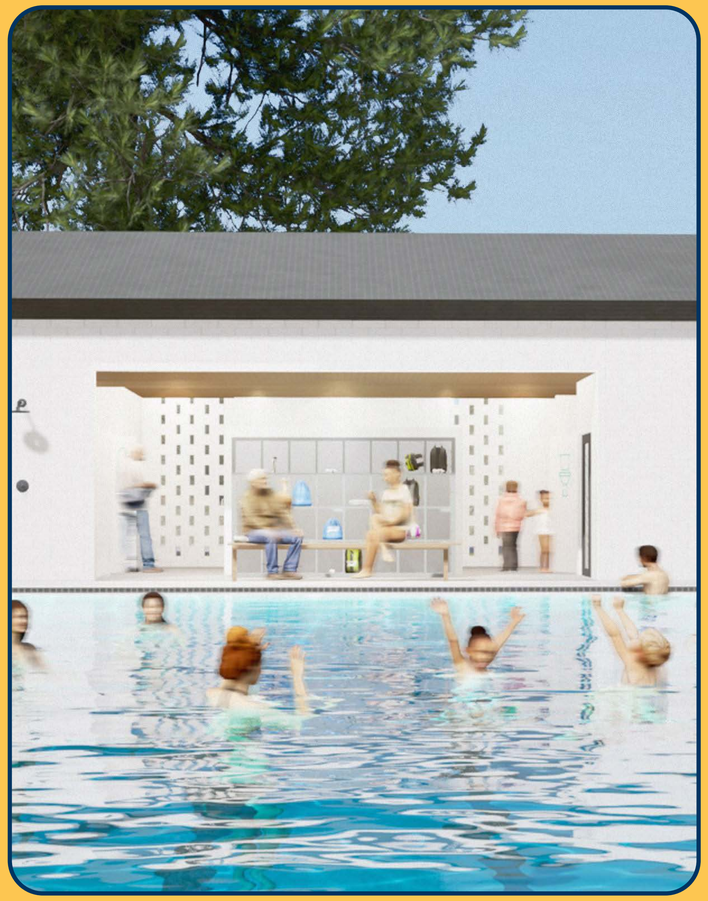
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Shape the future of Similkameen Pool and Ice Arena

Start Here



What matters most for the future of recreation in the Similkameen?

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is planning for the future of the Similkameen Ice and Sport Court Arena and Community Pool.

The pool (1971) and arena (1988) are aging and near end of life. Both facilities are expected to stop operating within the next few years if not replaced. No decisions have been made; this is early planning.

Why this matters:

For residents of all ages, recreation spaces enhance community wellbeing, mental and physical health, arts and culture, economic growth and community connection.

If no action is taken:

Facilities will close when they can no longer operate, and recreation services will be reduced or lost.

What's being explored:

- Replacement of the pool building and basin
- Replacement of the Ice Arena and sports courts
- Optional features to enhance use

Designs shown are early concepts only to provide direction and cost estimates, not final plans. All financial projections are Class D estimates (+/- 25%). All life expectancy ranges are estimates that are based on a maintained and upkept building.

Have your say:

- Share input with RDOS staff in person at local engagement events
- For further information and to complete the online survey, visit the **RDOS Regional Connections project page** at **rdosregionalconnections.ca** or scan the QR code
- Paper surveys are available to complete upon request though **rec@rdos.bc.ca** or at Similkameen Recreation Centre – 311 9th St Keremeos, BC, V0X 1N2
- A summary of the feedback received will be shared with the community

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Future Firehall

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is currently evaluating several options for the future relocation of the Keremeos & District Volunteer Fire Department.

This work is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure that fire protection services remain effective, reliable, and aligned with the needs of a growing community. A range of potential sites and facility configurations are under consideration as the RDOS assesses operational requirements, long-term sustainability, and value for taxpayers.

Early comparisons to recent builds in similar communities indicate that the possible investment could be in the range of $8-12 million. This investment reflects a facility expected to serve the community for the next 75 years or more, supporting both current and future service demands. These figures are early estimates and will be refined as planning progresses.

No decisions have been made at this time. Further analysis, engagement, and due diligence will inform future recommendations to the RDOS Board of Directors.

The RDOS will continue to keep residents informed as this work advances.

Cost Information

Who pays:

The Similkameen Ice and Sport Court Arena and Community Pool are shared recreation services funded by Electoral Areas “B” and “G” and the Village of Keremeos. To help offset costs, grant applications will be actively undertaken across all proposed designs.

Your property tax impact:

Taxes for this service apply only to taxpayer buildings (improvements), not to land.

For example, if your property includes:

Total Value (land & improvements)	Home Value (improvements only)	Taxes Only Apply to
$700,000	$300,000	$300,000

What does that mean?

For every $1 million invested in the recreation facilities, the estimated property tax impact for debt servicing is $0.66 per month (or $7.88 per year) per $100,000 of your buildings improvements (not including land).

Total Value (land & improvements)	Home Value (improvements only)	Infrastructure Investment	Additional Tax Impact
$700,000	$300,000	$1 million	+ $1.98/month ($23.76/ year)
		$3 million	+ $5.94/month ($71.28/ year)
		$5 million	+ $9.90/month ($118.80/year)

Please note that all costs shown are preliminary estimates and may change as project planning and design progress. Borrowing costs are based on current Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) rates and may vary depending on interest rates at the time financing is secured.

Have your say:

- Share input with RDOS staff in person at local engagement events
- For further information and to complete the online survey, visit the **RDOS Regional Connections project page** at **rdosregionalconnections.ca** or scan the QR code
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Similkameen Community Pool

Existing State



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Shape the future of Similkameen Pool and Ice Arena

The Similkameen Community Pool is a valued community amenity, but its existing changeroom facility is in a state of severe disrepair and has reached the end of its life cycle. Each new year of operation requires a professional inspection and approval to continue to operate.

Investing in this site is vital to preserving safe, accessible recreation for all residents.



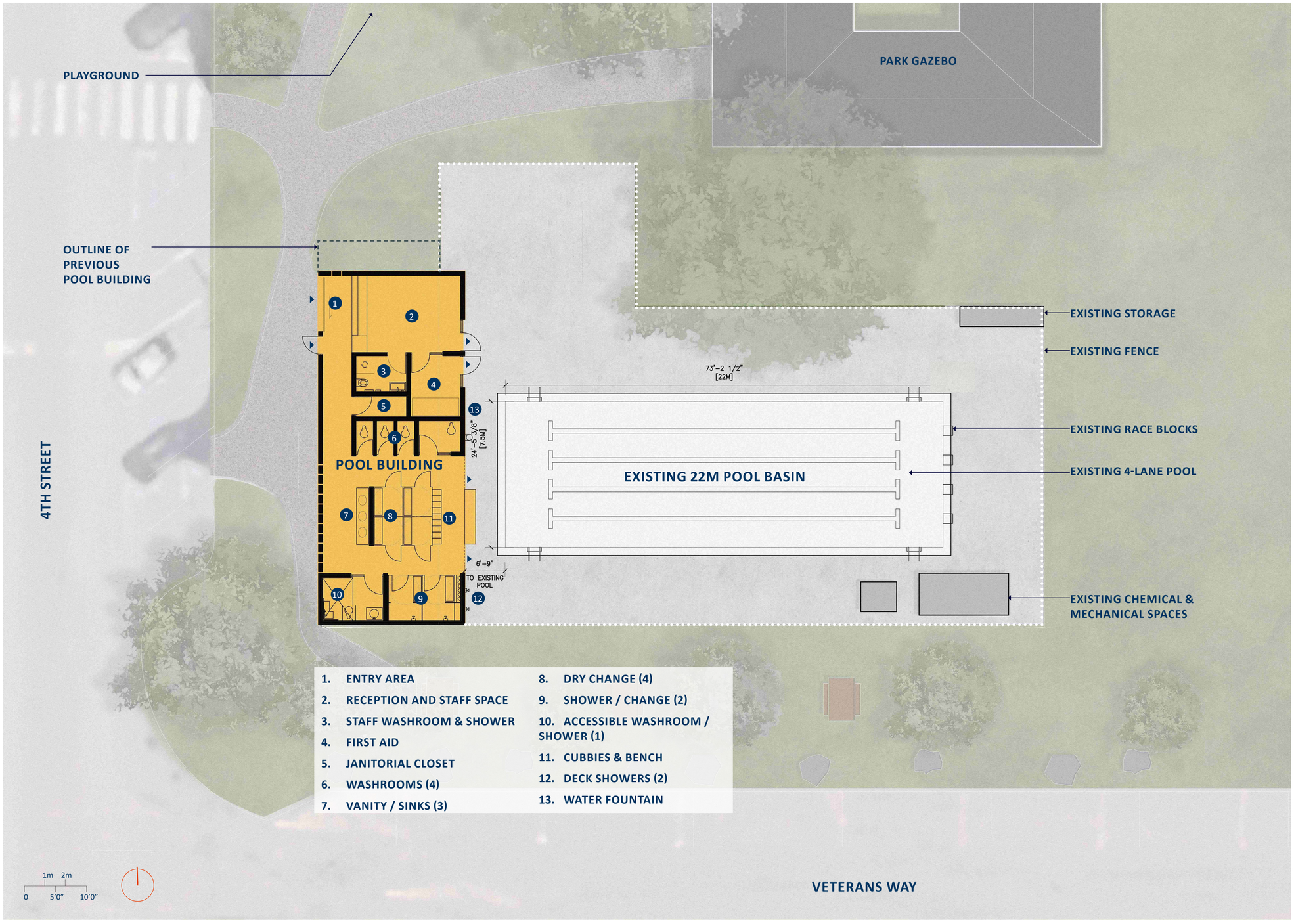


Photos of Similkameen Community Pool

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Similkameen Community Pool

Primary Needs: Pool Building Replacement



1. ENTRY AREA
2. RECEPTION AND STAFF SPACE
3. STAFF WASHROOM & SHOWER
4. FIRST AID
5. JANITORIAL CLOSET
6. WASHROOMS (4)
7. VANITY / SINKS (3)
8. DRY CHANGE (4)
9. SHOWER / CHANGE (2)
10. ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM / SHOWER (1)
11. CUBBIES & BENCH
12. DECK SHOWERS (2)
13. WATER FOUNTAIN

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Why is replacement needed?

The pool building has reached the end of its service life and is showing significant deterioration. To continue providing safe and reliable service, the existing building will need to be replaced.

Replacing the facility provides an opportunity to create a modern, accessible space that better meets the needs of residents today and into the future.

Added value:

- Accessible, gender-inclusive change rooms and washrooms
- Improved sightlines throughout the facility to support safety and supervision
- Dedicated first aid and lifeguard spaces
- Private staff change room and improved administrative areas
- On-deck showers and convenient storage cubbies
- Private changing and shower stalls

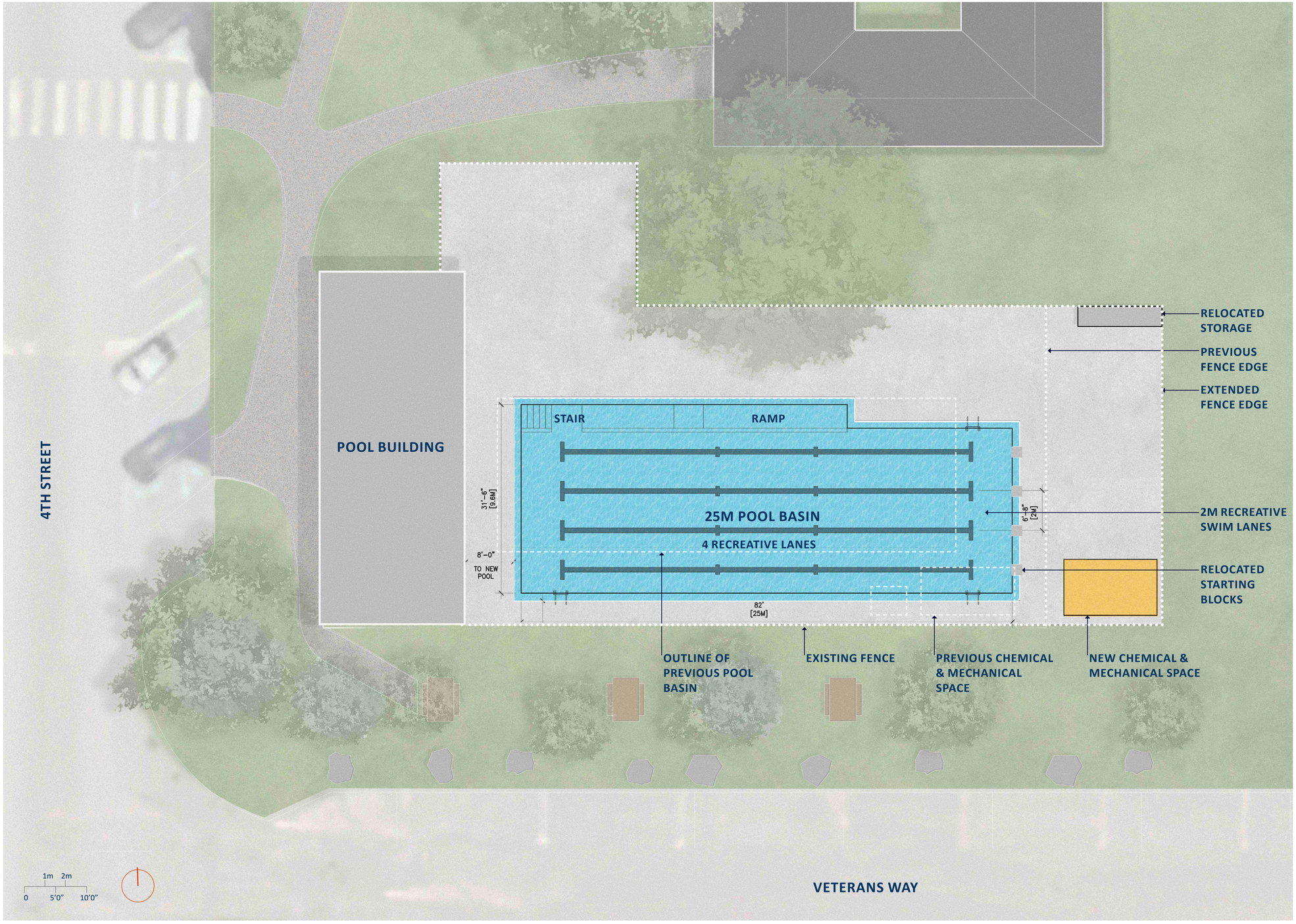
Project details:

- Life expectancy: 50-75 years (with maintenance and replacement of select building components)
- Design and construction cost estimate: $1,410,000
- + Contingency (30% of the total cost): $340,000
- Operational fiscal impacts: Low increase

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Similkameen Community Pool

Secondary Need Improvement: Outdoor Pool Basin Replacement



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This option modernizes the pool basin at the Similkameen Community Pool, improving the swimming experience through a larger-sized pool and increased accessibility.

Added value:

- A larger, 25m length pool capable of hosting Swim Club meets and community events
- Increased lane spaciousness
- A built-in, accessible ramp entry allowing individuals of different mobilities to enter the water safely and independently
- Expanded deck space for spectator seating and community gathering
- Updated infrastructure with the relocation of mechanical service spaces and the extension of the perimeter fences

Project details:

- Life expectancy: 50-75 years (with maintenance and replacement of select building components)
- Design and construction cost estimate: $2,580,000
- + Contingency (30% of the total cost): $620,000
- Operational fiscal impacts: Low increase

Note on location and leasing: *The pool land is currently leased from the Village of Keremeos. Choosing to expand the pool deck or footprint would require approval from the Village of Keremeos for an expansion of the lease into the surrounding park area.*

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Similkameen Community Pool

Replacement Pool Building & Basin



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Similkameen Community Pool

Replacement Pool Building & Basin



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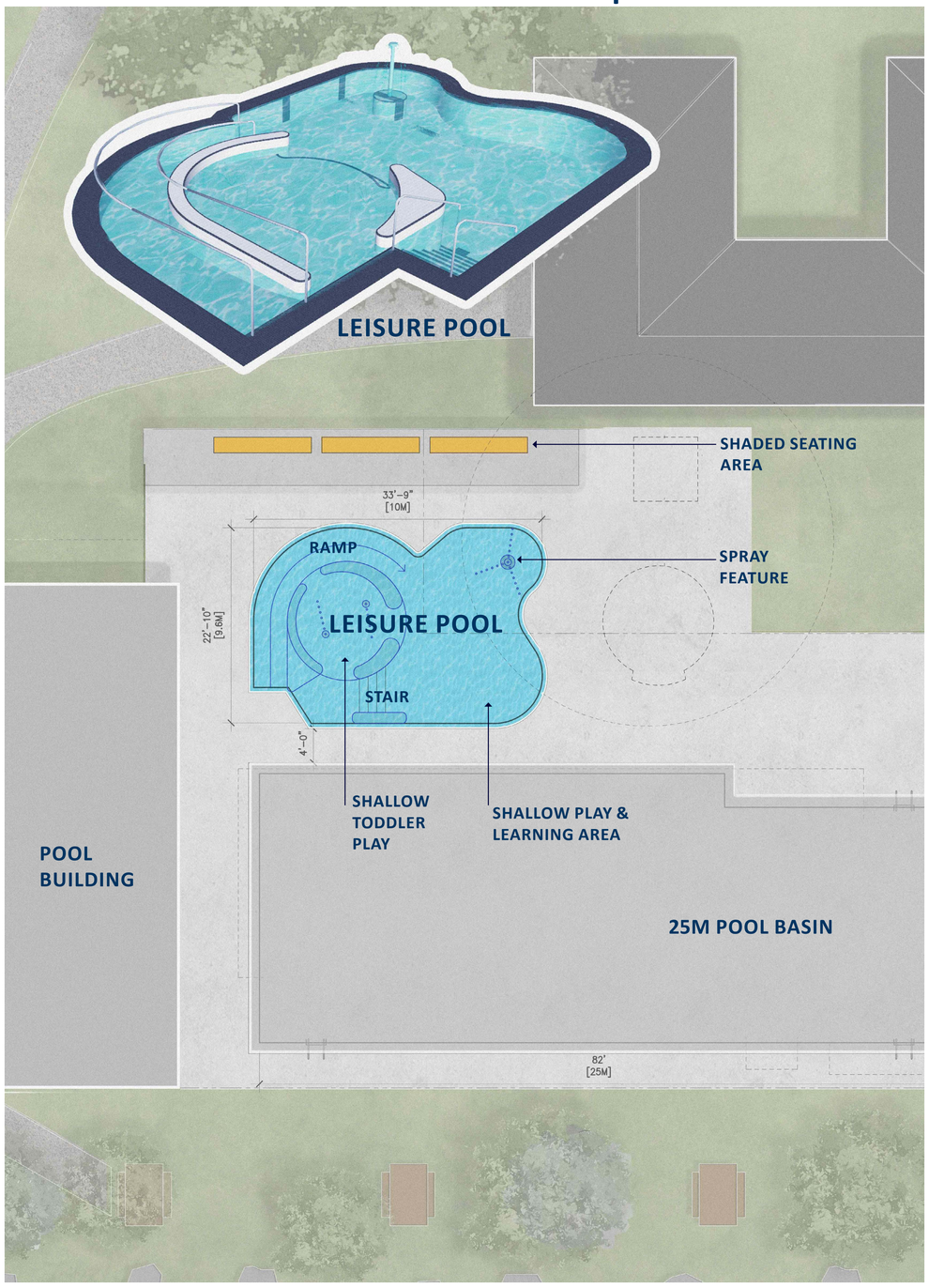
REGIONAL DISTRICT RDOS Play RECREATION OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN

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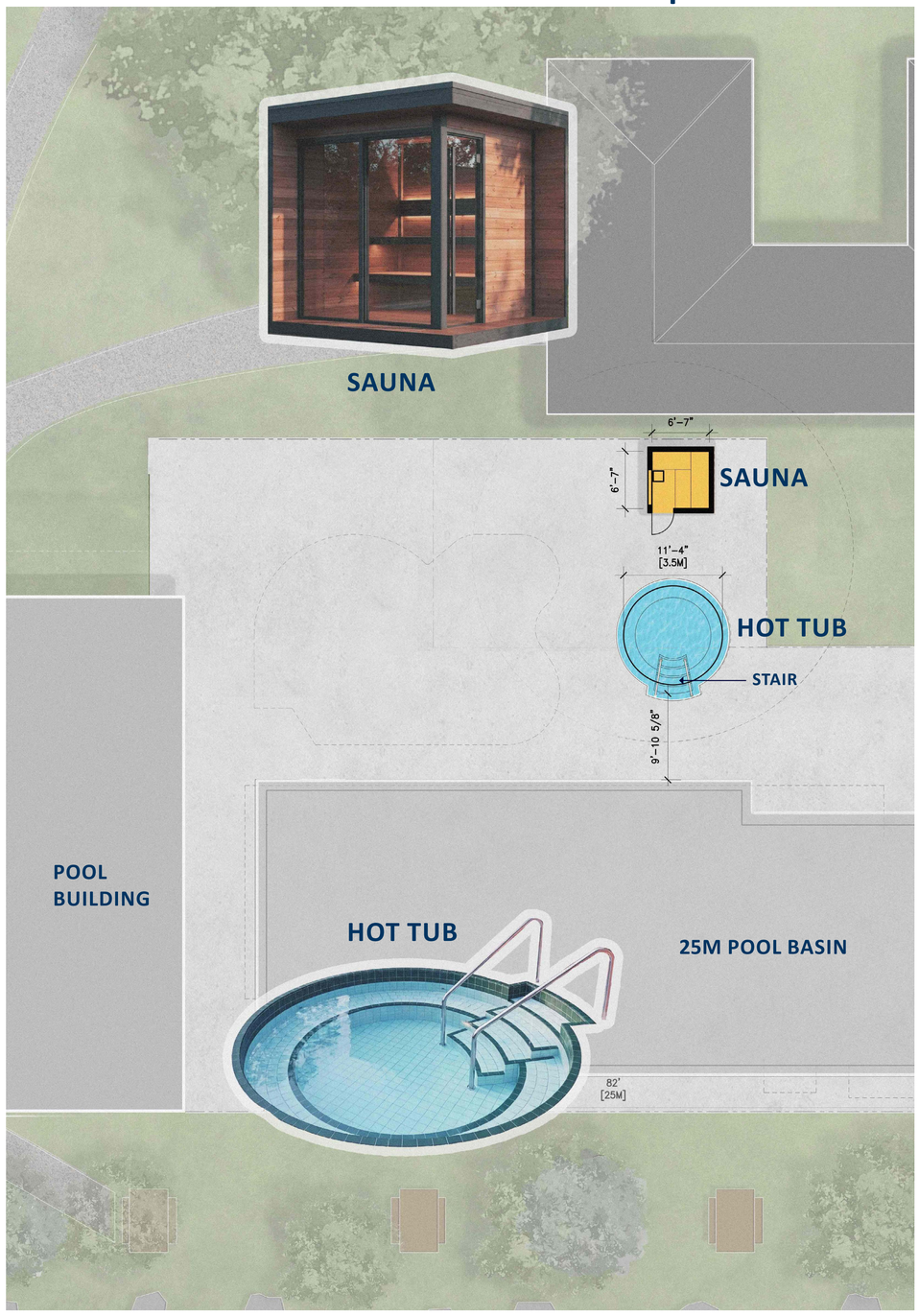
Similkameen Community Pool

Additional Aquatic Options

Additional Leisure Pool Option



Additional Hot Tub & Sauna Option



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Shape the future of Similkameen Pool and Ice Arena

These proposed specialized wellness or family-friendly features can be integrated into the final aquatics design to maximize the value of the community amenities.

Leisure Pool Option

Added value:

- Designed to host toddlers and children, featuring a shallow toddler play platform, a spray feature, and a safe place to stand, play, and offer children swimming lessons
- Life expectancy: 50-60 years (with maintenance and replacement of select building components)
- Design and construction cost estimate: $730,000
- + Contingency (30% of the total cost): $180,000
- Operational fiscal impacts: Medium increase

Hot Tub & Sauna Option

Added value:

- Introduces a dedicated wellness space, providing an area for adults, seniors, and athletes to stay warm and active during cooler periods
- Life expectancy: 30-50 years (with maintenance and replacement of select building components)
- Design and construction cost estimate: $250,000 [Hot tub] & $125,000 [Sauna]
- + Contingency (30% of the total cost): $75,000 [Hot tub] & $38,000 [Sauna]
- Operational fiscal impacts: Medium increase

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Similkameen Recreation Centre

Existing State



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Shape the future of Similkameen Pool and Ice Arena

The Similkameen Recreation Centre serves as a vital destination for multi-generational programming, fitness, and community connection.

The current Similkameen Ice and Sport Court Arena is nearing a critical state of disrepair; its structure (the brine lines) is expected to fail in the near future. Taking no action will result in the end of ice service. Replacement is required to continue public skating in the Similkameen.



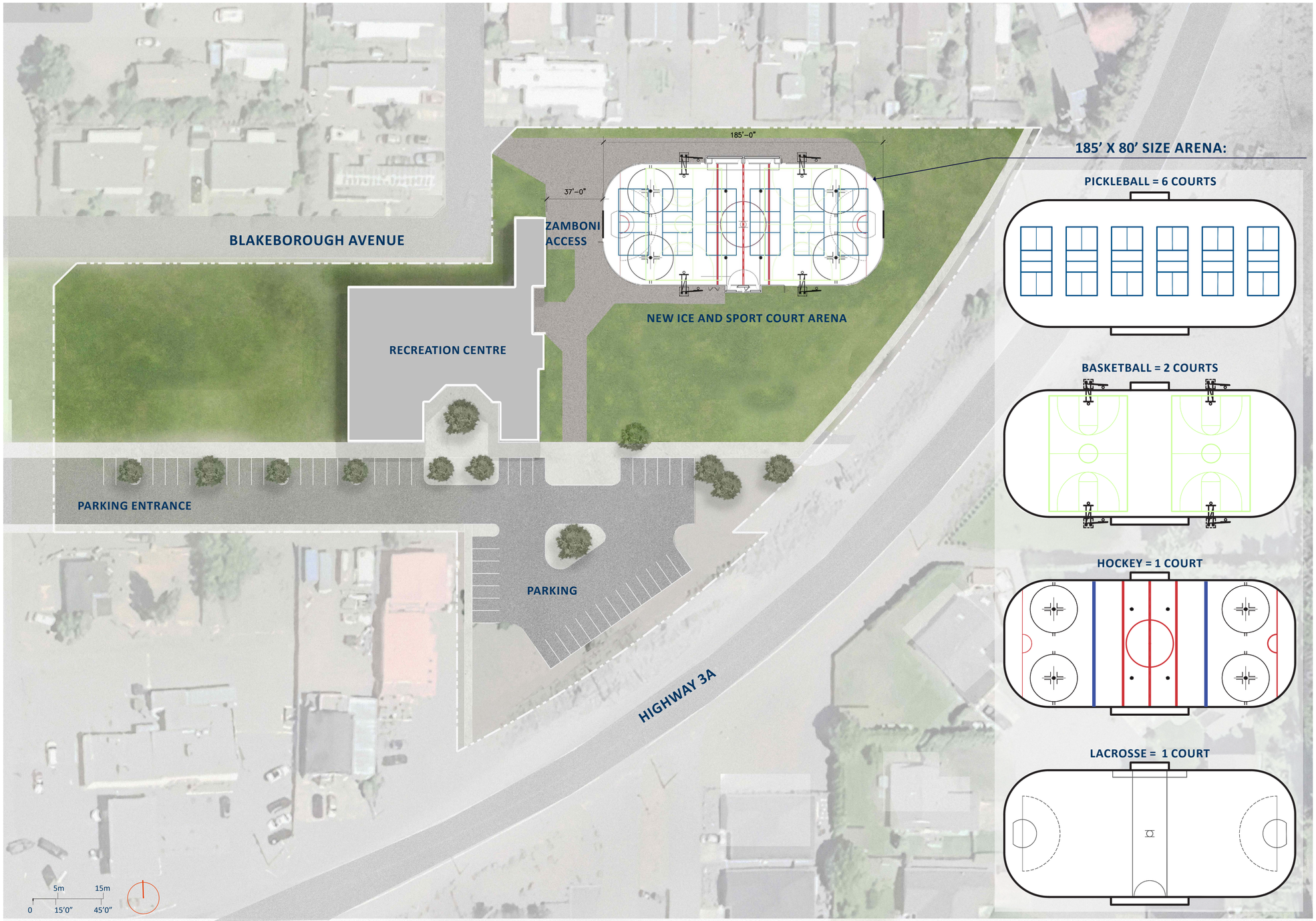


Photos of existing Ice and Sport Court Arena

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Similkameen Recreation Centre

Primary Needs: New Ice and Sport Court Arena



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This proposal replaces the failing ice arena with a year-round multi-sport rink that serves the community across all four seasons. It includes the demolition of the existing Ice and Sport Court Arena and its deteriorating infrastructure, which has reached the end of its operational life, and replaces it with an Ice and Sport Court Arena designed for maximum versatility.

Added value:

- Year-round recreation by enhancing multi-sport potential, maximizing community value
- Expands sport play, transitioning between an ice surface for skating and hockey in the winter and a sports court for basketball, pickleball, and lacrosse in warmer seasons
- Includes the replacement of expiring refrigeration components and installation of Plexiglass dasher boards to allow for higher-tier competitive usage, tournaments, and events
- Maintains the arena's current sizing while improving utility

Project details:

- Life expectancy: 50-60 years (with maintenance and replacement of select building components)
- Design and construction cost estimate: $2,840,000
- + Contingency (30% of the total cost): $660,000
- Operational fiscal impacts: Low increase

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Similkameen Recreation Centre

Primary Needs: New Ice and Sport Court Arena



Similkameen Recreation Centre

Primary Needs: New Ice and Sport Court Arena



REGIONAL DISTRICT RDOS OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

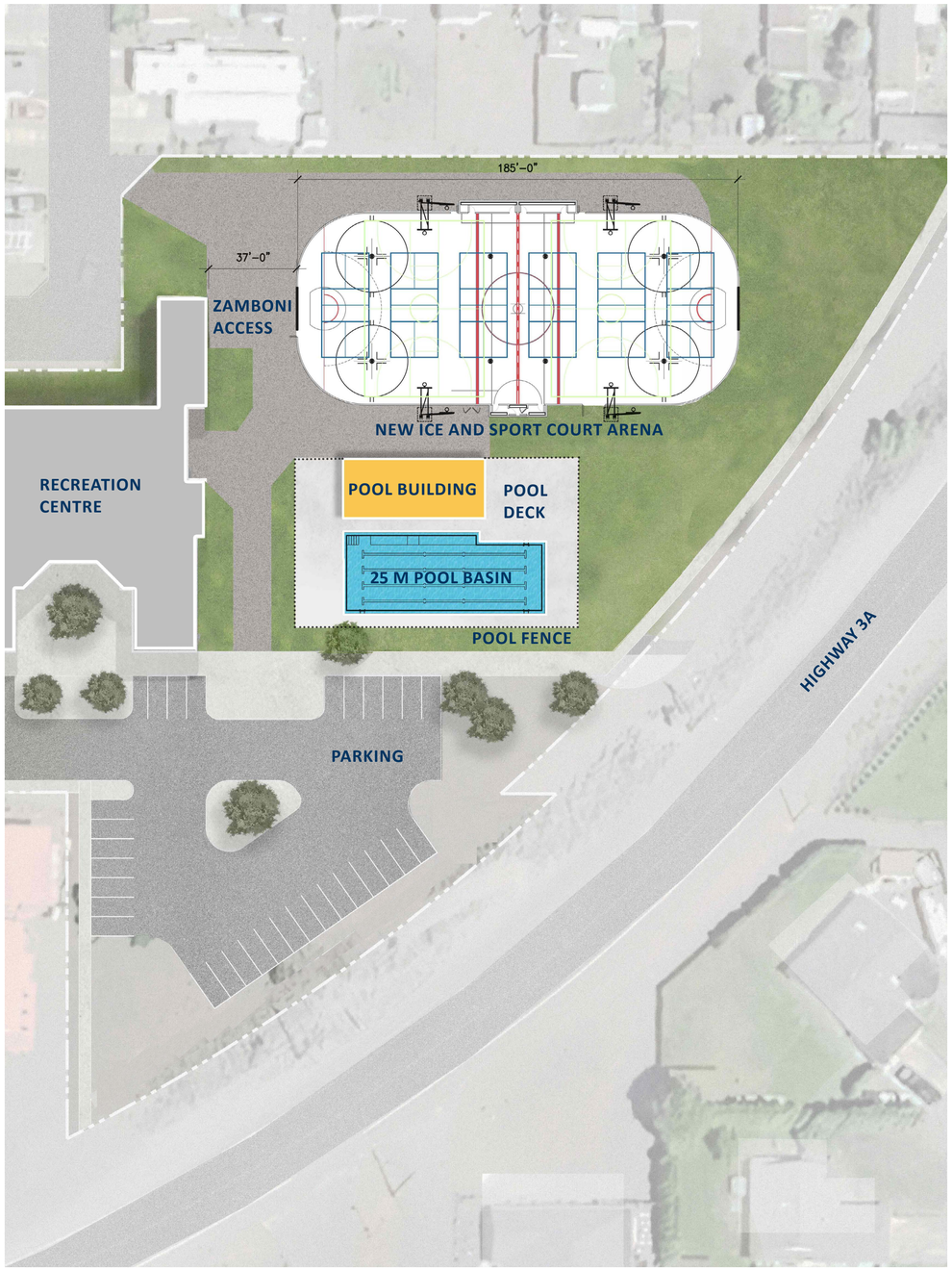
REGIONAL DISTRICT RDOS Play RECREATION OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN

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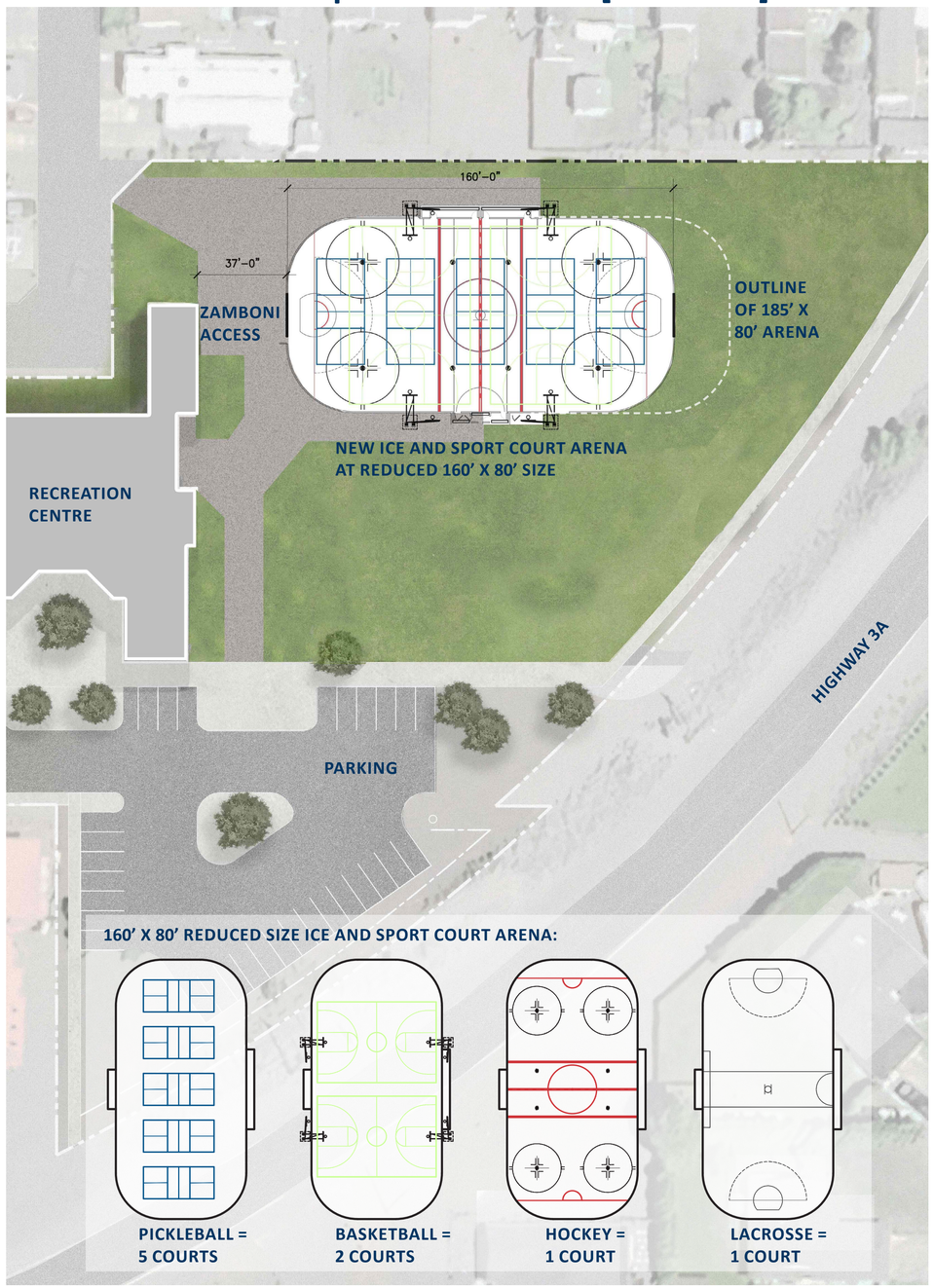
Similkameen Recreation Centre

Additional Recreation Options

Option of Relocation of Pool Building & Basin to Similkameen Recreation Centre



Option of Reduced Size of Ice and Sport Court Arena [160' x 80']



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Shape the future of Similkameen Pool and Ice Arena

These additional options are not required to maintain basic current services but represent valuable additions to consider while we have the opportunity to build.

Option of Relocation of Pool Building & Basin to Similkameen Recreation Centre

Instead of rebuilding at the existing downtown location, this option moves the new pool building and outdoor basin directly next to the Similkameen Recreation Centre. This will help reduce operating costs and improve efficiency.

Option of Reduced Size of Ice and Sport Court Arena [160' x 80']

The replacement of the current Ice Arena with an Ice and Sport Court Arena of reduced size.

Added value:

- Slightly increases the refrigeration efficiency, reduces snow clearing requirements, reduced building cost
- Life expectancy: 50-60 years (with maintenance and replacement of select building and refrigeration components)
- Design and construction cost estimate: $2,510,000
- + Contingency (30% of the total cost): $580,000
- Operational fiscal impacts: Low increase

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Shape the future of Similkameen Pool and Ice Arena

Next Steps

Thank you for participating in this important planning process.

The input you provide will help shape the community for decades to come. As you prepare to submit your feedback, please keep in mind the balance between the immediate, crucial priorities and the optional enhancements:

Immediate needs:

Replacing the deteriorating pool changeroom facilities with a new Pool Building and replacing the Ice and Sport Court Arena are critical actions required to prevent the complete closure of these services.

Optional extras:

Features like a dedicated leisure pool, a hot tub and sauna, or relocating the Similkameen Community Pool to the Similkameen Recreation Centre are valuable investments that, if undertaken, can maximize the community's amenities.



Complete the survey!

Your feedback matters. Your responses will help guide and inform the RDOS on next steps and budget priorities. A summary of the feedback received will be shared with the community

For further information and to complete the online survey, visit the **RDOS Regional Connections project page** at **rdosregionalconnections.ca** or scan the QR code.

Paper surveys are available to complete upon request, email **rec@rdos.bc.ca** or call 250.499.2400 ext. 5

Don't have time to complete the survey? Scan and save the QR code.

The survey closes Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

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