



This column is attempting to summarize 12 years of work focused on developing a new South Winnipeg Recreation Complex. Additional details can be found at [www.JaniceLukes.ca](http://www.JaniceLukes.ca) The City of Winnipeg's Recreation Policy states 1.88 square feet of heated recreation space is required per person. In 2005, before a shovel went in the ground for the development of Waverley West, South Winnipeg had the lowest recreation deficit in all of Winnipeg at 1.71 sq.ft./pp. The 2016 Stats Canada Census population count is resulting in a total of .67 sq.ft./pp. and by 2020, it will be .53 sq.ft./pp. of recreation space for residents in South West Winnipeg; well below the City Policy of 1.88sq.ft./pp.

How can this be? The 2004 the City of Winnipeg's 'Public Use Facilities Study' (PUFS) report recommended when new developments reach 15,000 people, a community centre should be built. The 2005 General Council of Community Centres 'Plan 2025' recommended regional recreation centers be developed in large emerging communities. Since 2005, Waverley Heights and Richmond Kings Community Centre community board members have been actively working with City to develop a plan, budget and timeline. In 2014 another study was conducted identifying tremendous community support for a large recreation campus in South West Winnipeg. Ironically, no land was ever set aside for a recreation facility, large or small, in the planning of Waverley West. Again, how can this be?

Quite simply, no Mayor has prioritized the development of a recreation complex in South West Winnipeg. Under the current City of Winnipeg governance model, projects prioritize by a Mayor receive support of his Executive Policy Committee and move forward. We've seen this occur with the current Mayor's priorities; the opening of Portage and Main, WIFI on buses, a downtown dog park, and other initiatives.

Since elected, this has been my top priority and I've managed to secure funding for land (\$4M) a library (\$12M) planning of land and facility development (\$350K) and potentially \$5M towards construction of the facility. I've asked for additional \$30M in capital funding to be included in the 2018 Budget's five year forecast. A recreation facility to support the population of South West Winnipeg is estimated anywhere between \$60-\$100M.

I'm working with the South Winnipeg Community Centre board to develop a message to help the Mayor understand that 68,000+ residents of South West Winnipeg require an expanded recreation facility to enable a healthy strong community. Residents may be asked to help share this message. Watch for updates.