that accommodates a growing diversity of users (often supported by multiple tanks with different water temperatures), thereby raising the bar in facility quality. Cities across the Province are responding to demands for modern amenities, including (but not limited to) installing universal change rooms, improving accessibility (e.g., ramps and zero depth entry, etc.), providing warmer pool temperatures, adding waterplay features, incorporating natural light to view the outdoors, and updating viewing galleries, washrooms, and showers.

Research suggests that many residents are interested in high quality aquatic facilities that offer recreational swimming opportunities (often characterized by warm water tanks, water park features, spacious decks and change facilities, etc.). In some larger communities, requests have also been

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<sup>13</sup> Best Health (2022). The Life-Boosting Powers of Cold Water Swimming.

<https://www.besthealthmag.ca/article/cold-water-swimming/>

<sup>14</sup> CBC News (2023). <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/cold-tub-cold-water-immersion-kw-sauna-depth-training-1.6841780>

<sup>15</sup> <http://canadianinfrastructure.ca/en/index.html>

received for salt water pools (replacing chlorine or ozone), wave pools, platforms and deep wells for competitive diving, and 50 metre (Olympic) pools for competitive swimming.

In modern aquatic facility designs, a secondary tank is commonly paired with the traditional rectangular pool to expand leisure and recreational opportunities, while still accommodating land and/or competitive swimming. Though usually smaller and shallow, the secondary tank may have no predefined shape or size and many are uniquely designed from one location to another. This tank can serve a number of purposes including a leisurely lounge tank with associated water slide and spray features, a warm water tank to facilitate programming for children, older adults, and those with disabilities, or a tot-teaching tank that provides a safe and comfortable environment suitable for younger learn-to-swim users. Moveable floors and/or bulkheads can help to customize rectangular or leisure tanks for a variety of activities, including lessons and aqua-fitness programs. The most successful indoor aquatic centres include a variety of features that are designed to accommodate all ages and abilities.

Some other recent trends in modern pool design components include:

- Entry ramps or wide stairs in place of ladders;
- Universal change rooms;
- Warmer water pools with jets and benches to support therapeutic benefits;
- Larger shallow area and/or teaching steps;
- Increased natural lighting; and
- Separate HVAC systems to isolate chlorine smell.

Today's pools are designed to accommodate a larger number of bathers than the traditional rectangular pool layout, better suiting recreational swimming (particularly amongst children), learn to swim programs, and aquatic therapy to some degree. The trade-off is that many of these designs are unable to accommodate the full needs of competitive aquatic clubs and athletes.

### [Accommodating Persons with Disabilities](#)

There are many design guidelines in place to maximize accessibility for persons with physical disabilities. For example, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) has specific regulations that apply to newly constructed and redeveloped beach access routes.

Communities have recognized the importance of removing barriers to participating in aquatic activities through design, which may include ramps (e.g., Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre), chairlifts, hand rails, and wide steps for independent access to tanks. Supporting amenities such as larger swim decks, universal change rooms, adult change tables, and accessible viewing areas are also key design considerations. Universal change rooms address safety and security issues for all users, respond to demand for gender neutral spaces, and are accessible for persons with disabilities and mobility challenges.

### [Energy Efficiency and Green Designs](#)

Energy efficiency and green/carbon neutral designs are a challenge for pools due to the high levels of energy and water required to operate them. Incorporating green building design standards such as LEED, along with selection of energy efficient and shared equipment, provide ways to reduce energy consumption. Preventing heat loss and re-using water discharge in appropriate means further reduces the carbon footprint of pools. Recreational facilities, specifically aquatic facilities across the



country have aging infrastructure, many of which do not comply with current provincial building codes or health regulations within their jurisdictions.

Combining a pool system with an ice plant from an arena provides a heat source for the pool from the rejected heat of the compressors. Further adding in geo-thermal and solar heating systems reduces the reliance on fossil fuels to provide a dedicated heating system to the pool system. The use of pool covers to reduce heat loss and evaporation while the pool is not in use aids in overall reduction of costs and improves efficiencies, although covers can be troublesome.

### Economics of Pool Provision and Operation

Due to their high staffing and utility costs, indoor pools are among the most expensive facilities operated by municipal recreation departments. As purpose-built year-round facilities, indoor swimming pools are highly regulated spaces that require trained staff to operate and program, all within a harsh and humid environment that can impact the longevity of building systems. Municipalities and other service providers often co-locate pools with revenue-generating business units such as fitness centres to help offset the overall building maintenance and operational costs.

Most annual indoor pool costs are relatively fixed and are not significantly impacted by usage – water filtration and air handling are just two examples of necessary operational functions regardless of whether there are swimmers in the tank or not. Lifeguarding is another notable cost, which can be impacted by the busyness of a pool as well as its design (e.g., water depth, configuration, presence of slides, etc.). Conversely, revenues are variable and will change with use – they are typically highest in the winter and when programming is running at full speed, and lowest in the summer when demand is lower due to outdoor swimming and other fitness opportunities. Swim lessons tend to offer municipalities with the greatest potential for revenue, while drop-in swim rates are more heavily subsidized.

From a capital development and design perspective, the sizes of indoor pool enclosures are becoming much larger than in previous eras. This is due in part to the increased floor areas required for AODA barrier-free spaces, as well as demand for multiple-tank aquatic centres, larger deck spaces, larger and more change rooms, etc. Larger pool buildings are correlated with higher capital costs, which are also being impacted by rapidly escalating market costs at this time.

As a result of these economics, it is important for municipalities to maximize their existing indoor pool spaces and times before building new facilities. Programming pools with multiple users and uses at one time (e.g., length swimming and lessons, etc.) is necessary to optimize operations and make the best use of taxpayer dollars and user fees.

## **3.3 Outdoor Beach and Splash Pad Trends and Best Practices**

### Interactive Waterplay

Splash pads/waterplay facilities are engaging amenities built into parks or public areas and are often complemented by washrooms, seating, shade, and playgrounds. They appeal to young children and families looking for a fun and affordable way to cool off during the summer months. Splash pads can take on a variety of designs and themes to create unique and interactive experiences. Many are designed with sensors and buttons that activate water features such as spray jets, water cannons, buckets, and other amenities often upon a rubberized or concrete surface. These facilities respond very well to growing demands for unstructured, spontaneous forms of recreation as users simply drop-in whenever it is convenient and make use of the facilities.

Many communities have been moving to replace their aging outdoor and wading pools with splash pads as they reach end of life. Splash pads are also increasingly being designed to complement placemaking and public art initiatives within civic spaces (such as Memorial Park in Sudbury). In these instances, fountain features are combined with public art or other civic installations to achieve a dual function relating to urban design and recreational use. In some cases, splash pads have also been designed to operate as outdoor skating areas and loops in the winter, creating a year-round recreational venue.

### Rise in Backyard Outdoor Pools

The construction of backyard outdoor pools has significantly increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. With public aquatic facilities closing indefinitely and the heatwaves of summer approaching, Canadians were searching for safe ways to continue getting active and enjoying the outdoors during the travel restrictions. This caused an unprecedented demand of pool construction as people planned on upgrading their backyards and spending more time at home. More than 38,000 pool permits were distributed across Canada in 2020/21 with the majority of these permits originating from Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia.<sup>16</sup> Canadians who have constructed new backyard outdoor pools can continue to avoid busy public beaches or pools with the assurance of having access to their own private facility.

### Inflatable Waterpark Structures

Water play structures made of inflatable elements have turned existing beaches and waterfronts into outdoor aquatic playgrounds. These water parks provide entertainment and activity for various age groups including children, teens, and families. The structures are comprised of giant floating playground elements which provide an interactive water experience. Many are designed to include slides, wheels, balance beams, swings, climbing walls, monkey bars, and trampolines. These elements are commonly arranged to create obstacle courses which encourages competition and socialization with others. Water park structures take up little space as they are located on the water and can easily be relocated or moved if necessary. Examples of these inflatable water park structures include the Splash n Go at Bell Park in Sudbury and the Splash On Water Park in Barrie.

### Water Sports

Outdoor water sports, such as stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking have skyrocketed in popularity over the past few years. With people unable to travel, water sports have provided an opportunity to get outdoors and experience their local water bodies. Business demand for KSF (a Montreal-based company which rents, sells, and provides lessons for water sports) increased about 75% over the pandemic as people become more interested in learning how to kayak or paddle board.<sup>17</sup> Water sports can be enjoyed for much of the year if the right equipment and wetsuits are provided. Additionally, inflatable equipment has become very popular which makes it easier to travel with and more accessible for the casual user to set up and use in their leisure time. Inflatable options also make paddle boards easier to store compared to the conventional paddle board. Water sports have

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<sup>16</sup> CBC News. (2021). Backyard pool building surges as Canadians opt for at-home oasis to escape COVID-19, heat and boredom. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/pools-demand-for-backyard-escape-oasis-hiked-by-covid-climate-change-1.6230599>

<sup>17</sup> Globe and Mail (2022). Canadians diving into these watersports for refreshing summer leisure at home. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article-canadians-diving-into-these-watersports-for-refreshing-summer-leisure/>

become easier for people to get involved in, with many opportunities to purchase or rent equipment, and even participate in lessons to improve their water skills.

### Floating Pools and Enclosed Deep Water Swimming Areas

Many cities across the globe have access to natural lakes, oceans, and rivers, although some are unable to be used for recreational swimming due to pollution and waterway. Floating pools are a solution which creates a safe and clean space to swim on top of these existing water bodies. These pools may use and filter the water directly from the source they float on. As climate change becomes more concerning, especially extreme heat events, demand for innovative ideas such as floating pools has increased. Examples include +Pool which is in development for the Hudson River in New York, and the Piscine Josephine Baker in Paris which opened in 2006.<sup>18</sup>

Deep water swimming areas are also making a comeback. Revitalization of existing deep water areas can offer activities such as recreational swimming and diving, while continuing to respect historical significance<sup>19</sup>. The NCC River House in Ottawa was once used for the New Edinburdgh Canoe Club, serving both boaters and swimmers. The maintenance work done has revived its purpose to continue serving this user group, with many water opportunities and lifeguards to supervise.

### Extended Seasons to address Extreme Heat Alerts

Due to extreme heat alerts occurring more frequently and severely in many urban areas, municipalities have begun extending access to aquatic services. Expanded hours and seasons provides residents with more opportunities to cool down and stay safe, but requires lifeguards and other related aquatic staff to be available; therefore usually only a select number of locations are extended to ensure supervision. The City of Toronto has extended its dates for 10 outdoor pools into September 2023 to provide relief for its residents by activating their Heat Relief Strategy.<sup>20</sup> Greater Sudbury also takes similar action by extending its supervised hours at Bell Park Main Beach and Moonlight Beach from 7pm to 9pm when heat warnings issued by Environment Canada activate their municipal Hot Weather Response Plan. With extreme heat alerts continuing into the future, these extended seasons and hours protocols may occur more frequently or lead to re-evaluating what the regular timeframe should be.

### Grey Water Recycling from Splash Pads

When they were first introduced, splash pads were originally constructed as a once-through system using municipal water (commonly used in Greater Sudbury's parks). While this is the most cost-effective system to install, the operation costs are high due to the water volume waste. In recent years, alternate solutions have been developed such as using wastewater for re-purposing, including watering municipal flower beds after initial splash pad use. Another solution is completely circulating and treating the water in a holding tank to continue being used for the splash pad. While this may be costly, it wastes less water and is better aligned with the environmental goals of many municipalities.

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<sup>18</sup> Architectural Digest. (2017). Floating pools to seek out this summer.

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/floating-pools-to-seek-out-this-summer>

<sup>19</sup> CBC News (2023). Restored swimming hole brings back River House's former glory.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-river-house-1.6918423>

<sup>20</sup> City of Toronto. (2023). <https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-helps-residents-keep-cool-this-september-extends-dates-at-10-outdoor-pools/>

## Section 4. About our Indoor Aquatic Facilities

This section contains facts and figures related to the City's inventory of indoor swimming pools, including facility usage, programming, condition, accessibility, etc. Preliminary assessments of pool functionality and potential constraints are also identified for further analysis in Phase 2.

### 4.1 Overview

The City of Greater Sudbury owns and operates 5 indoor pool facilities:

1. Gatchell Pool (Sudbury)
2. Nickel District Pool (Sudbury)
3. Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool (Valley East)
4. Onaping Pool (Onaping)
5. R.G. Dow Pool (Copper Cliff)

In addition, the Sudbury YMCA operates a multi-tank pool in Sudbury within the Downtown Centre for Life and Laurentian University operates the 50-metre Jenő Tihanyi Olympic Gold Pool (note: the University pool has been closed since March 2020).

Figure 8: Map of Indoor Aquatic Facilities in Greater Sudbury

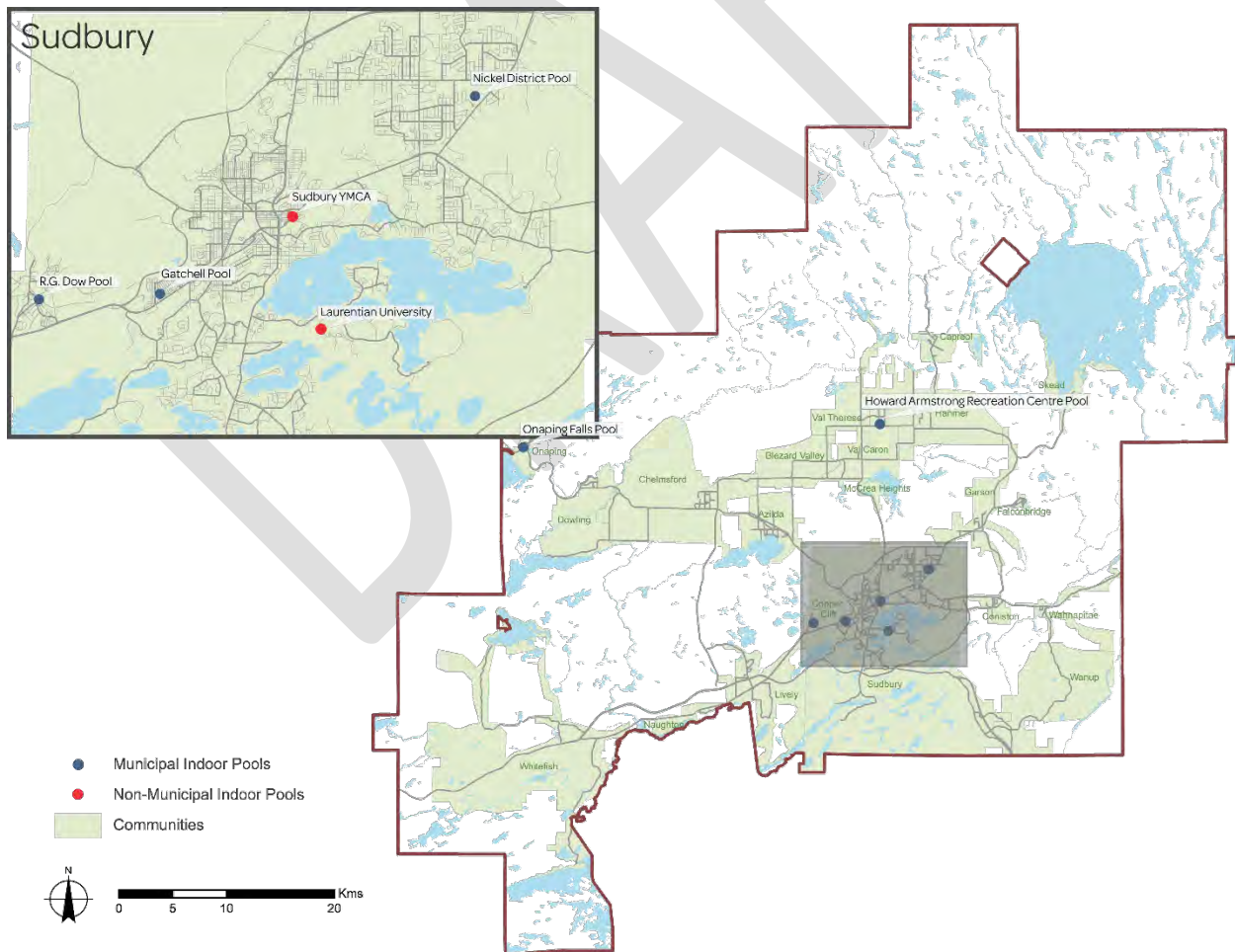




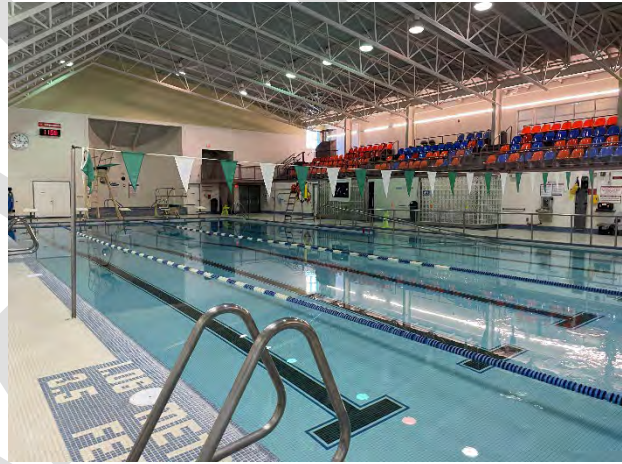
Table 4: Municipal Indoor Pools at a Glance

Pool	Year Built (renovated)	Description	Size and Notable Amenities
Gatchell	1975 (1985)	Attached to elementary school (school lands)	25-metres, 6-lanes
HARC	1983	Part of multi-use recreation centre	25-metres, 5-lanes Large viewing gallery On-deck hot pool
Nickel District	1973	Attached to high school (school lands)	25-metres, 5-lanes
Onaping	1967	Attached to community centre; more limited hours	15-metres, 4-lanes
R.G. Dow	1971	Stand-alone facility on recreation campus	25-metres, 5-lanes

Gatchell Pool



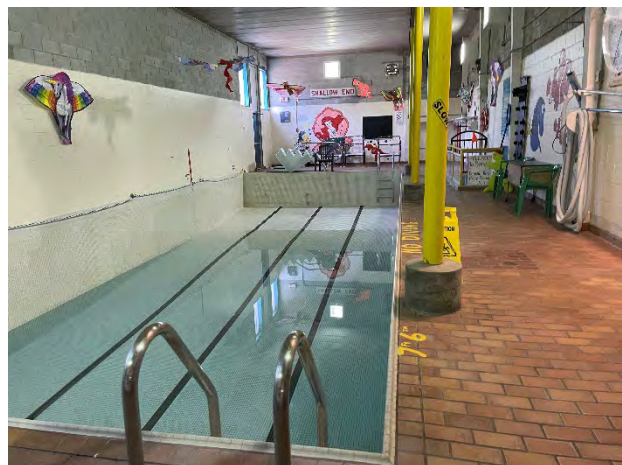
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool



Nickel District Pool



Onaping Pool



R.G. Dow Pool



Additionally, for several years the City has been advocating for expanded indoor aquatic services through the pursuit of funding and/or grants to develop a therapeutic/leisure pool (warm-water pool) in the Rayside-Balfour area. In June 2014, Council approved the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan which recommended such a pool at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda. A therapeutic/leisure pool would offer accessible services and programs that are not currently available in any other City of Greater Sudbury facility, including swimming lessons and therapeutic programming for older adults, toddlers, and young children.

#### 4.2 Pool Activities and Usage

The City’s indoor pools are designed to deliver fundamental services such as swimming lessons, aquafitness, fitness swimming, inclusive play opportunities, and aquatic leadership. Programs are generally well attended and provide quality recreation opportunities for residents. Each pool location offers one free swim per week to enable participation by all.

More specialized services – such as sport training and athlete development, higher level competition, therapy and rehabilitation, and themed aquatic experiences – have traditionally been beyond the City’s core levels of service, although certain aspects of these services can be accommodated within the municipal pool supply. Council has recently been considering expansion into some of these areas (such as a therapeutic recreation pool in Azilda). Community providers are a vital component to delivering the full range of aquatic services beyond the basic (e.g., sport training and competition at Laurentian University and recreational swimming at the Sudbury YMCA).

Table 5: Types of Aquatic Activities Accommodated at Municipal Indoor Pools

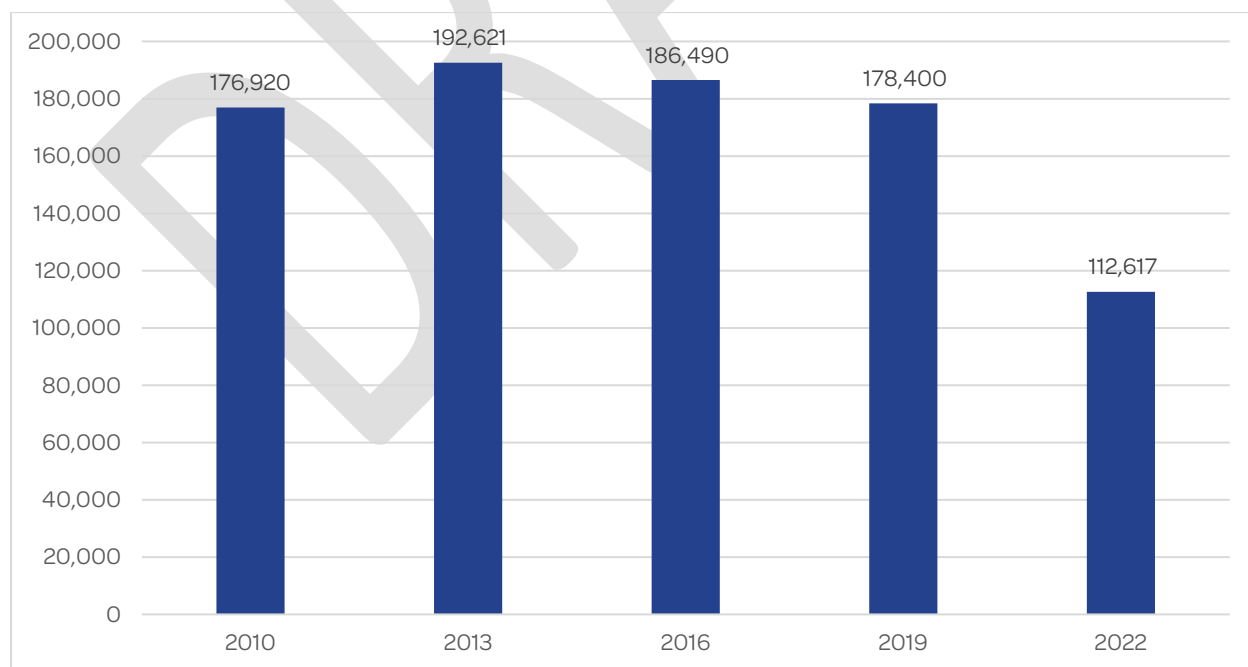
Pool / Location	Swim Lessons	Aqua-Fitness	Recreational Swimming (Drop-in)	Lane Swimming	Leadership Programs	Swim Clubs and Training	Special Events & Competitions	Therapy and Rehabilitation
Gatchell	●	●	●	●	●	◐	◐	⊘
HARC	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●	⊘
Nickel District	●	●	●	●	●	◐	◐	⊘
Onaping	●	●	◐	◐	◐	⊘	⊘	⊘
R.G. Dow	●	●	●	●	●	◐	◐	⊘

● = Permitted Use; ◐ = Conditional/Limited use; ⊘ = Non-permitted Use

Historical swim visit data for each pool is identified below in order to illustrate patterns of usage in three-year periods dating back to 2010. Pandemic-related closures affected usage in 2020 and 2021, while 2022 figures remain below past levels partially as a result of programs re-starting and staffing shortages. Further, it is noted that the Laurentian University Pool closed in March 2020 and has yet to reopen due to needed repairs; the City has worked to accommodate many of the University pool’s participants and rentals within municipal pools, leading to schedule adjustments. The City anticipates that participation figures for 2023 will be greater than 2022 across all program types and facilities.

From 2010 to 2022, the City’s indoor pools accommodated an average of 169,410 visits each year across five pools, for an average of 33,882 per location. This peaked in 2013 with a total of 192,621 swim visits.

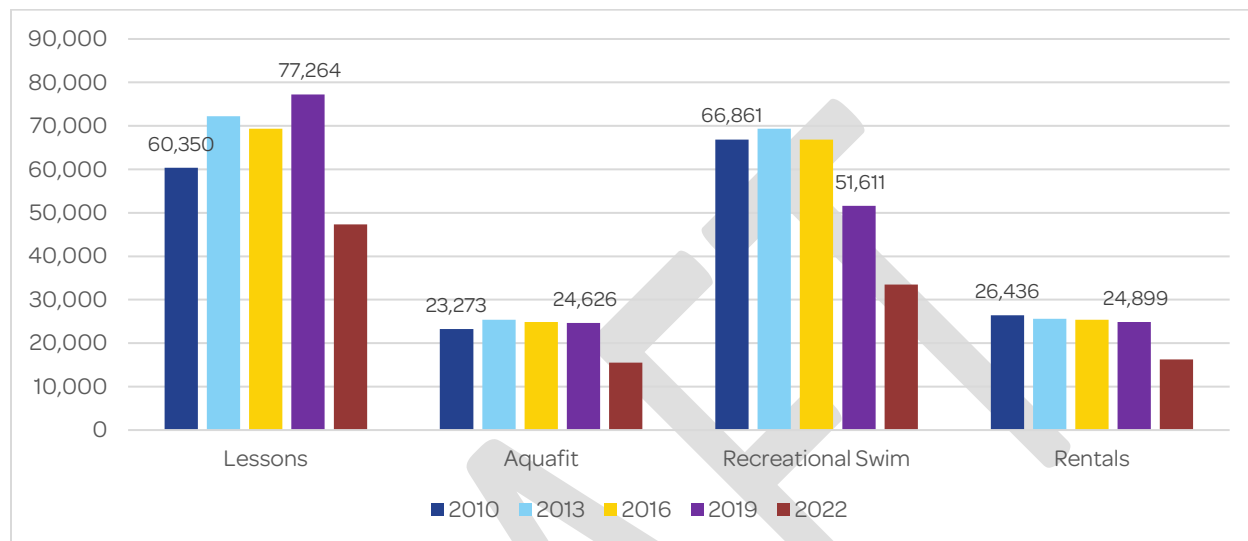
Figure 9: Annual Swim Visits, 2010 to 2022 (all five City of Greater Sudbury indoor pools)



Note: 2022 figures remain below past levels partially as a result of programs re-starting and staffing shortages.

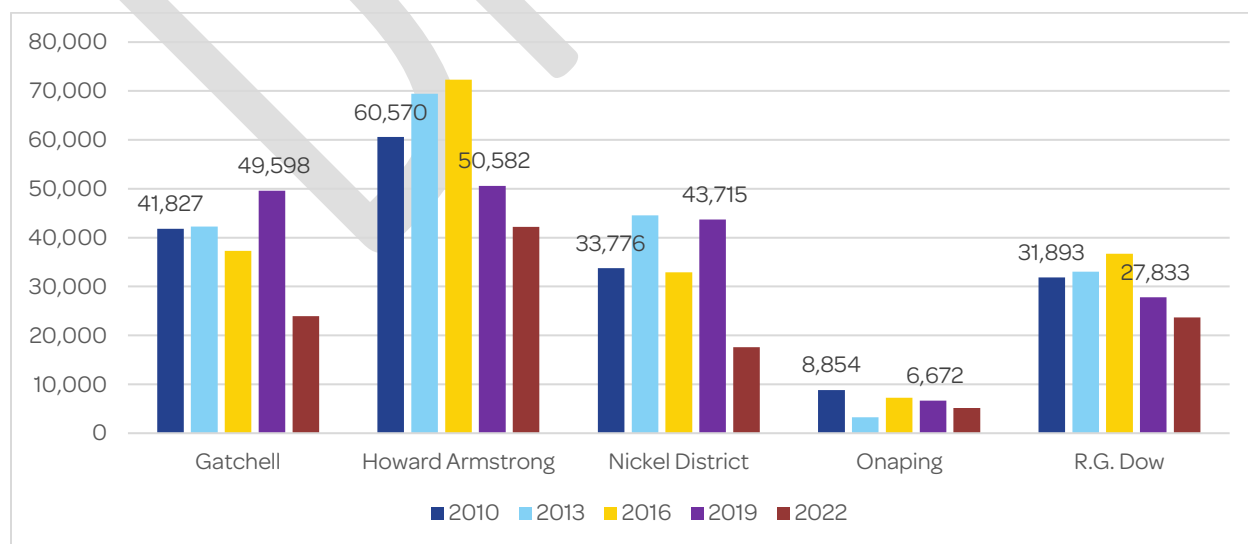
The figure below describes annual swim visits by type and shows that all have experienced a decline from 2010 to 2022. Focusing on the pre-pandemic period (2010 to 2019), demand for lessons increased (+28%), while both aquafit and rental visits were relatively stagnant (+6% and -6% respectively). Recreational swimming evidently has a negative growth pattern, declining by -23% between 2010 and 2019.

Figure 10: Annual Swim Visits by Type, 2010 to 2022 (all five City of Greater Sudbury indoor pools)



From 2010 to 2016, some indoor pool locations were steadily increasing in their annual swim visits such as the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre pool and the R.G. Dow pool. From 2019 to 2022, most indoor pools began to experience a decrease in swim visits with a continuing downward trend, likely impacted by the pandemic. While the Howard Armstrong pool experienced a decrease of swim visits by -30% from 2010 to 2022, it continues to be the most visited municipal indoor pool. The Onaping pool experienced a decrease of -41% from 2010 to 2022 and remains to be the least utilized pool in the system.

Figure 11: Annual Swim Visits by Location, 2010 to 2022 (all activity types)

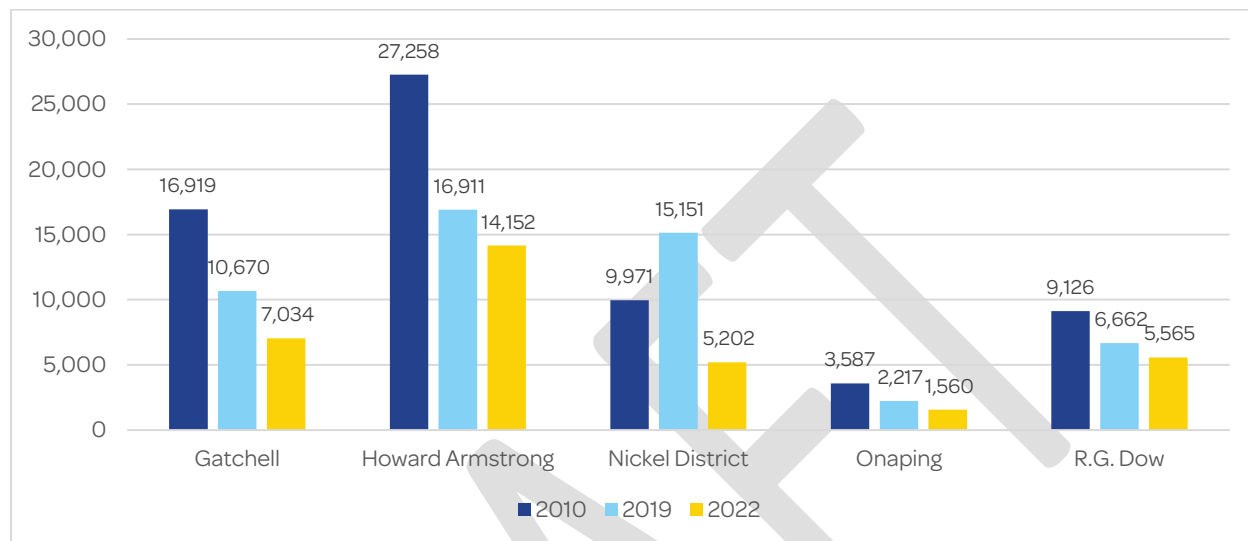


Note: The Onaping Pool has more limited hours and is typically closed for the months of June, July and August.



**Recreational swim visits** have declined from 2010 to 2019 for all municipal indoor pools. The Howard Armstrong pool continues to be the most popular to visit for this activity across all years, with the Onaping pool experiencing the smallest numbers in terms of recreational swim visits. The Nickel District pool experienced a spike in recreational swim visits in 2019 (15,151 visits) which is the only increase from the 2010 data across all pools.

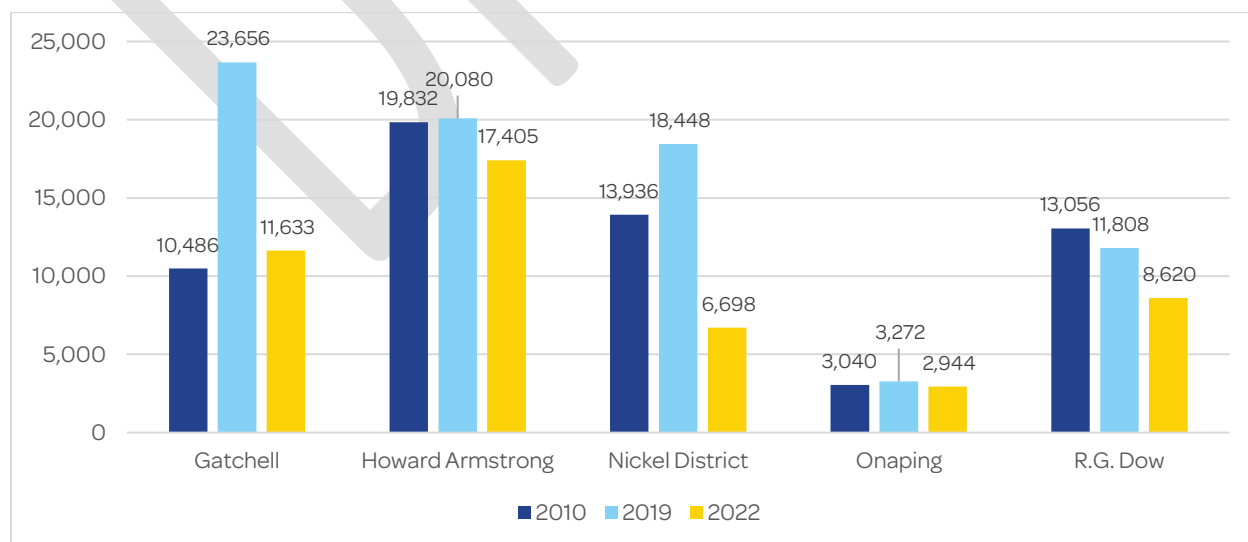
**Figure 12: Annual Recreational Swim Visits by Location, 2010 to 2022**



Note: Data by location is not available for 2013 and 2016.

**Swim lessons** are provided at all municipal indoor pools, although numbers have fluctuated across the 2010-2019 timeline. In 2019 an increase of swim lessons was experienced at every pool except for R.G. Dow. The largest increase was at Gatchell Pool (+126%) and the R.G. Dow Pool experienced a decrease of -10%. Howard Armstrong and Onaping pool have kept their swim lesson visits relatively consistent from 2010 to 2019. Demand is greatest for beginner classes (e.g., Parents & Tots Swim, Preschool 1) and lower for more specialized programs (e.g., lifesaving fitness).

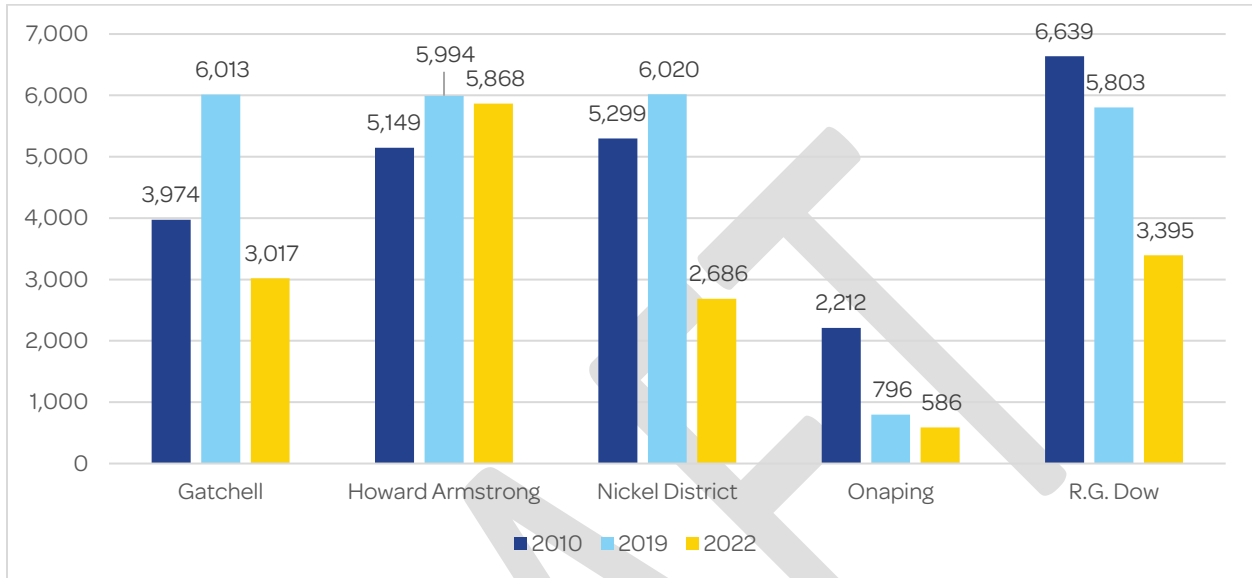
**Figure 13: Annual Swim Lesson Visits by Location, 2010 to 2022**



Note: Data by location is not available for 2013 and 2016.

**Aquafit** has experienced a general decline in numbers across all pools from 2010 to 2019, except for the Howard Armstrong pool which remains generally consistent. Pools which have experienced peak numbers in 2019 include Gatchell and Nickel District (51% and 14% respectively). Both Onaping and R.G. Dow have only declined in aquafit visits throughout the provided years.

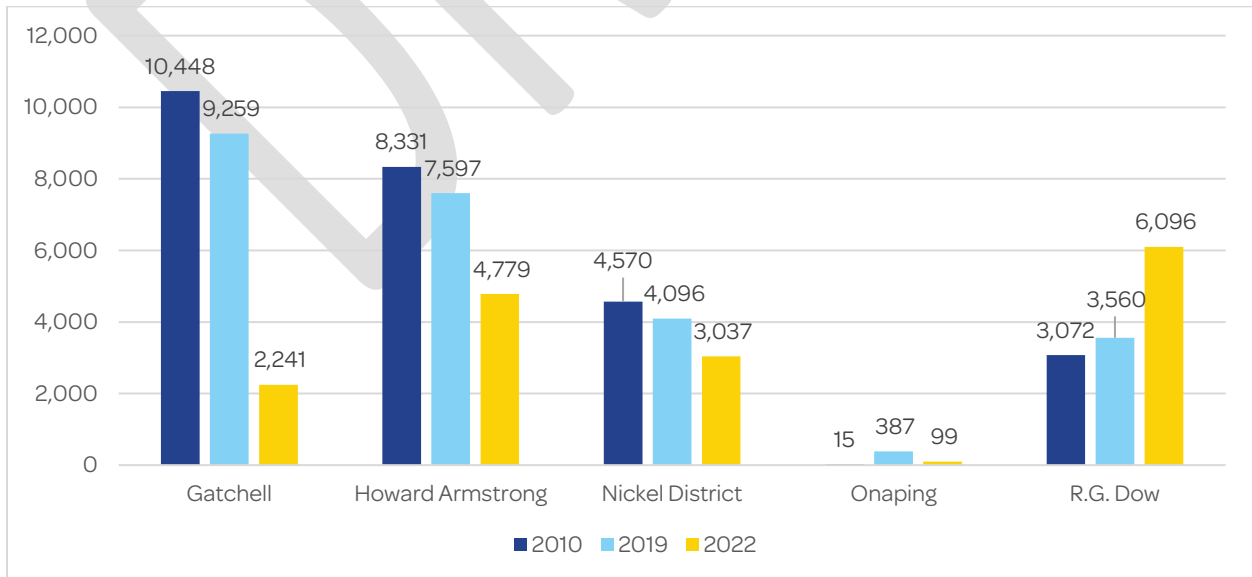
**Figure 14: Annual Aquafit Visits by Location, 2010 to 2022**



Note: Data by location is not available for 2013 and 2016.

**Pool rentals** have decreased from 2010 to 2019 in every municipal indoor pool except for R.G. Dow. R.G. Dow has experienced a 16% increase in 2019 from its original 2010 data, meaning that it is the most popular for the public and other organizations to utilize for rentals. The least used pool for rentals is Onaping with the lowest numbers across all municipal pools. With the closure of Laurentian University Pool, the City has been experiencing increased rentals in 2023 (not shown on graph).

**Figure 15: Annual Rental Visits by Location, 2010 to 2022**



Note: Data by location is not available for 2013 and 2016.

The consultation program yielded some comments from residents about **waitlists**, specifically that swim lessons fill up quickly and families are not always able to receive their desired time. The City collects waitlist data but record-keeping practices may differ by location and from year to year. Furthermore, it bears noting that registrants can be waitlisted for multiple program times and locations, so this data is not a reliable indicator of true demand.

With these limitations in mind, current data suggests that there is approximately one waitlist entry for every four registered entries within the City's indoor pools. Furthermore, the waitlist grew by 28% from 2022 to 2023 (to date), although variable record-keeping practices may not allow for accurate year-to-year comparisons. The largest waitlists are for introductory lessons for young children (Preschool 1, Swimmer 1, etc.) and staff also indicate significant unmet demand for private and semi-private lessons (these are not included in the waitlist database). Waitlists are greatest at Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre and Nickel District pools. The most in-demand times are Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Through adjustments to scheduling and staffing, the City is continually working to reduce waitlists and assist residents with enrolling in their desired program time and location.

### 4.3 Pool Condition and Funding Levels

Our understanding of state of good repair requirements is informed by a series of point in time inspections and reporting guided by the City's asset management policy, including:

- 1) **Building Condition Assessments** – These visual assessments identify component-based replacement scheduled based on typical lifecycle component thresholds. They are “like for like”, meaning that they not address upgrades, such as best practices relating to barrier-free designs. Costs are not adjusted for inflation but do include some degree of contingencies for construction and soft costs.
- 2) **Accessibility Audits** – These audits examine barrier-free accessibility requirements to bring existing facilities into alignment with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act should the City choose to do so. Costs are not adjusted for inflation and may not capture the full scope of related capital works.
- 3) **Designated Substance Surveys** – These assessments identify the presence of suspected designated substances (asbestos, lead, etc.) as required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Costs for remediation are not identified, but are considered on a project-specific basis.

Not captured within these reports are the programmatic or operational opportunities provided by upgraded facilities, such as investments in the latest technologies and facility designs to drive participation and revenue, realize efficiency improvements and support the corporation's CEEP goals, and offer added value for both users and taxpayers. This information is more qualitative and assessed through visual audits (see pool system audits in Section 4.4), public consultation, and a more fulsome understanding of usage trends and best practices within the sector.

#### Facility Condition

Based on Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey (2020), the average expected useful life of a new publicly-owned 25-metre pool is 46 years. The City's five pools are currently 49 years old on average, with four of the five locations (with the exception being the pool at the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre) being beyond their typical useful lifespan.

While historical investments in City pools have allowed the municipality to maintain these assets in fair to good condition, all City pools are demonstrating their age and showing signs of deterioration. The table below identifies the current estimated replacement value of all municipal pool sites (and shared multi-use recreation centres, where applicable), along with recent capital investments, current facility condition indexes (FCI), and 10-year unfunded lifecycle costs. An FCI of “fair” describes a facility that is safe for occupancy and programming. The list and priority order of capital projects are constantly changing through ongoing review by staff, with urgent items advanced through the capital budget.

**Table 6: Condition and Asset Management Data for Municipal Indoor Pools**

Pool	Replacement Value (incl. soft costs)**	Recent Capital Projects	Building Condition (FCI)***	Unfunded Costs (2023-2032)**
Gatchell	\$8.1 million	2020 – New pool heater 2022 – Front entrance vestibule 2023 – HVAC upgrades, new roof gutters	Fair (0.17)	\$2.0 million
HARC*	\$29.3 million	2021 – HVAC upgrades (Ph. 1) 2021 – Parking lot lighting repairs 2023-24 HVAC upgrades (Ph. 2)	Good (0.08)	\$7.8 million
Nickel District	\$4.8 million	2017 – Façade and roof replacements 2021 – Roof leak repairs 2022 – HVAC upgrades (design only, construction on hold)	Fair (0.14)	\$1.3 million
Onaping*	\$22.6 million	2022 – Roof leak repairs	Fair (0.13)	\$5.3 million
R.G. Dow	\$5.5 million	2017 – Supply air unit replacements 2018 – Guard rail and ladder replacement for rooftop HVAC unit 2022 – Pool water heater emergency replacement, HVAC upgrades, new pool heater	Good (0.07)	\$1.3 million

Source: City of Greater Sudbury, 2023. Costs are in 2023 dollars.

\* replacement value, building condition, and unfunded costs apply to entire buildings for multi-use shared sites

\*\*includes building/site

\*\*\* includes building only

The lifecycle interventions required to maintain the current condition of facilities represent significant capital investment. **The deferred and current investment requirement for all 5 pools equates to \$8.3 million and estimated lifecycle costs for the next ten years represent an expenditure of \$17.7 million across all five sites, for an average investment of \$1.8 million per year, plus inflation<sup>21</sup>.** The following items represent a sample of capital investment required within the next 10 year period:

- Roof replacement
- Foundation repair

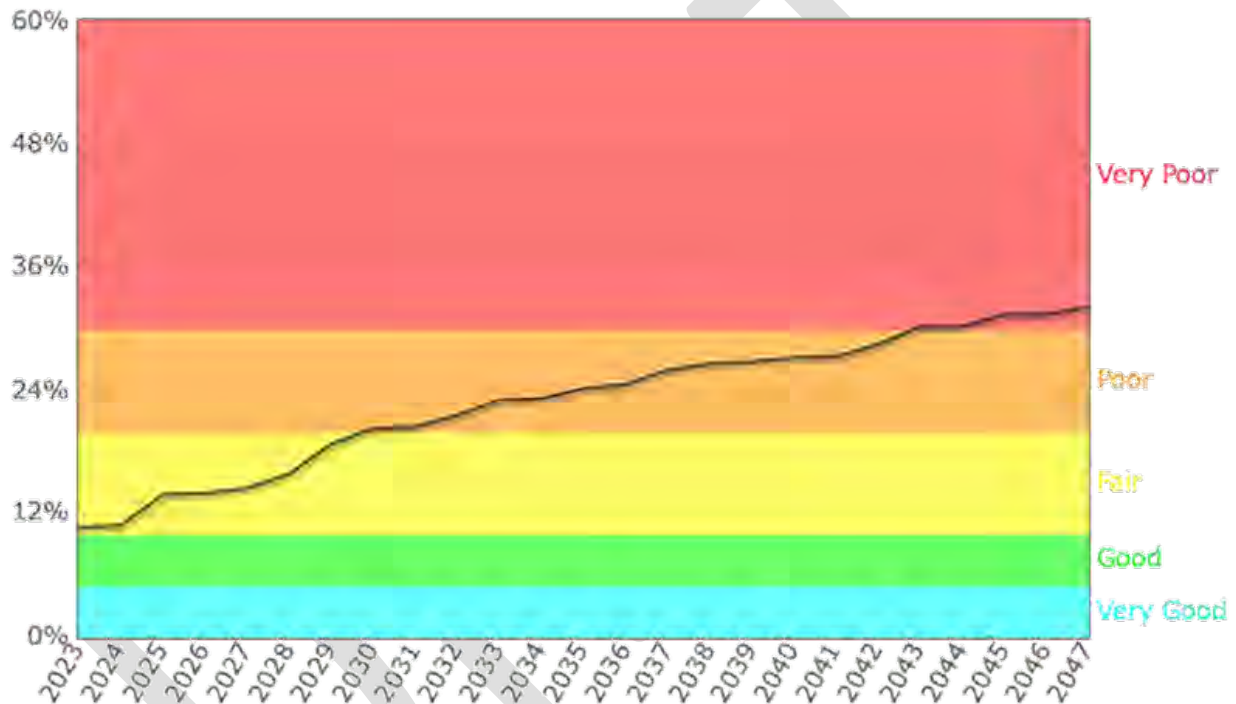
<sup>21</sup> These values include all capital needs across all levels of risk. All costs are considered as a like-for-like repair, refurbishment, or replacement. It is noted that accessibility improvements necessary to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) may not be fully captured in these figures.



- Pool basin and deck repair
- Pool equipment replacement (filters, heaters, dehumidification)
- Lighting replacement
- Window, door and interior repair
- Change room renewal (lockers, showers, washrooms)
- HVAC and other building systems

Without any investment, the stock of municipal pools is expected to move into a state of into “poor” condition by 2030. Based on direction from the 2014 Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan, existing indoor pool facilities are to be maintained as long as they are financially and operationally viable.

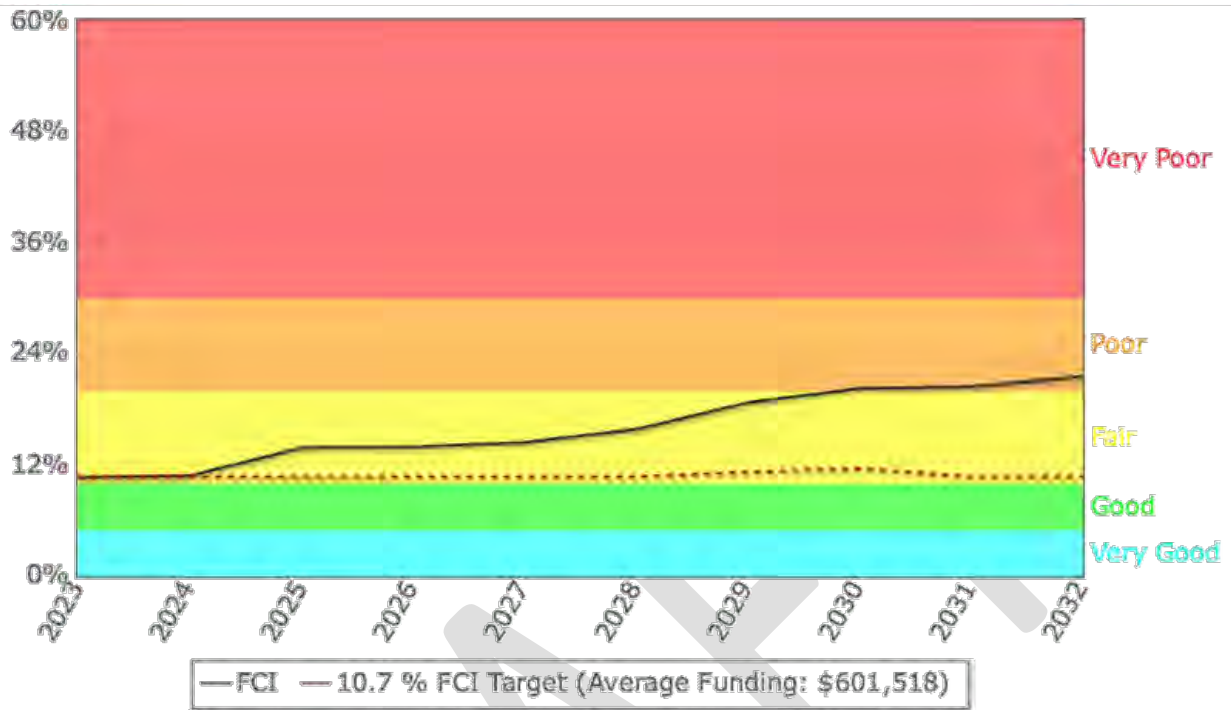
Figure 16: Facility Condition Index (FCI) Projected for 25 Years (all five pool buildings, sites excluded)



Source: City of Greater Sudbury, 2023

Through its annual budget, the City allocates funding for the repair and rehabilitation of its existing indoor pools, such as tank repairs, pool dehumidification equipment, and building system enhancements. The maintenance/asset renewal history of the City’s pools has not been consistently sufficient to maximize their service life. Looking ahead, the average annual investment required to maintain the five pools facilities in fair condition over the next 10 years is approximately \$601,518 per year. Currently, the City’s draft budget includes a capital allocation of around \$62,000 per year for pool projects between 2024 and 2027 – this is about one-tenth of the funding required to maintain the existing pools in fair condition.

Figure 17: Facility Condition Index (FCI) and Average Annual Investment Requirement Projected for 10 Years (all five pool buildings, sites excluded)



Source: City of Greater Sudbury, 2023

Building components that have surpassed their expected lifespan are increasingly at risk of failure, which can lead to service interruptions, cancelled programs, unplanned closures, and increased costs. Within the past 18 months (February 2022 to July 2023), there have been 15 days lost to unplanned closures at R.G. Dow and Gatchell pools due to unexpected repairs to pool heaters and filter pumps, plus an additional 16 days lost at Onaping pool due to staff shortages.

While there is potential to extend the service life of the City’s pools, the existing facilities cannot offer the full range of modern amenities without extensive renovations and, in most cases, could not practically be renovated to provide all contemporary features or to meet the City’s CEEP goals. Given their age, it be a significant challenge to overcome the physical constraints of the current facilities in the long-run.

Deteriorating conditions of buildings and components can also negatively affect the user experience and result in decreased usage overall. Most public complaints received by the City are largely preventable facility maintenance problems (such as change rooms, lockers, diving boards, starting blocks, etc.) which can partially be traced back to state of good repair funding levels. The quality and functionality of our facilities is very visible to the community and residents have high expectations that these public assets will be properly maintained.

## Accessibility

In the Spring of 2023, Greater Sudbury performed barrier-free accessibility assessments for all of its pool buildings to determine the improvements required to align these facilities with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Improvement interventions are required throughout nearly all publicly-accessed portions of the facilities. **The total estimated cost to address barrier-free requirements across all 5 pools and associated spaces amounts to \$2.8 million.**

Table 7: Accessibility Data for Municipal Indoor Pools

Pool	Accessibility to Pool	Estimated Improvement Costs
Gatchell	Ramp (non-compliant), lift chair	\$302,160
HARC	Ramp, lift chair	\$792,253 (entire building)
Nickel District	Lift chair	\$356,131
Onaping	None	\$889,016 (entire building)
R.G. Dow	Lift chair	\$445,298

Costs are in 2023 dollars.

Source: City of Greater Sudbury Accessibility Audits (2023)

It should be noted that in some cases, the existing facility constraints limit the potential for accessibility improvements or upgrades. Based on past practice, substantial renovations could compel the City to address compliance requirements with both the Ontario Building Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. These requirements would, generally, increase the cost and extent of renovations.

### 4.4 Pool System Audits

For the purposes of this Aquatic Service and Facility Review, Aquatic Design & Engineering prepared operational pool system audits to identify high level areas of focus regarding the operation and life expectancy of the City's indoor pool systems, as well as to propose potential solutions to improve the swimming pool amenities. Observations noted in this section are based on brief visits to each of the sites, as well as pre-existing information provided by the City of Greater Sudbury. These findings should be read and interpreted along with building condition assessments and accessibility audits.

Based on review of the facilities, immediate remedial action should be taken to address items concerning health and life safety. Other findings outlined in this section identify items that may not be of immediate concern but would improve the efficiency, operation, maintenance, and life expectancy of the pools once addressed. Where possible, the proposed solutions to swimming pool filtration systems shall incorporate energy saving strategies to reduce energy consumption and operating costs.

## Gatchell Pool

Originally built in 1975, Gatchell Pool is located in the former City of Sudbury and provides a single 6-lane tank measuring 25 metres long and 15 metres wide with supporting change rooms (including a small accessible change room) and a pool chairlift. The pool depth ranges from 1.06 metres to 3.81 metres and the water temperature is maintained at 86 degrees Fahrenheit. The facility is owned by the Rainbow District School Board and leased to the City and is attached to Jean Hanson Public School (for students with exceptionalities).

*Note: This pool was not accessed during the time of the site visit. Any comments are based on previously completed reports provided to the consulting team.*

1. The **stair/ramp access** does not comply with the 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended) or the Ontario Health Regulations. Based on photos from previous reports, the slope of the ramp portion appears to be too steep. In addition, a combination stair and ramp are not permitted.
2. **Safety requirements** should be reviewed related to contrasting markings in the pool tank and coverings for entrapment hazards. Opportunity to implement these requirements to improve user safety include, the installation of additional main drains complete with contrasting markings, grilles over the skimmer openings and main drain grating compliant with the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA).
3. Replace the existing **accessibility lift** with a model that can be operable without assistance from the deck and in the water. This is a requirement of the current 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended). To note, the Accessibility Act changes are coming into effect January 1, 2025.
4. Replacement of **pool tank and pool deck finishes** should be considered in the near future.
5. Replacement of **deck mounted items**, such as lifeguard chairs, starting blocks, grabrails, diving board should be considered.
6. The existing facility does not have a **low-level exhaust** to remove harmful chloramines from the water's surface. Installing a retro-fit low-level exhaust system would benefit the indoor air quality, help prevent premature rusting of stainless steel, and improved swimming experience.

The downside with the retro-fit system is that it acts as an exhaust fan to purge the natatorium air on a manual or timer based system. More robust systems include Heat recovery ventilation (HRV) and reclaim potential for lost heat. These retro-fit systems sit on the pool deck, and depending on the system, a reduction in usable deck space may be lost. In addition, the building envelope may be compromised with the new exhaust penetrations to the exterior.

7. We were unable to enter the building to observe the conditions in person, however it is our presumption that the **filtration equipment** requires an upgrade and that the size of the mechanical room is too small. Staff have also indicated issues with excessive moisture in the mechanical room that is leading to corrosion of wiring and other components.

## Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool

Built in 1983, the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre is located in Val Therese and boasts a single 5-lane tank measuring 25 metres long and 15 metres wide in addition to a hot tub. The pool depth ranges from 1.06 metres to 3.81 metres and the temperature is maintained at 84 degrees Fahrenheit. Other supporting amenities at this facility includes a pool ramp and change rooms (including universal change room), in addition to a cardio and weight room, squash courts, and indoor walking track.

1. Calculations for the existing pool indicate that the pool has an approximate **turnover** of 7.60 hours. The current Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations indicate that a Class A pool, such as this, is required to have a turnover rate of 4.0 hours. Improvements to comply with the current requirements which include upgrading the **filtration system**, such as increasing the flow rate to affect how quickly the water turns over in the pool and resizing and replacing equipment such as filter pumps, filters, etc. would result in improved quality of water. Increasing the flow rate and turnover rate of the pool would result in improved user experience and an overall reduction in complaints at the facility.
2. **Tile on the pool deck** is in poor condition, with cracks, severe staining, calcium build up, and patchwork observed. Consider replacing the tile on the pool deck in the near future. Significant staining and calcium deposits were also observed at the whirlpool.
3. The pool was full during the time of the site visit, however cracking at the bottom of the pool as well as significant staining was observed. The finger hold coping tile around the perimeter of the pool was observed to be varying in condition. Consider replacing the **tile in the pool tank** in the near future.
4. The 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended) and Ontario Health Regulations indicate **safety requirements** related to contrasting markings in the pool tank and coverings for entrapment hazards. Opportunity to implement these requirements to improve user safety include, contrasting markings around the main drains, grilles over the skimmer openings and main drain grating compliant with the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA).
5. The existing facility does not have a **low-level exhaust** to remove harmful chloramines from the water's surface which is evident by the significant amount of rust and calcium build up observed on the stainless steel and surrounding finishes. Installing a retro-fit low-level exhaust system would benefit the indoor air quality, help prevent premature rusting of stainless steel, and improved swimming experience.

The downside with the retro-fit system is that it acts as an exhaust fan to purge the natatorium air on a manual or timer based system. More robust systems include Heat recovery ventilation (HRV) and reclaim potential for lost heat. These retro-fit systems sit on the pool deck, and depending on the system, a reduction in usable deck space may be lost. In addition, the building envelope may be compromised with the new exhaust penetrations to the exterior.

6. Installing an **ultraviolet (UV) system** on the pool and whirlpool circulation loop will help to reduce bacteria off-gassing causing chloramines (the chlorine smell) in the pool area. An ultraviolet (UV) system consists of a high intensity lamp that produces an ultra violet light spectrum that changes the molecular structure of the bacteria within the pool water. The UV system sterilizes and weakens the bacteria within the water allowing the chlorine within the water to more effectively target and kill bacteria. Incorporating a UV system would be fairly invasive, however analysis of the electrical service would need to be completed to ensure there is room on the panel.



7. Provide an **accessibility lift** with a model that can be operable without assistance from the deck and in the water. This is a requirement of the current 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended). The whirlpool is not accessible. Access to the whirlpool is by steps. Consider replacing the horizontal rails at the front of the whirlpool to accommodate the use of an accessibility lift. To note, the Accessibility Act changes are coming into effect January 1, 2025.
8. Varying styles of **starting blocks** were observed. Depending on level of competitions/swim meets, consider replacing all starting blocks to be of a similar model.
9. Many of the **filtration system components** are worn and nearing the end of their lifecycle. Replacement of larger components such as filters may be an issue and the only access to the mechanical room is down the stairway.
10. The **pool mechanical room** is small with limited space for future equipment replacement. Considerations include:
  - a. Increasing the flow rate as noted above will provide better water quality, however equipment sizes will increase.
  - b. In addition to increasing the flow rate and equipment sizes, more invasive investigation and renovation will be required around the pool tank, whirlpool tank and under the pool deck.
11. The **whirlpool mechanical room** is also very small. Any upgrades required to the filtration system will prove to be difficult.

### Nickel District Pool

Built in 1973, Nickel District Pool is located in the former City of Sudbury. This facility provides a single 5-lane tank measuring 25 metres by 10 metres wide. The pool depth ranges from 1.0 metre to 3.0 metres and water temperature is maintained at 88 degrees Fahrenheit. Supporting pool amenities include change rooms. The facility is owned by the Sudbury Catholic District School Board and leased to the City and is attached to St. Charles School (high school); currently, there is one-way access for students into the pool facility.

1. **Chlorine delivery** is a challenge at this facility. Delivery personnel must bring chlorine down the narrow stairway to the basement mechanical room. It was communicated to us that the delivery company will no longer be taking the chemicals down the stairs and operations staff must do so. This is unsafe and could cause potential hazard. The installation of a **remote chlorine fill station** would be beneficial at this location. The building's proximity to the parking lot and location of the mechanical room relative to an exterior wall near the parking lot is an excellent opportunity for a remote chlorine fill station to mitigate staff handling of chemicals down the stairway.
2. In addition, CO<sub>2</sub> are stored at the top of the stairway. Opportunity to have a **larger CO<sub>2</sub> tank** that is installed outside in a protected caged area would be beneficial in accommodating easier delivery. A larger tank would also reduce the delivery frequency.
3. Calculations for the existing pool indicate that the pool has an approximate **turnover** of 5.29 hours. The current Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations indicate that a Class A pool, such as this, is required to have a turnover rate of 4.0 hours. Improvements to comply with the current requirements which include upgrading the **filtration system**, such as increasing the flow rate to affect how quickly the water turns over in the pool and resizing and replacing equipment such as filter pumps, filters, etc. would result in improved quality of water. Increasing the flow rate and turnover rate of the pool would result in improved user

experience and an overall reduction in complaints at the facility, along with aiding in better lifeguarding supervision due to clearer and cleaner water.

4. The 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended) and Ontario Health Regulations indicate **safety requirements** related to contrasting markings in the pool tank and coverings for entrapment hazards. Opportunity to implement these requirements to improve user safety include, contrasting markings around the main drains, grilles over the skimmer openings and main drain grating compliant with the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA). In addition, there were what we presume to be equalizer fittings below each of the skimmers. Equalizers are not permitted by the Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations. Any equalizer fittings should be plugged and deactivated to avoid an entrapment situation.
5. Replace the existing **accessibility lift** with a model that can be operable without assistance from the deck and in the water. This is a requirement of the current 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended). To note, the Accessibility Act changes are coming into effect January 1, 2025.
6. The existing facility does not have a **low-level exhaust** to remove harmful chloramines from the water's surface. Installing a retro-fit low-level exhaust system would benefit the indoor air quality, help prevent premature rusting of stainless steel, and improved swimming experience.

The downside with the retro-fit system is that, with a basic system, it acts as an exhaust fan to purge the natatorium air on a manual or timer based system. More robust systems include Heat recovery ventilation (HRV) and reclaim potential for lost heat. These retro-fit systems sit on the pool deck, and depending on the system, a reduction in usable deck space may be lost. In addition, the building envelope may be compromised with the new exhaust penetrations to the exterior.

7. Installing an **ultraviolet (UV) system** on the pool circulation loop will help to reduce bacteria off-gassing causing chloramines (the chlorine smell) in the pool area. An ultra violet (UV) system consists of a high intensity lamp that produces an ultra violet light spectrum that changes the molecular structure of the bacteria within the pool water. The UV system sterilizes and weakens the bacteria within the water allowing the chlorine within the water to more effectively target and kill bacteria. Incorporating a UV system would be fairly invasive however, analysis of the electrical service would need to be completed to ensure there is room on the panel.
8. Many of the **filtration system components** are worn and nearing the end of their lifecycle. Replacement of larger components such as filters may be an issue and the only access to the mechanical room is down the stairway.
9. The **mechanical room** is small with limited access for future equipment replacement. Considerations include:
  - a. Increasing the flow rate as noted above will provide better water quality, however equipment sizes will increase. The size of the mechanical room and access to the mechanical room will prove to limit the upgrade potential with constraints being the size of the door and width of the stairs.
  - b. In addition to increasing the flow rate and equipment sizes, more invasive investigation and renovation will be required around the pool tank and under the pool deck.

## Onaping Pool

Built in 1967, Onaping Pool serves the northwest portion of Greater Sudbury and features a single 4-lane tank measuring 15 metres long and 5 metres wide; there is no accessibility ramp or chairlift at this pool, nor is the building barrier-free. The pool depth ranges from 1.06 metres to 3.40 metres and the water temperature is maintained at 88 degrees Fahrenheit. Other amenities located at this facility include change rooms, gymnasium, multi-use space, library, etc. Users access the pool through change rooms that exit to the pool deck – the building lacks a lobby and central registration desk. The pool was originally built by Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. for the benefit of its employees and their families. Due to lower demand and budgetary decisions, the pool is closed during the summer (mid-May to early September).

1. There are many opportunities at Onaping Indoor Pool to improve **user safety and upgrades** to meet the 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended) and the Ontario Health Regulations. Upgrades to this facility will be significant to comply. Potential upgrades include:
  - a. **Safety requirements** should be reviewed related to contrasting markings in the pool tank and coverings for entrapment hazards. Opportunity to implement these requirements to improve user safety include the installation of additional main drains complete with contrasting markings, grilles over the skimmer openings and main drain grating compliant with the requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA).
  - b. The installation of an **emergency stop button** on the pool deck to deactivate the filter pump in the event of an entrapment situation. The emergency stop button is required to have an audible and visual alarm.
  - c. Install an **accessibility lift** with a model that can be operable without assistance from the deck and in the water. This is a requirement of the current 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended). To note, the Accessibility Act changes are coming into effect January 1, 2025.
  - d. Increase the **flow rate** to achieve a turnover compliant with the Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations. Further engineering calculations are required to determine the number of additional return inlets that would be required to accommodate the increased flow rate.
2. Calculations for the existing pool indicate that the pool has an approximate **turnover** of 7.60 hours. The current Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations indicate that a Class A pool, such as this, is required to have a turnover rate of 4.0 hours. Improvements to comply with the current requirements which include upgrading the **filtration system**, such as increasing the flow rate to affect how quickly the water turns over in the pool and resizing and replacing equipment such as filter pumps, filters, etc. would result in improved quality of water. Increasing the flow rate and turnover rate of the pool would result in improved user experience and an overall reduction in complaints at the facility, along with aiding in better lifeguarding supervision due to clearer and cleaner water.

Note: Increasing the flow rate of the pool to achieve a turnover rate that it compliant with the Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations will require invasive work to the existing pool tank that would require large portions of the pool deck to be removed.

3. Installing an **ultraviolet (UV) system** on the pool circulation loop will help to reduce bacteria off-gassing causing chloramines (the chlorine smell) in the pool area. An ultra violet (UV) system consists of a high intensity lamp that produces an ultra violet light spectrum that changes the molecular structure of the bacteria within the pool water. The UV system

sterilizes and weakens the bacteria within the water allowing the chlorine within the water to more effectively target and kill bacteria. Incorporating a UV system would be fairly invasive, however analysis of the electrical service would need to be completed to ensure there is room on the panel.

4. The **tile on the pool deck** is large and may pose a slip hazard. Recommendation to replace deck tile to 1x1 mosaic tiles up to a maximum of 2x2 to reduce slip potential. Pool tile to have a dynamic coefficient of friction of 0.42.
5. There is no **dehumidification unit** for the natatorium. It was communicated to us that complaints are received that the natatorium gets very hot. There are only fans that are manually operated to control the temperature in the natatorium.
6. The **mechanical room** is very small and it is unlikely that it would be able to accommodate a new filter system that is compliant and suitable for the size of the pool. Note: we were unable to access the pool mechanical room due to radon exposure, however we were sent photos that had been taken previously.
7. The existing facility does not have a **low-level exhaust** to remove harmful chloramines from the water's surface. Installing a retro-fit low-level exhaust system would benefit the indoor air quality, help prevent premature rusting of stainless steel, and improved swimming experience for the user.

The downside with the retro-fit system is that, with a basic system, it acts as an exhaust fan to purge the natatorium air on a manual or timer based system. More robust systems include Heat recovery ventilation (HRV) and reclaim potential for lost heat. These retro-fit systems sit on the pool deck, and depending on the system, a reduction in usable deck space may be lost. In addition, the building envelope may be compromised with the new exhaust penetrations to the exterior. At the Onaping Indoor Pool location, one side of the pool does not have deck space and on the opposed side the deck space is very limited. Installing a deck mounted unit would be very difficult.

### R.G. Dow Pool

Built in 1971, the R.G. Dow Pool is located in Copper Cliff, approximately 4 kilometres from the Gatchell Pool. This facility offers a single 5-lane rectangular tank that measures 25 metres long and 12 metres wide with supporting change rooms and a pool chairlift. The pool depth ranges from 1.06 metres to 3.65 metres and the water temperature is maintained at 86 degrees Fahrenheit.

1. Based on our own observations and the Barrier Free Accessibility Assessment Report completed in January of 2023, proper **barrier free access** is an issue for this facility, including meeting the requirements of the 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) and the 2012 Ontario Building Code as amended. Major renovations are required to comply with the accessibility requirements both internally and externally.
2. The **lighting levels** on the pool deck at RG Dow was observed to be very low and runs a risk of potential supervision challenged by lifeguards. A recent lighting analysis was conducted. It is recommended that the lighting be upgraded to provide a safer, more easily supervised pool. Review results of the recent lighting study that was conducted and provide additional lighting, as required. The Ontario Building Code requires, in the case of an indoor pool, that an illumination level of at least 200 lx be maintained at any point of the pool deck and on the water surface.
3. The **tile on the pool deck** is large and may pose a slip hazard. Recommendation to replace deck tile with 1x1 mosaic tiles up to a maximum of 2x2 to reduce slip potential. Pool tile to have

a dynamic coefficient of friction of 0.42. Replacing the tile with a lighter colour will help the overall brightness of the natatorium for lifeguard supervision.

4. The existing facility does not have a **low-level exhaust** to remove harmful chloramines from the water's surface. Installing a retro-fit low-level exhaust system would benefit the indoor air quality, help prevent premature rusting of stainless steel, and improved swimming experience for the user.

The downside with the retro-fit system is that, with a basic system, it acts as an exhaust fan to purge the natatorium air on a manual or timer based system. More robust systems include Heat recovery ventilation (HRV) and reclaim potential for lost heat. These retro-fit systems sit on the pool deck, and depending on the system, a reduction in usable deck space may be lost. In addition, the building envelope may be compromised with the new exhaust penetrations to the exterior, in a retro-fit application.

5. Replace the existing **accessibility lift** with a model that can be operable without assistance from the deck and in the water. This is a requirement of the current 2012 Ontario Building Code (as amended). To note, the Accessibility Act changes are coming into effect January 1, 2025.
6. Calculations for the existing pool indicate that the pool has an approximate **turnover** of 5.62 hours. The current Ontario Building Code and Ontario Health Regulations indicate that a Class A pool, such as this, is required to have a turnover rate of 4.0 hours. Improvements to comply with the current requirements which include upgrading the **filtration system**, such as increasing the flow rate to affect how quickly the water turns over in the pool and resizing and replacing equipment such as filter pumps, filters, etc. would result in improved quality of water. Increasing the flow rate and turnover rate of the pool would result in improved user experience and an overall reduction in complaints at the facility, along with aiding in better lifeguarding supervision due to clearer and cleaner water.
7. Installing an **ultraviolet (UV) system** on the pool circulation loop will help to reduce bacteria off-gassing causing chloramines (the chlorine smell) in the pool area. An ultra violet (UV) system consists of a high intensity lamp that produces an ultra violet light spectrum that changes the molecular structure of the bacteria within the pool water. The UV system sterilizes and weakens the bacteria within the water allowing the chlorine within the water to more effectively target and kill bacteria. Incorporating a UV system would be fairly invasive, however analysis of the electrical service would need to be completed to ensure there is room on the panel.
8. Near future replacement of the **starting blocks** and **diving board** should be considered.
9. The **mechanical room** is small with limited access for future equipment replacement. Considerations include:
  - a. Increasing the flow rate as noted above will provide better water quality, however equipment sizes will increase. The size of the mechanical room and access to the mechanical room will prove to limit the upgrade potential.
  - b. In addition to increasing the flow rate and equipment sizes, more invasive investigation and renovation will be required around the pool tank and under the pool deck.



## 4.5 Notable Non-municipal Pools

In addition to the five indoor pool facilities operated by the City of Greater Sudbury, there are three additional indoor pool venues owned and operated by non-municipal providers that provide some degree of public access. These providers are important contributors to Greater Sudbury's overall aquatics system. Below is a summary of their facilities and operations. Usage and related information is captured in the Phase 1b What we Heard Report.

### Sudbury YMCA

Built in 2000, the Sudbury YMCA is located in the heart of downtown Sudbury along Durham Street and is co-located within the Centre for Life building. The facility is operated by the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario and contains two adjacent pool tanks: a 20 metre 5-lane lap pool kept at a temperature of 82 degrees Fahrenheit; and a separate freeform leisure pool with a slide kept at a temperature of 88 degrees Fahrenheit. The YMCA also boasts a wide range of other health and fitness facilities including an indoor track, double gymnasium, squash courts, a fitness wellness centre, walking track, and multi-purpose rooms. The space is part of a shared facility also housing an older adult centre (operated by the City), childcare, and youth wellness hub. The site is served by a paid parking lot owned by the City; YMCA users are able to access free parking as part of their memberships.



### Laurentian University

Laurentian University's Jenő Tihanyi Olympic Gold Pool is an 8-lane 50-metre competitive swimming pool (with diving platforms) on the University's campus. This facility was built in 1971 and is co-located with a gymnasium and fitness rooms.

The University's pool was closed in March 2020 due to the global pandemic. In 2022, it was discovered that the pool needed significant repairs.



### Health Sciences North

Health Sciences North (HSN) provides a therapeutic pool that measures 7.5 metres by 4.3 metres (approximately 350 square feet) and a depth between 0.8 metres to 1.4 metres. The temperature is maintained at 92 degrees Fahrenheit and programming is provided by HSN to patients and the public who are recovering from an injury or those with a medical or physical condition. The pool is supported by Snoezelen system that equips the pool with lighting and sensory stimulation equipment suitable for treating patients with autism and other developmental conditions.

## Section 5. About our Supervised Waterfront Beaches

Supervised beaches provide safe locations for residents and visitors young and old to experience the water during warmer months. These sites have lifeguards on duty everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. between mid-June and late August (these hours are extended during heat alerts). With 330 lakes across Greater Sudbury, drowning prevention and safe swimming options are key City objectives.

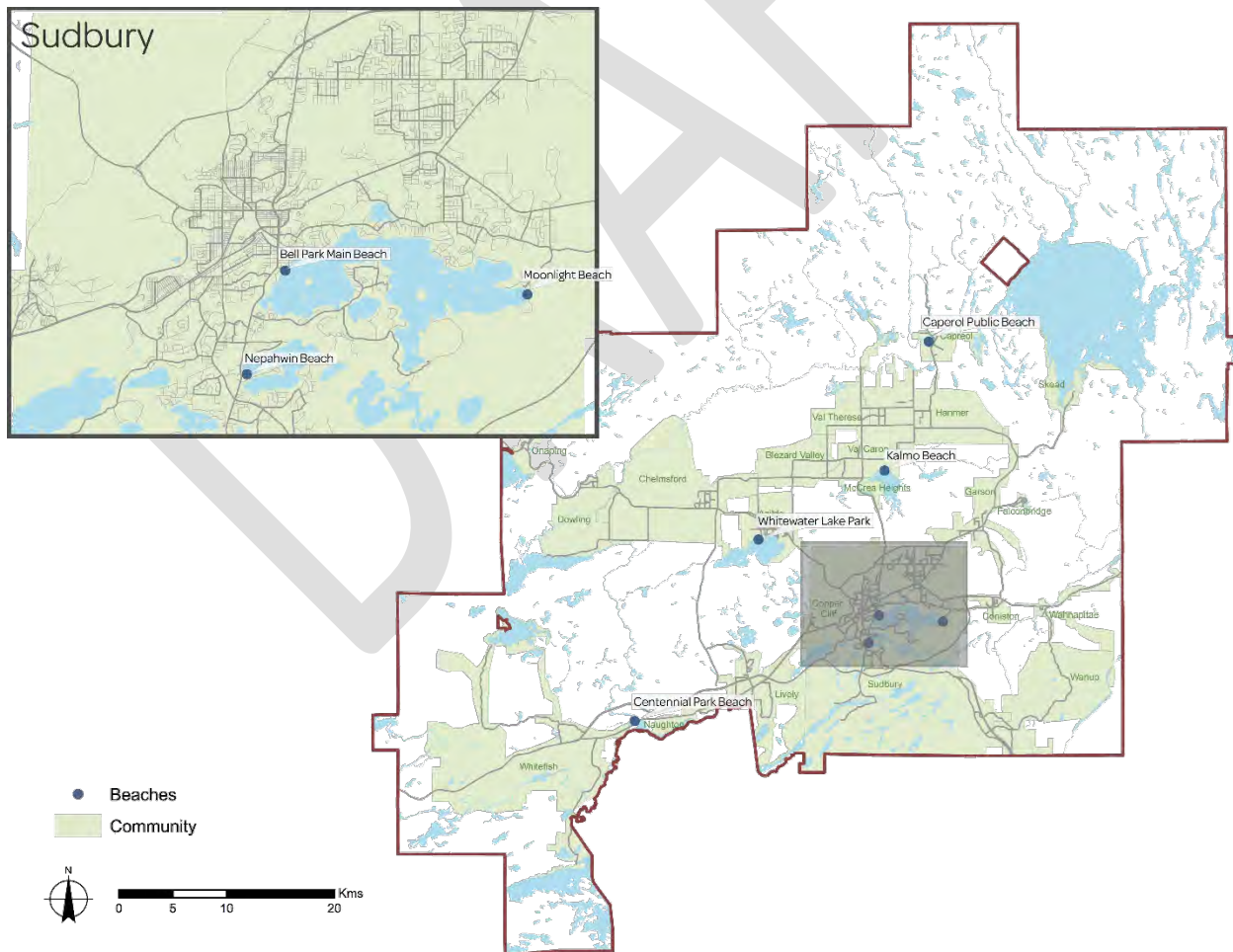
The City of Greater Sudbury owns and operates seven supervised beaches across the city:

1. Bell Park Main Beach\* (Ramsey Lake, Sudbury)
2. Capreol Public Beach (Marshy Lake, Capreol)
3. Centennial Park Beach\*\* (Vermilion River, Whitefish)
4. Kalmo Beach (Whitson Lake, Val Caron)
5. Moonlight Beach\* (Ramsey Lake, Sudbury)
6. Nepahwin Beach (Nepahwin Lake, Sudbury)
7. Whitewater Lake Park (Whitewater Lake, Azilda)

\* Both Bell Park Main Beach and Moonlight Beach are “Blue Flag” certified, meaning that they meet strict environmental, educational, safety and access criteria.

\*\* Established as a temporary location following the sale of Meatbird Lake and discontinuation of its beach.

Figure 18: Map of Supervised Public Beaches in Greater Sudbury



In 2023, City lifeguards recorded a total of 33 safety incidents, including 4 rescues at supervised beaches. Comparable data from 2019 included a total of 59 incidents and 5 rescues. The cost to operate the City’s waterfront service was approximately \$233,000 in 2023, most of which covers lifeguard and supervision costs.

Public beaches are free to use for recreational swimming; the City does not use them for instructional classes. Most supervised beach sites consist of a sandy beach, marked area within the water, lifeguard tower, playgrounds (except Kalmo Beach), open space, buildings with guard office, changerooms, and washrooms (Capreol and Centennial have trailers). Some beaches serve localized areas (e.g., Nephawin Beach), while others have a more regional draw (e.g., Moonlight Beach).

**The City’s seven guarded beaches attracted nearly 30,000 recorded visits in 2023 during supervised hours.**

**Moonlight Beach**



**Kalmo Beach**



The following table illustrates the number of recorded visits to the City’s supervised beaches since 2018. A change in how the bather counts were recorded was made in 2023 to achieve a more accurate depiction of actual use. Visits can change from year to year partially as a result of weather (warmer summers tend to attract more users). The number of visits to public beaches in 2023 was 28,136, for an average of 4,019 visits per location.

**Table 8: Total Visits to Supervised Waterfront Beaches, 2018 to 2022**

	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Visits</b>	14,750	15,140	11,790	10,020	<b>28,136*</b>

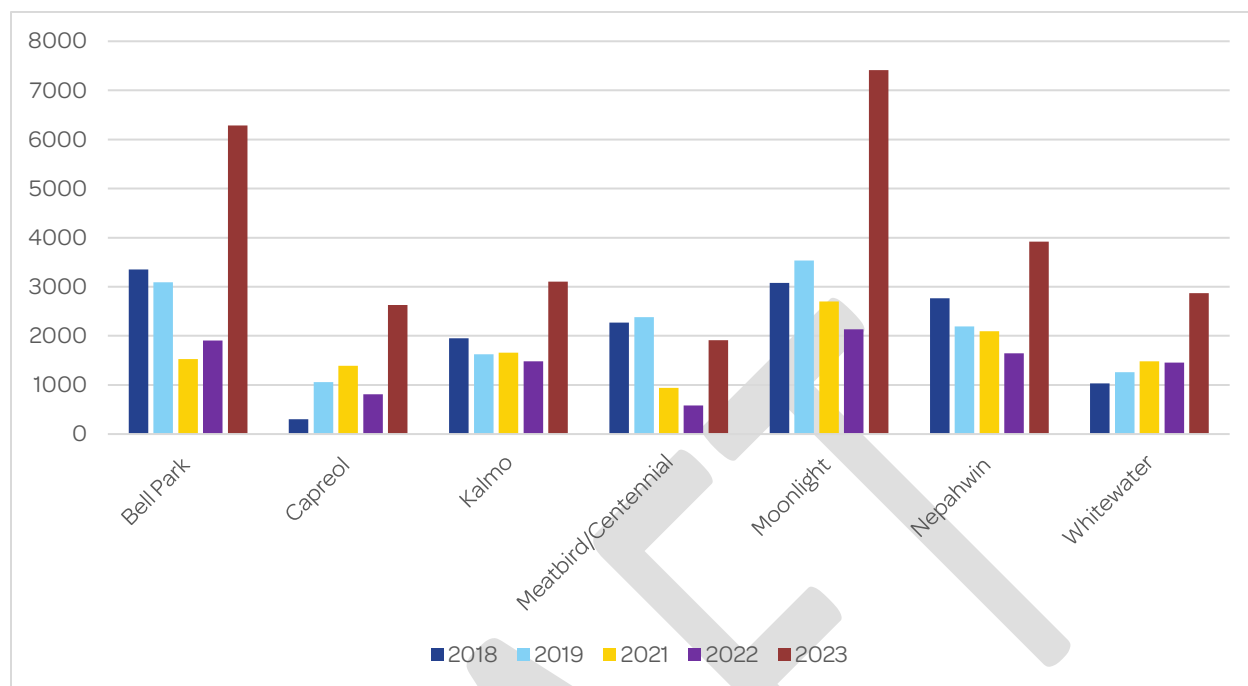
\*A change was made to the collection of bather count data in 2023, with counts being recorded every hour as compared to every two to three hours prior to 2023. This should result in a more accurate count of bather statistics in 2023 and beyond.

Note: 2020 is excluded as beaches were not supervised due to the global pandemic.

Highest use sites have historically been those within the urban community of Sudbury, including Moonlight, Bell Park, and Nephawin Beaches. Visitation appears to have improved year-over-year at Whitewater Park – a trend towards increased use of outlying beaches has been noticed by staff since the COVID-19 pandemic. Also of note, visits to Centennial Park Beach in Lively have generally been lower than the previous location at Meatbird Lake, which was sold by the City in early 2021.



Figure 19: Visits to Supervised Waterfront Beaches, 2018 to 2023\*



\*A change was made to the collection of bather count data in 2023, with counts being recorded every hour as compared to every two to three hours prior to 2023. This should result in a more accurate count of bather statistics in 2023 and beyond. Note: 2020 is excluded as beaches were not supervised due to the global pandemic

Each supervised waterfront is supported by one or more buildings offering washrooms, changerooms, lifeguard offices, and/or shelter from inclement weather. The average beach building was built in 1983 and is approximately forty years old. **Estimated lifecycle costs for the next ten years represent an expenditure of \$2.5 million across six locations (excluding Capreol, which uses a seasonal trailer), for an average investment of \$0.25 million per year, plus inflation<sup>22</sup>.**

Table 9: Condition and Asset Management Data for Buildings at Public Supervised Beach Locations

Location	Year Built	Approximate Size	Estimated Replacement Value	Unfunded Costs (2023-2032)
Bell Park Changerooms & Washrooms	1985 (renovated 2015)	2,550 sf	\$790,000	\$270,973
Bell Park Lifeguard Building	1985	760 sf	\$235,000	\$79,403
Capreol Beach - Trailer	seasonal trailer	n/a	n/a	n/a
Centennial Park Complex Office & Shower Buildings	1985	4,550 sf	\$1,410,000*	\$308,175*

<sup>22</sup> These values include all capital needs across all levels of risk. All costs are considered as a like-for-like repair, refurbishment, or replacement. It is noted that accessibility improvements necessary to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) may not be fully captured in these figures.

Location	Year Built	Approximate Size	Estimated Replacement Value	Unfunded Costs (2023-2032)
Kalmo Beach - Change House / Washrooms	1980	n/a	\$360,000	\$318,962
Moonlight Beach – Main Building (Canteen)	1996	1,720 sf	\$535,000	\$205,741
Moonlight Beach – Lifeguard Changeroom Building	1990	550 sf	\$170,000	\$82,933
Nepahwin Lake Park - Change Rooms	1966	1,644 sf	\$790,000	\$583,748
Whitewater Lake Park - Picnic Shelter	1980	1,504 sf	\$155,000	\$625,159

Source: City of Greater Sudbury, 2023. Costs are in 2023 dollars.

Costs are for buildings only. Site costs are excluded.

\* Costs apply to entire buildings for multi-use shared sites.

Key issues noted through site visits include accessibility at parks, the state of support infrastructure (e.g., change rooms, shade, etc.), and concern over blue-green algae. Regarding the latter concern, climate change factors have influenced the proliferation of blue-green algae, which has an impact on swimming activities such as at beaches. Some blue-green algae produce toxins that can pose a health risk to people when they are exposed to them in large amounts, such as through recreational swimming. Public Health Sudbury & Districts encourage residents to report blue-green algae blooms.

Water quality at public beaches (including those supervised by the City of Greater Sudbury) is monitored by Public Health Sudbury & Districts in order to prevent and reduce water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use. Public beaches undergo an annual pre-season assessment and routine beach takes place from June to August, with water sampling completed on a weekly or monthly basis. Inspection activities and water quality reports are posted online by Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

Other public beaches (non-supervised) that are routinely inspected by Public Health Sudbury & Districts include:

- Bell Park Amphitheatre Beach
- Bell Park Maintenance Beach
- Bell Park New Beach
- Camp Sudaca
- Ella Lake Beach
- Northern Water Sports Centre – Ramsey Lake
- Silver Lake Beach
- Stewart Park Beach

In terms of accessibility, it is noted that many sites have challenging terrain that makes full accessibility for people of all abilities difficult. Issued under the AODA, the Design of Public Spaces Standards are regulations addressing accessibility standards for the built environment, including new and reconstructed beach access routes (where practical). The City has prepared a master plan for Kalmo Beach (including many accessibility improvements) and is working towards implementing this as funding allows.

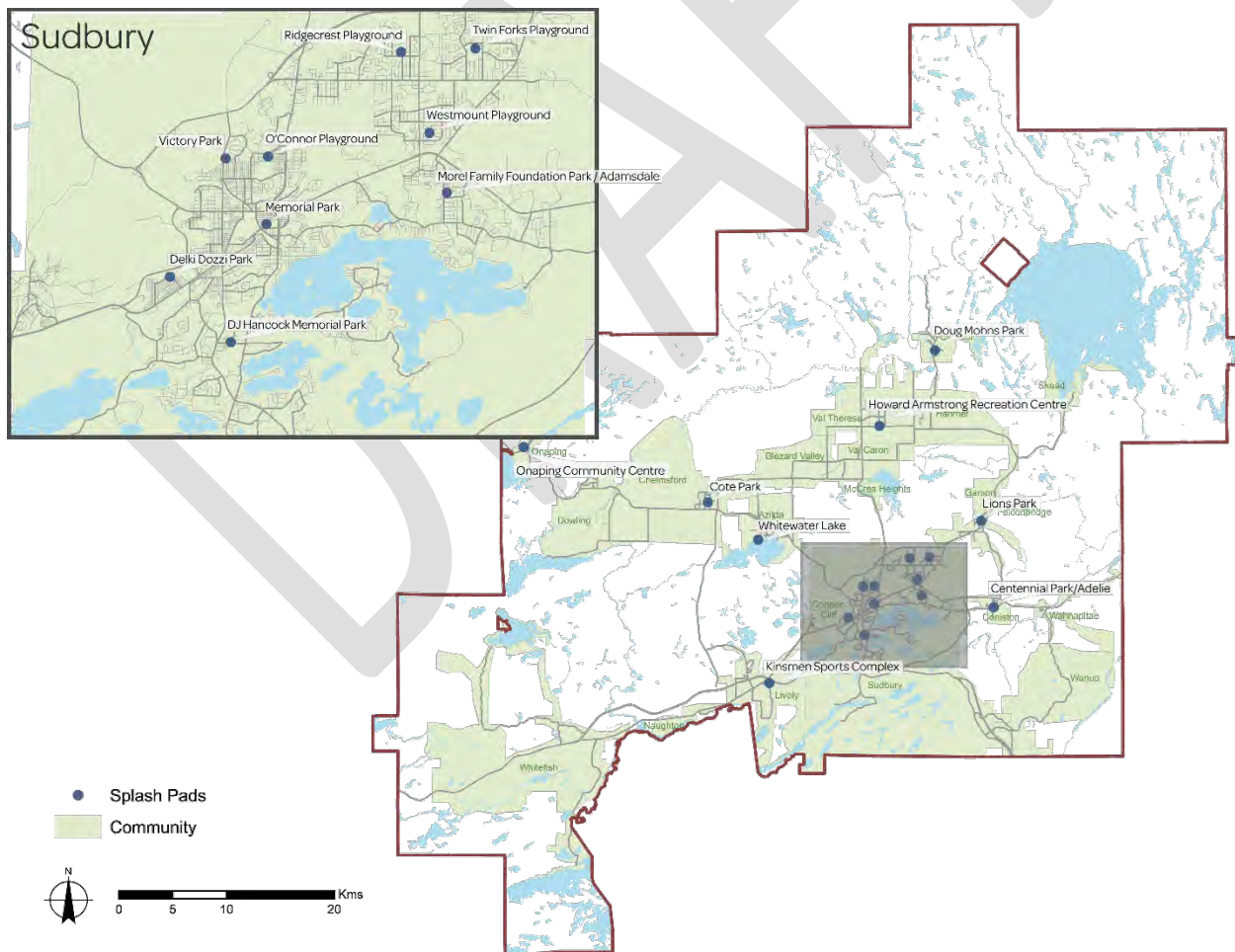


## Section 6. About our Splash Pads

The City of Greater Sudbury currently offers 17 splash pads within the parks system, largely designed for children ages 18 months to 12 years. Splash pads are user-activated water play areas consisting of water jets, spouts, sprayers, etc.; they do not have any standing water and are not supervised. The City's splash pads are open 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. from the start of June to the end of Labour Day weekend, weather permitting. Locations include:

1. Centennial Park / Adélie (Coniston)
2. Doug Mohns Park (Capreol)
3. Côté Park (Chelmsford)
4. DJ Hancock Memorial Park (Sudbury)
5. Delki Dozzi Park (Sudbury)
6. Lions Park (Garson)
7. Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre (Valley East)
8. Kinsmen Sports Complex (Walden)
9. Memorial Park (Sudbury)
10. Morel Family Foundation Park / Adamsdale (Sudbury)
11. O'Connor Playground (Sudbury)
12. Onaping Community Centre (Onaping)
13. Ridgecrest Playground (Sudbury)
14. Twin Forks Playground (Sudbury)
15. Victory Park (Sudbury)
16. Westmount Playground (Sudbury)
17. Whitewater Lake (Azilda)

Figure 20: Map of Municipal Splash Pads in Greater Sudbury



Splash pads consist of a variety of colourful interactive features, such as ground jets, vertical spray posts, arches, bucket dumps, water cannons, and/or specialty and themed sprays. The design and level of amenity will vary depending on the splash pad's classification and intended market. Most of the City's larger splash pads have been made possible through generous donations from area families or the community (e.g., D.J. Hancock, Morel Family, Adelle, etc.).

With generally warmer summers, these amenities offer cooling opportunities within walking distance of many residential areas. All splash pad sites are designed to be barrier-free and most are supported by seating, garbage receptacles, shade, off-street parking, and washrooms (where available).

From a technical perspective, the City's splash pads use municipal (metered) water sources and are drained directly to storm or combined sewers. They are accompanied by a command centre or vault (within a building or below grade) housing the splash pad controls. All sites are equipped with activation sensors limiting operation to real time demand, thus enhancing water conservation. As they require access to municipal water service, splash pads may not be a candidate for all communities or park locations.

Guided by the 2014 Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan, the City has greatly expanded the number of splash pads in recent years in response to growing demand and a desire for improved geographic accessibility across Greater Sudbury (five were installed in 2020 alone). The average installation date for the City's 17 splash pads is 2014, with ten being installed in the past ten years – an average of one per year. The oldest facility is at Memorial Park (1999), which also serves as a decorative water feature. Based on Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey (2020), the average expected useful life of a new outdoor splash pad is 23 years.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts inspects splash pads no less than once every three months during the operating season to ensure compliance with Ministry of Health guidelines relative to water quality and safety. Inspection activities and water quality reports are posted online by Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

**DJ Hancock Memorial Park**



**Onaping Community Centre**



## Section 7. Current State – Preliminary Findings

### 7.1 Preliminary Findings

Key findings from this Current State Report are summarized below. These themes – which are listed in no particular order – will be assessed further in subsequent project phases along with public input and local demand indicators to inform the final Aquatic Service and Facility Review.

#### Indoor Aquatic Facilities – Current State

- 1. The City has a long history of aquatic service and facility provision.** The City of Greater Sudbury owns and operates 5 indoor pools that offer a range of programming from instructional swimming, recreational swimming, aquafitness, training/ competition, and more. These pools are generally located in the city's most populated areas, with the smaller Onaping Pool (built by a mining company in 1967) serving the outlying communities of Levack, Onaping, and Dowling.
- 2. Indoor pools offer critical benefits to the community.** Aquatic services deliver on several aspects of the City's Strategic Plan, including creating a healthier community and strengthening community vibrancy. Indoor pools offer many direct and indirect benefits to the community in a year-round setting, the most important of which is building the skills residents need to prevent drowning deaths. Residents also benefit from lifelong participation in fitness swimming, inclusive recreational and play opportunities, water sport and training opportunities, and improved physical and social health.
- 3. Past studies have found that the City has a sufficient supply of pools to meet current and anticipated needs, but the age and design of facilities is not meeting the full range of needs.** Recent forecasts suggest that Greater Sudbury will grow by 11% (18,280 persons) by 2051. Nearly one-half of this growth is forecasted within the Sudbury community (including the South End and New Sudbury), with the outlying communities (led by Valley East, Azilda and Chelmsford) accounting for the balance of future growth. Rationalizing the provision of pools has been identified as a strategic direction for the City for some time. The future of Greater Sudbury's pools will be considered through Phase 2 of this project.
- 4. The City's pools are aging and most have exceeded typical lifespans.** The average age of the City-operated indoor pools is 49 years (average build year 1974), which exceeds the average expected useful life of a new publicly-owned pool (being 46 years according to provincial data). Additionally, the maintenance/asset renewal history of the City's pools has not been consistently sufficient to maximize their service life.
- 5. Most of the City's pools are experiencing rising capital renewal costs and are at greater risk of unplanned closures.** Building components that have surpassed their expected lifespan are increasingly at risk of failure, which can lead to service interruptions, cancelled programs, unplanned closures, and increased costs. The deferred and current investment requirement for all 5 pools equates to \$8.3 million and the total projected capital need over a period of 10-years inclusive of deferred investment is \$17.7 million. Accessibility improvements necessary to comply with the AODA are not captured in these figures. While there is potential to extend the service life of the City's pools, the existing facilities cannot offer the full range of modern amenities without extensive renovations and, in most cases, could not practically be renovated to provide all contemporary features. Furthermore, a key goal of the City's Community Energy and Emissions

Plan is to increase the energy efficiency of buildings, which should be a consideration for any indoor pools receiving upgrades.

6. **Municipal pools are not fully barrier-free and have not kept pace with modern pool designs.** Expect for the smaller Onaping Pool, the City's pools are traditional 25-metre rectangular tanks. The City's pools were built in a different era that limits their ability to address the needs of all age groups and interests. Many lack compliant entry ramps or chair lifts, modern or universal change rooms, natural lighting, and space for dryland training and programming. Further, two pools are attached to schools and three of the City's five pools are stand-alone facilities that are not part of multi-use recreation centres, limiting their operational benefits and relevance to residents. Public satisfaction with current pools and services is considered as part of the Phase 1b Report.
7. **Residents average about 1.2 swims at City pools each year, but the number of visits to City pools has been declining since the mid-2010s when it peaked around 192,600 visits.** While demand for lessons remains strong, the appeal of the City's pools for recreational swimming appears to be declining. This is likely due to demographic factors, but may have also been affected by the current state of infrastructure. Notably, City pools are unable to offer fully accessible warm-water opportunities, a growing area of need in the community. Aquatic programming is continually evolving to capture different segments of the population and the City's inventory of pools has not kept pace with the growing recreational needs of Greater Sudbury residents and organizations.
8. **The City's demographic profile has a significant impact on the demand for aquatic services.** For example, indoor pools largely rely on demand from children (for instructional swimming) and seniors (for warm water aquatics). With an aging population, demand is rising for services such as daytime pool times, aquafit classes, therapeutic programs, and other warm-water activities. Looking ahead, Greater Sudbury's population is projected to grow by 11% by 2051 and this aging trend is expected to continue as the number of youth – the primary market for swimming lessons – will grow at a slower rate (7%). The proposal to add a therapeutic/leisure pool to the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda – in turn offering a warmer-water environmental for swim lessons, aquatic fitness, and post-rehabilitation programs – has been referred to this report and will be considered in detail within Phase 2.
9. **Community providers are a vital component to delivering the full range of aquatic services.** Laurentian University owns the Jenő Tihanyi pool that was heavily used by the community until it closed in March 2020 due to the global pandemic. This facility offers the region's only 50-metre pool (the next nearest one is in Markham) and supports local and regional sport training as well as provincial-level competitions. Unfortunately, this pool has remained closed due to leaks and the University is currently exploring options for bringing it back on line.

The Sudbury YMCA also operates a multi-tank aquatic facility as part of its downtown fitness and wellness centre; this facility is accessed through memberships and day passes. The YMCA has recently indicated that that its operations (which include an indoor aquatics facility built in 2000) are financially unsustainable and is working with the City to review the partnership agreement for the Centre of Life. The City of Greater Sudbury has a strong history of partnering with others to deliver on community priorities.

### Supervised Waterfront Beaches – Current State

1. **Supervised beaches provide safe locations for residents and visitors young and old to experience the water during warmer months and to practice water safety.** In 2023, each beach welcomed an average of 4,019 visitors during summertime supervised hours. Highest use sites have historically been those within the urban community of Sudbury, including Moonlight, Bell Park, and Nephawin Beaches, but usage has been growing at outlying beach locations.
2. **Support buildings at many beach locations are aging and/or inadequate for long-term needs.** Older changeroom and washroom buildings are evident at most beaches, negatively impacting their use by all members of the public and creating challenging conditions for staff. Beaches in Capreol and Lively have temporary accommodations.
3. **Barrier-free accessibility is a notable challenge for many public beaches in Greater Sudbury.** The terrain at several beach sites makes it difficult to comply with the AODA's Design of Public Spaces Standards for new or reconstructed beach access routes. The City has prepared a master plan for Kalmo Beach (including many accessibility improvements) and is working towards implementing this as funding allows.

### Splash Pads – Current State

1. **The number of splash pads in Greater Sudbury has grown substantially in recent years.** The City currently offers 17 splash pads within the parks system, largely designed for children ages 18 months to 12 years, available from the start of June to the end of Labour Day weekend. They are generally provided on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, within park sites that can adequately accommodate them and the demands for shade, seating, washrooms, and off-street parking. With warmer summers, these amenities offer important cooling opportunities within walking distance of many residential areas.
2. **Most of the City's larger splash pads have been made possible through community donations.** Future development opportunities will likely be more limited and should be assessed in relation localized needs. Funding for long-term renewal of these amenities may represent a new level of service for the City.



## 7.2 Next Steps – Phase 2

This Phase 1a Current State Report focuses on observations related to the current state of aquatic service and facility provision. It does not contain recommendations, but rather establishes a foundation upon which to conduct further study. A companion report – Phase 1b What we Heard Report – summarizes the findings from the public and stakeholder input program to date.

In Phase 2 (Assessments and Strategy Development), we will:

1. Complete a **detailed assessment** of short- and long-term facility needs:
  - a. Analyze the performance of each indoor pool facility in comparison with its current and future population
  - b. Complete a benchmarking exercise to illustrate how other municipalities provide aquatic facilities
  - c. Develop updated provision targets and metrics the delivery of aquatic services
2. Establish a **25-year vision** for aquatic services and facilities, with priority projects identified
3. Provide high-level **design considerations and cost estimates** for proposed recommendations
4. Conduct **additional public engagement** on the draft vision and recommendations
5. Seek **Council approval** on the full report

Given the age and increasing cost to maintain its facilities, the City must be strategic about its investment in aquatic facilities. Having a relevant, forward-looking, and actionable strategy in place is critical to ensure that the City and community providers are aligned in their capacities to deliver on these needs.

# Appendix A: Profiles of Indoor Pool Facilities

## Gatchell Pool

Built in 1975  
43 Irving Street, Sudbury

### Location

- Land owned by Rainbow District School Board (leased and operated by City)
- Permanent building, attached to Jean Hanson Public School
- 1 storey (mechanicals in penthouse)
- Adjacent uses include residential
- On and off-street parking (lot shared with school)



### Pool

**25m**

6-lanes  
15m wide  
1.06m – 3.66m depth  
246 person capacity  
86° Celsius

### Amenities

1m springboard  
Starting blocks  
Male and female change rooms  
On-deck bleacher seating  
Boardroom

### Primary Uses

- City of Greater Sudbury programs
- Recreational swimming
- Laurentian Swim Club
- Synchronized Swim Club
- Nickel City Aquatics
- ICAN

### Swim Visits (2022)

**7,034**

10,670 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -34.1%

### Staffing Profile

1 FT Facility pool operator  
1-2 PT Assistant pool operators  
Up to 25 PT/casual instructors and lifeguards  
2 PT Building attendants

### Average Operating Budget (2019-2022)

Annual Expenses: \$614,600  
Annual Revenues: \$314,800  
Annual Subsidy: \$299,800

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## Building Details

- 15,050 sq. ft.
- Last major renovation: 1985 (fire)
- Recent capital improvements: HVAC upgrades and installation of roof gutters (2023), front entrance vestibule (2022)
- Replacement value: \$7,928,111
- Lifecycle costs: \$2,720,905
- Deferred maintenance: \$1,568,219
- Facility condition index: 0.17 (Fair)
- Days lost to unexpected failures (2022): 3 days (pool heater repair)
- General appearance: Good to Fair
- Access to pool: Ramp, lift chair
- Accessibility audit: \$302,160



**Attached to the  
Jean Hanson  
Public School  
on lands owned  
by the Rainbow  
District School  
Board**

# Nickel District Pool

Built in 1973  
1940 Hawthorne Street, Sudbury

## Location

- Land owned by Sudbury Catholic District School Board (leased and operated by City)
- Permanent building, attached to St. Charles College
- 1 storey (mechanicals in basement)
- Adjacent uses include residential, commercial and industrial lot
- Off-street parking (lot shared with school)



## Pool

**25m**

5-lanes  
10m wide  
1.06m – 3.0m depth  
125 person capacity  
86° Celsius

## Amenities

1m springboard  
Starting blocks  
Male and female change rooms  
On-deck bleacher seating

## Primary Uses

- City of Greater Sudbury programs
- Recreational swimming
- Laurentian Swim Club

## Swim Visits (2022)

**5,202**

15,151 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -65.7%

## Staffing Profile

1 FT Facility pool operator  
1-2 PT Assistant pool operators  
Up to 20 PT/casual instructors and lifeguards  
3 PT Building attendants

## Average Operating Budget (2019-2022)

Annual Expenses: \$509,500  
Annual Revenues: \$259,100  
Annual Subsidy: \$250,400



---

## Building Details

- 8,750 sq. ft.
- Last major renovation: n/a
- Recent capital improvements: HVAC upgrades (2022), roof leak repairs (2021)
- Replacement value: \$4,609,367
- Lifecycle costs: \$2,216,789
- Deferred maintenance: \$1,032,759
- Facility condition index: 0.14 (Fair)
- General appearance: Fair
- Access to pool: Lift chair, EZ stair, no ramp
- Accessibility audit: \$356,131



Attached to St. Charles College on lands owned by the Sudbury Catholic District School Board



# Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool

Built in 1983  
4040 Elmview Drive, Hanmer

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Permanent building, attached to recreation centre
- 2 storeys, including pool gallery on second level
- Associated facilities include recreation centre (fitness, squash, track) and park
- Adjacent uses include residential and open space
- Off-street parking



## Pool

### 25m

5-lanes  
15m wide  
1.06m – 3.81m depth  
128 person capacity  
85° Celsius

## Amenities

1m and 3m springboard  
Starting blocks  
Universal, male, and female change rooms  
Gallery seating with access from pool deck and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
On-deck hot pool (103° Celsius)  
Meeting room

## Primary Uses

- City of Greater Sudbury programs
- Recreational swimming
- Valley Easy Waves Swim Club

## Swim Visits (2022)

### 14,152

16,911 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -16.3%

## Staffing Profile

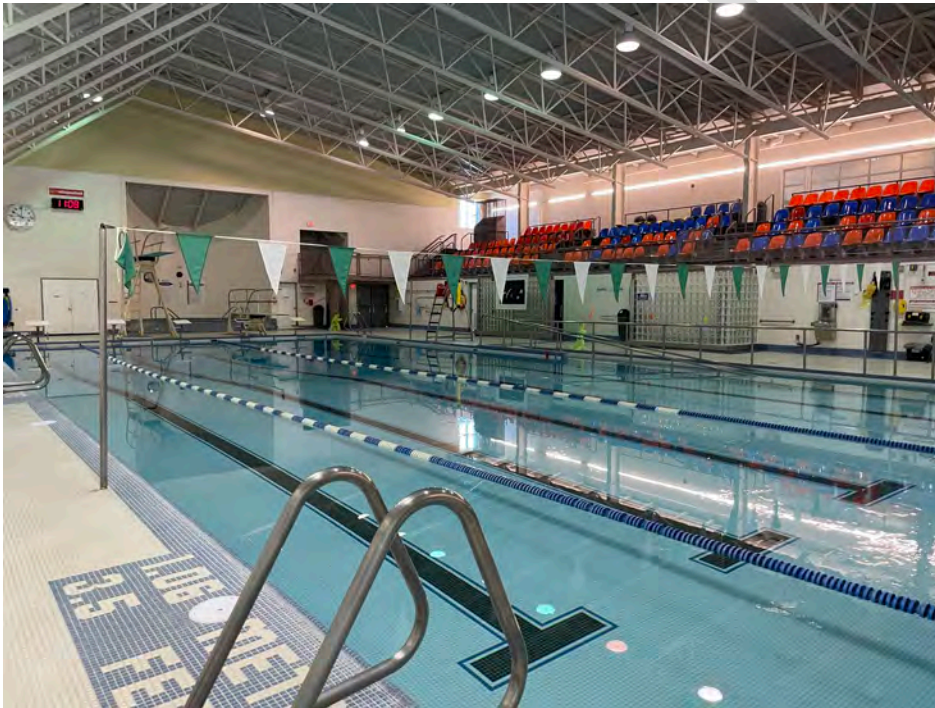
1 FT Facility pool operator  
3 PT Assistant pool operators  
Up to 25 PT/casual instructors and lifeguards  
1 FT Building Maintenance  
3 PT Building attendants  
1 FT and 3 PT Receptionists

## Average Operating Budget (2019-2022)

Annual Expenses: \$1,296,700  
Annual Revenues: \$467,600  
Annual Subsidy: \$829,100

## Building Details

- 51,900 sq. ft.
- Last major renovation: n/a
- Recent capital improvements: HVAC upgrades (2023), eyewash station replacement (2022), front steps repair (2022)
- Replacement value: \$27,340,129
- Lifecycle costs: \$9,413,022
- Deferred maintenance: \$2,399,072
- Facility condition index: 0.08 (Good)
- General appearance: Good
- Access to pool: Ramp, lift chair, EZ stair
- Accessibility audit: \$792,253
- Fitness members also have access to pool



This pool can also be accessed through a fitness membership

# Onaping Pool

Built in 1967  
2 Hillside Avenue, Onaping Falls

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Permanent building, attached to community centre
- 1 storey (mechanicals in basement)
- Associated facilities include community centre, youth centre, library, gymnasium and park with playground/splash pad
- Adjacent uses include residential
- Off-street parking



## Pool

**15m**

4-lanes  
5.5m wide  
1.07m – 2.3m depth  
30 person capacity  
86° Celsius

## Amenities

Male and female change rooms  
Permanent bench

## Primary Uses

- City of Greater Sudbury programs
- Recreational swimming

## Swim Visits (2022)

**1,560**

2,217 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -29.6%

## Staffing Profile

1 FT Facility pool operator  
Up to 5 PT/casual instructors and lifeguards  
2 PT Parks staff

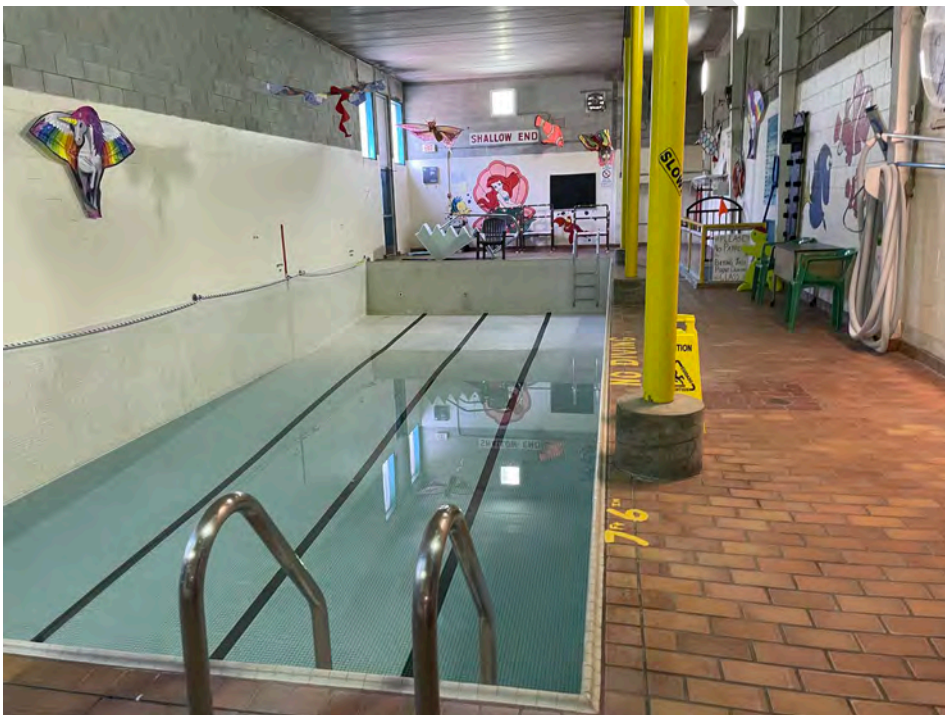
## Average Operating Budget (2019-2022)

Annual Expenses: \$107,800  
Annual Revenues: \$45,100  
Annual Subsidy: \$62,700



## Building Details

- 41,150 sq. ft.
- Last major renovation: n/a
- Recent capital improvements: Roof leak repairs (2022)
- Replacement value: \$21,677,193
- Lifecycle costs: \$6,219,914
- Deferred maintenance: \$2,981,527
- Facility condition index: 0.13 (Fair)
- Days lost to unexpected failures (2022): 16 days (staff shortages)
- General appearance: Fair to poor
- Access to pool: EZ stair, no ramp or lift chair
- Accessibility audit: \$889,016



Operating hours and season are more limited at this location

# R.G. Dow Pool

Built in 1971  
38 Veterans Road, Copper Cliff

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Permanent building, stand-alone
- 1 storey
- Associated uses include shared campus with arena, fitness centre, curling club
- Off-street parking (lot shared with other community facilities)



## Pool

### 25m

5-lanes  
12m wide  
1.06m – 3.66m depth  
125 person capacity  
86° Celsius

## Amenities

1m springboard  
Starting blocks  
Male and female change rooms  
On-deck bleacher seating

## Primary Uses

- City of Greater Sudbury programs
- Recreational swimming
- Laurentian Swim Club
- Synchronized Swim Club
- Masters Swimming Sudbury

## Swim Visits (2022)

### 5,565

6,662 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -16.5%

## Staffing Profile

1 FT Facility pool operator  
1-2 PT Assistant pool operators  
Up to 20 PT/casual instructors and lifeguards  
2 PT Building attendants

## Average Operating Budget (2019-2022)

Annual Expenses: \$460,400  
Annual Revenues: \$231,900  
Annual Subsidy: \$228,500



## Building Details

- 10,100 sq. ft.
- Last major renovation: n/a
- Recent capital improvements: New pool heater and water heater (2022), HVAC upgrades 2022
- Replacement value: \$5,320,526
- Lifecycle costs: \$2,302,585
- Deferred maintenance: \$676,335
- Facility condition index: 0.07 (Good)
- Days lost to unexpected failures (2022): 12 days (pool heater and filter pump)
- General appearance: Fair
- Access to pool: Lift chair, EZ stair, no ramp
- Accessibility audit: \$445,298



Stand-alone building that is part of a recreational campus with arena, fitness centre, and curling club

# Appendix B: Profiles of Supervised Waterfront Beaches

## Bell Park Main Beach

493 Facer Street, Sudbury  
Ramsey Lake

### Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include Municipal parking lot (west), Canada's largest mural tourist attraction (west), waterdrome (north), and residential



### Beach

#### Major

Permanent guard building with change rooms & washrooms  
Off-street parking (asphalt lot) on multi-use trail route  
Small supervised beach area in high traffic location

### Amenities

Amphitheatre  
Concession  
3 Gazebos  
Open Space  
Flower Garden  
Outdoor Fitness Equipment  
Playground  
Accessible Change Room  
Boardwalk  
Splash & Go Waterpark  
Refill Water Fountain

### Visits (2022)

**1,906**

3,092 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -38.4%

Bell Park is a Blue Flag certified public beach, subject to the Bell Park Master Plan

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# Capreol Beach

44 Lakeshore Street, Capreol  
Marshy Lake

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## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential (northeast)



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## Beach

### Minor

Trailers (seasonal)  
On-street parking  
Small beach area lacking shade

## Amenities

Walking path

## Visits (2022)

### 813

1056 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -23%

---

Site is subject to the Capreol Community Improvement Plan

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# Centennial Park Beach

400 Graham Road, Whitefish  
Vermilion River

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include forest



## Beach

### Minor

Trailers (seasonal)  
Off-street parking (gravel lot)  
Small beach area

## Amenities

Trailer park  
Playground  
Gazebo  
Basketball court  
Canteen

## Visits (2022)

**582**

2,382 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -75.6%

Interim location servicing Walden area following the disposition of Meatbird Lake Park

# Kalmo Beach

2998 Sandy Beach Road, Val Caron  
Whitson Lake

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential (east) and a conservation area (north)



## Beach

### Major

Permanent guard building with change rooms & washrooms  
Off-street parking (asphalt/gravel lots)  
Portable washroom  
Accessibility challenges

## Amenities

Unsupervised beach area  
Nearby boat launch

## Visits (2022)

**1,482**

1,624 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -9.7%

Site is subject to the Kalmo Beach Master Plan



# Moonlight Beach

531 Moonlight Beach Road, Sudbury  
Ramsey Lake

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include Camp Sudaca (west) and wooded/undeveloped lands



## Beach

### Major

Permanent guard building with change rooms & washrooms  
Off-street parking (gravel lots)

## Amenities

Playground  
Beach volleyball courts  
Concession  
Open space  
Older playground (to be removed and re-planned as plaza, seating, activity space)

## Visits (2022)

**2,134**

3,534 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -39.6%

Moonlight Beach is a Blue Flag certified public beach, subject to East End Ramsey Lake Master Plan

# Nepawhin Lake Park Beach

1722 Paris Street, Sudbury  
Nepawhin Lake

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential (west and south)



## Beach

### Minor

Permanent guard building with change rooms & washrooms  
Off-street parking (gravel lot)

## Amenities

Playground  
Open space  
Outdoor exercise equipment  
Refill water fountain

## Visits (2022)

**1,647**

2,190 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change -24.8%

# Whitewater Lake Park Beach

493 Facer Street, Sudbury  
Ramsey Lake

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential (north) and airport (west)



## Beach

### Major

Permanent guard building with change rooms & washrooms  
Off-street parking (gravel lot)  
Lacking shade

## Amenities

Playground  
Splash pad  
Beach volleyball  
Open space  
Trailer park  
Nearby boat launch

## Visits (2022)

**1,454**

1,260 visits (2019)  
2019-2022 change +15.4%

# Appendix C: Profiles of Splash Pads

## Adelie Splash Pad

Installed April 2018  
70 Government Road, Coniston  
Centennial Park/Coniston Park

### Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential, railway, park and community arena
- On road parking



### Splash Pad

#### Major

Flow-through water system  
Inground vault, Manufacture Vortex  
Pole sprays, loops  
Surrounding benches and tables  
with umbrellas

### Amenities

Baseball diamond  
Playground  
Community garden  
Gazebo  
Soccer field  
Tennis courts  
Ball hockey pad  
Community centre  
Portable washroom



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# Capreol Splash Pad

Installed July 2019  
20 Meehan Street, Capreol  
Doug Mohns Park

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## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential, commercial and railway (west)
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Below ground mechanical system  
Spray arches, loops  
Pocket Parc style splash pad  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Cricket fields  
Baseball diamonds  
Tennis courts  
Playground

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# Cote Park Splash Pad

Installed July 2011  
214 Cote Avenue, Chelmsford  
Cote Park

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Pole sprays, spray arches, spray cannons  
Fenced compound  
Above ground mechanical system  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Skateboard park  
Tennis courts  
Playground  
Baseball diamond  
Ball hockey pad  
Community centre  
Portable washroom

# DJ Hancock Memorial Splash Pad

Installed June 2016  
1428 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury  
DJ Hancock Memorial Park

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include church (south), schools (north and south), residential
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



## Splash Pad

### Major

Flow-through water system  
Pole sprays, spray arches, spray cannons, bucket dump  
Hockey themed splash pad  
Below ground mechanical system  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Swings

This splash pad was made possible through a community donor.

# Delki Dozzi Splash Pad

Installed June 2022  
46 Mary Street, Sudbury  
Delki Dozzi Park

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include cycling track (east), residential, industrial (north)
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Pole sprays, ground sprays  
Mechanical system at SW corner of building  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Ball hockey pad  
Soccer field  
Baseball diamond  
Tennis courts  
Portable washrooms and in Community Centre



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# Garson Splash Pad

Installed June 2018  
120 Birch Street, Garson  
Lion's Park

---

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential, school, church
- Off-road parking (dirt/grass lot)



---

## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Bucket dump, ground sprays, spray  
loop/arch  
Below ground mechanical system  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Portable washroom



# HARC Splash Pad

Installed July 2011  
4040 Elmview Drive, Hanmer  
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include recreation centre, residential (east), forest/trails (north/south)
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Pole sprays, spray cannons, spray loop/arch  
Above ground mechanical system  
Ample natural shade  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Pavilion  
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre  
Portable washroom and in Recreation Centre

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# Kinsmen Sports Complex Splash Pad

Installed July 2010  
88 Hillcrest Drive, Lively  
Kinsmen Sports Complex

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## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential and highway
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



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## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Pole sprays, spray cannons, spray arches  
Above ground mechanical system  
Close proximity to building  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Baseball diamond  
Tennis courts  
Soccer fields  
Ball hockey pad  
Playground  
Portable washrooms/field house

---

# Memorial Park Splash Pad

Installed 1999  
163 Minto Street, Sudbury  
Memorial Park

---

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include YMCA (west), community arena (south), commercial (north)
- Municipal lot parking
- Located in downtown distinctive/event park



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## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Ground sprays  
Urban water feature

## Amenities

Playground  
Gazebo  
Gardens  
Open space

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# Morel Family Foundation Splash Pad

Installed October 2016  
270 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Sudbury  
Morel Family Foundation Park

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## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential and a school (west)
- Off-road parking (gravel lot)



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## Splash Pad

### Major

Flow-through water system  
Mechanical system in building  
Ground sprays, pole sprays, spray  
arches, spray cannons  
Lacks shade  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Basketball court/hockey rink  
Soccer field

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Formerly known as Adamsdale Playground

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# O'Connor Playground Splash Pad

Installed August 2009  
192 St George Street, Sudbury  
O'Connor Playground Park

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## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential, school, and commercial
- Off-road parking (gravel lot)



---

## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Below ground mechanical system  
Spray arches, pole sprays  
Above ground mechanical system  
Open concept  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Ball hockey pad  
Tennis courts  
Portable washroom

---

# Onaping Community Centre Splash Pad

Installed July 2017  
2 Hillside Avenue, Onaping  
Onaping Community Centre

---

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential and forest
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



---

## Splash Pad

### Major

Flow-through water system  
Spray loop/arch, pole sprays, spray cannons, bucket dump  
Below ground mechanical system  
Mining themed  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Pavilion  
Community Garden  
Playground  
Portable washroom and in Community Centre

# Ridgecrest Playground Splash Pad

Installed May 2012  
1437 Roy Avenue, Sudbury  
Ridgecrest Playground Park

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential
- Off-road parking (gravel lot)



## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Spray loop/arch, ground sprays,  
spray cannons  
Above ground mechanical system  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Portable washroom/field house

# Twin Forks Playground Splash Pad

Installed August 2020  
1475 Gary Avenue  
Twin Forks Playground Park

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential, school, forest
- Off-road parking (gravel lot)



## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Mechanical system in building  
Concrete pad abbutts building  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Baseball diamond  
Soccer fields  
Tennis courts  
Playground  
Open space  
Community garden  
Portable washroom/field house



---

# Victory Park Splash Pad

Installed August 2014  
482 Froid Road, Sudbury  
Victory Park

---

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential, school, open space
- Roadside parking



---

## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Spray loop/arch, pole sprays, bucket dump  
Below ground mechanical system  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Indigenous family service centre  
Portable washroom

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# Westmount Playground Splash Pad

Installed September 2013  
38 Galway Court, Sudbury  
Westmount Playground

---

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential
- Off-road parking (paved lot)



---

## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Spray loop/arch, pole sprays  
Below ground mechanical system  
Open concept  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Playground  
Community centre  
Portable washroom and in Community Centre

---

# Whitewater Lake Park Splash Pad

Installed June 2020  
535 Laurier Street West, Azilda  
Whitewater Lake Park

---

## Location

- Owned by City of Greater Sudbury
- Adjacent uses include residential
- Off-road parking (gravel lot)



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## Splash Pad

### Minor

Flow-through water system  
Ground sprays, pole sprays  
Mechanical system in building  
Close proximity to pavilion  
Manufacturer: Water Play

## Amenities

Volleyball court  
Playground  
Picnic pavilion  
Open space  
Trailer park  
Beach  
Shower and washroom facilities located in Comfort Station