

Alberta



# Sikome Aquatic Facility Redevelopment Plan

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Phase 1 Engagement

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## WHAT WE HEARD SUMMARY



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# 1.0 Project Overview



Alberta Parks is seeking input from the public and stakeholders on a draft redevelopment plan, vision, concept design and programming options for the Sikome Aquatic Facility in Fish Creek Provincial Park. The draft plan defines a long-term vision, programming opportunities, and capital upgrades and amenities for Sikome.

Sikome is an artificial waterbody located within Fish Creek Provincial Park in the City of Calgary that serves as a public swimming area during the summer months. Sikome is open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Monday through Sunday) in the summer months (e.g. mid-June to early September).

Visitation to Sikome has exponentially increased since it opened in the late 1970's. Its infrastructure is aging, thus there is a need to update the facility to provide a modern urban provincial park visitor experience. This experience should reflect current trends in programming, open space demands, and Alberta Parks' identify and vision to connect Albertans to nature.

Alberta's population has significantly grown and urbanized; from 2011 to 2016, Calgary's population grew by 14.6 per cent. With this increase, access to parks and open spaces becomes more important for Albertans' health and wellbeing. With its proximity to a large, dense population base, Sikome serves as a gateway to Alberta Parks' broader network of landscapes and ecosystems.

The primary objectives for the project are to:

- Enhance Sikome Aquatic Facility as an urban provincial park feature within Fish Creek Provincial Park;
- Define a unique and inclusive visitor experience;
- Create a sense of place that embodies Alberta Parks' identity;
- Modernize and upgrade existing facilities and improve the utilization of space;
- Explore viable all-season programming; and
- Maintain accessibility for low-income Albertans.

Public ideas and feedback received in Phase 1 of the engagement process will be considered in the development of the draft redevelopment plan, vision, concept design, and programming options for Sikome.

## 2.0 Engagement Overview



Phase 1 of the engagement process occurred in August 2017 and included an open house, online survey and idea boards. Public ideas and feedback was gathered to inform the vision, concept design, and programming options for Sikome.



An online survey was available at [www.albertaparks.ca/SikomeConsult](http://www.albertaparks.ca/SikomeConsult) between July 27 and August 26, 2017.



An open house was held for stakeholders and the public on Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sikome Aquatic Facility (Sikome Circle, S.E.). The open house provided participants with an opportunity to speak to project representatives, provide their ideas and feedback and complete a survey.

The project team engaged with approximately 300 people at the open house and the survey received 646 partial and 469 completed responses. The survey was available online and at the open house.



Idea boards were also placed near the north access to Sikome and Annie's Cafe to gather ideas and feedback between July 28 and September 4, 2017.





### Next Steps

Several opportunities for engagement in Phase 2 of the project will be available in April/May 2018, within the 30-day public participation period. An open house, online survey and idea boards will be used to gather feedback. The purpose of this phase of engagement is to present and gather feedback on the draft redevelopment plan, vision, concept design, and programming options.

The final plan and concept design will be posted online in 2018 after a final decision on the project is made.

## 3.0 Survey Feedback at a Glance

### Demographics



**71%** of survey participants identified as female

**42**

the average age of survey participants



**58%** of participants have children living in the household

### Income



**\$100,000-\$149,000**  
participants median household income

### Sikome Visitors



**16%** of survey participants visited Sikome in 2017

**20%** of participants have visited Sikome more than the past five seasons



**47%** of participants visit Sikome 1-3 times in a typical season

**22%** visit 4-6 times

**4%** visit 7-9 times

**11%** of participants have never visited Sikome



**93%** of participants do not have a season pass to Sikome

### Travel



**72%** of participants currently use personal vehicles to travel to Sikome



**42%** of participants would prefer to take alternative modes

### Most Liked to See Improved



Enhancing the overall **quality and cleanliness of the beach and water** was shared by participants as the most liked to see improved

### Food Service



**44%** of participants have not purchased food at Sikome while visiting

### Overall Satisfaction



**72%** of participants are very/somewhat satisfied with the quality of services and facilities at Sikome

## 4.0 Survey Highlights

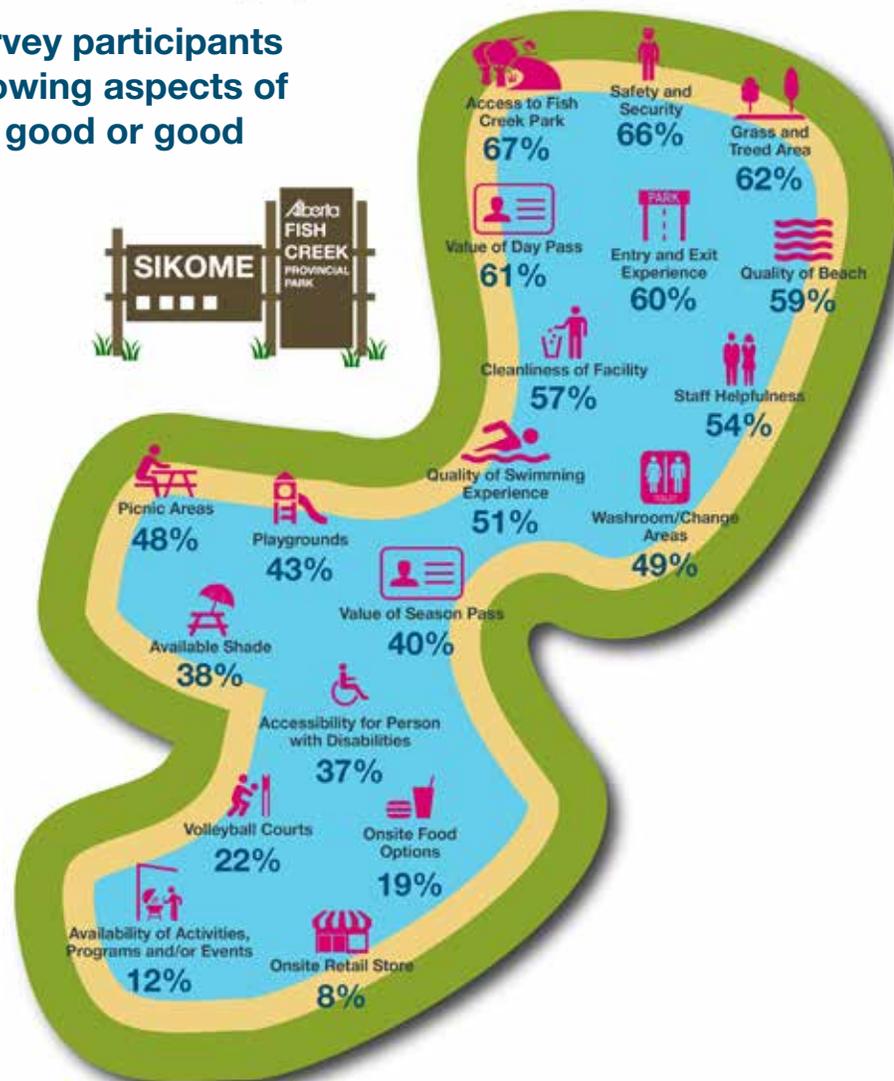
### 4.1 How survey participants rated aspects of Sikome based on their most recent visit

On a scale from very good to very poor, survey participants were asked to rate the following aspects of Sikome based on their most recent visit.

The aspects of Sikome that were rated most highly (by combining very good or good responses) based on their most recent experience included:

- Access to Fish Creek Park;
- Safety and security;
- Grass and treed areas;
- Value of day pass;
- Quality of the beach; and
- Cleanliness of the facility.

#### Percentage of survey participants that rated the following aspects of Sikome as very good or good



## 4.2 What survey participants indicated what was most important to them at Sikome

On a scale from very important to not important at all, survey participants were asked to rate how important the following aspects were to them in terms of their overall experience at Sikome.

The most important aspects of Sikome to survey participants (by combining very important and important responses) included:

- Cleanliness of the facility;
- Quality of beach;
- Quality of swimming experience;
- Washrooms/change areas; and
- Safety and security.



Percentage of survey participants that rated the following aspects of Sikome as very important or important

## 4.3 What survey participants most wanted to see improved at Sikome

Survey participants were also asked to share what they would most like to see improved at Sikome via an open ended question. Below are the key themes based on the feedback received.



Enhancing the overall quality and cleanliness of the beach and water was shared (overwhelmingly) as the most important area for improvement.



Better accessibility to the facility by **eliminating the fee\*** for admission and increasing the number of entrance and exit points.



Providing access to the facility year round or extending the summer season dependent on weather.



Increasing the variety and availability of food options.

*\* Alberta Parks appreciates all of the feedback and ideas provided by survey participants regarding the Sikome Aquatic Facility Redevelopment Plan project. However, ideas regarding eliminating the fee for admission are out of the scope of this project. Funds collected will go back into maintenance and improvements at the Sikome Aquatic Facility.*

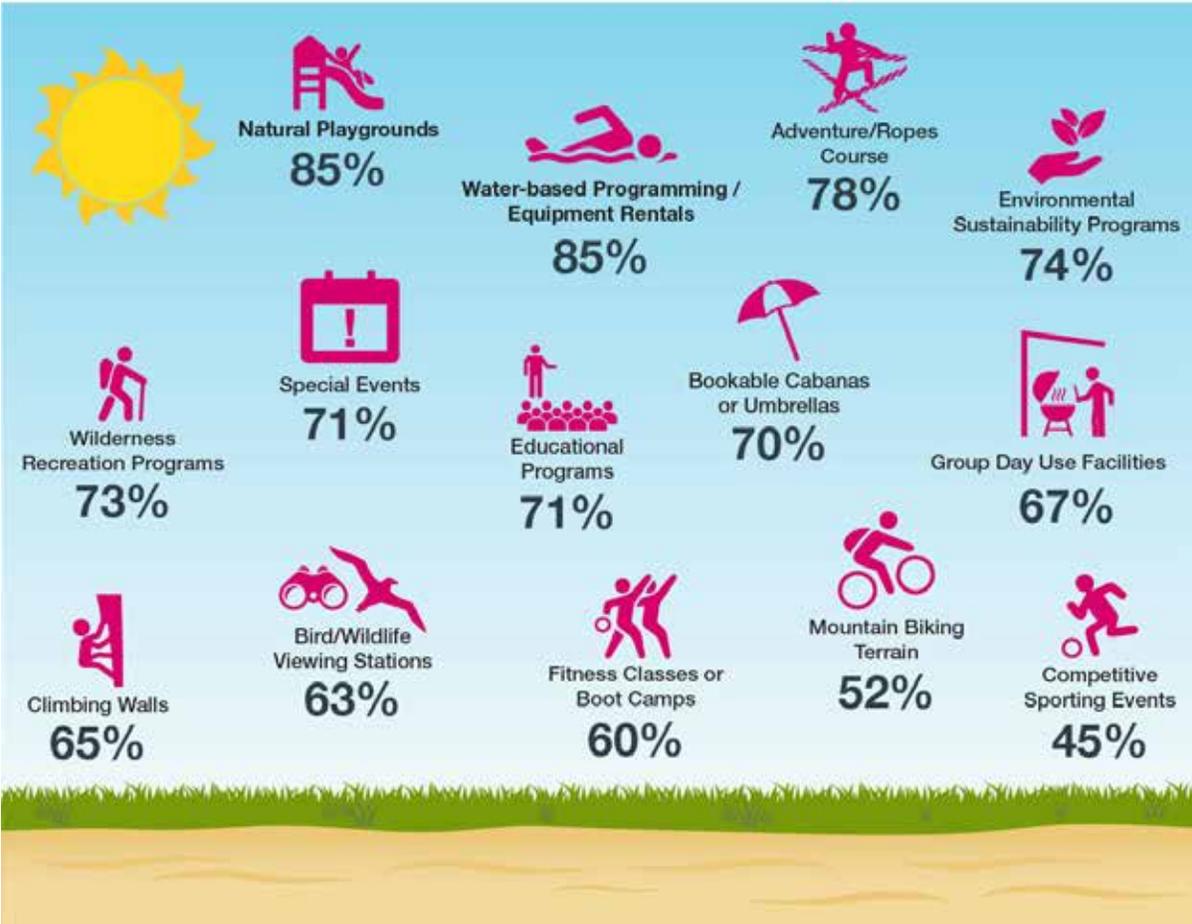
## 4.4 Summer recreational facilities/services of most interest to survey participants

On a scale from very interested to not at all interested, survey participants rated how interested they were in the seeing the following summer recreational facilities/services at Sikome in the future.

The highest rated summer recreational facilities/services indicated by survey participants (by combining the responses received for very interested or somewhat interested) included:

- Natural playgrounds;
- Water-based programming/equipment rentals;
- Adventure/ropes course;
- Environmental sustainability programs; and
- Wilderness recreation programs.

### Percentage of survey participants who indicated they were very interested in the following aspects of Sikome

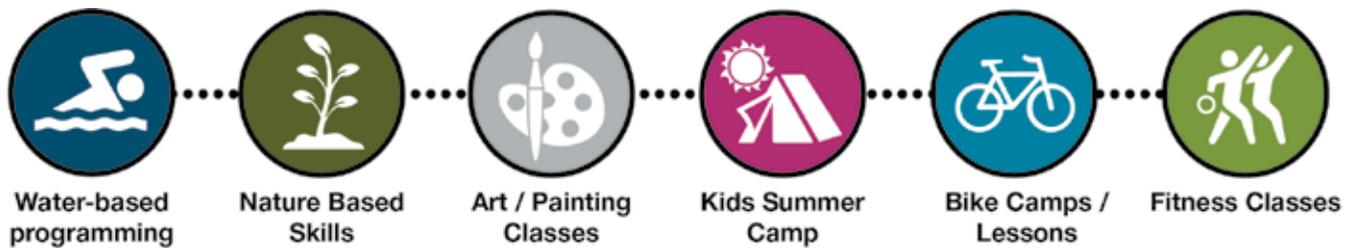


# Survey Highlights

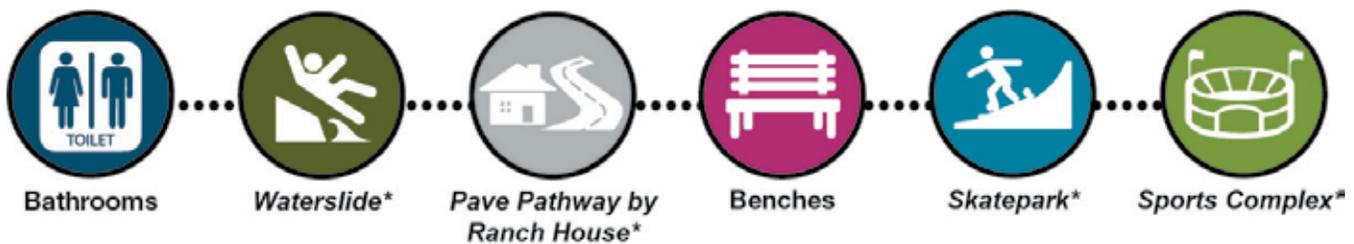
Survey participants were asked to provide their ideas for equipment rentals they were interested in seeing at Sikome. The most frequently mentioned equipment rentals by survey participants included:



Survey participants were asked to provide their ideas for classes/lessons/workshops they were interested in seeing at Sikome. The most frequently mentioned classes/lessons/workshops by survey participants included:



Survey participants were asked to provide other ideas for summer facilities/services they were interested in seeing at Sikome in the future. Survey participants indicated interest in the following facilities/services:



\* Alberta Parks appreciates all of the feedback and ideas provided by survey participants regarding the Sikome Aquatic Facility Redevelopment Plan project. However, ideas regarding paving the pathway by the Ranch House, stand-up paddle boards, a skatepark, waterslide and sports complex are out of the scope of this project.

## 4.5 Winter recreational facilities/services of most interest to survey participants

Although Sikome is not currently open in the winter, the project team wanted to know if there was interest in using the facility year-round.

On a scale from very interested to not at all interested, survey participants were asked to rate how interested they were in the seeing the following winter recreational facilities/services at Sikome in the future.

The highest rated winter recreational facilities/services by survey participants (combining very interested and somewhat interested responses) included:

- Ice skating rink;
- Snow tubing hill;
- Snowshoeing/cross-country skiing;
- Warming huts; and
- Special events.

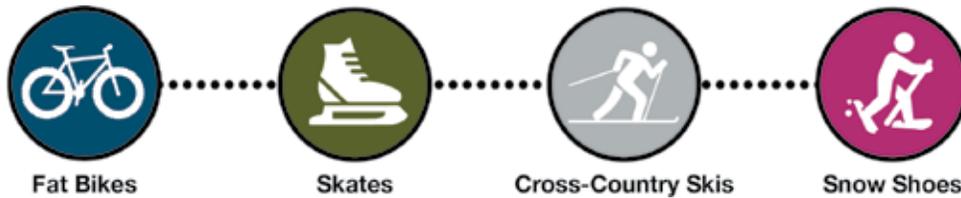
Based on the responses received, it was clear that there is interest in using the Sikome Aquatic Facility year-round.

### Percentage of survey participants that rated the following aspects of Sikome as very interested or somewhat interested



## Survey Highlights

Survey participants were asked provide their ideas for equipment rentals that they would be interested in seeing at Sikome in the future. The most frequently mentioned equipment rentals by survey participants included:



Survey participants were asked to provide their ideas for classes/lessons/workshops that they would be interested in seeing at Sikome in the future. The most frequently mentioned classes/lessons/workshops by survey participants included:



Survey participants were asked to identify any other winter services/facilities they were interested in seeing at Sikome in future. Survey participants indicated the need for washrooms.

**4.6 Suitable overnight accommodation within/near Sikome of interest to survey participants**

Survey participants were asked to indicate which, if any, of the following types of accommodation they thought would be suitable for development within or near Sikome. Most survey participants indicated that overnight stays should not be permitted.

**Percentage of survey participants who indicated which, if any, of the following types of accommodations would be suitable for development within or near Sikome**

