John & Edith
Symons
RECREATION COMPLEX
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Date Posted: May 7, 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

Please be advised that the Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board will convene on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the Richland County Board Room of the Courthouse at 181 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581.

Information for attending the meeting virtually (if available) can be found at the following link:

https://symonsrec.com/info/minutes/

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approve Minutes of the March 9, 2026 regular meeting
6. Public Comment

<u>Administrative Reports</u>

7. Staff Report
8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report
9. Innovation Grant project update
10. Building Improvement update

<u>Action Items</u>

11. Consider recommending Marty Brewer Nature Trail connection to Allison Park neighborhood
12. Consider future space needs/priorities of Symons Recreation Complex

<u>Closing:</u>

13. Committee Correspondence
14. Future Agenda Items
15. Adjourn

Symons Recreation Complex
Board Minutes March 9, 2026

The Symons Recreation Complex Board met on March 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: John Cler, Rachel Schultz, Al Lins, Larry Engel and Melody Walters (online). Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were also present. 1 member of the public attended online.

1. Call to Order - Cler called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call of Membership
3. Open Meetings Compliance - Verification was met, per Hardy.
4. Approve Agenda – Engel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Lins seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2026 – Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes. Engel seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – none

Administrative Reports:

7. Staff Report – no report

8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Al Lins noted that the Foundation continues to work on setting up a new endowment fund for future SRC funding support.

9. Innovation Grant project update– Hardy reviewed information from 6 comparable facilities that staff and IPA included in the Innovation Study and noted several areas of comparison. Symons at 39 years old was by far the oldest facility, with a lack of upgrades since the 1998 addition. Also noted was the fact that the 20% subsidy received by Symons was among the lowest, with Mayville being slightly lower (17% subsidy paid entirely by City) and Bloomer at 0% (however they leased their fitness center for $80,000/yr. to private rehabilitation center and staff are partially volunteer – so not a true non-profit with accurate subsidy). Others subsidized between 26%-62% of expenses with additional capital improvements investments also provided by public funds. Also noted were membership numbers. Only Whitewater and Black River Falls had more members than Symons. Symons had 500-1700 more members than the other 4 facilities who each had larger budgets. Regarding pool hours, Symons (at 77 hours per week) was only behind Whitewater (82.5) and Black River Falls (94) but far ahead of the other 4 facilities with public pool hours available (18-46.5 hours per week). Whitewater charges over $100 per year more than Symons on memberships and Black River Falls built their pool to be 1 foot under the square footage set by the state allowing them to have part of the pool open even if no lifeguards are available.

Hardy noted that the Innovation Grant has a deadline of March 31, and would provide approximately $120,000 per year for 5 years if the County transferred Symons to another body, which could be the City, a School District, a Non-Profit or a Private organization. The City has been hinting that they may not be able to provide funding for Symons in 2027, so Symons will likely need to find a replacement for the lost subsidy. Additionally, the County budget is tightening and without the UW, the County doesn't really have a vehicle to provide Symons services as efficiently as others could to save taxpayer dollars. For example, the City has a recreation department and aquatic center with similar staff responsibilities and the school district has athletic programs and maintenance staff that may be more accustomed to Symons needs. Hardy and County Administrator Clements have been meeting with the School District Administrator to discuss interest and capabilities of the Richland School District in future operations. These talks continue as potential opportunity, however no strong non-profit candidate has shown interest or capacity yet.

10. Building Improvement Update- Hardy is working with a couple of engineers on getting estimates to develop plans and specs for HVAC, pool wall repairs and some interior remodeling (which would allow the addition of Family Changing Rooms) so that the County can solicit bids for work on HVAC and pool wall and Foundation can begin

fundraising to get the Family Rooms started. HVAC engineering bids are planned to be presented to County Public Works Committee on April 9.

Action Items:

11. Consider recommendation for future Symons management model as presented in IPA study – Hardy reviewed the IPA report which acknowledged the strong support from the community with extremely high marks from both members and non-members in every area except for the aging locker rooms. Hardy added that with over 70,000 annual visitors, Symons is the likely most visited "attraction" in Richland County, drawing far more users than the outdoor pool or senior center or any other recreation or fitness-related venue in the area. As such, in addition to other benefits, we have to consider the economic benefits that Symons brings to the City which exceeds economic benefits of any other publicly-funded recreation amenity of the area, including the outdoor pool. Also noted in the report were items specifically requested by Hardy, including the impact to taxpayers of City and County to subsidize Symons as well as what the impact to the school district taxpayers if they were to subsidize. Based on a $250,000 assessed value, City taxpayers pay just under $29 per year. County taxpayers pay just over $6 per year. If the school district provided the same ($50,000 subsidy) taxes would be just over $11 per year for taxpayers on $250,000 assessed value. Hardy also noted that while Fund 80 through school districts is another tax, they don't count against the levy, so they allow for recreational operations to continue without constant threats of being cut due to inflation and lack of net new construction for communities like Richland Center. The study reports that 5 models are available – with the current model of County-City shared (status quo) not recommended for a variety of reasons. Hardy agreed that this is a poor model that needs to change if Symons is able to be successful in the future. Another possible model is the single entity (City or County) model which the report stated is not the best idea simply due to budget limitations of both groups. Hardy clarified that this option is still possible and could be successful but would take one or the other group to prioritize Symons services more than they do now. The City could also reduce costs by combining like-positions, however the County would have difficulty as they don't have any like-departments. However, budget forecasts don't look promising, so this model is not as sound on paper. The remaining 3 options – Private, Non-Profit and School District – were noted as viable and eligible for Innovation Grant Funding which could amount to a $600,000 unrestricted grant over 5 years to help transition Symons operations. The report noted that of these, only the School District model seemed to have the ability to immediately happen locally, as no other private of non-profit had been identified with interest or ability to take on Symons. Hardy noted that he has been recommending a Fund 80 model for 2 years here and believes it could also be beneficial for other City recreation programs (and possibly even the outdoor pool) to eventually switch to that model which would create better efficiency, decrease in duplication of services, spreading costs to a larger taxbase who use the recreational facilities and programs, and combining staff to reduce costs.

After discussion, Engel noted that he liked the freedom of non-profit model and worried about some County residents ability to afford in the long term. Schultz noted that the County has a wider tax base than the City and asked about area non-profit ability to take on the scope of Symons. Walters noted that she doesn't like the School District model as she feels that just shifts the tax burden and feels that nonprofit should be pursued. Cler added that he really likes the school district model as schools are set up for similar structures as running Symons. Lins noted that the Symons Foundation might be interested as a non-profit if they had a $4 million endowment, but they don't have the financial capacities to take on Symons at this time. Engel moved to recommend to pursue either the School or Non-Profit model for future Symons operations management. Seconded by Schultz. Motion carried.

12. Consider future space needs/priorities of Symons Recreation Complex – Hardy presented an update to the floor plan (option E-1) which addresses the 3 biggest needs at SRC – 1)adding family changing rooms; 2)updating/improving current locker rooms; and 3)updating/improving weight room. Hardy reminded that the conceptual floorplan was simply draft right now and a contracted engineer will update with costs and final drawings.

Closing:

13. Committee Correspondence – None.

14. Future Agenda Items – None.

15. Adjourn—Engel made a motion to adjourn at 6:52pm. Lins seconded. Motion carried.

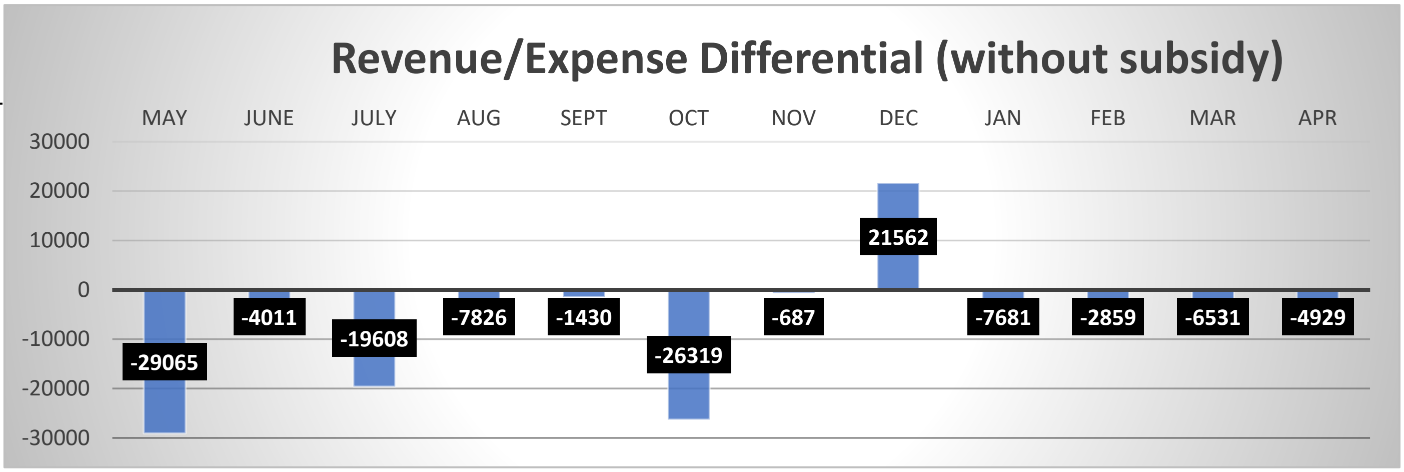
SYMONS RECREATION COMPLEX PERFORMANCE REVIEW

April 30, 2026 Financal Review

	2026 Budget	YTD	Remaining	% remain	Notes
Total Revenues	$524,830.51	$181,684.27	$343,146.24	62	*revenues 4% over target budget*
Total Expenses	$524,830.51	$150,775.11	$374,055.40	71	*expenses 5% under target budget*

Adjusting subsidy (50% received=$53,190) SRC produced revenues = $128,494

Current (end of April) 2026 revenues with subsidy exceeded target by 4%, expenses currently 5% under target



April 30, 2026 Membership Review

Current Active Memberships	
12-Month	1214
3-Month	17
1-Month	362
EFT-Bank (Monthly)	177
other	119
Total Active Members	**1,889**

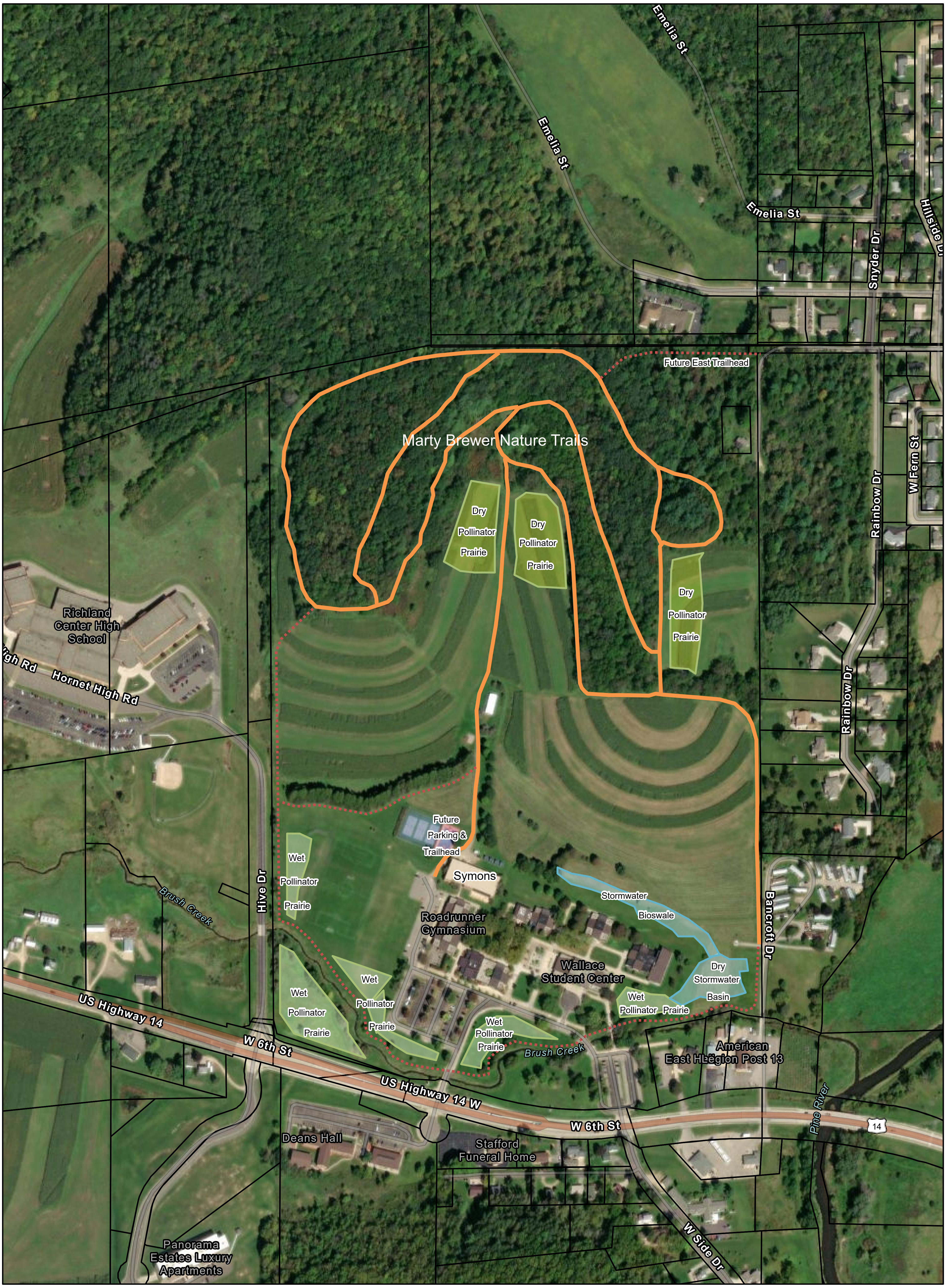
Drop In *(Non-Member)* Day Pass	
April Passes	392

April Member Visits *(per day)*		
day	***total***	***ave.***
Monday	1,316	329
Tuesday	1,072	268
Wednesday	1,463	365
Thursday	1,043	260
Friday	1,019	254
Saturday	469	117
Sunday	382	95
Total Visits	**6,764**	**225**

April Insurance Member & Open Gym Visits			
Renew Active	992	Prime	17
Silver Sneakers	550	Active & Fit	8
Silver & Fit	102	Open Gym (NM) Pass	10

April Member Visits *(per hour)*		
:00	***total***	***ave.***
12am	1	*0*
1am	0	*0*
2am	7	*1*
3am	53	*13*
4am	146	*36*
5am	405	*101*
6am	394	*98*
7am	590	*147*
8am	590	*147*
9am	489	*122*
10am	584	*146*
11am	335	*83*
12pm	458	*114*
1pm	347	*86*
2pm	257	*64*
3pm	287	*71*
4pm	489	*122*
5pm	680	*170*
6pm	256	*64*
7pm	100	*25*
8pm	124	*31*
9pm	119	*29*
10pm	34	*8*
11pm	19	*4*

Proposed Campus Greenspace Development



4/17/2026, 9:01:07 AM

Parcel Lines

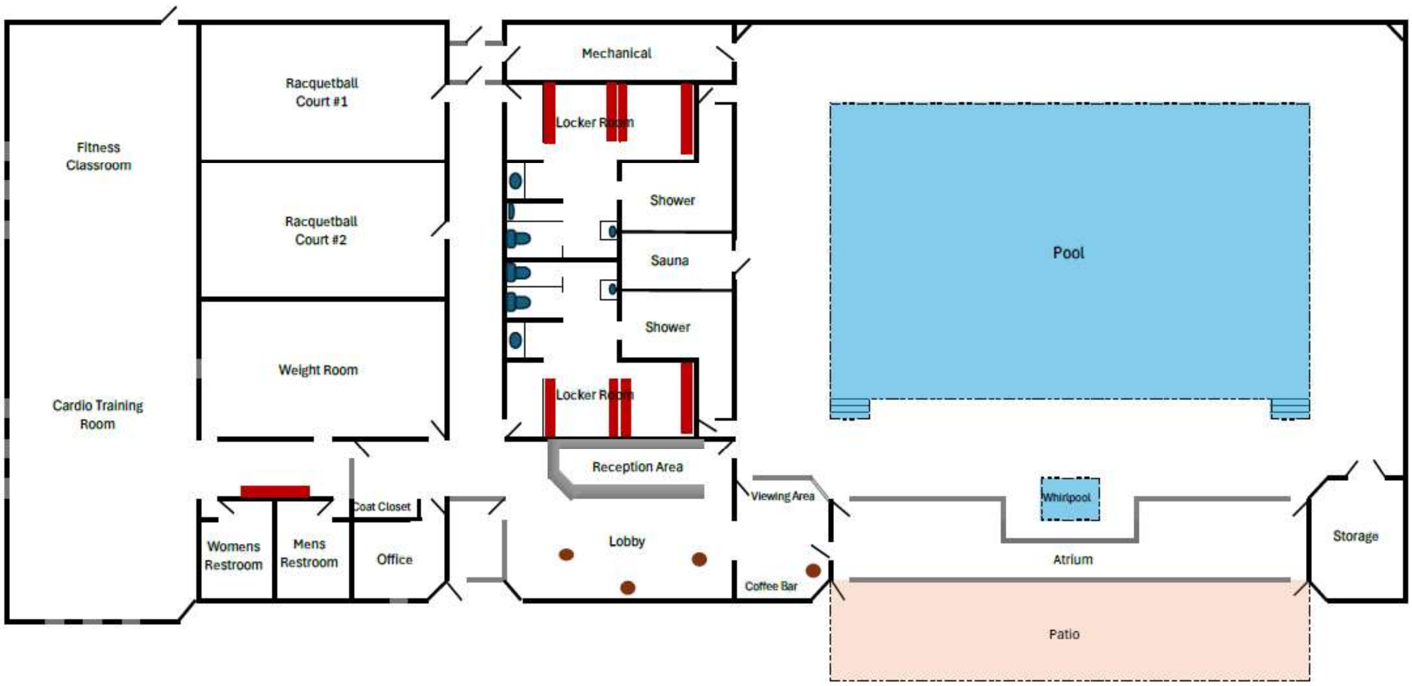
1:6,269

0 260 520 1,040 ft

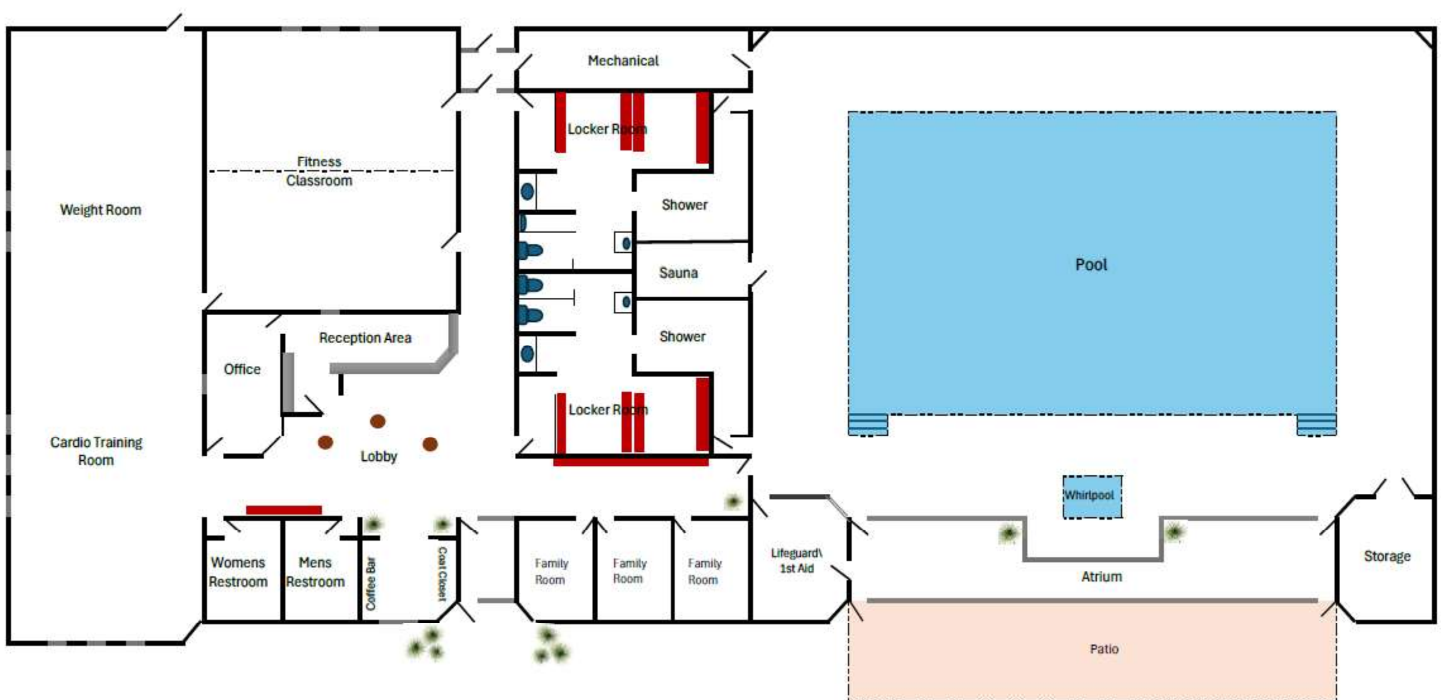
0 80 160 320 m

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Vantor

Mike Hardy, CPRP



Symons Recreation Center Floorplan
Existing



Symons Recreation Center Floorplan
Renovation Option E-1