

Lynden Recreation Center Exterior Siding Replacement

EDI Funding Request: \$250,000



Request: The City of Lynden is requesting Whatcom County Economic Development Investment (EDI) funds in the amount of \$250,000 to complete an exterior siding and roof replacement project on the City's recreation/pool facility located at 100 Drayton Street. This City-owned 23,770 square foot building houses one of the only public pools in Whatcom County which provides for aquatics and water safety programs for all ages, including school children and senior citizens.

Issue: This city building was operated under a lease to the Whatcom Family YMCA from 1997 until 2020 when the facility was closed due to COVID-19. As a result of COVID-19, the YMCA Board made the difficult decision to end future operation of the facility to concentrate on their Bellingham operations.

This facility includes a public pool, locker rooms, and expanded fitness facilities for professionally-led fitness classes. The facility serves the swimming programs of several local school districts. The building was shuttered in April 2020 until the City could solicit another lease partner to operate the facility. This was with the understanding that the City retains ownership and responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the building envelope.

This building was constructed in the 1970's to enclose an existing outdoor pool and provide expanded indoor recreational spaces. The 40+ year old T1-11 wood siding is deteriorated and has reached the end of its economic life. The south side composition roof is badly deteriorated and needs to be replaced.

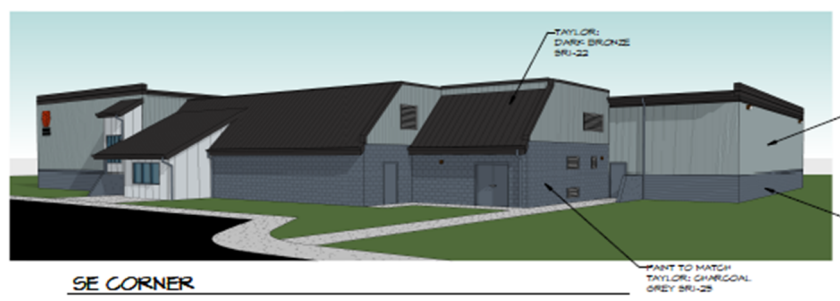
Solution: The City was able to find a new partner, Forge Fitness, to operate the pool and recreation facility. They have proposed replacing the wood siding and composition roofing with metal siding and standing seam roofing. This funding request would provide for Forge Fitness to complete these critical repairs under the lease terms before further deterioration jeopardizes the building and roof superstructure. The City Council Public Works Committee has reviewed and approved the proposed exterior improvements and has committed to providing the balance of the \$250,000 to complete the entire \$500,000 project. City Public Works crews will also be used to remove the existing earthen berm around the exterior of the building so that the new moisture barrier and siding can be extended to the foundation of the building, preventing structural damage. The proposed siding and roofing repairs will extend the life of this critical building for another 40+ years.



Architect's renderings showing the proposed metal siding and standing seam metal roof as seen from the southwest and southeast perspectives from Drayton Street and the entrance to the recreation facility.

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