



TOWN OF GIBBONS RECREATION AND PARKS MASTER PLAN

DRAFT SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT AND RESULTING PRIORITIES



Submitted By:
EDS Group Inc.
15, 51109 Range Road 271
Spruce Grove, AB
T7Y 1G7

Contact: John Buchko
Email: jbuchko@edsgroup.ca
Tel: 1.780.271.1689

Submitted: December 3, 2020 (DRAFT)
Our File: 32132



TOWN OF GIBBONS RECREATION AND PARKS MASTER PLAN

DRAFT SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT AND
RESULTING PRIORITIES

PREPARED BY



PREPARED FOR



DECEMBER 2020

CONTENTS:

List of Figures	i
Executive Summary	iii
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Resident Survey	2
3.0 Stakeholder Engagement	13
3.1 Stakeholder Workbook	13
3.2 Stakeholder Workshop	27
3.3 Public Drop-In Session	33
4.0 Infrastructure Priorities	36
4.1 Resulting Indoor Priorities	36
4.2 Resulting Outdoor Priorities	36
5.0 Closing Summary	39

LIST OF FIGURES:

Figure 1: Resident Survey Demographics	3
Figure 2: Importance of Recreation	3
Figure 3: Reasons for Participating	3
Figure 4: Barriers to Participating	4
Figure 5: Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Amenities	4
Figure 6: Satisfaction with Indoor Recreation Amenities	4
Figure 7: Satisfaction with Recreational Programming	5
Figure 8: Recommended Improvements to Recreational Programming	5
Figure 9: Use of Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities	6
Figure 10: Use of Existing Indoor Recreation Facilities	6
Figure 11: Participation in Outdoor Recreational Activities	7
Figure 12: Participation in Indoor Recreational Activities	7
Figure 13: Event Attendance	8
Figure 14: Satisfaction with Events	8
Figure 15: Support of Property Tax Increase	9
Figure 16: Level of Property Tax Increase	9
Figure 17: Need for New / Upgraded Recreational Facilities	9
Figure 18: Need for New Improved Parks and Trails	9
Figure 19: Indoor Facilities That Should be More Readily Available	10
Figure 20: Outdoor Facilities That Should be More Readily Available	11
Figure 21: How Well Informed are the Residents of Gibbons?	12
Figure 22: Preferred Method of Communication	12
Figure 23: New Activities That Should be Made Available in Gibbons	14
Figure 24: Indoor Facilities That Should be More Readily Available	15
Figure 25: Outdoor Facilities That Should be More Readily Available	16
Figure 26: Best Existing Outdoor Amenities / Facilities	23
Figure 27: Best Existing Indoor Amenities / Facilities	23
Figure 28: Best Existing Programs	24
Figure 29: Desired Trail Connections	26
Figure 30: Indoor Recreation Priorities	37
Figure 31: Outdoor Recreation Priorities	38





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Gibbons is situated at the intersection of Highway 28 and 28A in Central Alberta. Home to approximately 3,500 residents, the Town hosts a diverse range of recreational amenities from walking trails to ice rinks. The Recreation and Parks Master Plan is being developed under the leadership of a team of consultants and guided by a strong group of local stakeholders and interest groups. It has reviewed best practices, evaluated previous studies and reports, aligned site opportunities and constraints against current recreational trends and needs of residents, gathered community input through numerous engagement sessions and established final recommendations and objectives for future implementation. The plan will identify recommendations and strategic priorities for approximately a twenty-year horizon, at which time these recommendations should be re-evaluated to reflect current needs of the time.

The Master Plan will identify the benefits of promoting recreation in Gibbons as well as the various benefits that recreation can have from a human health, economic, environmental and cultural perspective. Additionally, the Master Plan will provide an in-depth review of Gibbon's current recreational amenities, both indoor and outdoor, identify any gaps or shortcomings and make recommendations on prioritizing the enhancement of existing amenities and development of new ones. The Master Plan will strike a balance between trends of recreation across western Canada, the local region and those identified through stakeholder engagement.

Through the findings displayed in this Draft Engagement Summary and Resulting Priorities Report, it is clear that trails are an important recreational asset to Gibbons. It is understood from the various sessions of community engagement that residents of Gibbons are proud of the river valley trail system that currently exists and share a strong desire to enhance and promote these trails in connection with a broader community-wide trail network. The resulting Recreation and Parks Master Plan will make detailed recommendations for future growth and further enhancement of the trail system within Gibbons, particularly within the river valley and connections to this trail system from residential areas.

Throughout the creation of the Master Plan, a team of consultants has been working very closely with local stakeholders and interest groups to capture a comprehensive understanding of the recreational demands of the community. Public feedback demonstrated that the people of Gibbons believe recreation is a very important component of their community. Residents also agree that there is the need for new recreational amenities, both indoor and outdoor, to complement the existing network of amenities currently available. It was overwhelmingly apparent that the enhancement of existing trails and the development of new trails was at the top of the community's list of priorities for recreation. A detailed breakdown of the recommended priorities for recreation can be found in this report, following the engagement summary.

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan that will follow this Draft Engagement Summary and Resulting Priorities Report will lay out a deliberate set of objectives including providing recreational amenities for all, creating a sense of place within the community, stimulating economic growth and fostering sustainable partnerships. While ambitious, it is important to understand that they can be achieved by utilizing the knowledge and passion of local stakeholders and residents and investing in Gibbon's resources responsibly. Consistent with many other community initiatives, recreational planning and service delivery requires involvement of both government and non-government groups, whereas partnerships are essential for the delivery of recreational opportunities. Through the engagement process stakeholders recognized the importance of these partnerships and the need to take pressure off local and regional governments to identify, fund and execute recreation in Gibbons.

Recreation has numerous benefits to communities, ranging from promoting personal health to providing a sense of community and local identity. From a health perspective, recreation allows people to pursue a variety of active and passive activities that increase physical health and promotes improvement to mental health. Access to a range of active and passive recreation allows individuals with a diverse set of physical and mental abilities to participate in activities that suit their own needs. Having a wide variety of recreational amenities in a community allows for the ranging needs of a complex population of people to be met.

While recreational needs can differ amongst various generations of people, these needs also change over time. For example, past ideologies of recreational planning focused on promoting team sport and providing activities for large groups of individuals; in more recent years there is a noticeable shift more toward individual pursuits and individual activities that can be done on one's own time and not have a regimented schedule. Influencing factors like this drive recommendations for recreational planning and necessitates regular updates to ensure contemporary trends are recognized.

This Draft Engagement Summary and Resulting Priorities Report summarizes the various engagement sessions that have been conducted. Several forms of engagement, such as surveys and workshops, were conducted in an effort to gather input from residents and pertinent stakeholders in order to create a list of recreational priorities for the Town. The development of these draft recommendations also involved background research on recreational trends for Gibbons, based on trends found for comparable communities across western Canada. The resulting Recreation and Parks Master Plan will then refine recreational priorities that are recommended by this report. Within its final recommendations, the plan will identify priorities based on a number of factors, establish a phasing strategy to demonstrate near-term versus long-term recommendations and indicate ideal locations for any new recreational amenity or activity.



The residents of Gibbons were asked to complete a public survey in order to gauge the community's satisfaction with existing recreational amenities and assess needs and expectations for changes and improvements.

Using neighbourhood mail¹ a postcard was sent out to households in the community promoting the survey and directing people to the Town's website (www.gibbons.ca) to access the link to participate.

Responses were gathered from the middle of January through to mid-February 2020. In total 78 responses were gathered.

The findings are presented on the following pages in the order the questions were posed in the survey.

¹ Neighbourhood mail is a Canada Post service whereby items are inserted into mailboxes, they are not delivered to specific addresses.

Demographics

The majority of survey respondents identified as 30-44 years old (38%). As illustrated in the graph (figure 1), there were no respondents under the age of 21. Adults were able to complete the questionnaire on behalf of children in their household.

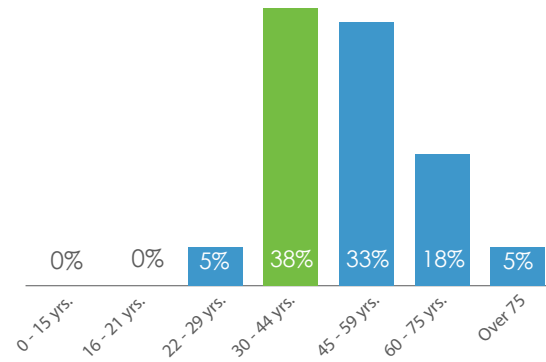


FIGURE 1: RESIDENT SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Importance of Recreation

To begin the survey, respondents were asked to state their level of agreement with several statements that relate to the importance of recreation within the Town of Gibbons. As illustrated in the graph below (figure 2), while the majority agreed with all of the statements listed, the belief that recreation helps bring people in the community together in a positive way received the highest levels of agreement (67%).

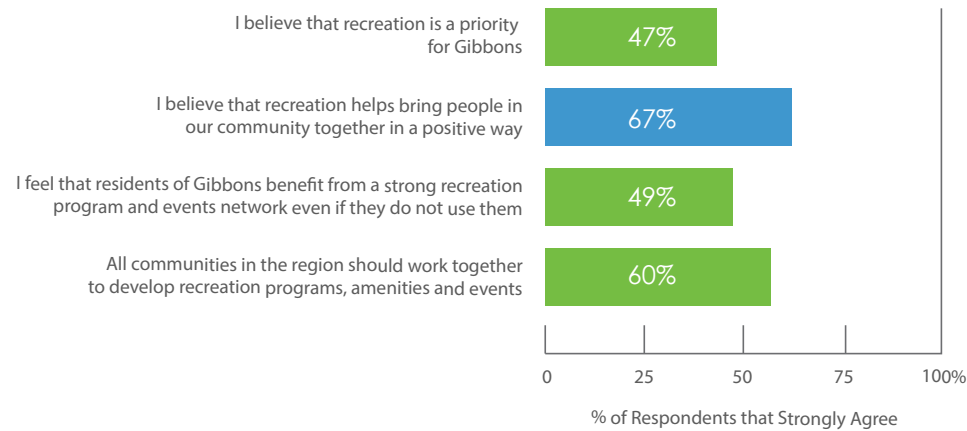


FIGURE 2: IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION

Reasons For Participating

To gain insight into the utilization of facilities and spaces in Gibbons by residents, respondents were asked to share their main reasons for participating in recreational activities. The most common reasons were for outdoor enjoyment/for fun (57%) and to improve their own health (49%). See the graph on the right (figure 3) for more information.

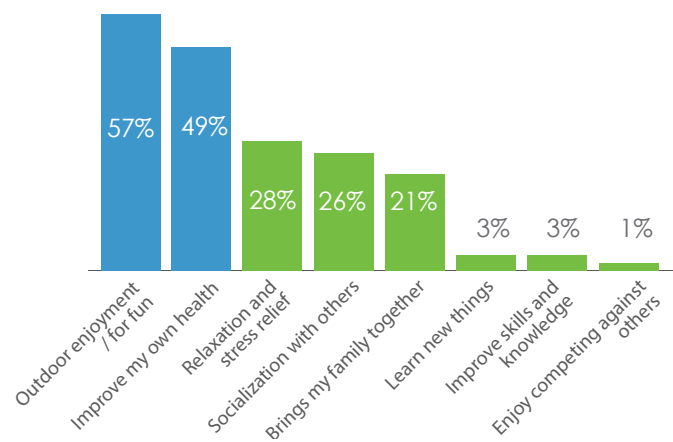


FIGURE 3: REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING



Barriers to Participating

The respondents were asked to identify what prevents them from participating in recreation and culture programs and services in the region. The most prevalent barriers to the participation are that their preferred type of activity is not available in Gibbons (36%) and timing of programs currently offered (29%).

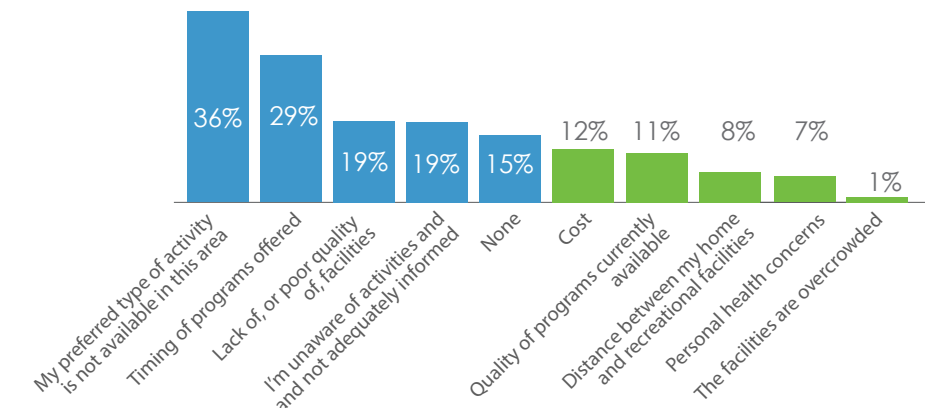


FIGURE 4: BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING

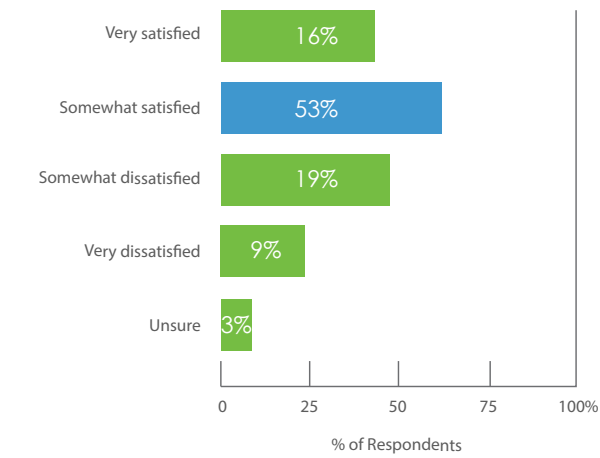


FIGURE 5: SATISFACTION WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Amenities

When asked about the overall satisfaction with the outdoor recreation amenities currently offered in Gibbons, the majority of responses - approximately half - were somewhat satisfied, while 19% were somewhat dissatisfied and 16% were very satisfied.

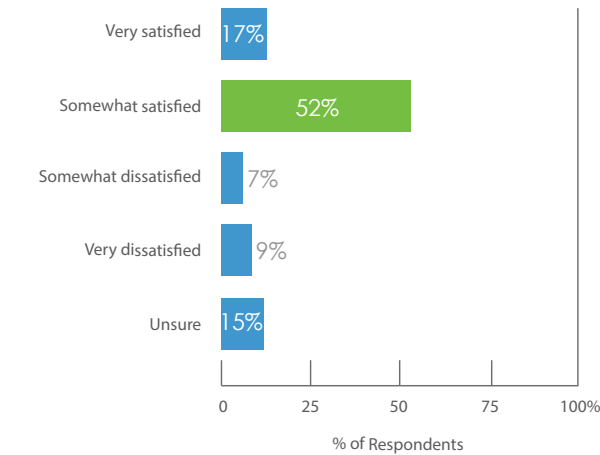


FIGURE 6: SATISFACTION WITH INDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

Satisfaction with Indoor Recreation Amenities

When asked about the overall satisfaction with the indoor recreation amenities currently offered in Gibbons, the majority of responses - approximately half - were somewhat satisfied, while 17% very satisfied and 15% were unsure.

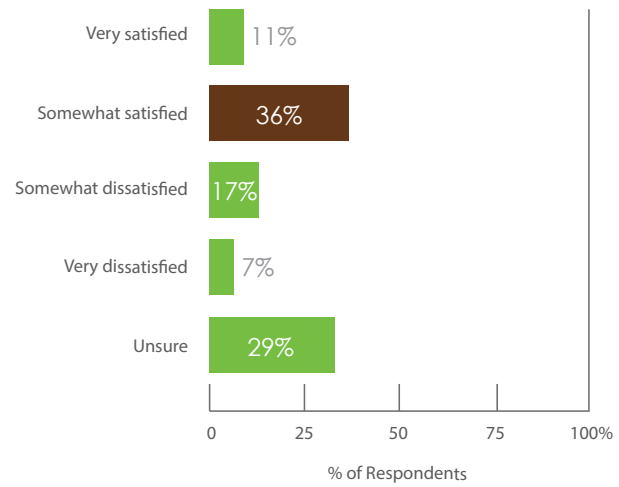


FIGURE 7: SATISFACTION WITH RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Satisfaction with Recreational Programming

As demonstrated in the top graph (figure 7), when asked about the overall satisfaction with the recreational programming currently offered in Gibbons, most residents said they were somewhat satisfied (36%) or unsure (29%) while very few stated that they were very dissatisfied (7%).

The questionnaire also asked respondents what improvements or changes they would recommend regarding programming. The majority of responses (42%) were to provide more variety of activities, while 18% of respondents felt costs should be lowered and there should be a more convenient program schedule. These results are shown in the pie chart to the left (figure 8).

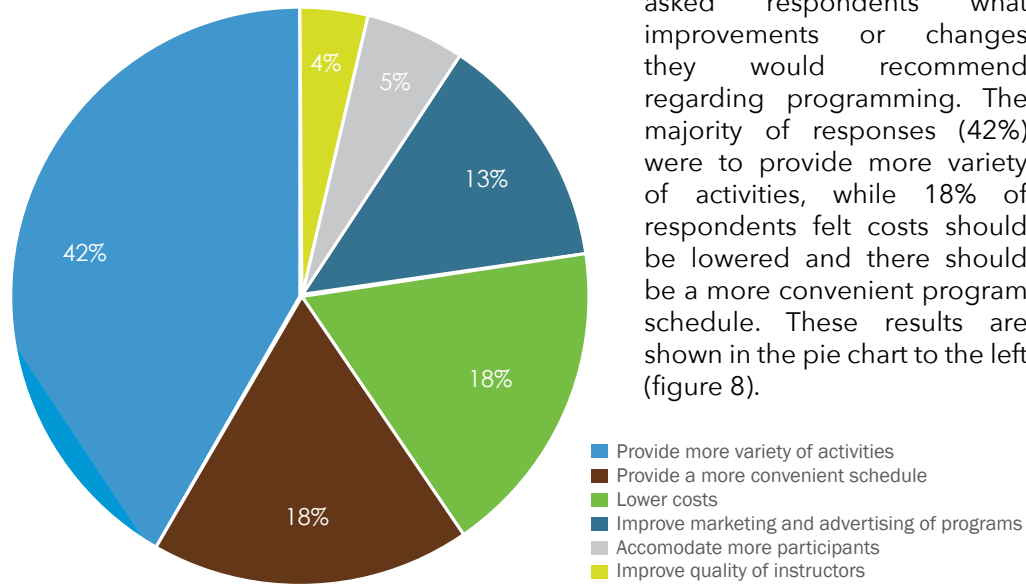


FIGURE 8: RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

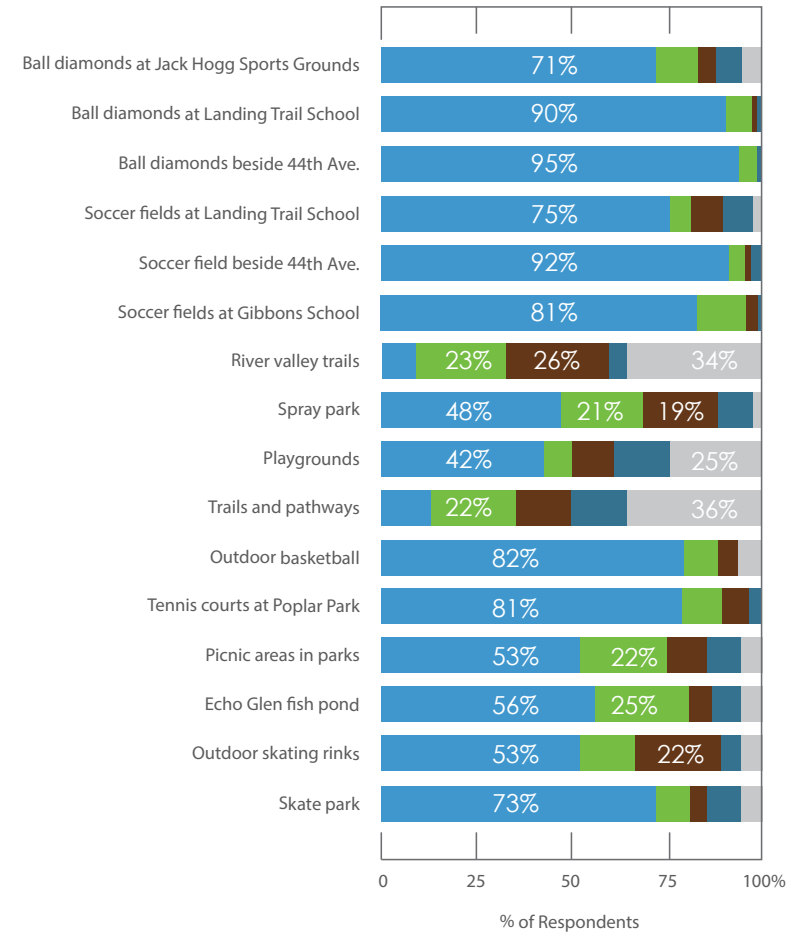


FIGURE 9: USE OF EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Use of Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities

To gain insight into the utilization of outdoor recreation amenities in Gibbons by residents, respondents were asked to share how frequently they used 16 different outdoor recreation facilities in the community in the past year. The least utilized amenities were the Town's baseball diamonds and soccer fields, where 85% and 83% of residents did not use the facilities, respectively. The most commonly utilized facilities were trails & pathways and the river valley trails where 36% and 34% of respondents used the facilities more than 20 times, respectively. Refer to figure 9 for more information.

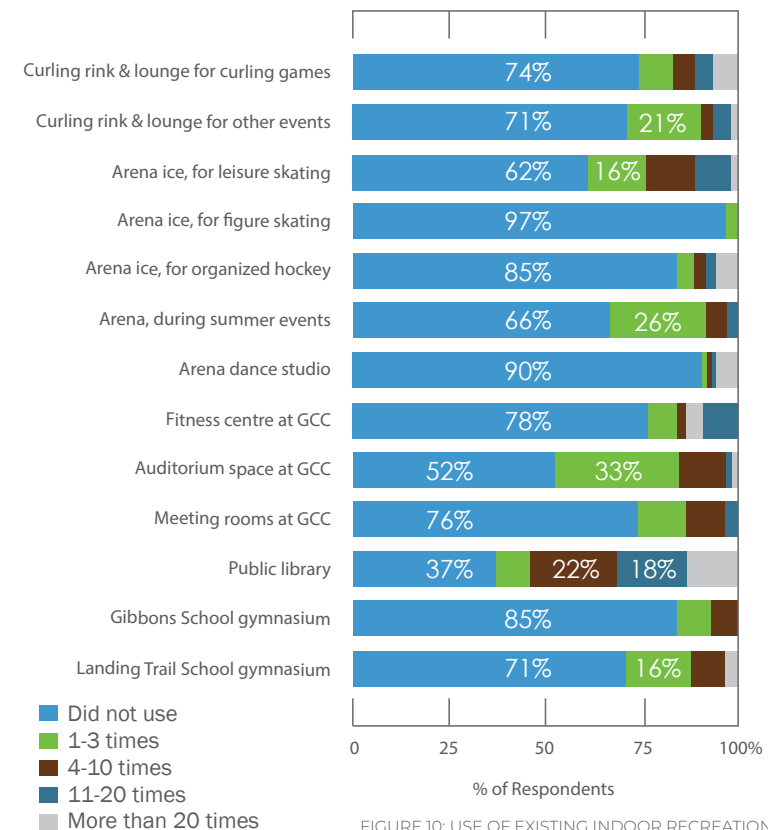


FIGURE 10: USE OF EXISTING INDOOR RECREATION

Use of Existing Indoor Recreation Facilities

To gain insight into the utilization of indoor recreation facilities in Gibbons by residents, respondents were asked to share how frequently they used 13 different indoor recreation amenities in the community in the past year. The least utilized facilities were the Town's arena for figure skating and the dance studio where 97% and 90% of residents did not use the facilities, respectively. The most commonly utilized facility was the public library where 14% of respondents used the facilities more than 20 times in the past year. For more information, refer to figure 10.

Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities

The questionnaire asked respondents what outdoor recreation activities they or others in their household have participated in over the past year in Gibbons or surrounding communities. The greatest majority of respondents had participated in trail walking (77%) and dog walking (63%). While few residents reported having participated in football (1%).

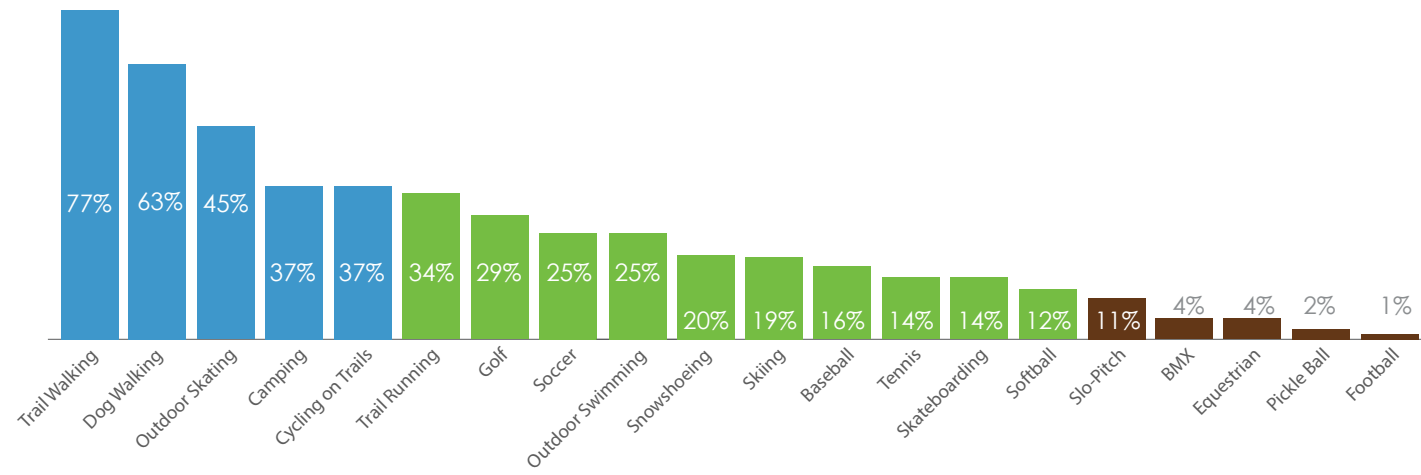


FIGURE 11: PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

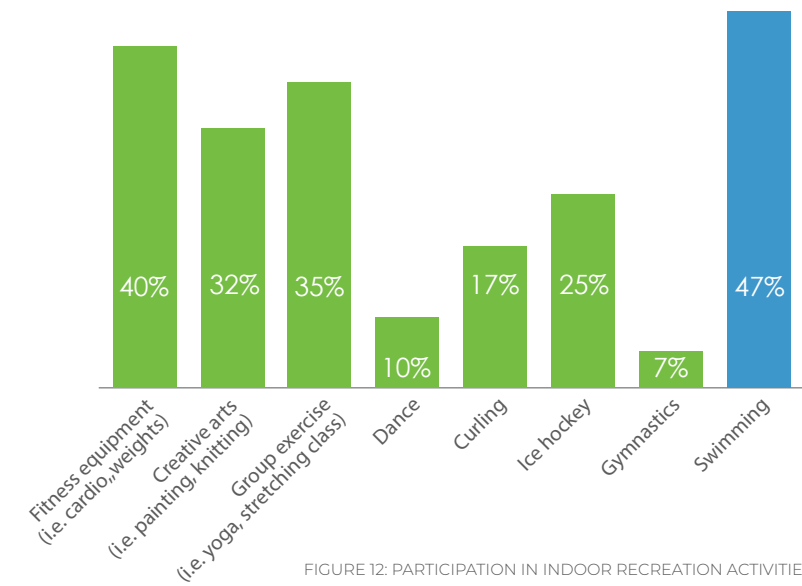


FIGURE 12: PARTICIPATION IN INDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Participation in Indoor Recreation Activities

The questionnaire asked respondents what indoor recreation activities they or others in their household have participated in over the past year in Gibbons or surrounding communities. Nearly half of the respondents have participated in swimming (47%) and fitness equipment (40%). While few residents reported having participated in gymnastics (7%).



Events

The majority of respondents (80%) have attended a major indoor or outdoor event coordinated by the Town of Gibbons in the past 12 months.

Generally, all attendees were satisfied with the events, 45% were very satisfied and 48% were somewhat satisfied, only 2% were very dissatisfied.

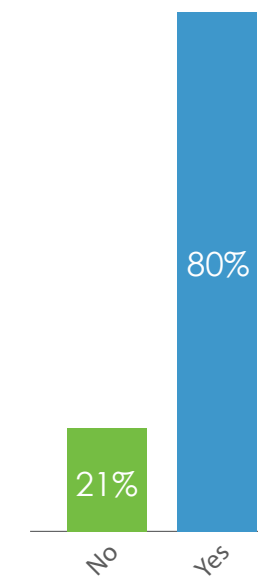


FIGURE 13: EVENT ATTENDANCE

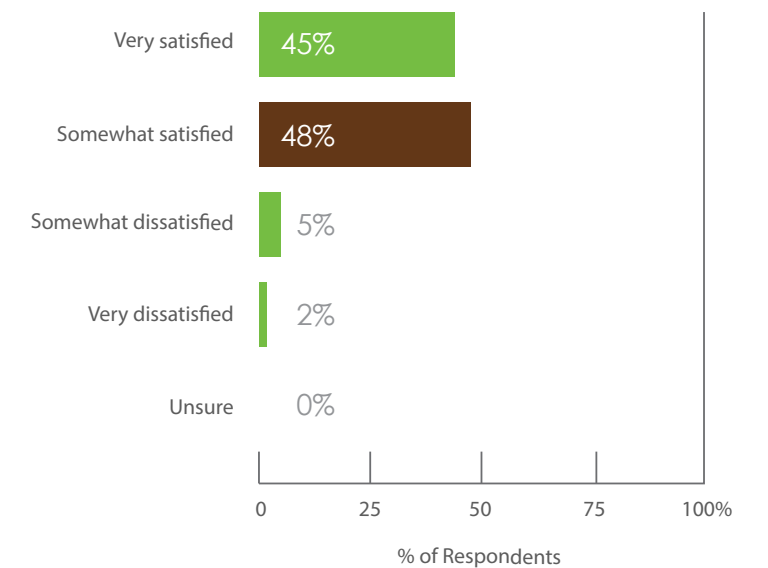


FIGURE 14: SATISFACTION WITH EVENTS

Financial Support of Recreation

When asked if they would support an increase in property tax to ensure that community needs for facilities, programs, and services in the Town of Gibbons were better met, 64% responded that they would not support an increase in taxes, 36% said yes.

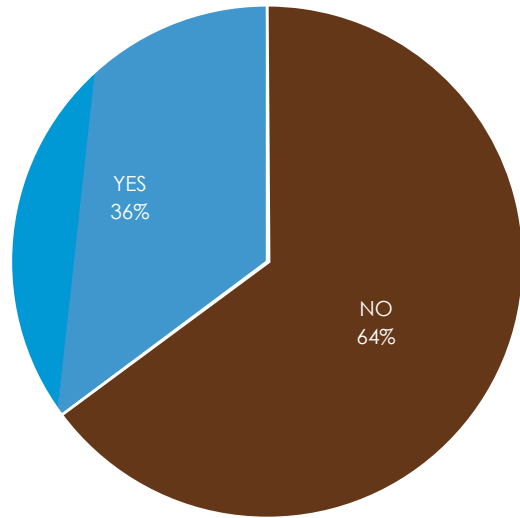


FIGURE 15: SUPPORT OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The questionnaire then asked what level of increase respondents would support. Approximately two-thirds (62%) would support an annual property tax increase up to \$100 while 19% would support an increase in the range of \$100 to \$250 and 19% would support an increase of over \$250.

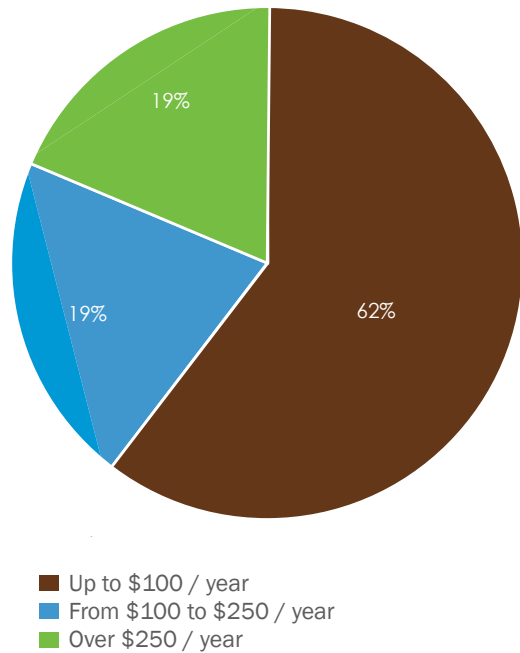


FIGURE 16: LEVEL OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Facilities and Spaces

The questionnaire asked respondents if they felt there was a need for new and/or upgraded indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and spaces in the Town of Gibbons, 61% either strongly or somewhat agreed there was a need.

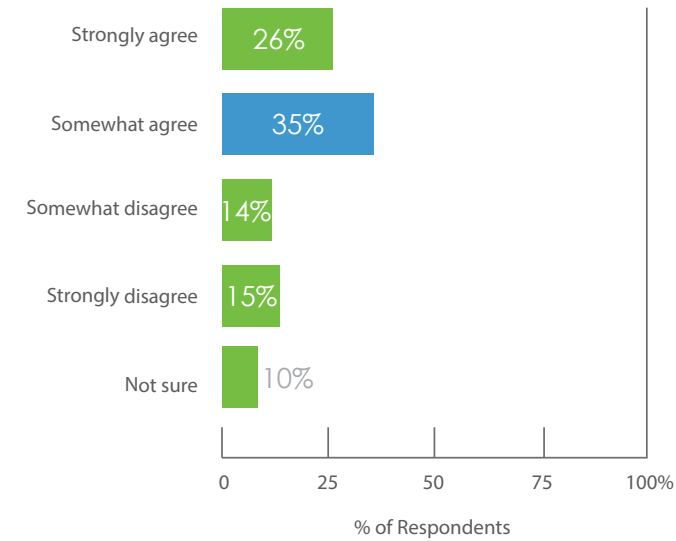


FIGURE 17: NEED FOR NEW / UPGRADED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

When respondents were asked specifically if there was a need for new and improved parks and trails in Gibbons, 77% either strongly or somewhat agreed.

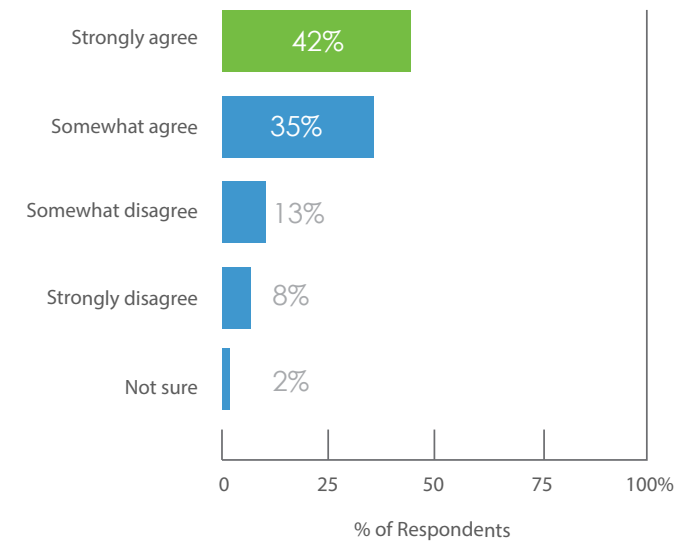
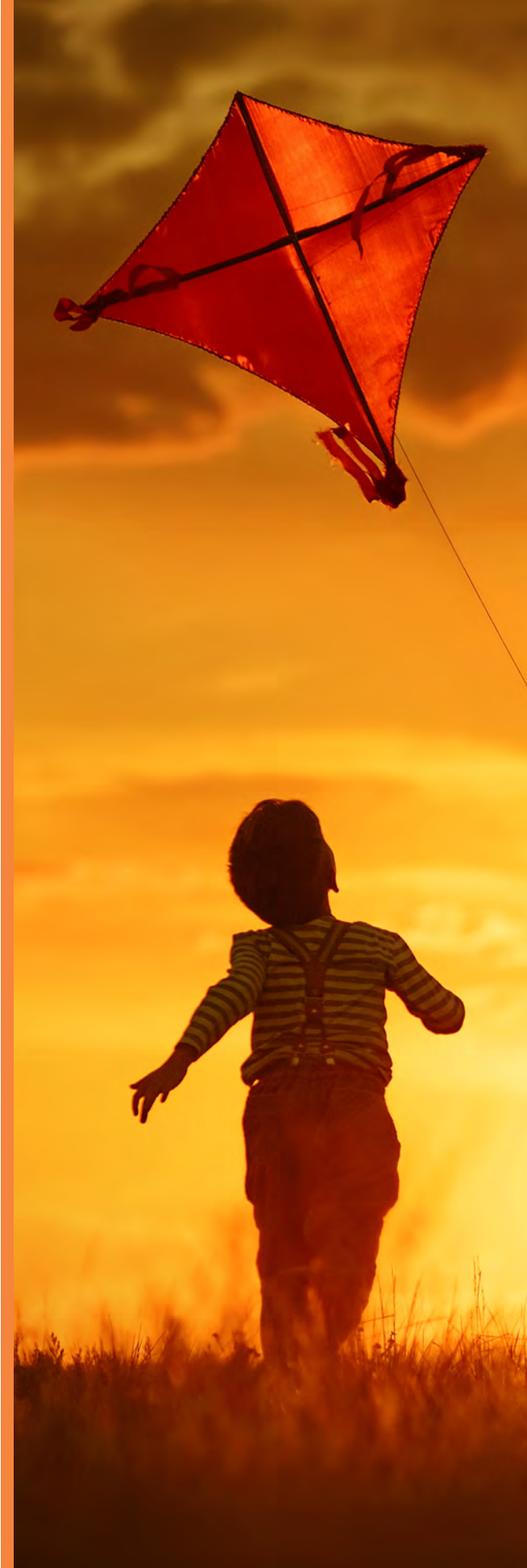


FIGURE 18: NEED FOR NEW / IMPROVED PARKS AND TRAILS



Facilities and Spaces (Indoor)

Respondents were then asked to identify up to five indoor recreation facilities and spaces that should be more readily available or enhanced in Gibbons. The most popular responses were: leisure swimming pools (44%); indoor walking/running tracks (36%); fitness and wellness facilities (33%); climbing walls (23%); and indoor children's playgrounds (22%).

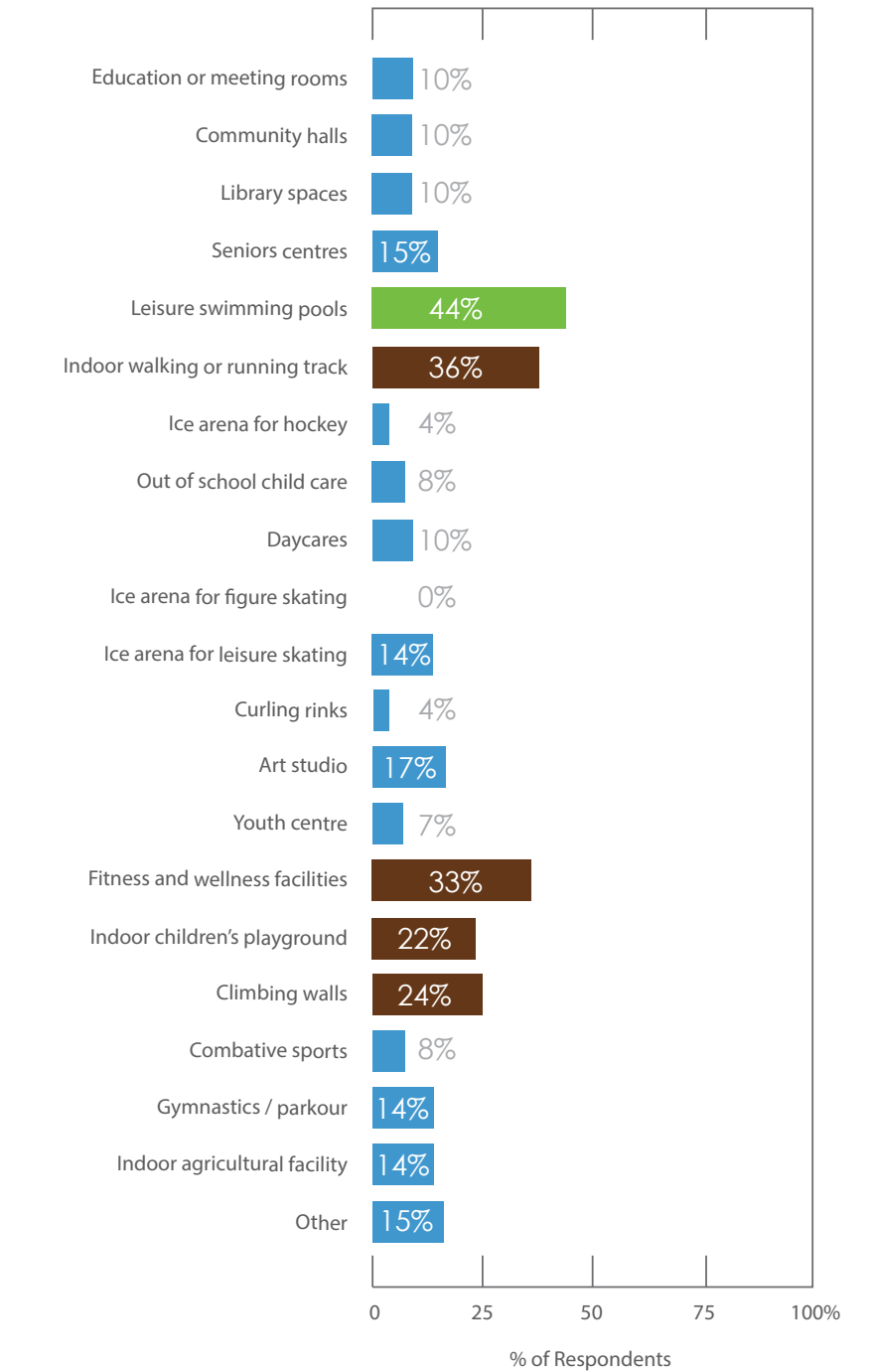


FIGURE 19: INDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE

Facilities and Spaces (Outdoor)

The survey also asked respondents to identify up to five outdoor recreation facilities and spaces that should be more readily available or enhanced in Gibbons. The most popular responses were: nature trails (61%); formal trails, i.e. paved or gravel (58%); off-leash dog areas (39%); outdoor pools (24%); and mountain bike trails (21%).

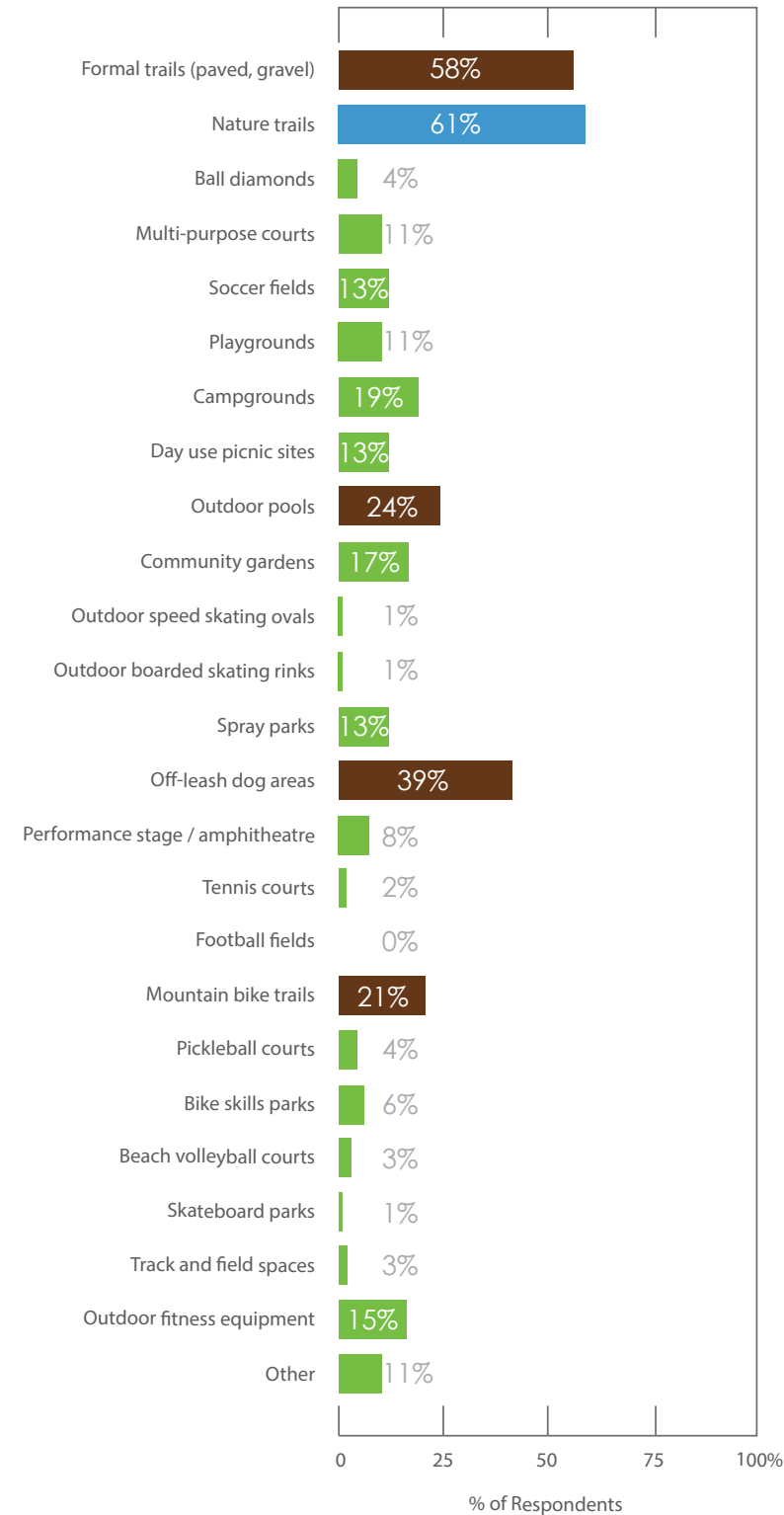


FIGURE 20: OUTDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE



Communication

The questionnaire asked respondents how well informed they felt about recreation programs and events in the community. Approximately one-quarter (24%) responded that they are not well informed while the majority (58%) responded that they were somewhat informed.

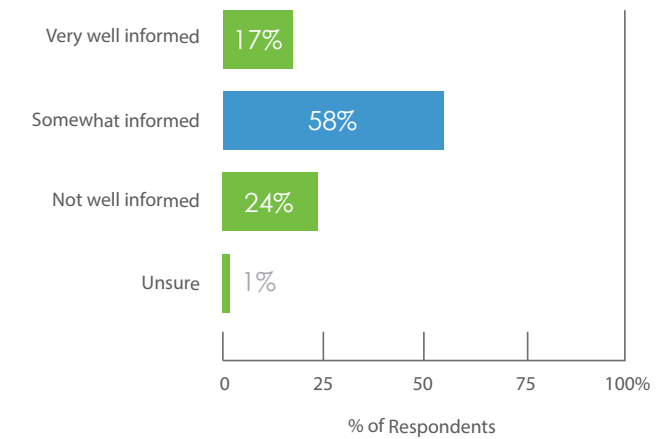


FIGURE 21: HOW WELL INFORMED ARE THE RESIDENTS OF GIBBONS

When asked how they preferred to receive information about recreation opportunities, 41% of respondents selected local newsletters and mail pamphlets as their preferred method of communication, followed by Facebook and other social media (25%) and the printed community guide (13%).

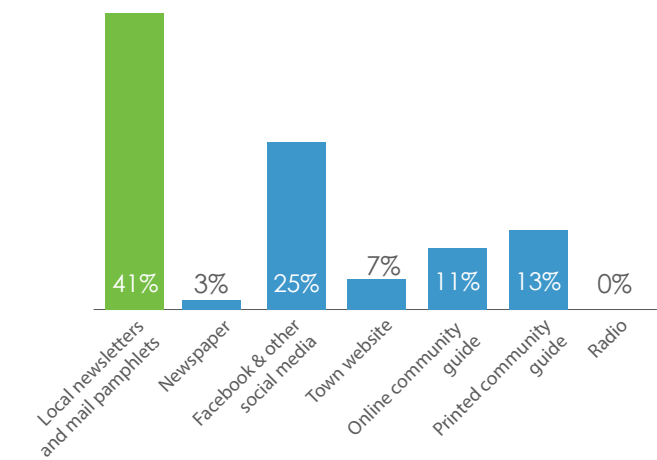


FIGURE 22: PREFERRED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

Additional Comments

To conclude the survey, the respondents were asked to provide any additional information they felt would be beneficial to this process. From their responses, the key themes that emerged were the following.

There was an expressed need to **improve and expand the trail system** in and around the Town of Gibbons to provide better access to natural areas. Many respondents pointed out that the current trail system is very disconnected with many dead ends and gaps throughout. Several respondents referred to the Fort Saskatchewan trail system as an ideal precedent for trail development, noting greater accessibility and year-round maintenance.

There was also an expressed view that the **trail development should not be for use by motorized recreation vehicles**, as these vehicles are posing a great safety risk to trail users and cause significant damage to natural areas.

There were also several comments focused on the desire to **enhance existing indoor recreational facilities** as opposed to developing any new facilities. Many respondents expressed the view that the current recreational facilities are underutilized and catered to the needs of a specific user group. There was a clear desire to improve upon these facilities by providing a greater variety of recreational opportunities for all within these spaces. There was also the expressed desire to provide childcare within recreational facilities so that parents can have the opportunity to participate in recreational activities.

3.0

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Community organizations and stakeholders provided input to the plan through three mechanisms: participation in a discussion group session in May 2019, participation in an online survey and participation in a workshop session held in October 2020. Results from the online survey have been embedded into the overall findings for each of the two meeting sessions. A broad array of organizations provided their input including youth organizations, seniors' perspectives, social agencies, and indoor and outdoor recreation stakeholders. A list of organizations invited to participate in these sessions will be released as an appendix within the final Recreation and Parks Master Plan document.

3.1 Stakeholder Workbook

Once initial results of the master plan process were completed it was intended to hold a full afternoon charette in Gibbons that involved a group of previously identified stakeholders, both internal and external to the Town of Gibbons. The purpose of this workshop was to solicit feedback on current demands, usage patterns, current opportunities and constraints, local perspectives, etc. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our strategy was forced to evolve. With the opportunity to gather and hold an in-person workshop no longer a feasible option, it was decided to provide each stakeholder group with a detailed workbook to complete. These workbooks sought to gather the same information as the initially proposed workshop.

The questions and overall comments from this workbook are presented on the following pages.



1. Describe your role with the organization which you have been invited to represent and how it either directly or indirectly relates to the use of planning, programming, maintenance and operations of parks and recreation amenities/facilities within the Town.

- Manager of the Momentum Fitness Club (MFC) - a recreation facility within the Town;
- Library Manager, Gibbons Municipal Library - offering access to physical books, audio-visual, board games, puzzle collections, Wi-Fi, public computers, printing/scanning, and electronic resources;
- Gibbons Legion - providing support to veterans and the local community. The Legion also offers rental spaces for meeting, parties and free rental for youth organizations while providing support to local organizations with grants;
- Newly appointed manager of Facilities in the Town of Gibbons;
- Owner/operator of Arlene's Salon and resident of the community - (someone who wishes to see the Town keep growing and developing for all families, teams and older population);
- Activity Coordinator, Seniors Lodge - the Lodge looks for opportunities to take residents out into the community;
- Gibbons Twilight Club - operates the Dew Drop Inn as a place where seniors are able to meet and socialize. The Twilight Club also operates the Seniors Bus for club trips and Spruce View Manor trips;
- Three (3) board members of Gibbons Minor Soccer Association (GMSA) - the organization runs soccer for children 2-18 years old in the community. They utilize fields at Landing Trail School and occasionally other venues. GMSA is also a member of the Gibbons Community League;
- Organizer for annual Court Dog Run - the event uses community trails and relies heavily on Public Works;
- Gibbons Museum - the Museum's purpose is to preserve the history of Gibbons and surrounding area while also providing a rental space for small gatherings; and
- FCSS program manager for the Town of Gibbons - (someone who is directly involved in planning and programming within the community services department).

2. A household survey was conducted over the past few weeks, where Gibbons residents were provided a series of questions related to local recreation and parks. Questions 2 through 5 built on the results of that survey.

Residents were asked about the barriers that limit their involvement in recreation in Gibbons. The most prominent response (36%) was that their preferred type of activity is not available in Gibbons. Residents were also asked what improvements or changes they would recommend regarding programming, and the most prominent response (42%) was to provide more variety of activities. From your perspective, what new activities do you feel should be made available in Gibbons? (Respondents were asked to complete this without referring to the following questions).

INDOOR ACTIVITIES	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
Indoor sports space (field house)	Outdoor rink (no hockey)
More gym space (MFC)	Pool
STEM / makerspace activities	Charity runs for not-for-profits
Community dances	Dog park
Community movies	Paved walking / biking trails
Little free libraries (community or business based)	Archery club
Roller derby track (lessons / league)	BMX riding trails
Climbing wall	Connected trails
Pool	Mogul ski hill (in river valley)
Pickle ball / racquetball	Spray park
Art Gallery of Alberta - TREX (traveling exhibitions)	Permanent outdoor restrooms
	Beach volleyball courts

FIGURE 23. NEW ACTIVITIES THAT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN GIBBONS

3. The chart below (figure 24) identifies residents' responses (from the household survey) on which indoor facilities and amenities could be made more readily available in Gibbons. The most prominent responses included leisure swimming pools (44%), indoor walking or running track (36%), fitness and wellness facilities (33%) and climbing walls (24%).

Please identify your top five choices and least favourite five choices out of the items shown in the chart.

Below is the cumulative +/- scoring for each listed activity. If a respondent listed a certain activity as one of their top five favourite choices it received a +1 scoring, alternatively if they listed it as one of their least favourite choices it received a -1 scoring. Lastly, if the respondent did not select an activity as their favourite, nor their least favourite, it received a scoring of 0. The top two facilities that received the highest combined scores (leisure swimming pools, +6 and a tie between indoor walking and running track, and fitness and wellness facilities, both with a score of +4) are highlighted in **blue** and the least favourite two facilities that received the lowest combined scores (combative sports, -7 and daycares, -4) are highlighted in **orange**.

- Indoor agricultural facility (-1)
- Gymnastics/parkour (0)
- Combative sports (-7)**
- Climbing walls (-2)
- Indoor children's playground (+2)
- Fitness and wellness facilities (+4)**
- Youth centre (0)
- Art studio (+2)
- Curling rinks (0)
- Ice arena for leisure skating (-2)
- Ice arena for figure skating (-2)
- Daycares (-4)**
- Out of school child care (0)
- Ice arena for hockey (-1)
- Indoor walking or running track (+4)**
- Leisure swimming pools (+6)**
- Seniors centre (+2)

Overall, the consensus is that the respondents' least favourite choices were activities that residents already have access to while their favourite choices are where they see a need in the community for. There was also the sense that favourite choices were selected based on what respondents thought would be the most attractive to draw new people into the community.

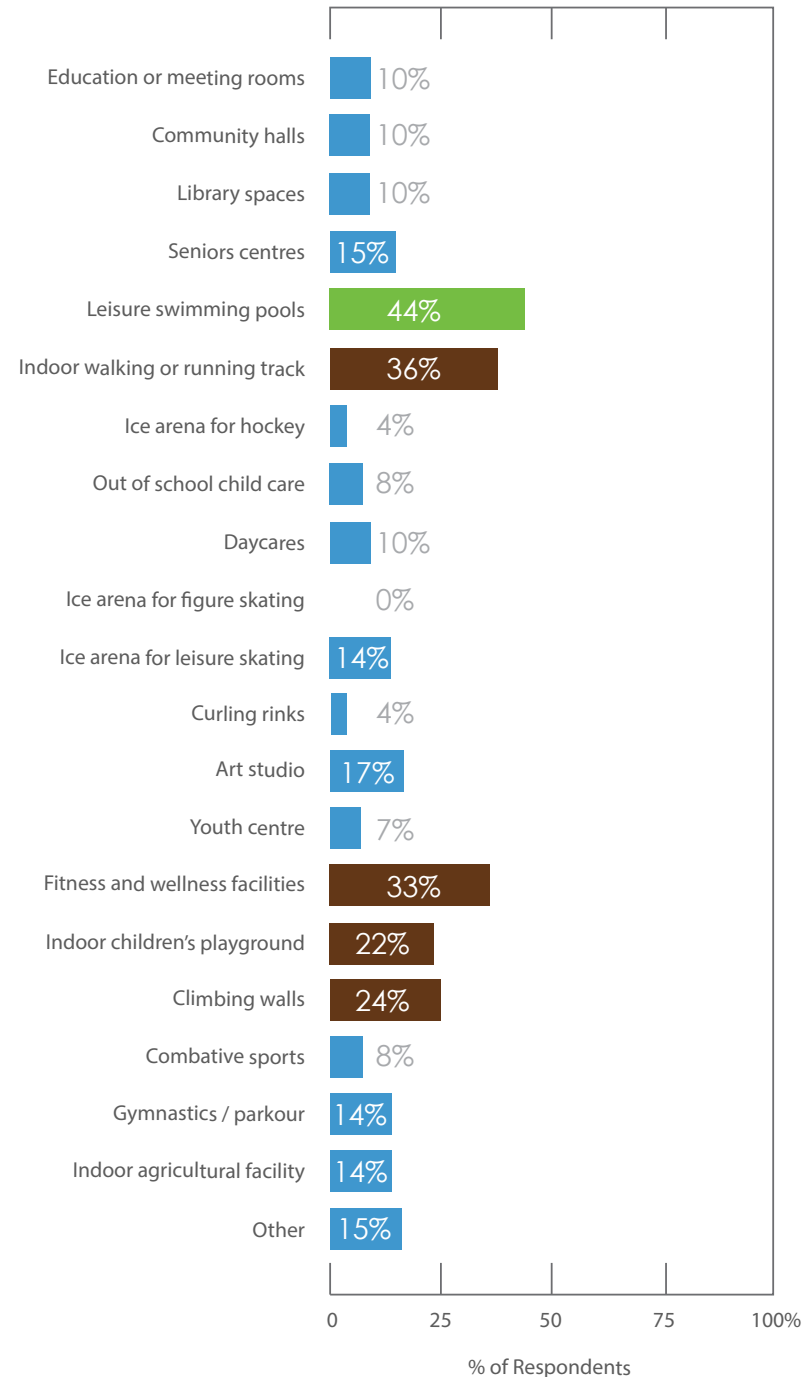


FIGURE 24: INDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE

4. The chart below (figure 25) identifies residents' responses (from the household survey) on which outdoor facilities and amenities could be made more readily available in Gibbons. The most prominent responses included nature trails (61%), formal trails (paved, gravel) (58%), off-leash dog areas (39%) and mountain bike trails (21%).

Please identify your top five choices and least favourite five choices out of the items shown in the chart.

Below is the cumulative +/- scoring for each listed activity. If a respondent listed a certain activity as one of their top five favourite choices it received a +1 scoring, alternatively if they listed it as one of their least favourite choices it received a -1 scoring. Lastly, if the respondent did not select an activity as their favourite, nor their least favourite, it received a scoring of 0. The top two facilities that received the highest cumulative scores (a tie between formal trails (paved, gravel), +7 and off-leash dog areas, +7 as well as nature trails, +6) are highlighted in **blue** and the least favourite two facilities that received the lowest combined scores (football fields, -6 and tennis courts, -5) are highlighted in **orange**.

- Outdoor fitness equipment (+3)
- Track and field spaces (-1)
- Skateboard park (-1)
- Beach volleyball courts (-3)
- Bike skills parks (-2)
- Pickle ball courts (0)
- Mountain bike trails (0)
- Football fields (-6)**
- Tennis court (-5)**
- Performance stage / amphitheatres (+4)
- Off-leash dog areas (+7)**
- Spray parks (0)
- Outdoor boarded skating rinks (0)
- Outdoor speed skating ovals (-3)
- Playgrounds (+3)
- Soccer fields (+2)
- Multi-purpose courts (+2)
- Ball diamonds (0)
- Nature trails (+6)**
- Formal trails (paved, gravel) (+7)**

As for question 3, the overall the consensus is that respondents' least favourite choices were activities that residents already have access to while their favourite choices are where they see a need in the community for both existing residents and to attract new families.

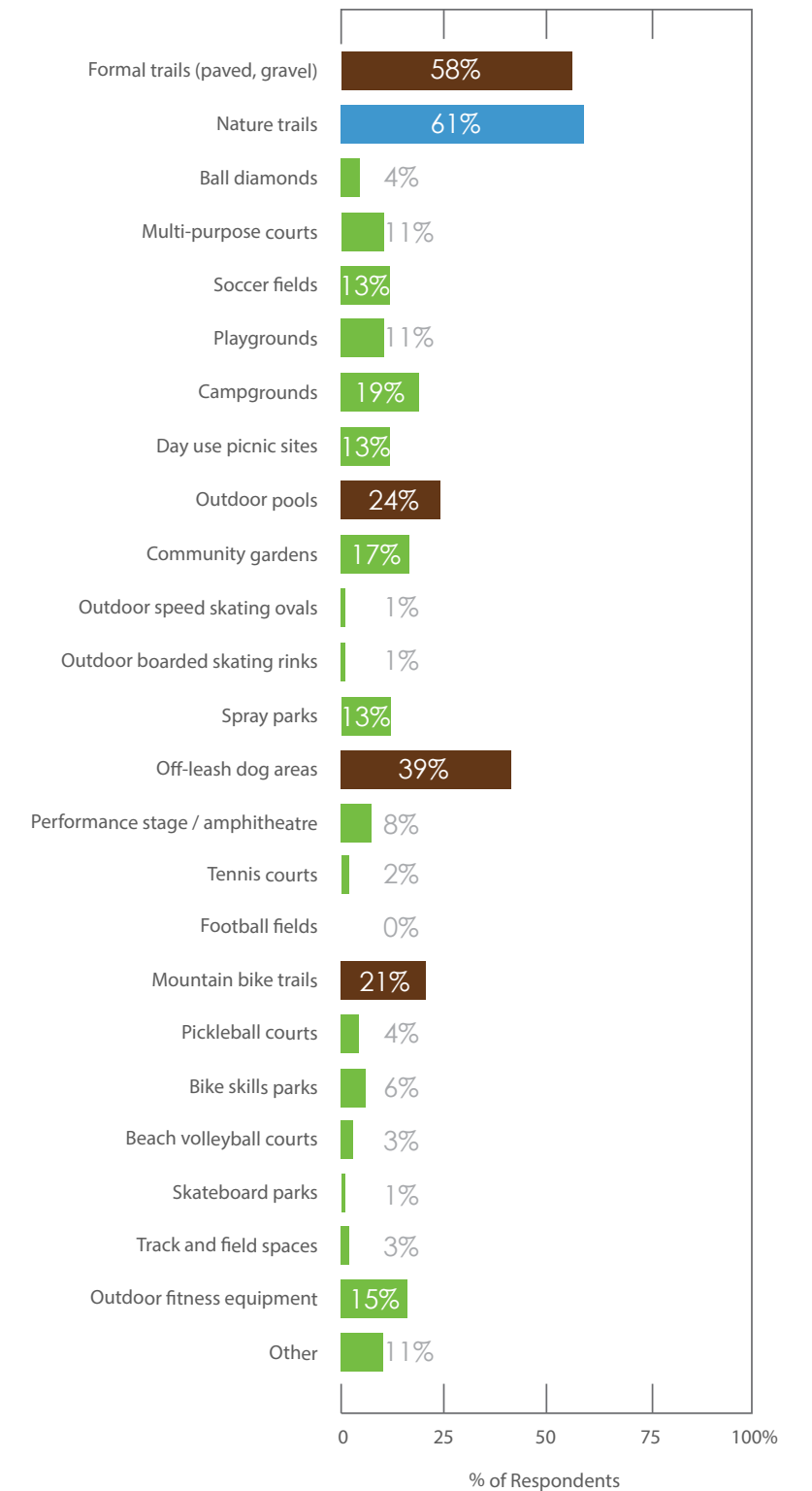


FIGURE 25: OUTDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE

5. In the public survey, a large majority of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed (77%) with the statement that there is a need for improved parks and trails in Gibbons.

A.) Can you think of any improvements that can be made that cost relatively little money?

- Maintain/upkeep current sports areas;
- Upgrade current parks and trails;
 - Pave existing trails;
 - Add benches along trails; and
 - Greater connections within trail system, providing a continuous trail loop around the town.
- Promote community pride in parks and trails and encourage them to help keep them clean; and
- Pruning trees and cutting and trimming grass on a scheduled bases to show care.

B.) If money was not a concern, what would be your main suggestion to improve parks and trails in Gibbons?

- Renovate current sports areas;
 - Level fields;
 - Add new goal posts; and
 - Add public washrooms.
- Add a canoe/kayak launch along the river;
- Addition of new trails;
- Have a continuous walking trail around town;
 - Add picnic tables along trails;
 - Pave all trails so they are fully accessible; and
 - Make the trail system more interactive and appealing to variety of ages through interpretation.
- Promotion of parks and trails;
- Add a footbridge across the river;
- Add outdoor workout equipment along trails;
 - Log lifts;
 - Adult monkey bars; and
 - Permanent “plyo box” for step ups.
- Maintain parks and trails regularly; and
- Establish a safety and maintenance protocol for parks and trails.



6. Describe what the Town is currently doing a fantastic job of as it relates to programming, maintaining and sustaining both indoor and outdoor recreation.

- Community events/bringing the community together;
- Hockey rink and skate park are very well maintained;
- Great town employees in place;
 - Offering the best programs and opportunities within their budgets.
- Town support of programs aimed at developing literacy to young children;
- Communication through the billboard and newsletter;
- The river trails are well maintained;
- Playgrounds are well maintained and modern;
- The Gibbons Cultural Centre as a facility overall;
- The gym at the Momentum Fitness Centre (MFC); and
- The variety of activities/programs offered to residents.
 - Summer programs are great for kids; and
 - Special events are well-planned.

7. Identify an outdoor activity that best corresponds with the interests of the organization you are representing. For example, if you are Ducks Unlimited, you may identify “nature appreciation” as your activity. For the activity you identify, describe the ideal scenario such as size of area required (such as ‘100 x 100m’), types of amenities needed (such as boardwalks, public washrooms, lookout towers, etc.), where in the community it best be located (such as ‘near the river’), number of people the amenity should accommodate, partners that would help sustain the amenity, etc.

- Child & Youth Sports:
 - Maintained outdoor soccer fields (current space by Landing Trail School is sufficient);
 - Heated storage (10 ft x 10 ft minimum);
 - Public washrooms; and
 - Various sized fields to accommodate U3 - U18 age groups.
- Community-Based Little Free Libraries:
 - Residents and businesses could place a small kiosk with books on their own property (outside);
 - Minimal space required (2 ft x 2 ft approx.);
 - Library could supply books from donations;
 - Ideal locations would be businesses such as coffee shops and residents who live in areas with a lot of foot traffic; and
 - Would require a partnership with woodcrafter for the construction of small post-based library kiosks.
- Upgrading Trails:
 - Addition of public washrooms along trails; and
 - Making trails longer (i.e. the implementation of continuous loops).
- Extreme BMX Trail:
 - Have a staging area;
 - Rest areas along the trail;
 - Lookout tower for scenic viewing/event overseeing;
 - Located with a full and wide view of the river valley;
 - Parking for 100 with access to overflow area;
 - Power tool store for equipment; and
 - Bike store offering sales and service.
- Outdoor fitness equipment:
 - Could be located in many of the Town parks; and
 - MFC could be responsible for maintenance.

8. Identify an indoor activity that best corresponds with the interests of the organization you are representing. For example, if you are representing a quilting club, you would identify “quilting” as your activity. For the activity you identify, describe the ideal scenario such as size of area required (such as size of room), types of amenities needed (such as good quality lighting), where in the community it best be located (either within an existing facility or a new one), number of people the amenity should accommodate, partners that would help sustain the amenity, etc.

- Child & Youth Sports:
 - Indoor sports facility;
 - 2-3 indoor turf fields;
 - Storage rooms for various clubs / organizations;
 - Multi-purpose courts;
 - Public washrooms;
 - Current Cultural Centre could be used, but it would need an addition to incorporate indoor fields and storage; and
 - Clubs/organizations could be responsible for helping to maintain during their respective “seasons” (taking out the garbage, sweeping, mopping, etc.).
- STEM / Makerspace:
 - Based out of the library;
 - Would require a dedicated space for equipment such as 3D printer, vinyl cutter, sewing machine, etc.;
 - Ideal space would be 20 ft x 20 ft;
 - Accommodate 4-6 people at a time; and
 - A corporate sponsor would be ideal in order to obtain the equipment and materials required.
- Flat Track Roller Derby:
 - Use arena dry floor and or outdoor rink area; and
 - Have camps / lessons / leagues.
- Art Studio:
 - Accommodate 20 people;
 - Needs good lighting or windows for scenery;
 - Could be located at the Cultural Centre;
 - Needs to be affordable; and
 - Bring in local artists to teach.
- Workout / Yoga Room:
 - Open to gym for training with members; and
 - MFC staff would be responsible for cleaning the room after use.

9. A) Partnership are important to help deliver programs and to animate public space. What new local partnerships do you envision, and how can these partners get involved?

- A partnership between Landing Trail School and the Town would be beneficial to keep soccer fields maintained;
- Corporate partnership for creation of a STEM / Makerspace in order to obtain and maintain all equipment and supplies (volunteers would be essential as well to offer classes/services to residents);
- Potential partnerships with MEC (Mountain Equipment Co-Op) for nature trail races;
- A partnership between the kids from the Youth Centre and the Legion / Museum / Twilight Club should be explored;
- Should develop a partnership between all sports organizations so they can work together to conduct activities such as fundraising; and
- In order to build new partnerships we need to mirror the goals of the potential partnership in the venture and show value to them.

9. B) What past partnerships have been unsuccessful, and why?

Past partnerships with the library have typically been one-off affairs where the partnership is not sustained over the long-term. This has led to the inability to sustain costs necessary to the long-term maintenance and repair of many programs and activities

10. A challenge of many communities is to provide “things to do” for teenagers that are completing high school and looking for reasons to either stay in their hometown or leave for other adventures. What “things to do” in Gibbons do you feel are available to these emerging adults? What amenities or activities are missing, and do you feel will help retain these residents to stay in Gibbons?

Currently available:

- Youth Centre;
- Sports;
- Charity runs (youth are encouraged to volunteer and participate more);
- Fitness Club (MFC); and
- There are many opportunities available, the problem is the youth actually wanting to get involved.

Missing:

- Indoor space for sports;
- Drop-in programs;
- STEM / Makerspace; and
- High quality computers that allow high school and college students to conduct their studies remotely.





11. Age friendly recreation is essential to help retain residents as they “age in place.”

A) What seniors activities are currently available in town, and where are they held?

B) What gaps are present in age friendly recreation in Gibbons?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors Centre / Group; • Seniors Walking Club; • Farmer’s Market at Curling Rink; • Seniors Dinner; • Bingo, Cards, Shuffleboard at the Dew Drop Inn; • Seniors Pub Night at the Dew Drop Inn; • Pickle ball at Gibbons School • Curling; • Participation in Charity Court Dog Run / Walk; • Library monthly outreach at the Lodge (residents can browse a selection of large print titles); | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legion; • Parent-Child Mother Goose Program at the Lodge (effort to create some inter-generational contact); • Fitness Centre (MFC); • Coffee Mornings; • Outdoor garden at the Senior Lodge; • Seniors Week (Community-Wide); • Seniors Christmas Dinner; and • River Cree Outing (once per month from the Spruce View Manor). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth (11-18 years old) do not seem to have a lot to do (only the Youth Centre and limited seasonal sports); • There currently isn’t adequate public transportation; • Library has difficulty attracting teenagers and young adults - most programming is geared towards children (0-10 years of age); • Lack of accessible outdoor walking spaces; and • Lack of intergenerational activities. |
|--|--|---|

12. Are there any outdoor parks and amenities that you think are currently underutilized? Of these amenities you’ve listed, how would you recommend they be improved in order to increase utilization? Or, if you feel they should be entirely eliminated, how would you re-purpose these amenities?

- Yes, there are many that are not very welcoming. They could be improved by increasing visibility and maintenance and promoting these spaces to the public;
- Oliver Park is underutilized. It needs better advertising, signage and promotion;
- Some playgrounds are underutilized. The Town is in need of better signage directing to parks;
- Tennis courts are underutilized. They should be re-purposed into pickle ball / multi-purpose courts or relocated to a more visible location (i.e. closer to a school); and
- All parks / outdoor amenities need to be advertised better through signage and maps.

13. Are there any indoor facilities and amenities that you think are currently underutilized? Of these amenities you’ve listed, how would you recommend they be improved in order to increase utilization? Or, if you feel they should be entirely eliminated, how would you re-purpose these amenities?

- The Cultural Centre is underutilized because people are not aware of its presence. Additionally, the gym and meeting room only seem to be used for Town events:
 - Utilization could be increased by introducing more affordable rental fees, non-profit pricing on rental fees, drop-in sports programs in gyms and implementing fewer restrictions on what spaces (gym) can be used for;
 - Offering spaces for sports and other recreational activities would also increase utilization of the centre. Sports equipment such as basketball hoop and suitable flooring would need to be provided; and
 - The Town needs to create more advertising and signage throughout the community so people are aware of the space.
- Momentum Fitness Centre (MFC) is underutilized because people are not aware of its presence. This could be resolved by the addition of advertising and signage throughout the community;
- All indoor facilities need to be better promoted to the public and surrounding area that state their benefits and why they should use them; and
- The curling rink should be re-purposed in the summer months in order to accommodate other activities.

14. Identify the three best outdoor amenities/features, indoor amenities and programs available in Gibbons. The graphs below show the workbook respondents' selections.

Outdoor Amenities / Features:

The most popular outdoor amenities/features selected were walking/nature trails and spray parks, each with five respondents identifying them as one of their top three.

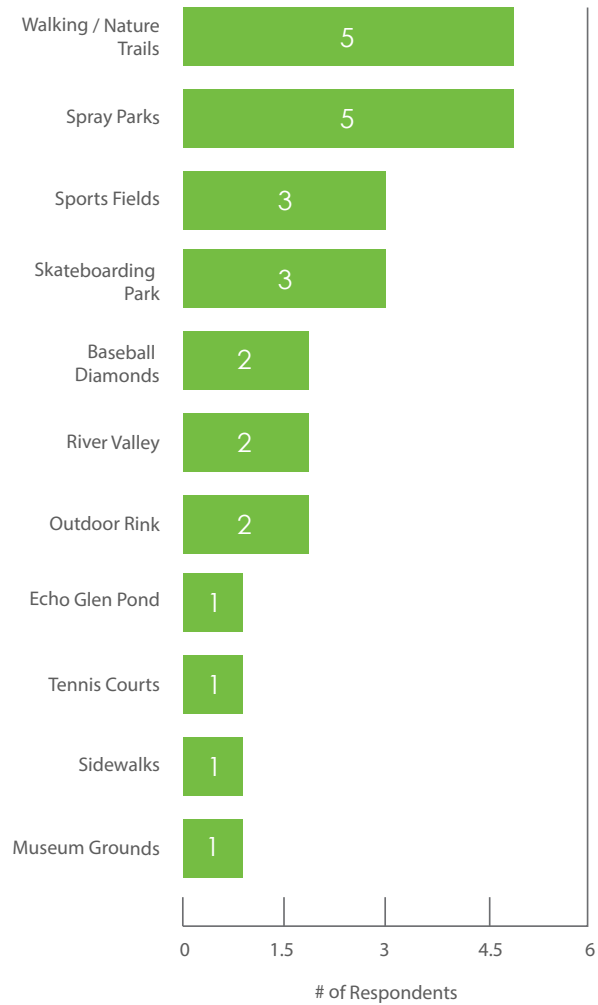


FIGURE 26: BEST EXISTING OUTDOOR AMENITIES / FACILITIES

Indoor Amenities / Features:

The most popular indoor amenity/feature selected was the Gibbons Cultural Centre with seven respondents identifying it as one of their top three. The arena followed closely behind with six, and the library with four.

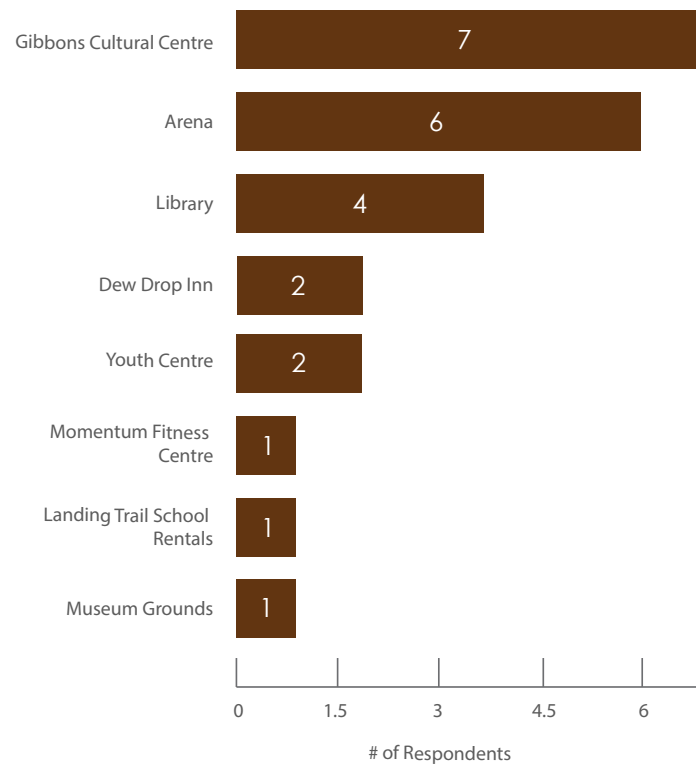


FIGURE 27: BEST EXISTING INDOOR AMENITIES / FACILITIES

Programs:

The most popular program selected was the Youth Centre programming with five respondents identifying it as one of their top three. The next highest program ranking in popularity was yoga.



FIGURE 28: BEST EXISTING PROGRAMS

15. Federal census indicates a growth rate for Gibbons of approximately 7% every five years. Assuming consistent growth over the next 20 years, Gibbons' population would be approximately 30% larger in 2040. With a larger population base, what do you feel priorities should be for recreation and programming for a growing population?

Below are the various responses collected from the workbooks:

- Programming and amenities to support avenues of learning for technology in the workplace;
- Clubs and organizations - more space for activities, storage space and affordable rental space;
- Trail System Improvements:
 - Expansion of trails with interpretive opportunities to create a more; and environmentally aware population
 - Paved trail system.
- Have all programs and recreation facilities under one roof positioned near or even attached to senior homes / grouped senior services / medical centres / shopping centre;
- Programming and amenities that facilitate health and fitness and preservation of healthy, active lifestyles particularly for youth;
- A new rink that is separate from the hockey rink;
- Improvements to make hosting sports tournaments more feasible (ex. overnight campground); and
- Upgraded recreation centre to host a greater variety of indoor activities and programs:
 - Addition of an indoor swimming pool;
 - Field house to allow for sports and recreation year-round;
 - Ice rink;
 - Gym facilities; and
 - Walking track.



16. The Municipal Government Act of Alberta allows a municipality to acquire 10% of all newly developed land as Municipal Reserve (MR). The Town has the discretion to take this amount of land as MR, to waive their right to take this land and accept cash at the current land value for that 10% land area or take more than 10% as MR and compensate the landowner accordingly. Many municipalities have exercised their right to take cash-in-lieu of dedicating MR in order to have capital funds for amenities such as recreation centres.

As a general principle, what approach do you feel the Town should take in future negotiations with land developers as the Town expands? Please provide an explanation.

By far the most popular opinion of respondents was that this should be handled on a case-by-case basis (63%). Most agreed that while providing space for recreational activities is essential, these spaces take money to maintain and the Town shouldn't take on more parkland if it doesn't have the capacity to maintain it. Another good point that was raised was that not all developed land is in a location that is appropriate for a municipal reserve. Rather, land should be acquired in residential areas, while cash-in-lieu should be considered in commercial and industrial areas.

25% of respondents felt that the Town should simply take cash-in-lieu. They felt that the Town already had plenty of space and facilities that need to be upgraded in order to be better utilized.

On the other hand, 12% of respondents felt that the Town should always take the land because it gives the Town additional avenues to promote open space and natural settings.

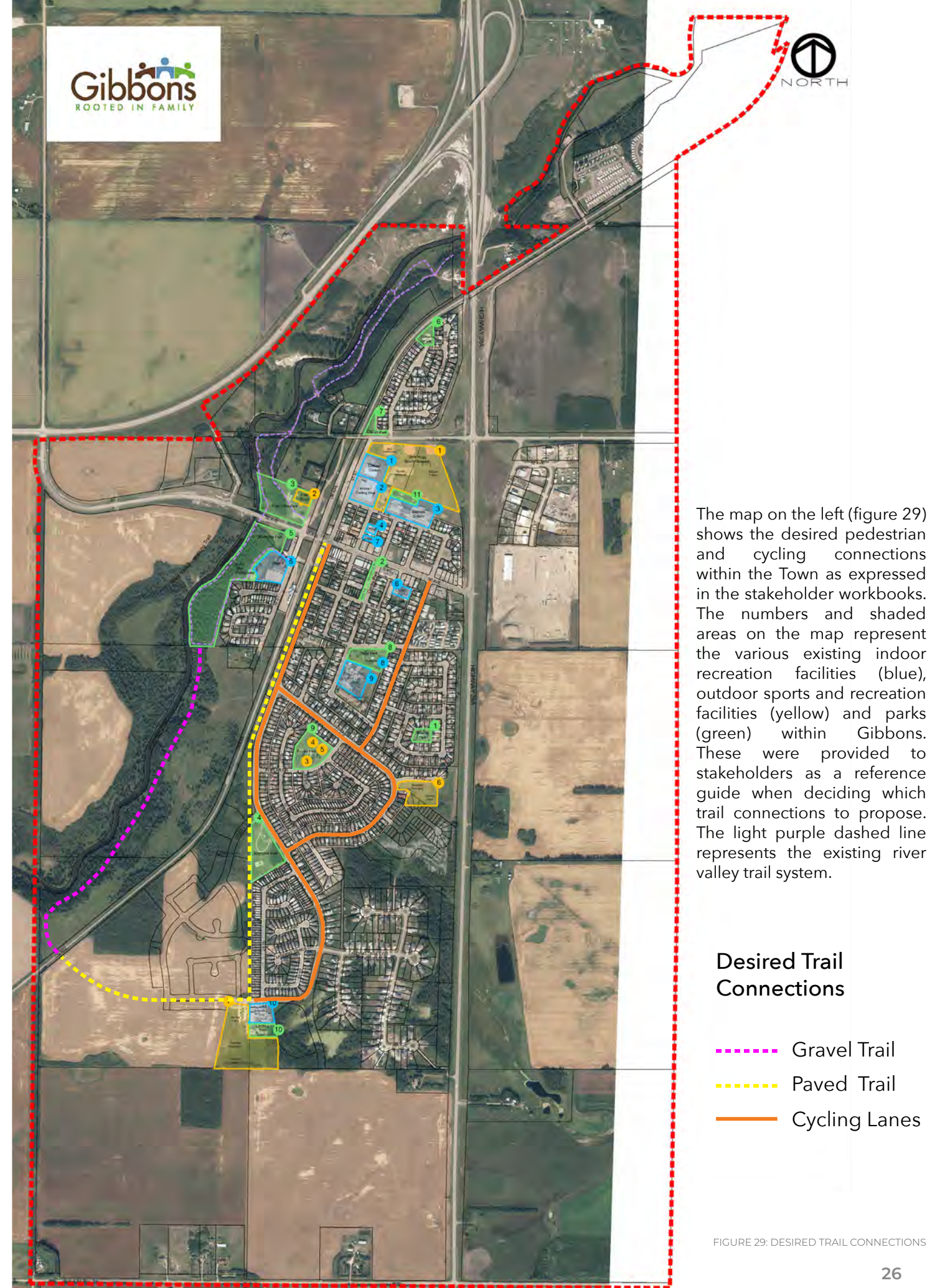
17. If Gibbons was to host a new recreation-based event that attracts visitors to Town and provides local residents with a great experience, what would it be? For example, an annual outdoor curling bonspiel. Does the Town currently have the amenities required to host the event you've identified? If not, what would be required?

Below are the various responses collected from the workbooks:

- Winter activity such as Gibbons' version of Candy Cane Lane, an outdoor hockey tournament, or winter softball tournaments;
- Outdoor concert series-amphitheatre;
- Outdoor music festival (rent a field);
- Curling at the outdoor rink;
- Square dancing in the Gibbons Cultural Centre;
- Baseball/Soccer Tournament (this would require camping or hotel accommodations in town);
- Town-wide BBQ;
- Bring back the Agri-Fair from the 1980s;
- Host a mud / foam run or similar event; and
- Emergency SVCS Curling Bonspiel or Golf Tournament .

18. Trails are a very important asset to local residents, and this was reinforced through the recent public survey results. A map has been provided showing the existing river valley trails as well as existing indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. Use this map to identify important pedestrian links that you feel should have designated pedestrian and cycling trails developed – along streets, through parks or through natural areas.

The map on the following page (Figure 29) shows the desired pedestrian and cycling connections within the Town. It is important to note that nearly every respondent indicated a desire to expand the river valley trail system.



The map on the left (figure 29) shows the desired pedestrian and cycling connections within the Town as expressed in the stakeholder workbooks. The numbers and shaded areas on the map represent the various existing indoor recreation facilities (blue), outdoor sports and recreation facilities (yellow) and parks (green) within Gibbons. These were provided to stakeholders as a reference guide when deciding which trail connections to propose. The light purple dashed line represents the existing river valley trail system.

Desired Trail Connections

- Gravel Trail
- Paved Trail
- Cycling Lanes

FIGURE 29: DESIRED TRAIL CONNECTIONS

3.2 Stakeholder Workshop

Several months after the originally scheduled workshop was revised into workbooks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a facilitated charette was conducted. The purpose of the afternoon workshop was to give internal and external stakeholders the opportunity to share their knowledge of the site history, past and current use patterns, opportunities and constraints around their group's use of recreation and parks facilities and potential growth of activities. Over 40 stakeholders were invited to attend and a total of 15 were present on the day of the workshop. This workshop session was three hours in length and was held at the Community Cultural Centre in the Town of Gibbons.

This charette included a combination of presentation materials led by the consultant team, breakout sessions to permit groups to deliberate certain topics, open discussions and a workbook to gather specific feedback from attendees. The goal of this workshop was to derive a sense of consensus regarding the results of the household survey as well as gain some insight on the use levels and desired upgrades / modifications to the Town of Gibbon's existing recreation and parks facilities and amenities.

On the following pages is a summary of the workbooks that were completed by each participant:



1. Indicate what stakeholder group you represent, describe your role with the organization and how it either directly or indirectly relates to parks and recreation amenities/facilities within the Town of Gibbons.

2. Approximately 40 people were invited to attend this session. Now that introductions of workshop attendees are complete, who do you feel would be a key perspective to have here today that is absent? As a working group, what perspective, concern or opinions are we missing amongst stakeholders?

This workshop had a wide variety of attendees with an array of vested interest in recreation and parks in the Town. We had representatives from the following:

- Gibbons School Parent's Advisory Committee (PAC);
- Gibbons Fitness Centre;
- Gibbons Community Cultural Centre;
- Town of Gibbons Facilities;
- CNN Minor Hockey;
- Gibbons Skating Club;
- Gibbons Public Library;
- Gibbons Curling Club;
- Senior Twilight Club;
- Gibbons Preschool (in the GCCC);
- Sturgeon Alliance Church;
- Town of Gibbons Recreation and Youth Coordination;
- Town of Gibbons Public Works; and
- Royal Canadian Legion Gibbons Branch #226.

Many participants stated that they felt the representation was fair. One participant noted that the 25 invitees that did not attend must not have been concerned about the future of recreation and parks in the Town.

Below is a list of key perspectives that some members of the group felt were missing from the session:

- Town Chamber of Commerce;
- Summer field users (baseball / soccer);
- River Valley Alliance Group;
- FRC;
- Museum;
- Gibbons Scouts Group;
- Karate; and
- Town Superintendent.

3. A community-wide survey for this project was completed in spring 2020. 36% of respondents said that their main reason for not participating in recreation was that their preferred type of activity was not available. From your perspective, what three new indoor and outdoor activities / programs should be made available in Gibbons?

Five Most Common Indoor Activities / Programs Listed Are:

1. Indoor sport courts / gymnasium (33.3% support);
2. Indoor sports fields (33.3% support);
3. Indoor playground (20% support);
4. Indoor walking track (13.3% support); and
5. Indoor pool (13.3% support).

Five Most Common Outdoor Activities / Programs Listed Are:

1. Improve and expand walking trail system (46.7% support);
2. Off-Leash dog park (20% support);
3. Enlarged / improved spray park (13.3% support);
4. Skiing / snowshoeing (13.3% support); and
5. Outdoor rink (without boards) (13.3% support).

4. Participants were asked which of the listed indoor amenities (the same that were listed for the household survey) could be made more readily available or enhanced in Gibbons. They were asked to identify their top five choices and their least favourite five choices:

The indoor amenities are listed below in order of most support to least support based on what participants think should be made more readily available or enhanced in Gibbons. Amenities received a +1 score if it was placed among a participant's top 5 choices, a -1 score if it was ranked among a participant's bottom 5 choices and a 0 score if it was not among either.

1. Indoor walking or running track (+9)
2. Fitness and wellness facilities (+9)
3. Ice arena for leisure skating (+5)
4. Ice arena for hockey (+4)
5. Seniors centre (+3)
6. Ice arena for figure skating (+3)
7. Indoor children's playground (+2)
8. Other (+1)
9. Library spaces
10. Gymnastics / parkour
11. Curling rinks
12. Out of school childcare
13. Education or meeting rooms
14. Youth centre (-1)
15. Climbing walls (-1)
16. Leisure swimming pools (-2)
17. Combative sports (-2)
18. Art studio (-3)
19. Community halls (-4)
20. Indoor agricultural facility (-5)
21. Daycares (-5)

6. Overall, would you say that your perspectives on parks and recreation are consistent with the household survey results that were just presented? Why or why not?

No (47%) - A large number of participants said that their perspectives were not consistent with the household survey results. The overwhelming reason for this is that stakeholders thought the low response rate for the household survey resulted in findings that were not actually representative of the community.

Yes (33%) - Those that agreed with the survey felt that their opinions were in line with the results that were presented.

On the Fence (15%) - Some participants were on the fence because they agree with the survey results, but had a hard time standing behind them when they thought that many items were not financially realistic for the community.

5. Participants were asked which of the listed outdoor amenities (the same that were listed for the household survey) could be made more readily available or enhanced in Gibbons. They were asked to identify their top five choices and their least favourite five choices:

The outdoor amenities are listed below in order of most support to least support based on what participants think should be made more readily available or enhanced in Gibbons. Amenities received a +1 score if it was placed among a participant's top 5 choices, a -1 score if it was ranked among a participant's bottom 5 choices and a 0 score if it was not among either.

1. Formal trails - paved, gravel (+12)
2. Nature trails (+9)
3. Off-leash dog areas (+7)
4. Playgrounds (+7)
5. Outdoor fitness equipment (+3)
6. Multi-purpose courts (+3)
7. Spray parks (+3)
8. Mountain bike trails (+3)
9. Ball diamonds (+2)
10. Soccer fields (+1)
11. Outdoor boarded rinks (+1)
12. Day use picnic sites (+1)
13. Tennis courts
14. Pickle ball courts
15. Track and field spaces
16. Other
17. Community gardens
18. Performance stage / amphitheatre (-1)
19. Bike skills parks (-1)
20. Skateboard parks (-1)
21. Campgrounds (-1)
22. Outdoor pools (-3)
23. Football fields (-4)
24. Outdoor speed skating oval (-5)
25. Beach volleyball courts (-6)



7. What do you think is the single greatest example of recreation and leisure facilities, programs, events, etc. offered within Gibbons today? Please explain.

The most widely mentioned example of the single greatest recreation and leisure facility, program or event within Gibbons today was the parks and trails system. Reasoning for selecting the parks and trails system as the single greatest recreational asset to the town include the fact that they are used by the entire community, that they encourage active play and a healthy lifestyle and that they are relatively low-maintenance / cost when compared to some of the other assets.

Other notable mentions include hockey, specifically as a program as well as the outdoor rink and indoor arena facilities. The main reason for listing hockey as the single greatest recreational asset in Gibbons is that it brings families and the community together.

Another notable mention was the Gibbons Community Cultural Centre. The stakeholders selected this facility for its capacity to hold a great variety of events and programs that the whole community can enjoy.

8. From your perspective, what are the three least utilized indoor recreational facilities / amenities within Gibbons? How would you improve them to drive up use and participation levels? Or do you think they should be eliminated entirely?

By far, the most common answer for the least utilized indoor recreational facility / amenity in Gibbons was the Gibbons Community Cultural Centre auditorium. Almost two-thirds of the stakeholders agreed that the auditorium is underutilized in its current state as it is too expensive for people to rent. There was a great deal of support behind retrofitting the room to have the capabilities of a community gymnasium that accommodates various activities.

The curling rink was also noted as being largely underutilized due to the lack of programming for the space during the curling off-season.

Another important pattern to note is that 20% of workshop attendees felt that there was a great underutilization of school gymnasiums and that the town and schools should partner together to make better use of facilities and capitalize on existing assets to benefit both parties.

9. From your perspective, what is the least utilized park within Gibbons? How would you improve the park to increase use? Or do you think it should be eliminated entirely?

While many participants felt that all of the Town's parks are well utilized, it is important to note that 40% of respondents stated that Brumfit Park was the least utilized park within Gibbons. The primary reason for this was due to Brumfit Park's location, with the backyards of homes on all four sides. There is public access to the park, but most people are unaware of it and therefore this park does not see the use that it could if it were visible from the street.

10. Identify important pedestrian links that you feel should have designated pedestrian and cycling trails developed – along streets, through parks or through natural areas.

The most popular answer was to expand the current river valley trail system to the south, with over 33% of participants agreeing this was an important next step in the development of trails within Gibbons.

Other notable links / trails include trails leading to the dog park, more trails in natural areas that connect different communities and measured "loop trails" of varying distances (such as a 2km loop, 5km loop and 10km loop).

11. What do you think are the three least utilized outdoor sports and recreation facilities / amenities within Gibbons? How would you improve them to drive up use and participation levels? Or do you think they should be eliminated entirely?

According to stakeholders, the top three least utilized outdoor sports and recreation facilities are:

1. T-Ball Park - 33% of participants agree that the T-Ball Park should be converted into a different amenity such as a playground or removed entirely and used for a different use such as housing;
2. Basketball Courts - 27% of participants listed the outdoor basketball courts as one of the least utilized outdoor sports and recreation facilities in Gibbons. Respondents stated that it is not because of a lack of community interest, but rather lack of programming and a need to improve / upgrade the courts; and
3. Spray Park - 13% of participants noted that the spray pad needs to be expanded in order to accommodate more people and be utilized to its full potential.

12. Age friendly recreation is essential to help retain residents as they "age in place". What gaps are currently present in age friendly recreation in Gibbons?

Many participants felt that there are no currently present in age friendly recreation in Gibbons (33%). However, some notable responses include providing an indoor gym with open hours for all ages to have a place to recreate at any time of the year (13%) as well as increasing the accessibility of parks and trails including the addition of benches for users needing to rest (13%).



13. If you were redesigning Memorial Park, what recreation and leisure amenities / facilities would you include and why?

There was a great deal of consensus regarding what recreation and leisure amenities should be added to Memorial Park. The most popular idea, supported by 50% of participants, was the addition of a formalized trailhead and trail access into the river valley. 40% of participants agreed that this trailhead should feature picnic tables, benches and indoor washroom facilities.

The second most popular design idea, receiving 40% participant support is to implement a fenced off-leash dog park within or directly adjacent to Memorial Park.

Two other uses gaining 27% and 20% support respectively are an outdoor auditorium / event space and an outdoor skating rink (without boards).

14. If Gibbons was to host a new recreation-based event that attracts visitors to Town and provides local residents with a great experience, what would it be? For example, an annual outdoor curling bonspiel. Does the Town currently have the amenities required to host the event you've identified? If not, what would

There were several interesting responses to this question. The most widely supported suggestion was to host a new festival of some kind that goes hand and hand with a recreational event. Some interesting, and relatively feasible options include a haunted hike, Rum Race (or similar race), Slo-Pitch tournament, outdoor hockey game or outdoor curling bonspiel. The recreation facilities needed for these events already exist within the Town. Many suggested that tying a festival and sporting event together would be a good way to bring the community together and draw people to Gibbons to participate.

3.3 Public Drop-In Session

The evening public drop-in session was a chance to engage with the people of Gibbons to review the progress and findings of the previous engagement sessions. Approximately 25 residents attended during the 1.5-hour session which was held at the Community Cultural Centre in the Town of Gibbons.

The drop-in session was organized in such a way that attendees were guided around the room in the same order of the afternoon workshop with graphics and workshop activities were put up on the wall for everyone to see and comment on.

First, attendees saw summarizing takeaways from the household survey where they could comment on whether or not they agreed with the findings. Overall, attendees agreed with the findings of the household survey. There was one important inconsistency to note. While the household survey found residents wanted to introduce an both an indoor leisure swimming pool and outdoor pool to the town, attendees of the public drop-in session felt that it was financially impossible and irresponsible to implement such a costly asset in such a small town. Many attendees commented that they would rather travel out of town to use a pool than to take one on in Gibbons because implementation and upkeep are so costly.

Next, attendees were asked to comment on the list of “successful” recreation and programming within Gibbons that were developed during the afternoon’s workshop. Attendees agreed with the following list of “successful” recreation and programming in Gibbons:

- Youth programming;
- Walking trails;
- Fishing pond;
- Pickle ball;
- Spray park (though many hoped it could be expanded);
- Arena and outdoor skating rink;
- Skate park; and
- Momentum Fitness Club.

It was also interesting to note that while it is not currently a formalized recreational asset within the town of Gibbons, that both stakeholders from the afternoon workshop and attendees at the evening public drop-in listed the toboggan hill behind the Sturgeon Alliance Church as an example of “successful” recreation in town. Many felt that it should become formalized and developed to include amenities such as picnic tables and fire pits.

Immediately following this exercise, attendees were asked to comment on the list of “successful” recreation and programming outside of Gibbons that were also developed during the afternoon’s workshop. Attendees agreed with the following list of “successful” recreation and programming outside of Gibbons, in hopes the town might incorporate some of these ideas in the community:

- Larger spray park;
- Indoor walking track;
- Indoor playground for children;
- Open gym / fieldhouse;
- Permaculture / edible landscapes / community gardening;
- Living art; and
- A greater variety of sports programming (including basketball and indoor soccer).



Attendees then moved on to look at some recreation trends in western Canada. These trends were presented to the afternoon stakeholders to inform the group of some up and coming recreation movements that are taking hold in surrounding communities. While some of the more urban trends such as the use of electric scooters and bikes were not supported by the Gibbons community, others, such as the pet-friendly spaces trend, were widely sustained. One trend that received a lot of attention, was that advancements in technology are allowing for greater surveillance to prevent vandalism. As always, the idea of surveillance received very contrasting comments. Some attendees agreed that vandalism is a prevalent problem facing Gibbons and that increased surveillance should be implemented. While others felt that Gibbons did not have a vandalism problem and that the use of surveillance was a privacy concern.

Next, attendees were given the chance to look at and comment on Activity #1 from the afternoon workshop in which stakeholders were asked to critically analyze indoor recreation in Gibbons and assess whether each existing asset should be maintained as-is, be retrofitted or upgraded, or, removed entirely. They were also asked to note any new indoor facilities or programs that should be implemented. Much in-line with the results of the stakeholder workbooks, summarized previously in this report, attendees felt that school gymnasiums were widely underutilized and that a partnership between the town and the schools should be created to allow these spaces to be used to their full potential. Another similar trend was the support for increased use of the Cultural Centre auditorium. Many feel that the auditorium should have the capacity to support gym-style activities or be more accessible and affordable for the community to rent the space. Other important comments to note include increased ice time at the arena for locals and the implementation of an indoor playground for children.

Following activity #1, attendees were given the chance to look at and comment on Activity #2A from the afternoon workshop in which stakeholders were asked to critically analyze park space in Gibbons and assess whether each existing asset should be maintained as-is, be retrofitted or upgraded, or, removed entirely. They were also asked to note any new park assets that should be implemented. A common point raised in both the afternoon workshop and public drop-in session was that Gibbons has great existing park assets, but that they need to be maintained and /or updated to better serve the community. Attendees at the evening session also noted that Mile 26 Park is underutilized in its current state. Some ideas for improving the park included working with youth to introduce an edible landscape or permaculture, or, adding more furnishings and formalizing it as a trail rest area. Unlike in the stakeholder workbooks, attendees at the public drop-in session did not see Brumfit Park as an underutilized space.



4.1 Resulting Indoor Priorities

The following table (figure 30) outlines, through frequency of response, the indoor priorities as identified through the research and consultation. As illustrated in the following table, the top indoor priorities are:

- Indoor children’s playgrounds;
- Fitness and wellness facilities;
- Leisure swimming pools;
- Indoor sports courts / gymnasiums;
- Indoor walking / running track;
- Seniors centres; and
- Ice arena for leisure skating.

Figure 30 shows a graphical summary of the indoor priorities coming out of the online survey, along with rankings of priorities from other study activities such as stakeholder meetings and the review of other supporting plans. The online survey was advertised over local media, and every household and local business was provided with letter mail to encourage people to complete the survey. A total of 78 surveys were received for this community-wide survey. Results of the survey have been weighted with other aspects of this master plan process, such as the stakeholder engagement sessions, trends and leading practices and any current plans already in place or underway for developing recreational amenities. To receive a score for each category the amenity space / facility needed to be identified as a need or priority within that category.

4.2 Resulting Outdoor Priorities

The following table outlines, through frequency of response, the outdoor priorities as identified through the research and consultation. As illustrated in the following table, the top outdoor priorities are:

- Formal trails (paved, gravel);
- Nature trails;
- Off-leash dog areas;
- Mountain bike trails;
- Multi-purpose courts;
- Soccer fields;
- Playgrounds;
- Performance stage / amphitheatre;
- Outdoor fitness equipment.

Figure 31 shows a graphical summary of the outdoor recreation priorities for Gibbons, determined in the same way as described for the indoor priorities (above). To receive a score for each category the amenity space / facility needed to be identified as a need or priority within that category.

Next, attendees were given the chance to look at and comment on Activity #2B from the afternoon workshop in which stakeholders were asked to critically analyze trails in Gibbons and assess whether each existing trail should be maintained as-is, be upgraded, or, removed entirely. They were also asked to note any new trail links (both pedestrian and cycling) that should be implemented. Common criticisms regarding existing trails, were the lack of both rest areas and garbage cans. Some proposed new trails included measured distance “loops” as mentioned in the workbook summaries, expanding the river valley trails while being conscious of minimizing disturbance to the natural landscape and wildlife and additional sidewalks to allow children to walk to schools and parks. Another improvement that was requested by several attendees was the addition of signage, both interpretive and directional, along all of the trails in town.

Following activity #2B, attendees were given the chance to look at and comment on Activity #3 from the afternoon workshop in which stakeholders were asked to critically analyze outdoor sports and recreation facilities in Gibbons and assess whether each existing asset should be maintained as-is, be retrofitted or upgraded, or, removed entirely. They were also asked to note any new outdoor sports and recreation assets that should be implemented. The public-drop-in attendees’ views were very much in-line with those expressed in the stakeholder workbooks. Many people would like to see the addition of an outdoor rink (without boards) for public use. There was also a great deal of consensus regarding the need to upgrade the existing basketball courts in order to be used to their full potential.

The last activity that attendees were given the chance to comment on was Activity #4 from the afternoon workshop in which stakeholders were asked to “design” Memorial Park and suggest parks and recreation assets to be implemented there. Below is a list of items attendees hoped to see implemented at Memorial Park:

- Fenced off-leash dog park;
- Playground for younger and older children;
- Living / community art space (to help combat vandalism); and
- Tree plantings to buffer the park from adjacent homes as well as the park from the cemetery.

In addition to design suggestions, there were also a number of concerns / issues that were raised by the public. These include:

- Adjacent houses are located too close to implement an auditorium;
- The park is not regularly maintained and is often vandalized;
- There is currently poor visibility into the park; and
- If a dog park is implemented, it should be set back in the trees.

Resulting Indoor Priorities

Indoor Amenity Space / Facility	Resident Survey	Stakeholder Meetings	Public Open House	Trends & Leading Practices	Plans	TOTAL
Indoor Children's Playground	2	2	1		1	6
Fitness and Wellness Facilities	2	2		1	1	6
Leisure Swimming Pools	2	2		1	1	6
Seniors Centre	1	2		1	1	5
Indoor Walking or Running Track	2	2		1		5
Indoor Courts / Gymnasium		2	1	1	1	5
Ice Arena for Leisure Skating	1	1	1		1	4
Art Studio	1	1			1	3
Climbing Walls	2					2
Community Halls				1		1
Ice Arena for Hockey		1				1
Ice Arena for Figure Skating		1				1
Gymnastics / Parkour	1					1
Indoor Agricultural Facility	1					1
Combative Sports						0
Youth Centre						0
Curling Rinks						0
Daycares						0
Out of School Child Care						0
Library Spaces						0
Education / Meeting Rooms						0

FIGURE 30: INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

Note: The top 5 household survey priorities are given a weighting of "2" while those amenity spaces / facilities ranked 6-10 in the household survey are given a weighting of "1". The top 5 stakeholder workshop priorities are given a weighting of "2" while those amenity spaces / facilities ranked 6-10 in the stakeholder workshops are given a weighting of "1". Amenities / spaces that received a great deal of support during the public open house received a weighting of "1". Amenities / spaces that are gaining traction in current recreation trends and leading practices were given a weighting of "1". Additionally, facilities that are identified as a priority in current plans was given a weighting of "1".

Resulting Outdoor Priorities

Indoor Amenity Space / Facility	Resident Survey	Stakeholder Meetings	Public Open House	Trends & Leading Practices	Plans	TOTAL
Formal Trails (Paved, Gravel)	2	2	1	1	1	7
Nature Trails	2	2	1	1	1	7
Off-Leash Dog Areas	2	2	1			5
Multi-Purpose Courts		1	1		1	3
Soccer Fields	1	1			1	3
Playgrounds		2	1			3
Performance Stage / Amphitheatre		2		1		3
Mountain Bike Trails	2	1				3
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	1	1		1		3
Outdoor Pools	2					2
Community Gardens	1		1			2
Outdoor Skating Rinks		1	1			2
Spray Parks	1	1				2
Track and Field Spaces					1	1
Bike Skills Parks					1	1
Day Use Picnic Sites	1					1
Campgrounds	1					1
Ball Diamonds		1				1
Outdoor Speed Skating Oval						0
Tennis Courts						0
Football Fields						0
Beach Volleyball Courts						0
Skateboard Parks						0

FIGURE 31: OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

Note: The top 5 household survey priorities are given a weighting of "2" while those amenity spaces / facilities ranked 6-10 in the household survey are given a weighting of "1". The top 5 stakeholder workshop priorities are given a weighting of "2" while those amenity spaces / facilities ranked 6-10 in the stakeholder workshops are given a weighting of "1". Amenities / spaces that received a great deal of support during the public open house received a weighting of "1". Amenities / spaces that are gaining traction in current recreation trends and leading practices were given a weighting of "1". Additionally, facilities that are identified as a priority in current plans was given a weighting of "1".



5.0 CLOSING SUMMARY

Various community engagement sessions leading up to this point have greatly shaped the recommended priorities for recreation that are listed in Section 4.0, above. The findings within this Draft Engagement Summary and Resulting Priorities Report represent the viewpoints of stakeholders, the public, current trends and leading practices, and guidelines and priorities set in existing local and regional planning documents. Before these recommendations are added to the final Recreation and Parks Master Plan, community input is being sought yet again. Please take the time to complete the accompanying online survey to provide your feedback on the findings that are represented in this report. These comments are still highly important and will help to ensure that the recommendations posed in the Recreation and Parks Master Plan are truly representative of the community.

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan will be finalized in the coming weeks and will be presented to Council early 2021. Any feedback received via the accompanying online survey will be incorporated into the final recommendations that are presented.