



Town of Arnprior Staff Report

Subject: Implementation Plan for Robert Simpson Park Refresh

Report Number: 26-01-26-02

Report Author and Position Title: Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer; Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation

Department: Operations & Recreation

Meeting Date: January 26, 2026

Recommendations:

That Council direct staff to include a newly constructed four-season structure containing multiple single-user washrooms in the Robert Simpson Park Refresh Phase 1B design in the location of the current canteen at a net budget increase of \$575,000 and update the Long-Range Capital Forecast accordingly, and;

That Council direct staff to include for vendor stations to replace the existing canteen within the Robert Simpson Park Refresh Phase 1B design, and;

That Council direct staff to consult with an appropriate indigenous organization to implement a gathering space feature into the design for the Robert Simpson Park Refresh project in Phase 1B.

Background:

Robert Simpson Park has long been seen as a landmark within the Town of Arnprior boasting a beautiful waterfront, sandy beach, large open green space, mature trees and ample amenities for recreation activities, major events and community/family gatherings. This park plays a vital role in a majority of the town-run and major community events during the summer months and is easily the Town's busiest outdoor space from the Victoria Day through to Labour Day. It's popularity well exceeds our borders and also serves as an economic driver for our community.

In late 2019, thinc design was contracted to complete a Waterfront Master Plan to establish general concepts for Town-owned shoreline projects. This plan was delivered to Council in November 2021 and approved through the 2022 budget process.

In July 2024, Council awarded the design for the redevelopment of Robert Simpson Park to Stantec Consulting Ltd. The design assignment includes:

- Shoreline modification

- Establishing a breakwater
- Establishing network of accessible pathways
- Establishing boardwalk for accessible route from the upper-level parking lot to the beach level
- Replacement and improvements to play features including the splashpad, play structure(s) and swing set(s).

In the July 14, 2025, meeting of Council, Council authorized the project to be broken into the “Upper” and “Lower” Parks for the sake of practicality and timeliness.

Discussion:

As indicated in the LRCF the revitalization of Robert Simpson Park was anticipated to be a multi-phase implementation. The original plan was to complete the design for the entire park simultaneously which would allow staff to complete the public consultation in one round. However, based on complicating factors around shoreline modification, Council directed staff to complete public consultation for the “Upper Park” due to practicality of timeline.

In the July 14, 2025, meeting of Council, Council authorized the project to be broken into the “Upper” and “Lower” Parks for the sake of practicality. Based on public feedback received and further details as outlined in this report, the proposed revised phasing is as follows:

- Phase 1 – “Upper Park”
 - Phase 1A (2026)
 - Paved pathways
 - Improved lighting
 - Splashpad
 - Play Structures / Play Features for various ages
 - Phase 1B (2027)
 - Accessible Pedestrian Ramp to Beach
 - Washroom retrofit
 - Parking Improvements
 - Indigenous Gathering Space
- Phase 2 – “Lower Park” (2032)
 - Erosion Control
 - Breakwater
 - Boardwalk
 - Revised Swimming entry point

The Town went about seeking public feedback via an in person open house on November 13, 2025, and an online survey that remained open from November 10-23, 2025. To spread awareness about the call for public feedback the following approaches were employed:

1. Multiple posts on social media
2. Updates to dedicated webpage (Arnprior.ca/RefreshRSP)
3. Prominent outdoor signage in 2 locations
4. Signage in Town facilities (physical and TV screen)
5. Paper copies of surveys available at Town Hall, Nick Smith Centre and Library
6. Radio snippets
7. Outreach to all local schools who provided survey links to teachers and/or parents
8. In person visit to a grade 2/3 classroom to complete the survey with the class

The engagement from the public on this project was quite high with a total of 366 completed surveys, however 3 of those survey responses were completed by elementary school classes adding input from another 72 children. Additionally, 30 people voted by placing stickers at the in person open house. The combined total of 468 responses is equivalent to approximately 10% of households in Arnprior responding.

80% of respondents were Arnprior residents and there was a distribution of responses from different age groups. 74% of respondents had children in their households. Organic response rate was highest among 35-44 year olds who contributed 25% of the responses.

Staff also presented concepts to the Town's Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee and have incorporated feedback as detailed below.

Splash Pad

54% of respondents preferred the second presented option, "Ground Play". The orange hoop and bucket features were especially well received. This option is a little more interactive than the other option, with features such as movable cannons. Many of these features are different to what is present at Art Dodds (formerly Fairview) Park which was important to the design team.

Figure 1: Ground Play Splash Pad



There were several comments around areas to change when it comes to the splashpad and washrooms. Though change stalls are planned for the Lower Park, the design is being revised to feature change stalls in proximity to the splashpad in response to public feedback. These would be relatively basic, roof-less structures similar to the below image.

Figure 2: Example Change Stall



Play Structure

When it came to the swing set, 72% preferred the first option with the saucer swing. The saucer swing is an interesting approach to an accessible feature. It was noted by a member of the Town's Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee that hard surfacing (asphalt or rubber surfacing) should be oriented to be as close as possible to the accessible swing. Often with a feature like this, a caregiver will push a wheelchair to the edge of a hard surface and have to carry the child from their wheelchair to the play feature. Staff are working with the design team to re-orient the swing set to ensure this is incorporated into the design.

Option 1, "Wild Adventure", was the most liked play structure option with 41% of the vote, with Option 4, "Wood Waves" coming in second place with 25% of the vote. People reacted particularly positively to the spinning carousel feature. This play structure option provides the traditional slide features and maintains the well-loved zipline-like slider feature like the one on the existing structure. The tree themed features fit well with the wood climbing structure to support a woodland theme that emphasizes the importance of lumbering to the history of the Town of Arnprior.

Feedback from Council, the public and the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee have highlighted a preference for rubberized play surfacing in place of the Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF). Staff are currently working with the design consultants on implementing a larger proportion of rubberized play surfacing, however the costing is approximately \$335-450 per square meter versus EWF cost at \$70 per square meter. The termination of rubber play surfacing typically requires a concrete curb as well, which further complicates partially surfacing with rubber.

Figure 3: Option 1 "Wild Adventure"



Washrooms

The state of the existing washroom building is showing its age, does not meet accessibility or inclusivity standards and is poorly used in terms of space allocations however the structural elements and roof are in good condition. There were four concepts presented for retrofitting this building – two that were traditionally segregated into male and female washrooms as well as two that were not gender specific.

When redesigning a public space staff are always focused on providing the most accessible and inclusive space possible, in line with the Town of Arnprior's core values as laid out in the Strategic Plan (Forward-thinking, Accountable, Inclusive and Respectful). The non-gendered options (Options #3 and #4), previously presented to Council, are in line with modern industry standards when it comes to public buildings. Though there are widespread examples of gender-neutral, all-gender and universal washrooms throughout Canada, few have photos online to confirm whether handwashing amenities are in shared spaces or not. Examples of this type of design that have been implemented and have photos available online confirming shared amenities are:

- Municipal facilities
 - Ottawa City Hall
 - Aquatic facilities (Toronto since 2012, Cambridge, Russell)
 - Libraries (Edmonton Calder Public Library)
- Educational facilities
 - Elementary Schools (Sunshine Coast School District 46, Parkcrest Burnaby - both in British Columbia)
 - High Schools (Cowichan Valley School District, BC, Dene HS in La Roche, SK)
 - Post Secondary institutions (University of British Columbia)
- Other Industries
 - Airports (Port of Seattle, USA)
 - Malls (Yorkdale Shopping Centre, Toronto)

Responses from the public were mixed, however data has indicated that there was discomfort among many with what was presented as “non-gendered” options due to shared space (hand washing area in the common hallway). However, the concept of a “family washroom” option was generally positively received. Opinion appeared to be polarized between Option #1 (49%) and Option #4 (24%) with Options #2 and #3 receiving comparatively less interest. There were comfort-based opinions expressed around gender from both factions.

The following themes were present in the qualitative data presented in responses to this item:

- **Accessibility**
- **Safety**
- **Convenience for Families**
- **Privacy & Discomfort**
- **Cleanliness**
- **Change Space**
- **Preference for Urinals**
- **Climate Control (Year-Round Access)**

Change space is addressed by the change stalls to be implemented as part of Phase 1A as outlined above as well as planned change stalls at the waterfront in Phase 2.

Seasonal Operation

The most consequential factor when it comes to costing is whether the facility is intended to become operational year-round. Currently the washrooms are open from the May long weekend to around Thanksgiving, weather dependent. There are still park users in the colder months and the waterfront trail and park in general is well used throughout the winter.

Lack of public washroom space is a complaint that is often received by the Recreation department and improving access to existing public washroom facilities was identified as a priority action in the Age Friendly Community Plan. Operating a washroom year-round at Robert Simpson Park would provide an increased level of service by adding to the compliment of public washrooms already provided by the Town at the Nick Smith Centre, Library and Museum.

Though peak demand in this park is typically in the summer, the demand for recreation amenities exists year-round. Projects that offer year-round amenities typically are also evaluated more favourably by grant funders. In the coming years, the intent is to implement an outdoor rink (puddle rink) in the event space in front of the gazebo. It would be decided now whether that rink would be serviced with portable restrooms or a heated washroom.

The opportunity to implement a four-season washroom in Robert Simpson Park only exists with significant investment. Retrofitting a structure more frequently than in 20-year intervals is not in line with typical asset management values. The choice would have to be made now on whether to implement this increased level of service in the current project or defer this level of service to be reconsidered in approximately 20 years.

Recommendation

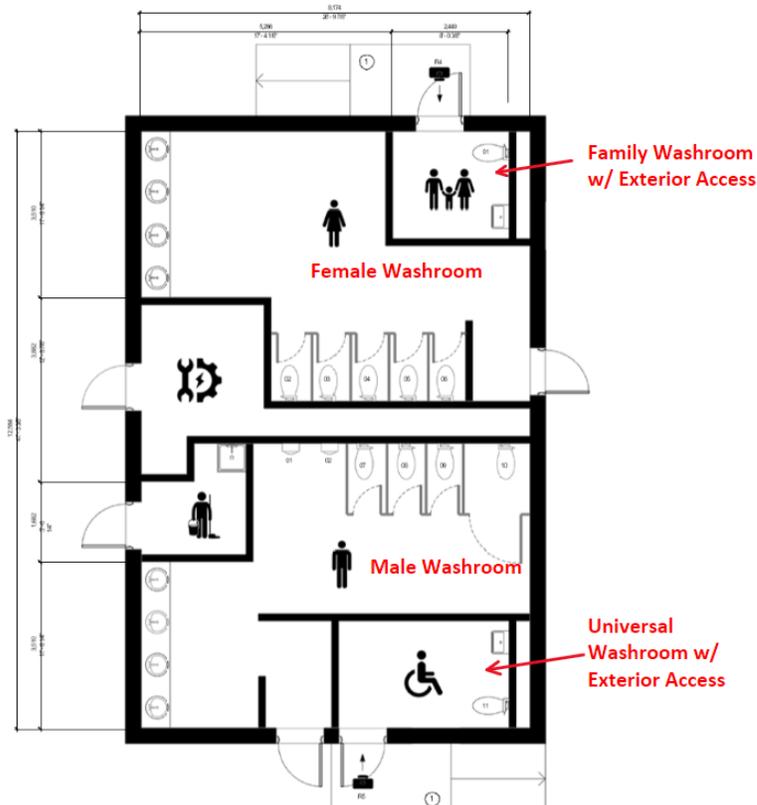
There are two approaches to proceeding with the washroom component of this project that offer two different service levels.

1. Approach #1 – Renewal (Proceed with Option #1 seasonal retrofit) \$300,000
2. Approach #2 – New Build (Four Season, Single user design) & design \$875,000

Staff are recommending Approach #2 – New Build - as it provides a significant improvement to level of service in line with the Age Friendly Community Plan and Multi-year Accessibility Plan.

Approach #1 – Renewal

Figure 4 – Washroom Design Option #1



The renewal approach of implementing Option #1, pictured above, is the closest to a “like for like” design where a male and female washroom remains with single user washrooms added to both sides of the building. This option includes changing out fixtures, stalls and refreshing the esthetic appearance of the washroom while providing an improved level of service. For most of the factors listed below, the improvements are limited to the two single user washrooms, however the entire structure would become more accessible. These improvements are significantly reduced in comparison to the Approach #2. It should also be noted that, at higher traffic times, those that wish to use the universal or family washroom would be more likely to have to wait in this design than in Approach #2.

This achieves or partially achieves an improvement to:

- **Accessibility**
 - Provides one universal and two accessible options.
 - Provides two spaces where individuals can enter with caregivers of a different gender.
- **Safety**

- Provides two spaces for Inclusivity for trans and non-binary people: The design provides an option for a safer, more welcoming space, and helps reduce feelings of vulnerability, harassment, or abuse.
- **Convenience for Families**
 - Access to a change table would be in two rooms accessible to anyone.
- **Privacy & Discomfort**
 - Provides two single user washrooms that are more private.
- **Preference for Urinals**
 - Allows for two urinals in male washroom.

This design option does not achieve an improvement to:

- **Cleanliness**
- **Climate Control (Year-Round Access)**

Washroom Option #1, does offer an improved level of service in comparison to the existing structure at a significantly lower budget price of approximately \$300,000. The drawback to this approach is that it is less inclusive and does not offer the increased level of service of being a four-season structure.

The existing washroom was constructed in 1986, and the Town typically plans for an 80-year lifecycle. This refresh occurring halfway through the anticipated life of the structure is appropriate from an asset management perspective.

The industry standards around the design of public buildings have evolved significantly over the past 20 years, particularly when it comes to washrooms and changing areas. Based on current trends, it appears likely that this layout will be considered outdated for a public park within the next 15 years. It is also likely that public desire for additional restroom availability will continue to increase as the Town continues to grow so there may be further pressure for a year-round structure prior to the end of this building's useful life.

Considering the remaining estimated useful life of the facility and cost of retrofit, it is not recommended to winterize the existing structure.

Approach #2 – New Build

Using the existing building footprint, it is difficult to balance a family friendly, inclusive and accessible design against the negative public sentiment around shared common elements. Retrofitting doors all the way along the exterior load bearing walls, rerouting plumbing and upfitting a new washroom is likely to carry a cost of \$500k+ whereas a new structure could likely be implemented for approximately \$875k. A newly constructed washroom could also be a year-round facility as opposed to the existing seasonal washroom.

Figure 5: Proposed Washroom Location



In response to public feedback, staff are recommending that the design focus shifts from a “gendered” versus “non-gendered” approach to a single user model. Instead of shared amenities such as banks of sinks, a toilet and sink would be contained in each single user washroom. As with all non-gendered options presented, there would be no stalls, rather rooms accessible from the exterior of the building. Single user washrooms are present in every household, Town-owned facilities and this approach is becoming common in newly constructed buildings in Arnprior and elsewhere. Note that a universal washroom is a larger version of a single user washroom with accessible features such as door operators. Familiar examples would be Town Hall, the Arnprior Library, the Museum, the Hospital or local fast-food locations. Examples of this style of public washroom design are widespread and have become the norm.

Figure 6: Universal Washroom Example



Figure 7: Single User Washroom Example



The proposed single user design model would incorporate both single user washrooms and multiple universal washrooms. Not all washrooms would be universal only for the sake of fitting more washrooms into a reasonable building footprint.

A single user washroom design model addresses most concerns provided from the public.

- **Accessibility:**
 - Inclusivity for people with disabilities: These spaces accommodate people who use mobility-aids, and those who have a caregiver of a different gender.
- **Safety:**
 - Parents or caregivers sending their children into separate single user washrooms alone would be able to stand outside with a line of sight to both washroom doors.
 - Inclusivity for trans and non-binary people: The design creates safer, more welcoming spaces, and helps reduce feelings of vulnerability, harassment, or abuse.
- **Convenience for Families**
 - Parents or caregivers can use the same washroom as other family members, making it easier to support young children or dependents.
 - Single user washrooms allow for change tables to be present in some rooms for anyone to use.
- **Privacy & Discomfort:**
 - Design elements promote privacy, comfort and safety for all users, while the openness and connection in central areas promotes safety (i.e. increased visibility reduces some opportunities for vandalism).
 - For day camp, daycare and school group programming, adults can supervise while still ensuring the child's privacy.
- **Cleanliness:**

- Greater flexibility for cleaning and maintenance: Facility staff can access any washroom at any time for cleaning. In a gendered washroom, however, cleaning must be scheduled or the space temporarily closed.
- Universal access also eliminates the possible uncomfortable experience of encountering cleaning staff of the opposite gender in a gendered washroom.
- Additionally, one washroom can be taken offline for deep cleaning as needed without disrupting overall level of service.
- **Climate Control (Non-Seasonal Access)**
 - This option provides the opportunity to insulate and provide heated space year-round.
- **Increased Level of Service:**
 - By design, single user and universal design facilities can accommodate a greater number of users than gender-specific facilities.
 - The rooms with diaper change stations would be accessible to anyone and multiple caregivers at the same time.

The preference for urinals was expressed in the qualitative comments received. The choice would be available to implement rooms with both toilets and urinals; however, this would require large washrooms, carrying a cost impact.

The pump station in the existing washroom building would likely have to be expanded to an extent to facilitate larger flows from the new washroom structure. The existing building will be used as storage temporarily until the design is finalized for the next stages. The existing washroom can likely remain in service until the new washroom is constructed.

Canteen

The canteen was not to be included as part of the scope of this project though there have been concerns highlighted with the accessibility to the service counter in the past. As per *Figure 6*, the proposed location for the new washroom would require demolition of the existing canteen. The existing washroom has a larger, more customizable footprint than the existing canteen building.

The total annual rental revenue from the existing canteen is typically \$1,500. At this rate (or even double this rate), when considering initial construction, operating and maintenance costs, cost recovery will likely never be achieved. As examples of maintenance costs, a stove was replaced in 2025 at a cost of \$971 and the roof was replaced in 2019 for \$7,775. The other pieces of equipment housed in the existing canteen are nearing the end of their useful lives. Based on the limited revenue food businesses typically achieve in this location, the space is unlikely to be rentable at a higher rate. To include a canteen into a newly constructed washroom building would likely increase the cost by \$100,000+ and this is not recommended.

Though the Town does not see cost recovery from the canteen, a food vendor in the space is a benefit to park users. It is proposed that a vendor utility hookup be provided from a concrete pad nearby to the buildings to allow for food vendors to set up stands or trucks under similar lease agreements to the existing canteen arrangement. This allows the park to maintain the same level of service when it comes to food amenities while minimizing the costs to the Town. Further there is flexibility on vendor locations including closer to the waterfront as the phases of this project progress.

Establishing permitted vendor stations provides the opportunity to have a rotating vendor list so that there are different offerings on different weekends throughout the summer for park

users. This also allows the opportunity for more local food businesses to set up in the park temporarily without committing to a seasonal operation. Note that free water bottle filling stations will be implemented as part of this project.

Consideration was given to alternative locations however it is recognized that there is considerable value to having more open green space in this park. To build a third building would remove recreation space from the park and this is not recommended.

History

There were some comments around the history of the site and acknowledgements of indigenous peoples that would have lived on the land prior to European settlement. The play structures and splashpad are woodland themed which provide a soft reference to the logging history of the Town of Arnprior. This logging history is particularly important to this property, considering it was once part of the lumber baron Daniel McLachlin's estate. Based on feedback and internal discussions, Town staff began to explore opportunities for more explicit historic references in the design.

Several municipalities and institutions have included circular gathering and reflection spaces into their landscaping such as the Last Duel Park Healing Circle in Perth and the Awen' Gathering Place in Collingwood. The proposed overall park design has many circular elements, and a circular reflection space would fit well. Circles are prominent in various elements of indigenous cultures. It is proposed to position this feature in the quieter area of the park closer to the cemetery.

Figure 8: Proposed Location for Cultural Gathering Place



Figure 9: Perth Last Duel Park Healing Circle



Figure 10: Collingwood Awen' Gathering Place



It is recommended that Council direct staff to consult with an appropriate indigenous organization on how to best implement a gathering space feature in this space. Construction is proposed to be implemented as part of Phase 1B of Robert Simpson Park in 2027.

A separate Wayfinding Signage project is also included in the proposed 2026 Capital budget. This presents an opportunity to make historic resources that much more present in public spaces. Signs with historic information and QR codes linking to dedicated Town webpages on historic events, people and concepts, building on the historic information gathered during the Millenium trail project in the year 2000 could be implemented with a target of 2027 completion in line with Phase 1B.

Design Refinements

The fountain at the south end of Robert Simpson Park has been a maintenance issue for the past few years and there have been discussions about the best use of that space in the new design. With the implementation of new and expanded elements, staff believe that converting this space to green space is most appropriate. The fountain is intended to be removed as part of Phase 1A.

The concrete staircase is not compliant to current codes, was installed in the 1950s and is reaching the end of its useful life. To replace the staircase with a code compliant version

would likely carry a cost of approximately \$500,000. The intent is to demolish the staircase in Phase 1B when the new accessible ramp is constructed to more safely link the upper and lower parks.

Options:

Council may choose to direct staff to pursue a different sequence of tasks or to proceed with a lesser or greater scope than that which is recommended. It should be noted that full washroom and shoreline modifications cannot realistically be completed in 2026 based on available information.

Council may direct staff to implement the Approach #1 washroom; however, it is likely that a structure that is four seasons and/or more family friendly would be requested from the public prior to the end of the lifecycle of the amenity.

Council may choose to direct staff to pursue different design elements within the upper park, though it should be noted that the scale of the change may impact timeline.

Policy Considerations:

The design to be implemented is in line with recommendations from the Waterfront Masterplan and Parks & Recreation Master Plan recommendations. These projects will be tendered in accordance with section 6.3 request for tender of the Town of Arnprior's Procurement Policy.

The Town's 2023-2025 Multi Year Accessibility Plan lists the following goals for Robert Simpson Park, all of which are being addressed in the proposed implementation plan.

- Make the washrooms fully accessible
- Install an accessible pathway into the water on the beach area
- Install an accessible pathway to the Canteen, Gazebo, Splash Pad, and Playground.
- Lower the service counter at the Robert Simpson Park Canteen building.

The 2025 Age-Friendly Community Plan also lists improving access to existing public washroom facilities as a priority action.

The Town's Strategic Plan outlines the organization's core values as: Forward thinking, Accountable, Inclusive, and Respectful. The proposed design is in line with these values.

Financial Considerations:

The budget amounts for implementation of the Robert Simpson Park improvements are:

	Year	Approach #1	Approach #2
Design	2024-2026	\$683,457.57	\$683,457.57
Phase 1A	2026	2,520,000.00	2,520,000.00
Phase 1B	2027	1,085,000.00	1,660,000.00
Phase 2	2032	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00

Total Budget		\$10,288,457.57	\$10,863,457.57
--------------	--	-----------------	-----------------

The costs associated with the different approaches to constructing the washroom renewal are as follows:

1. Approach #1 – Renewal (Proceed with Option #1 seasonal retrofit) \$300,000
2. Approach #2 – New Build (Four Season, Single user design) & Design \$875,000

The LRCF budgeted values are based on the renewal option and data currently available. As the remainder of the design progresses, costs will be further refined. The net increase to the LRCF for Phase 1B to implement Approach #2 would be \$575,000.

As presented in the previous Council meeting regarding this project, there are many factors still being explored so costing on the Phase 2 Shoreline Modification and Lower Park scope is not yet refined. Current projections are in the order of magnitude of \$5-8 million. The Phase 1A costing also includes further studies and design work such as geotechnical and additional phases of archaeological studies required to progress the future phase designs.

This project is planned to be funded 85% by the Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund (CERF) and 15% by Development Charges (DCs).

Meeting Dates:

- July 8, 2024 - Award of Robert Simpson Park Revitalization Design to Stantec Consulting
- July 14, 2025 – Implementation Plan for Robert Simpson Park Refresh
- November 10, 2025 – Concept Presentation to Council
- November 13, 2025 – Public Open House
- November 19, 2025 - Concept Presentation to Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee

Consultation:

- Stantec Consulting
- Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee
- Public Consultation – November 10-23, 2025

Documents:

N/A

Signatures

Reviewed by Department Head: John Steckly

Reviewed by General Manager, Client Services/Treasurer: Jennifer Morawiec

CAO Concurrence: Robin Paquette

Workflow Certified by Town Clerk: Kaila Zamojski



ARNPRIOR
• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •

Robert Simpson Park Refresh

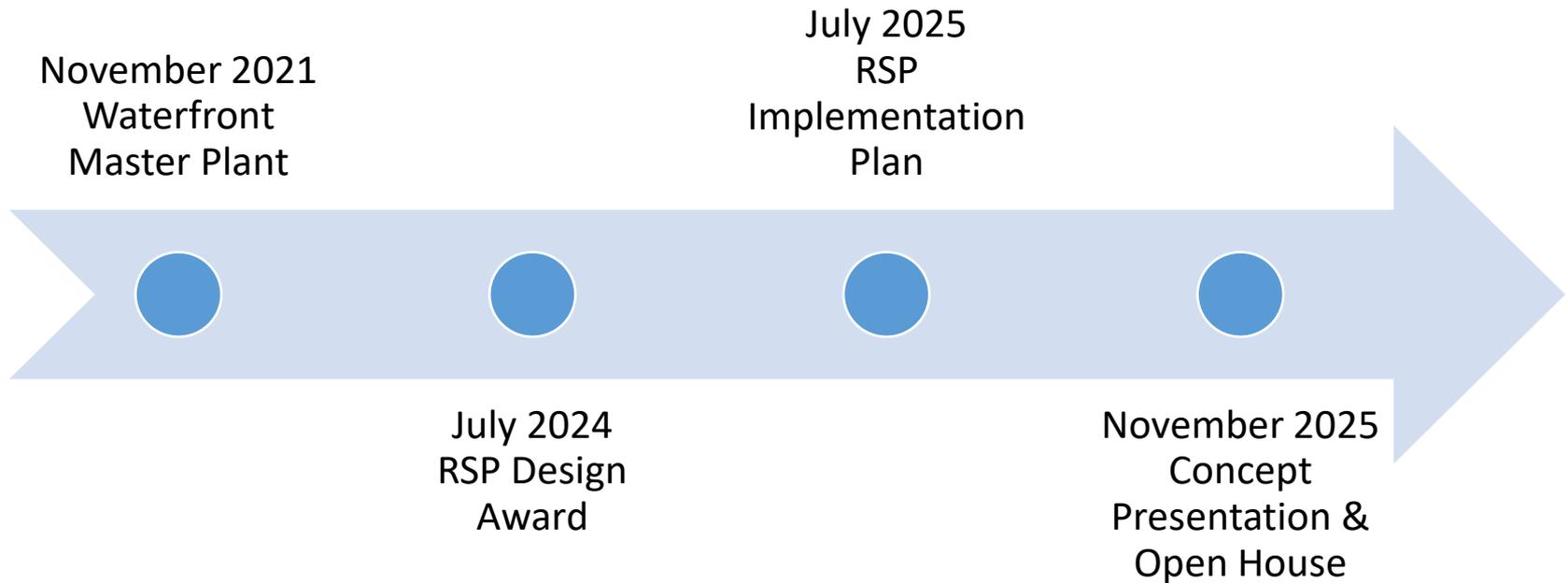
**Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer,
Facilities & Assets**

Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation

Meeting Date: January 26, 2026



Background





LOWER PARK

- 12** BREAKWATER STRUCTURE
- 13** ELEVATED BEACH AREA
- 14** BOARDWALK
- 15** BEACH PLAZA
- 16** SEASONAL CHANGE HUTS
- 17** SMALL BOAT RENTAL KIOSK

UPPER PARK

- 1** ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY WITH LIGHTING
- 2** ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN RAMP WITH LIGHTING
- 3** PICNIC PLAZA
- 4** UPPER VIEWING PLAZA
- 5** WING PLAZA (PROVISIONAL)
- 6** JUNIOR PLAY AREA
- 7** SENIOR PLAY AREA
- 8** SPLASH PAD
- 9** PLAYGROUND PLAZA
- 10** PARKING UPGRADES
- 11** WASHROOM UPGRADES

56 PROPOSED STALLS (54 EXISTING)

EVENT AREA

11

2

14

13

15

14

10

3

A

4

B

10

11

1

5

6

9

8

7

1

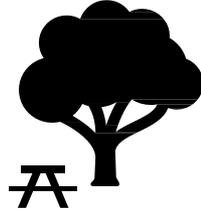
Revised Phasing

UPPER PARK



Accessibility, Connectivity & Inclusivity:

- » Accessible pathways to connect park amenities
- » Accessible pedestrian ramp to the beach
- » Accessible and inclusive washrooms
- » Accessible parking upgrades



Visitor Experience:

- » New seating and picnic areas
- » Drinking fountains and recycling / waste receptacles
- » Urban Canopy Renewal



Celebration & Play:

- » Renewed Children Play Area (splashpad + play structures)

LOWER PARK



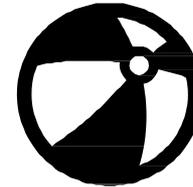
Waterfront Experience:

- » Breakwater / Pier reinstatement
- » Accessible boardwalk extending the waterfront experience
- » Shoreline protection (vegetation and retaining walls)



Visitor Experience:

- » New seasonal change huts at the beach
- » Urban Canopy Renewal



Celebration & Play:

- » Sand Area Upgrades (addition of volleyball courts)

PHASE 1A
(UPPER PARK, 2026)

PATHWAYS & LIGHTING
+
PLAY STRUCTURE
+
SPLASHPAD

PHASE 1B
(UPPER PARK, 2027)

WASHROOMS
+
ACCESSIBLE PATH TO WATERFRONT
+
GATHERING SPACE

PHASE 2
(LOWER PARK, FUTURE)

BREAKWATER / PIER
+
BOARDWALK
+
SAND AREA UPGRADES

Public Consultation

Survey open November 10-23, 2025; Publicized via

- Social media
- Website updates
- Physical signage
- Outreach to schools
- Radio
- Paper surveys



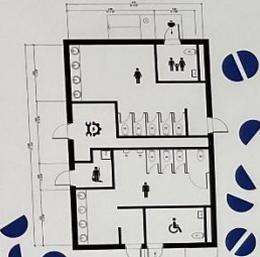
Public Consultation

- Open House November 10th, 2025
- 366 surveys completed
- 3 classroom submissions
- 30 in-person voters
- 80% of respondents were Arnprior residents
- Combined 468 responses equivalent to approximately 10% of Arnprior households



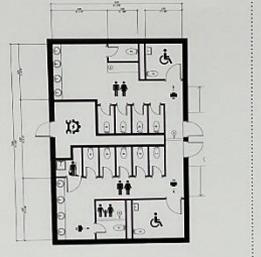
ROBERT SIMPSON PARK REFRESH
Conceptual Design

WASHROOMS - ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES



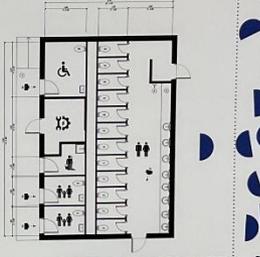
OPTION 1
Family & Accessible Washroom

- Two separated washroom spaces.
- The exterior entrances are reconfigured to suit new layout.
- Addition of two individual washrooms accessible from the exterior.
- No relocation of sinks or toilets.
- Two urinals are still provided.
- Relocation of the Janitor Room with exterior access.
- Refresh of finishes and toilet partitions to create private stalls.



OPTION 2
Universal Washroom

- Two connected washroom spaces.
- The two exterior entrances are reconfigured to suit new layout.
- Addition of two individual washrooms accessible from the interior.
- No relocation of sinks.
- Removal of all urinals.
- Replacement of partition walls to create private stalls.
- Option to combine two stalls and create one additional BF stall.
- Relocation of the Janitor Room with interior.



OPTION 3
All-Private Washrooms

- One main washroom space.
- The exterior entrances are maintained.
- Addition of three individual washrooms with minimum dimension to existing layout, all with exterior access fronting the roadway / parking.
- All new private toilet rooms.
- All new sinks and counter space with draper changing space.
- Relocation of the Janitor Room with exterior access.



OPTION 4
Wide Washroom

- One main washroom space providing access to all washroom spaces.
- Two new large exterior openings.
- Addition of three individual washrooms.
- All new private toilet rooms.
- All new sinks and through sink.
- Relocation of the Janitor Room with interior access.

LEGEND

- FAMILY & ACCESSIBLE TOILET ROOM
- PRIVATE TOILET ROOMS
- UNIVERSAL WASHROOM
- JANITOR ROOM
- MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ROOM



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!
Use stickers and choose your favourite option.
Leave a sticky note.
Complete a comment sheet.







ROBERT SIMPSON PARK REFRESH
Conceptual Design

PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE

SPLASH PAD



OPTION 1 - BOAT ADVENTURE
Play Features



OPTION 2 - GROUND FLAT
Play Features

SHADE SHELTER



OPTION 1 - INDIVIDUAL POSTS



OPTION 2 - SAILS

SWING SET



OPTION 1 - WITH NEST SWING



OPTION 2 - PARENT/CHILD SWING

PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE



OPTION 1 - WILD ADVENTURE
Play Features



OPTION 2 - BOAT ADVENTURE
Play Features



OPTION 3 - NATURE ESCAPE
Play Features



OPTION 4 - WOOD WAVES
Play Features

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!
Use stickers and choose your favourite option.
Leave a sticky note.
Complete a comment sheet.





SPLASH PAD



OPTION 1 - BOAT ADVENTURE

» Play Features

- » Age Group: 18 months to 12 years
- » Play Value Planning:
 - Fun interactive features serving as a social gathering place.
 - Cloud-like experience giving refreshing thrills.
 - Multiple sense experiences to stimulate and develop.
 - Discovery of water textures.



OPTION 2 - GROUND PLAY

» Play Features

- » Age Group: 18 months to 12 years
- » Play Value Planning:
 - Fun interactive features encouraging movement.
 - Spray experience giving refreshing thrills.
 - Multiple sense experiences to stimulate and develop.
 - Discovery of water textures.

SHADE SHELTER



OPTION 1 - INDIVIDUAL POSTS



OPTION 2 - SAILS

SWING SET



OPTION 1 - WITH NEST SWING



OPTION 2 - PARENT/CHILD SWING

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

- » Use stickers and choose your favorite option.
- » Leave a sticky note.
- » Complete a comment sheet.



SPLASH PAD OPTION 2 - GROUND PLAY



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

» Vote for your favorite option on the summary board.



» Play Features

- » Age Group: 18 months to 12 years
- » Play Value Planning:
 - Fun interactive features encouraging movement.
 - Spray experience giving refreshing thrills.
 - Multiple sense experiences to stimulate and develop.
 - Discovery of water textures.



NOTE: While every effort will be made to provide the features shown on this plan, some revisions may be necessary during detailed design, tendering, and construction.



PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE



OPTION 1 - WILD ADVENTURE

» Play Features

- » Capacity: 86 children
- » Age Group:
 - Structure - 5 years to 12 years
 - Canoe Motion Toy - 2 years to 12 years
 - Swing Set - 18 months to 5 years
- » Accessible / Inclusive / Adaptive Elements:
 - The Structure is accessible through a transfer station and has a variety of game including therapeutic rings and counter panels.
 - The Surface Spinner is fully accessible by all users through the rubberized surfacing.



OPTION 2 - BOAT ADVENTURE

» Play Features

- » Capacity: 63 children
- » Age Group:
 - Boat Structure, Small Seated Spinner, Universal Carousel - 18 months to 12 years
 - Bird Mini Climber - 18 months to 5 years
- » Accessible / Inclusive / Adaptive Elements:
 - The Boat Structure is accessible through a transfer station and has a variety of game counters, ship themed panels, a telescope and a boat steering wheel accessible through the rubberized surfacing.
 - The Universal Carousel is fully accessible by all users through the rubberized surfacing.



OPTION 3 - NATURE ESCAPE

» Play Features

- » Capacity: 80 children
- » Age Group:
 - Structure, Chill Spinner - 5 years to 12 years
 - Cozy Dome, Boat - 18 months to 5 years
 - Cycler, OptiGear - 18 months to 12 years
- » Accessible / Inclusive / Adaptive Elements:
 - The Structure is accessible through a transfer station and has a variety of game counters and talk tubes.
 - The Chill Spinner, Ship, OptiGear panel, and Cycler are fully accessible by all users.



OPTION 4 - WOOD WAVES

» Play Features

- » Capacity: 80 children
- » Age Group: 18 months to 12 years
- » Accessible / Inclusive / Adaptive Elements:
 - Duo Spinner
 - Track Ride with Zero-G Seat
 - Ground-level Bongos
 - Ground-level Storefront Panel & Fun Seat
 - The Structure is accessible through a transfer station.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

- » Use stickers and choose your favorite option.
- » Leave a sticky note.
- » Complete a comment sheet.



PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE OPTION 1 - WILD ADVENTURE



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

» Vote for your favorite option on the summary board.



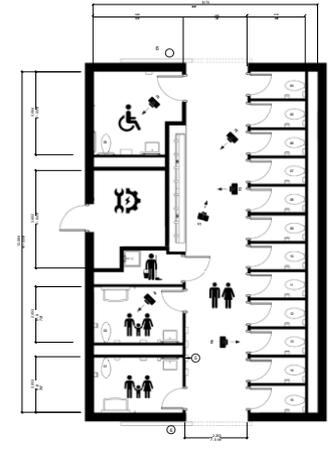
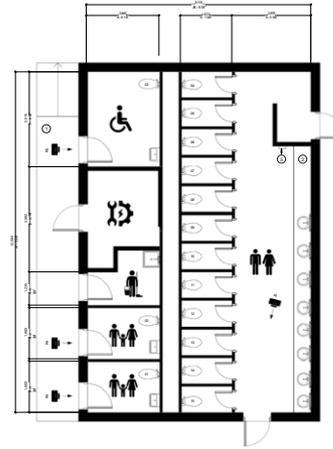
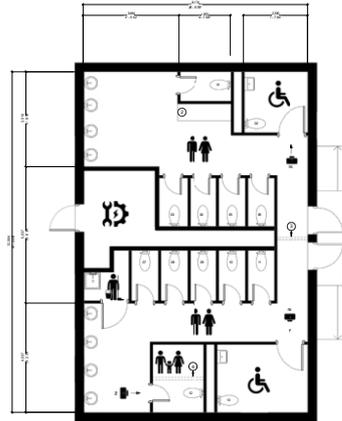
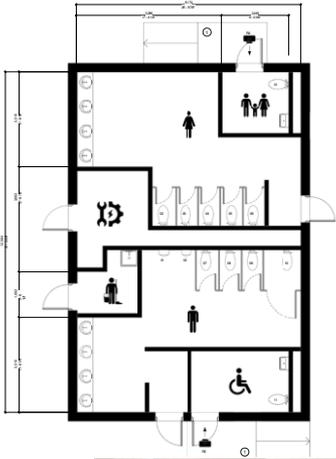
» Play Features

- » Capacity: 86 children
- » Age Group:
 - Structure - 5 years to 12 years
 - Canoe Motion Toy - 2 years to 12 years
 - Swing Set - 18 months to 5 years
- » Accessible / Inclusive / Adaptive Elements:
 - The Structure is accessible through a transfer station and has a variety of game including therapeutic rings and counter panels.
 - The Surface Spinner is fully accessible by all users through the rubberized surfacing.



Washrooms

WASHROOMS - ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES



OPTION 1



R4 - Family & Accessible Washroom

OPTION 2



R5 - Universal Washroom

OPTION 3



R1 - Toilet Rooms

OPTION 4



R1 - Open Toilet Rooms





Guiding Principles

- Strategic Plan
 - Forward-thinking
 - Accountable
 - Inclusive
 - Respectful
- Age Friendly Community Plan
 - Deficiency in public washrooms
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
- Waterfront Master Plan
- Recreation & Parks Master Plan
 - Inter-generational design principles
 - Inclusivity, accessibility and equitability to Park amenities



Municipal Facilities



Ottawa City Hall
(Retrofit)



Cambridge Recreation Centre (New Build)



Burnaby, BC



UBC



Cowichan Valley, BC



La Roche, SK
(Retrofit)

Education Facilities

Other Industries

Yorkdale Shopping Centre, Toronto



Port of Seattle Airport, USA

Washrooms

- The following themes were present in the qualitative data presented in responses to this item:
 - Accessibility
 - Safety
 - Convenience for Families
 - Privacy & Discomfort
 - Cleanliness
 - Change Space
 - Preference for Urinals
 - Climate Control (Year-Round Access)
- Using the existing building footprint, it is difficult to balance a family friendly, inclusive and accessible design against the negative public sentiment around shared common elements.





Seasonal Operation

- Limited winter / year-round amenities
- Increased traffic due to waterfront trail improvements
- Level of service for future outdoor rink/skating amenities
- Decision point for level of service for the next 20+ years
- Increased access to public washrooms

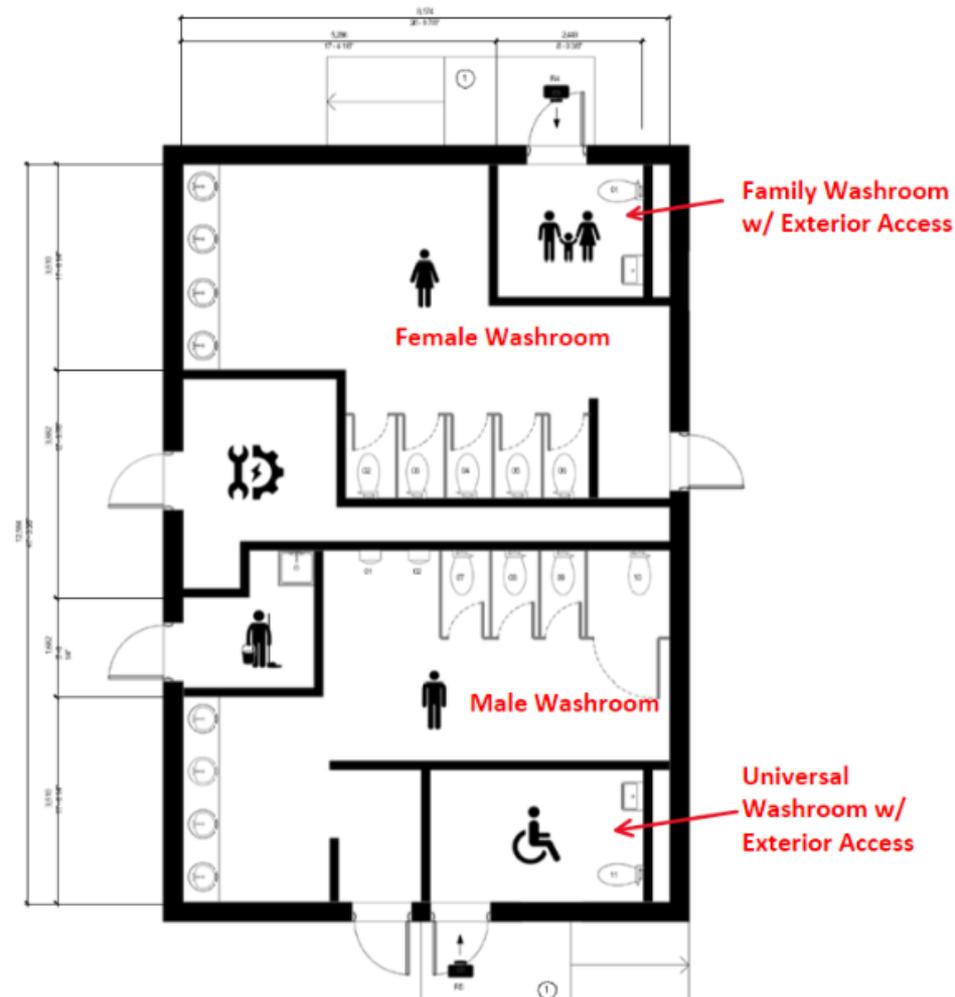
Retrofit Model

This achieves or partially achieves an improvement to:

- **Accessibility**
- **Safety**
- **Convenience for Families**
- **Privacy & Discomfort**
- **Preference for Urinals**

This design option does not achieve an improvement to:

- **Staff Operations (Maintenance/Cleanliness)**
- **Climate Control (Year-Round Access)**





Single User Design Model

- Retrofit \$500k+
- New Build \$875k
 - Ability to become four season facility
- Addresses:
 - Accessibility
 - Safety
 - Convenience for Families
 - Privacy & Discomfort
 - Cleanliness



Canteen

- Existing canteen is smaller and less flexible of a footprint in comparison to existing washroom
- Typical annual revenue of \$1,500
- Cost recovery unachievable
- Food vendor stations by permit
 - Revenue Generation
 - Multiple businesses
 - Possibility of flexible or multiple locations







Timeline

**November
2025**
Public
Consultation
on Upper Park

Summer 2026
Phase 1A
Construction

Spring 2027
Phase 1B
Construction

Spring 2026
Phase 1A
Tendering
Process

Late 2026
Shoreline
Options
Presented to
Council



Financial

- The budget amounts for the Robert Simpson Park Refresh are:

	Year	Approach #1	Approach #2
Design	2024-2026	\$683,457.57	\$683,457.57
Phase 1A	2026	2,520,000.00	2,520,000.00
Phase 1B	2027	1,085,000.00	1,660,000.00
Phase 2	2032	6,000,000.00	6,000,000.00
Total Budget		\$10,288,457.57	\$10,863,457.57

- Costs will continue to be refined as the design progresses
- The LRCF is being presented separately for Council review

Recommendations

- That Council direct staff to include a newly constructed four-season structure containing multiple single-user washrooms in the Robert Simpson Park Refresh Phase 1B design in the location of the current canteen at a net budget increase of \$575,000 and update the Long-Range Capital Forecast accordingly, and;
- That Council direct staff to include for vendor stations to replace the existing canteen within the Robert Simpson Park Refresh Phase 1B design, and;
- That Council direct staff to consult with an appropriate indigenous organization to implement a gathering space feature into the design for the Robert Simpson Park Refresh project in Phase 1B.

Questions?



• WHERE THE RIVERS MEET •