



TOWN OF GIBBONS
RECREATION AND PARKS
MASTER PLAN

DRAFT UPDATE: January 6, 2021



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PREPARED BY



PREPARED FOR



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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. This Recreation and Parks Master Plan was developed under the leadership of a professional consultant and guided by engagement with local residents and stakeholders. It 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 identifies recommendations for approximately a ten-year horizon, at which time these recommendations should be re-evaluated to reflect current needs of the time.

This 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, this 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. This plan strikes a balance between trends of recreation across western Canada, the local region and those identified through stakeholder engagement.

Throughout the creation of this Master Plan, a team of consultants worked 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 community believes 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.

This Recreation and Parks Master Plan 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 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.

1.1 Plan Purpose

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 variety of active and passive recreation allows individuals with a range of physical and mental abilities to participate in activities that suit their own needs. Having a diverse array 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 sports 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 plan began with an assessment of the indoor and outdoor recreational amenities available to residents of Gibbons. It also involves background research on recreational trends for Gibbons, based on trends found for comparable communities across western Canada. The plan then includes outreach to residents and other pertinent stakeholders of Gibbons to refine recreational priorities that are recommended by the plan. Within its final recommendations, the plan identifies priorities based on a number of factors, establishes a phasing strategy to demonstrate near-term versus long-term recommendations and indicates ideal locations for any new recreational amenity or activity.



1.2 Plan Guiding Principles

The goal of this Recreation and Parks Master Plan is to document current recreational, parks and leisure assets and capacity and develop strategies for gaining new assets to accommodate population growth, demographics, cultural diversity, and staying current with industry trends for the Town. The master plan aims to provide a detailed needs assessment to support the future direction of recreation, parks and leisure services in the Town, and to develop a statement and policies/guidelines around the delivery of programs, facilities and services.

Several guiding principles set the course for this Master Plan document. These principles are listed on the following page.

Plan Guiding Principles

- 1.** Pertains specifically to Gibbons.
- 2.** Serves as a foundation for responding to parks, recreation and leisure issues.
- 3.** Provides opportunities for the assessment of the impact of demographic, social, and economic changes on residents.
- 4.** Provides for the assessment of parks, recreation and leisure impact of municipal decisions on the quality of life of residents.
- 5.** Facilitates the prioritization and planning for current and future parks, recreation and leisure needs.
- 6.** Aids in monitoring key socio-economic demographic indicators to address issues as they emerge.
- 7.** Clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the Town and other sectors.
- 8.** Guides the development of policies to address parks, recreation and leisure services issues.
- 9.** Strengthens the Town's commitment to integrated planning for all parks, recreation and leisure services.
- 10.** Highlights community assets, recognize and value community expertise and processes and generates local solutions to local problems.
- 11.** Supports and reinforces concepts such as inclusion, diversity, community stewardship and community cohesion.
- 12.** Seeks to build local capital and capacity.



The Town of Gibbons is a central Albertan community within a 30-minute drive of the City of Edmonton. Gibbons is strategically located within the industrial heartland of Alberta, which hosts a variety of industrial operators primarily in the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors. At the same time, the region has strong agricultural roots, with a variety of livestock-based, pasture and grain farming operations. For many generations, an active rail line has passed through Gibbons and highway 28 & 28A has passed alongside the Town, which is a Provincial highway providing strategic access from the greater Metropolitan region to Alberta's north.

With a population of approximately 3,500 residents, Gibbons maintains a number of local recreational amenities for its local and area residents. Figure 4 identifies an inventory of both indoor and outdoor recreational amenities found in Gibbons. Local residents also take advantage of amenities surrounding the community, such as those in Sturgeon County, the City of St. Albert and the City of Edmonton. While residents have the ability to use recreational amenities outside of Gibbons, the recommendations of this plan are limited to the current boundaries of Gibbons, which includes a large tract of undeveloped land slated for future growth.



3.1 Town of Gibbons Municipal Development Plan (2018)

The Municipal Government Act of Alberta states that all municipalities are required to create and regularly update a Municipal Development Plan (MDP). The over-arching purpose of an MDP is to identify high-level priorities for the operations, growth and maintenance of a community, looking at both current needs and the future needs of a community. The Gibbons MDP was last updated in 2018 and was adopted by Council as Bylaw PLU 5/18. The MDP identifies the over-arching vision of the Town, which is supported by goals and policies to provide local decision-makers with direction on land use and community development. At the time of updating this plan the Town had just completed an annexation of lands with Sturgeon County and there was an obvious need to address the future planning and growth of the Town on these new land areas.

Nine smart-growth themes were identified in the MDP, one of which includes recreation and the need to enhance parks, green space and recreational opportunities in Gibbons. The concept of complete neighbourhoods has been identified, whereas recreation needs to be accessible to residents as a key means of promoting healthy and active living. As a more specific recommendation, the plan addresses the importance of trails and a circulation system which links schools, parks, recreation facilities, the Sturgeon River and other parts of the Town. Section 8 - Sustainable Environment and Parks identifies that the Town has an extensive network of parks and open space, with the Sturgeon River Valley being an important part of that network. Five objectives focused on recreation were identified under this section of the MDP, which range from the need for local production of food to the need to protect natural systems and landforms.

3.2 Sturgeon Regional Recreation Facility Master Plan (2013)

In 2013, the Town of Gibbons was included in a Regional Recreation Facility Master Plan that included five municipalities (Legal, Gibbons, Morinville, Redwater and Bon Accord) and the broader municipality (Sturgeon County). This plan solidified the Sturgeon Regional Partnership, which recognized the importance and benefits in planning collaboratively for the provision of recreation facilities over the next 25 years. The plan was derived using a variety of engagement tactics such as stakeholder workshops, Council workshops, online surveys and public open house sessions. An inventory of recreational amenities within all the municipalities was developed that identified the diverse range and location of recreational opportunities and amenities of the region. One of the key ideologies identified by the plan was the need to work collaboratively with other communities, and the importance of a systems-based approach to planning for recreation. Not all communities can have all amenities, and this master plan helped to determine barriers to recreation for residents of the region. A number of proposed strategies, such as the need to improve regional coordination, cooperation and funding of the regional recreation system, were identified by the plan and are of importance as a foundation to Gibbons' recreational planning initiatives. The regional plan identifies clear actions for each of the communities. Specific to Gibbons, the plan lists actions such as the need to complete the planned cultural centre, additional youth and arts programming space and enhancing the local arena.

4.0 RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURE REVIEW

The following is a summary of identified provincial and federal policies, which have informed the research and have influenced the creation of the Gibbons Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

4.1 Active Alberta (2011-2021)

Recreation, active living and sport are vitally important to Albertans. Research clearly points to the importance of active lifestyles to the physical, social and emotional health and well-being of individuals and their communities. This resource outlines a 10-year policy to refocus government initiatives, challenge partners, and encourage Albertans to become more active. Active Alberta sets out a vision for recreation, active living and sport: Albertans enjoy a high quality of life, improved health and wellness, strong communities, economic benefits and personal fulfillment, through recreation, active living and sport.

4.2 Spirit of Alberta: Alberta's Cultural Policy (2008)

Launched in January 2008, this policy provides a framework for decision-making related to the support, growth and development of culture. Based on extensive research and public consultation, the Spirit of Alberta policy reflects the broad view of Albertan culture, encompassing the arts, our heritage, natural landscapes and recreation. The policy is focused around four keystones, including access, capacity, excellence and growth of cultural industries.

Recreation, active living and sport are integral to the culture of Alberta. As the Spirit of Alberta: Alberta's Cultural Policy states, recreation and sport are included in our definition of Alberta's culture and: "...culture is the glue that connects us as individuals to our communities, fostering unity, civility and a sense of belonging, pride and caring for our fellow citizens."¹

¹ Government of Alberta. The Spirit of Alberta. Alberta's Cultural Policy. Released August 1, 2009. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ac5d84b2-53dd-48aa-b6db-5949ac-895bce/resource/d8a26cd3-d72d-479b-b3c0-54c7228afb71/download/4184331-culture-alberta-cultural-policy-reprinted-august-2009.pdf>



4.3 A Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing (2015)

The Framework provides a new vision for recreation and identifies common ways of thinking about the role of recreation in Canadian life, based on clear goals and underlying values and principles. It has been endorsed by the Government of Canada, Provincial and Territorial Ministers, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Provincial and Territorial Parks and Recreation Associations and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Framework provides a renewed definition of recreation: Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.



Figure 1: PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING FRAMEWORK DIAGRAM

4.4 Parks for All (2017)

Developed in 2017 by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) and the Canadian Parks Council (CPC), Parks for All presents a vision for parks as well as four strategic directions.

a) Vision:

Connected Canadian park lands and waters that support healthy Nature and healthy people in harmony for generations to come, backed by an active, diverse parks community that cultivates shared goals, mutual respect, and collective action.

b) Four Strategic Directions:

1. Collaborate

- Nurturing partnerships between Indigenous organizations and the broader parks community;
- Collaborating with new and diverse sectors; and
- Strategizing beyond park boundaries.

2. Connect

- Raising public awareness of our parks;
- Facilitating experiences which connect visitors with nature; and
- Sharing stories and successes to inspire more engagement.

3. Conserve

- Expanding Canada's park system;
- Enhancing parks planning and management; and
- Enhancing ecosystem service benefits from parks.

4. Lead

- Setting ambitious examples that can pave the way for others, in Canada and internationally;
- Building the capability of current and future leaders; and
- Developing and maintain systems, tools, and resources to support leaders.

4.5 Truth and Reconciliation

Reconciliation Canada is an Indigenous-led organization that envisions a vibrant Canada where all peoples achieve their full potential and shared prosperity through meaningful relationships, values-based dialogue, leadership and action. Several "calls to action" were outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation report commissioned by Reconciliation Canada in 2016. Some of the calls to action are pertinent to the public delivery of recreation services.

Call to Action 66

We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation.

Call to Action 67

We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices.

Call to Action 87

We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

Call to Action 88

We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.



TRENDS AND LEADING PRACTICES 5.0

This section provides an overview of key trends, indicators, and leading practices that are broadly impacting parks, recreation, culture, and trails services and the provision of these opportunities. This information complements the local research and engagement findings, providing additional context that may warrant consideration in the development of the Master Plan. The trends are organized into four themes:

1. Societal Shifts
2. Participation and Activity Trends & Leading Practices
3. Service Delivery Trends; and
4. Infrastructure Trends.

5.1 Social Shifts

An Aging Population

Across Canada, the mean age of communities is getting older. With a declining proportion of children to elderly residents, many communities are seeing the need for more age friendly amenities, activities and support services. While it is important to continue to provide many of those traditional types of recreational services a necessary shift is required to address the needs of a growing sector of the community.

Ethnic Diversity

Increased immigration of people into Canada is changing trends in recreation from decades past. There is also a trend in First Nation populations moving into urban centres and communities like Gibbons, bringing a new light of local culture and types of amenities demanded. This changing fabric of communities means new and different programs and activities are desired.

Increasing Cost of Living Makes Us Busier

As the cost of living in Canadian communities increases, demands on working individuals also increases. As people have less and less time to commit to recreation, trends are shifting away from team sports and more toward individual pursuits. Passive recreation that does not require a regular and scheduled commitment are becoming increasingly popular for those people who still make the time for physical activity. As working guardians put more time into their careers, children become less active without the help of their guardians. Further, as recreation providers are forced to increase user fees, more and more people are unable to participate due to financial limitations. Access to free or inexpensive recreational options is growing in demand.

Environmental Stewardship

With emerging environmental concerns ranging from global warming to ecosystem loss at a local level, people have become much more conscious of our environmental footprint. Nature appreciation has emerged as a common activity for people. As people learn more and more about environmental stewardship, they have higher expectations that recreational activities and amenities will have minimal to no effect on ecosystems. Recreational amenity designers are beginning to put greater emphasis on the value of natural spaces.

Busier Lifestyles Demands Recreation Close to Home

As people have less time at home and for recreation, they are more inclined to participate in activities closer to home. More spontaneous and individual activities are trending more popular in light of people not being able to commit to activities that require a long commute. The increase in home fitness equipment and activities is a result of this.



5.2 Participation and Activity Trends & Leading Practices

Physical Activity and Wellness Levels

Societal indicators of physical activity remain concerning, especially among children and youth. The 2016 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth found that:

- 9% of Canadian children and youth ages 5 to 17 get the 60 minutes of heart-pumping activity they need each day;
- 24% of Canadian children and youth ages 5 to 17 meet the Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines recommendation of no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day;
- 7% of Canadian children and youth ages 5 to 19 take at least the recommended 12,000 steps on average daily;
- Only 37% of Canadian children and youth ages 11 to 15 report playing outdoor for more than 2 hours per day (outside of school hours); and
- Only 26% of Canadian children and youth ages 11 to 15 report using active transportation modes on their trip to school.

Data from Statistics Canada reflects that national levels of obesity have generally remained consistent over the past 10-15 years, with a higher prevalence among males compared to females. These Figures are especially concerning given the attention and resources dedicated by all levels of government to promoting physical activity, exercise and healthy lifestyle choices.

Physical Activity Preferences

The 2013 Canadian Community Health Survey presented data that provided insight into the recreation and leisure preferences of Canadians. The 5 most popular adult activities identified were walking, gardening, home exercise, swimming, and bicycling. The five most popular youth activities were walking, bicycling, swimming, running/jogging, and basketball.

Participation levels and preferences for sporting activities continue to garner much attention given the impact on infrastructure development and overall service delivery in most municipalities. The **Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institutes 2011 - 2012 Sport Monitor Report** identified a number of updated statistics and trends pertaining to sport participation in Canada.

- The highest proportion of Canadians prefers non-competitive sports or activities. Nearly half (44%) of Canadians preferred non-competitive sports while 40% like both non-competitive and competitive sports. Only 8% of Canadians prefer competitive sports or activities and 8% prefer neither competitive nor non-competitive sports;
- Sport participation is directly related to age. Nearly three-quarters (70%) of Canadians aged 15 - 17 participate in sports, with participation rates decreasing in each subsequent age group. The largest fall-off in sport participation occurs between the age categories of 15 - 17 and 18 - 24 (~20%);

- In contrast to children and youth populations (in which gender participation rates are relatively equal), substantially more adult men (45%) than adult women (24%) participate in organized sport;
- Participation in sport is directly related to household income levels. Households with an annual income of greater than \$100,000 have the highest participation levels, nearly twice as high as households earning between \$20,000 and \$39,999 annually and over three times as high as households earning less than \$20,000 annually;
- The highest proportion of sport participants play in “structured environments.” Just under half (48%) of sport participants indicated that their participation occurs primarily in organized environments, while 20% participate in unstructured or casual environments; 32% do so in both structured and unstructured environments; and
- Community sport programs and venues remain important. The vast majority (82%) of Canadians that participate in sport do so within the community. Approximately one-fifth (21%) participate at school while 17% participate in sports at work. A significant proportion (43%) also indicated that they participate in sporting activities at home.

The Canadian Youth Sport Report (2014) provides additional insight into sport participation trends among children and youth in Canada. As reflected in the table below, soccer participation is second only to swimming (largely driven by lessons) and remains the top team sport for the study cohorts of kids 3 - 6, tweens 7 - 12, and teens 13 - 17. Other key findings of note from the Youth Sport Report include:

- 84% of Canadian youth in the 3 - 17 age range participate in sports of some kind and 60% do it on an organized basis;
- Youth sports represent a \$5.7 billion market with families spending nearly \$1,000 annually per child on sports;
- 55% of new Canadian youth aged 3 - 17 participate in organized sports but they are slightly less likely to be in organized team sports (24% vs. 30% average); and
- Top team sports for new Canadian youth were soccer, basketball, hockey, and volleyball.

Spontaneous and Unstructured Recreation

There is an increasing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity of choice for recreational and leisure pursuits. People are seeking individualized informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home. This does not eliminate the need for structured activities, but instead suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for traditional structured use environments.

The **Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute** conducts a **Physical Activity Monitor (PAM)** survey that tracks physical activity and sport participation among Canadians. Additionally, the telephone survey tracks changes in physical activity patterns over time, along with factors influencing participation. The 2014-15 PAM asked Canadians age 18 and older about the type of physical activities they participated in 12 months prior to the survey. The table below presents a breakdown of the 12 most common activities by gender.

| Activity | Proportion participating in the previous 12 months. | |
|------------------------------|---|-------|
| | MEN | WOMEN |
| Walking for exercise | 80% | 89% |
| Gardening or yard work | 80% | 69% |
| Bicycling | 55% | 43% |
| Social dancing | 33% | 45% |
| Ice skating | 34% | 24% |
| Exercise classes or aerobics | 15% | 39% |
| Yoga or tai chi | 15% | 39% |
| Golfing | 33% | 13% |
| Baseball or softball | 23% | 12% |
| Basketball | 21% | 11% |
| Ice hockey | 21% | 4% |
| Football | 18% | 4% |

Figure 2: MOST COMMON PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES IN CANADA, BY GENDER

Addressing Barriers to Participation

Research and available data reveal that many Canadians face barriers that impact their ability to reap the numerous physical, social, and mental benefits that are accrued from participation in recreation and leisure pursuits. Understanding these barriers can help service providers identify strategies to mitigate issues and encourage participation.

The following graph adapted from the **2014 CIBC - KidSport Report** reflects barriers to participation in sport for Canadians age 3 to 17. As reflected in the graph, the cost of enrollment, the cost of equipment, and a lack of interest were identified as the top 3 barriers.

Many municipalities and other public service recreation providers are placing an increased emphasis on developing supports to assist residents that face barriers to participation (financial, physical, and social).

One national resource that is available to communities is the **Everybody Gets to Play Toolkit**. The toolkit, which is available through the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, provides a framework and template to help communities develop a support program that can help reduce financial barriers.

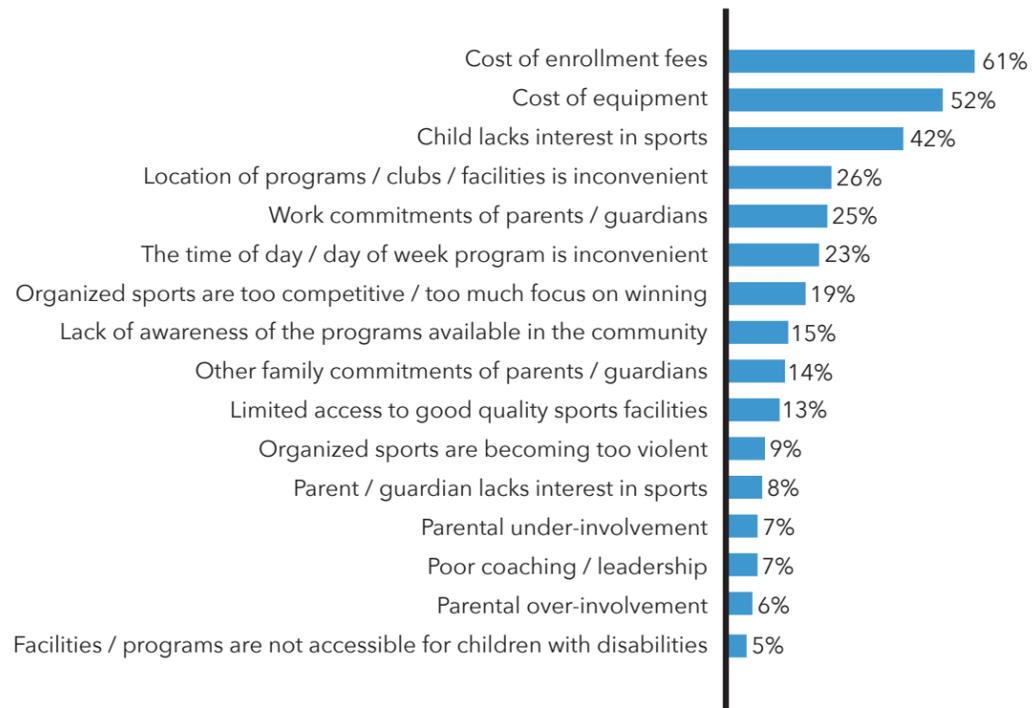


Figure 3: COMMON BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

5.3 Service Delivery Trends

Partnerships

Partnerships in the provision of recreation and culture infrastructure continue to be important and in many cases are becoming more prevalent. These partnerships can take a number of forms, and include government, not-for-profit organizations, schools, and the private sector. While the provision of recreation and culture services has historically relied on municipal levels of government, many municipalities are increasingly looking to form partnerships that can enhance service levels and more efficiently leverage public funds. The importance of partnerships was reinforced in this study process, whereas stakeholders agreed on the need for different groups to combine efforts and to support Town staff to plan and deliver recreational programs and activities.



Examples of partnerships include facility naming and sponsorship arrangements, lease/contract agreements, the contracted operation of spaces or entire facilities, cost sharing the development of facilities between public and private entities, or utilizing non-publicly owned facilities for public uses. Over three-quarters (76%) of Canadian municipalities work with schools in their communities to encourage the participation of municipal residents in physical activities. Just under half of Canadian municipalities work with local non-profits (46%), health settings (40%), or workplaces (25%) to encourage participation in physical activities amongst their residents. Seventy-six percent (76%) of municipalities with a population of 1,000 to 9,999 to eighty percent (80%) of municipalities over 100,000 in population have formed agreements with school boards for shared use of facilities. In fact, since 2000, the proportion of municipalities that have reported working with schools, health settings, and local non-profit organizations has increased by 10% to 20%. (Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute Bulletin 6, 2010).

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion is about making sure that all children and adults are able to participate as valued, respected, and contributing members of society. It involves the basic notions of belonging, acceptance, and recognition. The concept of social inclusion is becoming an issue that communities are addressing. While always an important issue, its significance has risen as communities have become more diversified through immigration.

For immigrants, social inclusion goes beyond including "outsiders" or "newcomers." In fact, social inclusion is about the elimination of the boundaries or barriers between "us" and "them." Recreation and leisure continue to be utilized as important social inclusion "vehicles" and provide a mechanism to bring together residents of different backgrounds.

Sport Tourism

Increasingly, sport tourism has become a priority for many municipalities. To a large degree, sport tourism has been used to leverage capital funding for new facility investment and to expand the benefits of recreation (e.g. demonstrate economic impact and community appeal). This trend has become especially evident in many northern communities that have used event hosting as a mechanism to increase their profile and procure funding from senior levels of government that can provide a facility legacy.

Statistics Canada data indicates that the sports tourism industry in Canada is worth \$6.5 billion dollars (2016). In contrast to other segments of the tourism industry, sport tourism in Canada continues to grow and is largely driven by the domestic, overnight market. The sport tourism sector in Canada is also becoming more organized, structured and competitive. Since its inception in 2000, the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance has grown to include over 200 municipalities.

5.4 Infrastructure Trends

Multi-Use Spaces

Recreation facilities are being designed to accommodate multiple activities and to encompass a variety of different components. The benefits of designing multi-use spaces include the opportunity to create operational efficiencies, attract a wide spectrum of users, and procure multiple sources of revenue. Providing the opportunity for all family members to take part in different opportunities simultaneously at the same location additionally increases convenience and satisfaction for residences.

Creating spaces within a facility that are easily adaptable and re-configurable is another growing trend observed in newer and retrofitted facilities. Many performing arts venues are being designed in such a manner that staging, seating, and wall configurations can be easily changed as required. Gymnasium spaces and field house facilities are being designed with adjustable barriers, walls, bleachers, and other amenities that can be easily set-up or removed depending on the type of activity or event.

Integrating Indoor and Outdoor Environments

A relatively new concept in recreation and leisure infrastructure planning is to ensure that the indoor environment interacts seamlessly with the adjacent outdoor environment. This can include such ideas as public event spaces, indoor/outdoor walking trails, indoor/outdoor child play areas, and indoor/outdoor public art. Although there are a number of operational issues that need to be considered when planning indoor/outdoor environments (e.g. cleaning, controlled access, etc.) the concept of planning an indoor facility to complement the site on which it is located (and associated outdoor amenities included), as well as the broader community parks and trail systems, is prudent and will ensure the optimization of public spending on both indoor and outdoor recreation and culture infrastructure. Integrating indoor and outdoor environments can be as “simple” as ensuring interiors have good opportunities to view the outdoors.

Revenue Generating Spaces

Operators of community facilities must find creative and innovative ways to generate the revenues needed to both sustain current operations and fund future expansion or renovation projects. By generating sustainable revenues outside of regular government contributions, many facilities are able to demonstrate increased financial sustainability and expand service levels.

Lease spaces provide one such opportunity. Many facilities are creating new spaces or redeveloping existing areas of their facility that can be leased to food and beverage providers and other retail businesses. Short term rental spaces are another major source of revenue for many facilities. Lobby areas, programs rooms, and event hosting spaces have the potential to be rented to the corporate sector for meetings, team building activities, holiday parties, and a host of other functions.

Social Amenities

The inclusion of social amenities provides the opportunity for multipurpose community recreation facilities to maximize the overall experience for users as well as to potentially attract non-traditional patrons to the facility. Examples of social amenities include attractive lobby areas, common spaces, restaurants and cafeterias, spectator viewing areas, meeting facilities, and adjacent outdoor parks or green spaces. It is also becoming increasingly common for new public facilities, especially in urban areas, to be equipped with public wireless internet.

Another significant benefit of equipping facilities with social amenities is the opportunity to increase usage and visitation to the facility during non-peak hours. Including spaces such as public cafeterias and open lobby spaces can result in local residents visiting the facility during non-event or non-program hours to meet friends or is simply a part of their daily routine. Many municipalities and non-profit organizations have encouraged this non-peak hour use to ensure that the broader populace perceives that the facility is accessible and available to all members of the community.

INVENTORY OF RECREATION FACILITIES, AMENITIES AND PROGRAMS IN GIBBONS

6.0

The Town of Gibbons offers its residents a number of facilities with a wide range of programming and services, as well as numerous parks and trails for outdoor recreation. This section outlines the various indoor facilities, outdoor sports and recreation facilities, park spaces and programs offered within the community. Figure 4 shows a map of all existing recreation facilities.

6.1 Indoor Recreation Facilities

1.

Gibbons Cultural Centre

The Gibbons Cultural Centre (GCC) is a relatively new facility in the Town, built in approximately 2013. The GCC features the public library; Momentum Fitness Centre, a leased space for the operation of a privately managed fitness gym; auditorium with seating for 500 people, stage, projection screens and sound system; a full commercial kitchen; Agrium Youth Centre; Landing Pad Out of School Care; a private preschool; and several meeting rooms. The GCC plays host to a variety of community programs and public events such as yoga, knitting, LEGO, magic shows, group walking, coffee & cards, and so much more. It is a hub for community gathering and social activities. There are currently plans to install a gazebo outside the GCC in 2021.

2a.

Gibbons Arena

The Gibbons Community Arena was constructed in approximately 1972 and is located adjacent to the GCC and is connected to the Curling Rink. The facility has one regulation ice surface and seating for up to 500 people. The facility commonly hosts many community groups including CNN Minor Hockey, the Gibbons Broncos, Gibbons Skating Club as well as offering open public skating multiple times a week. The arena also has a dance studio that is used regularly for dance classes. The arena was recently upgraded to improve change rooms and the Zamboni room.

2b.

Gibbons Curling Rink

The Gibbons Curling Rink was also constructed in approximately 1972 and is located connected to the Cultural Centre and Arena. The rink feature four sheets of ice and is home to the Gibbons Curling Club which consists of a Ladies League, Mens League, Friday Fun League and Junior League. The rink also hosts numerous curling bonspiels throughout the year that serve to bring the community together in a fun and interactive way. The facility also includes an upstairs viewing lounge. However, this lounge is not currently accessible to all as there are only stairs to access it.

3.

Gibbons School

The Gibbons School gymnasium is not a town-owned facility, but there is a shared services agreement that allows residents to book the space for use. Constructed in approximately 1970, the facility is available for rent weekdays after 6pm and is booked by community groups nearly every day of the week. In addition to the gymnasium, the school also provides numerous extra-curricular and after-school activities for children and youth to enjoy such as sports teams and music programs.

4.

Royal Canadian Legion

Gibbons is home to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 226. While this is not a town-owned facility, it does provide indoor recreation and leisure space and services for the community. The facility hosts various community events such as Oktoberfest while also providing support for veterans, their families and various community organizations.

5.

Sturgeon Alliance Church

Sturgeon Alliance Church is located on 52 Street. While again, it is not a town-owned or operated facility, the church hosts a number of community services and programs. The church hosts various community groups such as FUSE Youth Group and offers childcare services and socialization opportunities through Mustard Seed Nursery, Kid Kamp, Coffee & Chaos and much more.

6.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is located on 50 Avenue. Much like Sturgeon Alliance Church, this is not a town-owned facility, but it does offer a space for community gathering and social inclusion.

7.

Family Resource Centre

The Gibbons Family Resource Centre was built in approximately 1969 and is host to Gibbons Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). The FCSS supports and promotes prevention and intervention programs to help strengthen families and the community. Programs offered are aimed to help individuals adopt healthy lifestyles that will improve their quality of life and build the capacity of the community to support itself. A variety of services and programs are held that cater to youth, families and seniors.

8.

Gibbons Museum

The Gibbons Museum is located in Oliver Park. The facility and its programs are operated by the Sturgeon River Historical Society. The museum grounds feature a number of historical buildings that have been moved to their current location and preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. The museum provides interpretive programs and hosts various community events and programs such as family yoga. A portion of the building and the heated barn can also be rented out to host private events and functions.

9.

Dew Drop Inn

The Dew Drop Inn Seniors Centre is home to the Gibbons Twilight Club and was built in approximately 1970. The Dew Drop Inn is connected to Spruce View Manor, and offers a convenient location for seniors to gather, socialize and participate in various activities. The Dew Drop Inn recently received numerous upgrades (November 2020) to create a more modern and welcoming space for all seniors to enjoy. Activities include shuffleboard, pool, cards, and so much more.

10.

Landing Trail School

Like Gibbons School, the Landing Trail School gymnasium is not a town-owned facility, but there is a shared services agreement that allows residents to book the space for use. Constructed in approximately 1982, the facility is available for rent weekdays after 6pm and is booked by community groups nearly every day of the week. In addition to the gymnasium, the school also provides numerous extra-curricular and after-school activities for children and youth to enjoy such as sports teams and music programs.



6.2 Outdoor Sports & Recreation Facilities

1.

Jack Hogg Sports Grounds

The Jack Hogg Sports Grounds are located adjacent to the GCC and feature three shale baseball diamonds (one of which is located on the Gibbons School grounds) that were built in the 1970s, one full-size soccer pitch and one mini soccer pitch (both located on the Gibbons School grounds), public washrooms and a skateboard park. It also features an outdoor rink and skate shack that were constructed in 2018.

2.

Echo Glen Fish Pond

The Echo Glen Fish Pond is located in Echo Glen Park. The pond is stocked yearly with trout following provincial regulations. The fish pond hosts many community events such as the annual Kids Can Catch event. The pond is in need of upgrades / repairs as it is beginning to leak.

3.

Poplar Spray Park

Poplar Spray Park was built in 2009 and is located within Poplar Park. The spray park includes automated timings for spray features as well as change rooms and a washroom facility for families to utilize while enjoying the park.

4.

Tennis & Pickleball Courts

What was previously two tennis courts at Poplar Park has recently been converted into one tennis court and three pickleball courts.

5.

Basketball Court

Poplar Park also features a basketball court. The court was constructed many years ago and is in need of major updates in order to bring it to working order.

6.

T-Ball Park

While T-Ball Park is not owned by the Town, it features numerous amenities that are utilized by many members of the community. The park features one baseball diamond, one soccer field and a large amount of open greenspace that can be enjoyed by all.

7.

Landing Trail School Sports Fields

Landing Trail School Sports Fields features two baseball diamonds, one large soccer field and three small soccer fields that are used regularly by community groups. While these fields are not owned or maintained by the Town, they do have a shared use agreement with the school so that members of the community can utilize these fields outside of school hours.

6.3 Parks & Trails

1.

Brumfit Park

Brumfit Park is known as Gibbons best kept secret. This park is located in the centre of Brumfit subdivision. The playground hosts a playground structure as well as swings and spring features.

2.

Centre Park

Centre Park is located in the downtown area of Gibbons. In 2018 the park was refurbished as part of a millennium project. The park now features a playground with a two play structures, swings and outdoor exercise equipment, a gazebo, a picnic area and a memorial for victims of 9/11. The park also has a newly installed Recognition Wall that contributes to the sense of community pride by identifying and formally recognizing outstanding achievements and commitments of individuals in the Town of Gibbons through Community Building, Long Term Volunteerism, and long-standing service as a Fire Fighter or Elected Official.

3.

Echo Glen Park

Echo Glen Park features a stocked trout pond, over 2km of walking trails along the Sturgeon River Valley and a picnic area with BBQs and firepits. This park annually hosts to the Kids Can Catch event as part of the July Pioneer Days.

4.

Gibbons Memorial Park

Gibbons Memorial Park is located adjacent to Gibbons Memorial Gardens. The park is currently home to a playground structure suitable for older children and pre-teens that was built in 2008. The park is scheduled to receive upgrades in 2021.

5.

Riverview Park

Riverview Park is located directly behind the Sturgeon Alliance Church. It features a large play structure that was constructed in 2011. The playground is entirely themed and plays off the historic Athabasca Landing Trail (which the River Valley Trail is a part of).

6.

Williams Park

Williams Park is located within the Williams Park subdivision. This park received brand new playground equipment in 2011. It features an impressive play structure and swing set. The park also includes a picnic table for families to enjoy.

7.

Mile 26 Park

Mile 26 Park is located adjacent to the Gibbons Cultural Centre. It is a historic landmark in town as it marks Mile 26 on the historic Athabasca Landing Trail. This park is an ideal place for families to gather for a picnic, but its lack of amenities lead it to be underutilized. The park also features a large Communities in Bloom rock.

8.

Oliver Park

Oliver Park is home to the Gibbons Museum grounds. The Sturgeon River Historic Society is responsible for the operation of the Museum and as such the grounds feature numerous century buildings and historic equipment, tools and artifacts. In connection with the Museum, this park hosts a number of community events. Oliver Park is also home to the Gibbons Community Garden.



9.

Poplar Park

Poplar Park is a large neighbourhood park that features a spray park with public washrooms (constructed in 2009), a playground with a small play structure, one tennis court, three pickleball courts and a basketball court. While the park is widely utilized by members of the community, the basketball court is in need of major updates to bring it to playing standards.

10.

Landing Trail School

The Landing Trail School grounds feature a playground that was constructed in 2014. The playground includes a large play structure and swings that are well utilized by the community.

11.

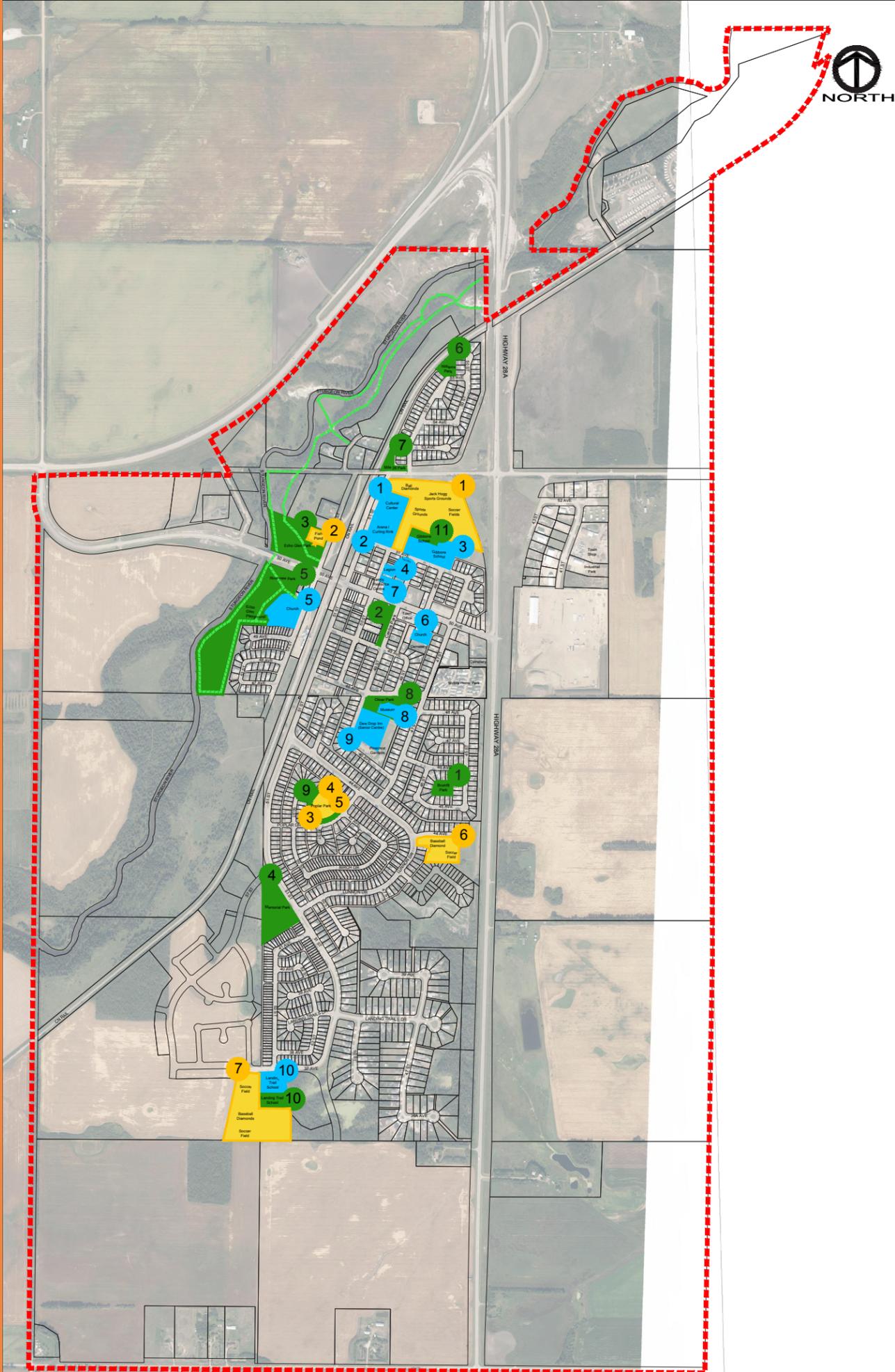
Gibbons School

The Gibbons School grounds also feature a playground (built in 2018). The brand new playground includes a large play structure and swings that are a great addition to the community.

12.

Trail System

The Town of Gibbons has an extensive trail system within the Sturgeon River Valley. Members of the community rave about the beauty of these trails and hope to see them expanded upon in a responsible way that makes the river valley accessible to all.



INDOOR FACILITIES

- 1 Cultural Centre**
 - Public Library
 - Community Programs
 - Venue for Public Events
 - Auditorium with Seating for 500 People
 - Full Commercial Kitchen
 - Stage and Projection Screens
 - Fitness Centre
 - Agrium Youth Centre
- 2a Arena**
 - 1 Regulation Ice Surface
 - Community Groups (Dance studio)
 - Seating for 500
- 2b Curling Rink**
 - 4 Sheets of Ice
 - Upstairs Viewing Lounge
- 3 Gibbons School**
 - Sturgeon Public School (Grades 5-9)
 - Extracurricular Programs (Music, Sports)
- 4 Royal Canadian Legion**
 - Veterans Organization
- 5 Sturgeon Alliance Church**
 - Public Ministry
 - King's Kids Preschool
 - Community Groups
- 6 Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
 - Public Ministry
- 7 Family Resource Centre**
 - Community Programs and Events
 - Community Support Services
- 8 Gibbons Museum (Located in Oliver Park)**
 - Interpretive Program
 - Indoor Public Washroom
- 9 Dew Drop Inn**
 - Seniors Centre
- 10 Landing Trail School**
 - Sturgeon Public School (Grades K-4)
 - Extracurricular Programs (Music, Sports)

SPORT AND RECREATION

- 1 Jack Hogg Sports Grounds**
 - 3 Shale Ball Diamonds
 - 1 Full Size Soccer Pitch
 - 1 Mini Soccer Pitch
 - Outdoor Rink
 - Public Washrooms
 - Skateboard Park
- 2 Echo Glen Fish Pond (Located in Echo Glen Park)**
 - Stocked Yearly with Trout
 - Home of Annual Kids Can Catch Event
- 3 Poplar Spray Park (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - Auto-timed Spray Park
 - Change Room
 - Public Washroom
- 4 Tennis / Pickleball Courts (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - 1 Tennis court, 3 Pickleball courts
- 5 Basketball Court (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - 1 court
- 6 T-Ball Park**
 - 1 Baseball Diamond
 - 1 Soccer Field
- 7 Landing Trail School Sport Field**
 - 2 Baseball Diamonds
 - 2 Soccer Fields

PARKS AND TRAILS

- 1 Brumfit Park**
 - Playground
- 2 Centre Park**
 - Recognition Wall
 - Playground
 - Gazebo
 - Picnic Area
 - Memorial for 9/11
- 3 Echo Glen Park**
 - 2km of Natural Walking Trails along River
 - Picnic Area with Cook Stoves
 - Stocked Fish Pond (Trout)
- 4 Gibbons Memorial Park**
 - Playground (for pre-teens)
- 5 Riverview Park**
 - Playground (Historic Theme)
 - Ties into Echo Glen Walking Trails
- 6 Williams Park**
 - Playground
 - Picnic Area
- 7 Mile 26 Park**
 - Communities in Bloom Rock
 - Picnic Area
- 8 Oliver Park**
 - Passive Park Shared with Gibbons Museum
 - Community Gardens
- 9 Poplar Park**
 - Spray Park
 - Tennis Court
 - Basketball Court
 - Picnic Area
 - Playground (for pre-teens)
- 9 Landing Trail School**
 - Playground
- 10 Gibbons School**
 - Playground

Figure 4: MAP OF EXISTING FACILITIES

6.4 Programs

Below are a list of some of the many programs, classes, courses and clubs that are available to residents of Gibbons. Included in this list are also community events and festivals. Programs and events are gathered from the 2019/2020 Community Guides. Please note that this list may not include every program offered in Town, but serves as an accurate snapshot of the offerings that are available to residents. Refer to Appendix A for the most recent Winter / Spring 2020 Community Guide.

Programs / Courses / Classes / Clubs:

- Yoga Classes
- Babysitter Safety Course
- Circuit Training Classes
- Adult / Senior Walking Group
- Free Public Skating
- Before and After School Programs
- Counseling
- Suicide Prevention and Intervention Course
- Creation Station
- Snow Many Books - Winter Reading Program
- First Aid Course
- Parent Child Mother Goose Program
- Family Workshops
- Tech Tuesdays
- Adult Book Club
- Let's Play Program
- English Classes
- French Classes
- Home Alone Safety Course
- 3D Printing Workshop
- Anti-Bullying Workshop
- Knitting Circle
- Senior's Coffee & Cards
- LEGO Club
- Step & Sculpt Class
- Virtual Reality Workshop
- Community Kitchens Classes
- Building Blocks Program
- Parent Connection Program
- Books Alive Program
- Basic Computers / iPad Classes
- Gibbons Girl Guides
- Yobukan Karate Classes
- Minor Soccer Program
- King's Kids Preschool Program
- Learn to Skate Classes
- Christmas Urn Insert Workshop

Programs / Courses / Classes / Clubs Continued:

- Christmas Door Swag Workshop
- Wee Read & Play Program
- Preparing Your Garden for Winter Workshop
- Mystery Maker Space Program
- Photography for Beginners Class
- Make Your Own Bath Bombs Class
- Gibbons Twilight Club
- Gibbons Scouts
- Sturgeon Unity Singers Community Choir
- Gibbons Curling Club
- Sturgeon River Historical Society
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 226
- Sturgeon Agricultural Society

Events / Festivals:

- Meet the Community Night
- Recycle for Youth
- Curling Bonspiels
- "Soup's On" Community Lunch
- Town Easter Egg Hunt
- Neighbour Day
- Author Talks
- Winter Walk Day
- Seniors Day / Seniors BBQ
- Oktoberfest
- Canada Day Celebration
- Pioneer Days Festival
- Hometown Christmas Weekend
- Pink Shirt Day
- Sturgeon Victim Services Charity Run
- Stuffie Sleepover Night
- Community League Comedy Night

RESIDENT SURVEY 7.0

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 mail² 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.

² 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 5), there were no respondents under the age of 21. Adults were able to complete the questionnaire on behalf of children in their household.

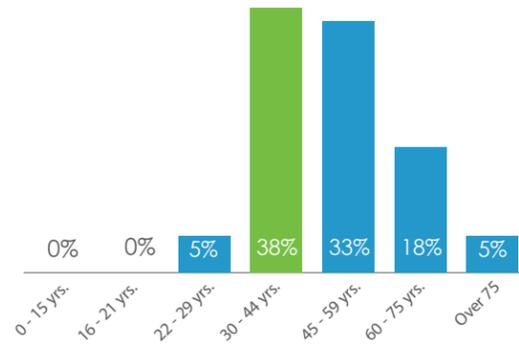


Figure 5: RESIDENT SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

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 6), 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%).

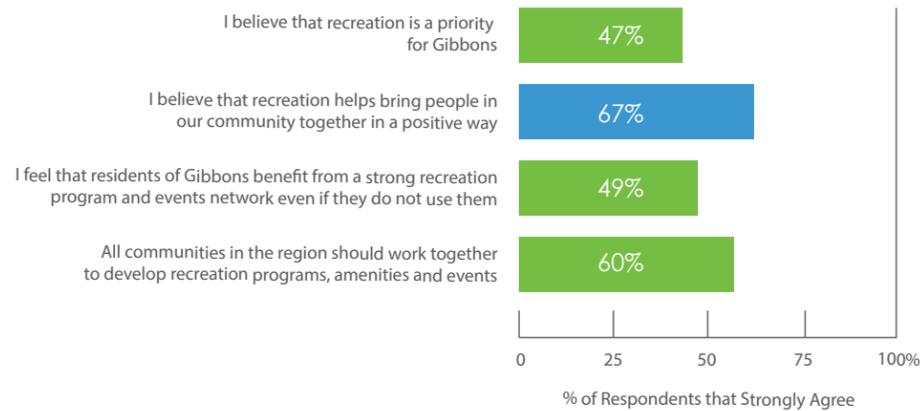


Figure 6: IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION

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 7) for more information.

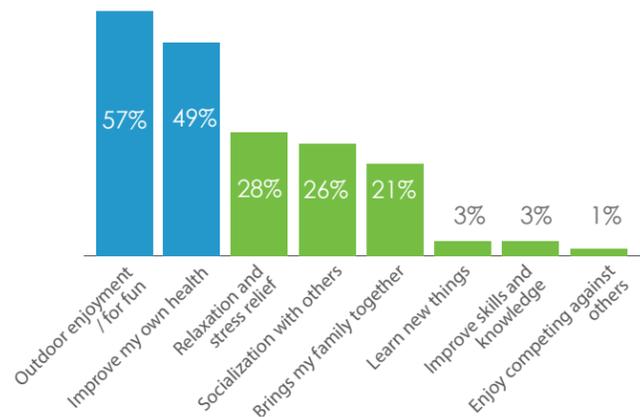


Figure 7: REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING



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%).

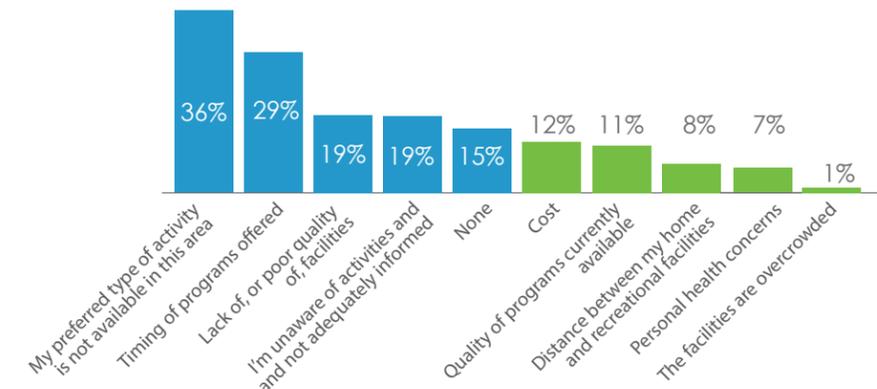


Figure 8: BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATING

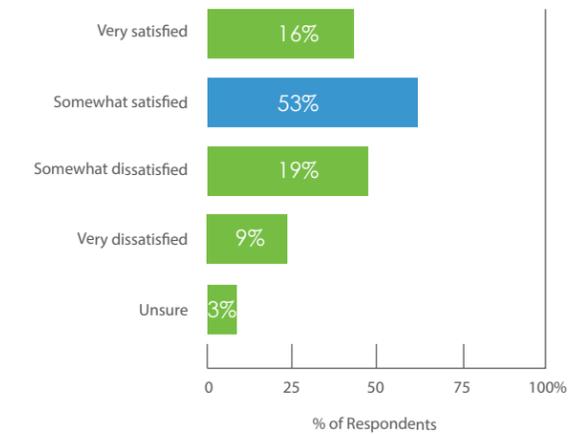


Figure 9: SATISFACTION WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

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.

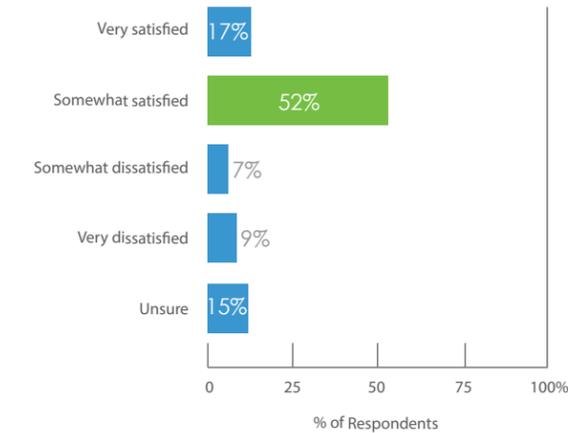


Figure 10: SATISFACTION WITH INDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

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.

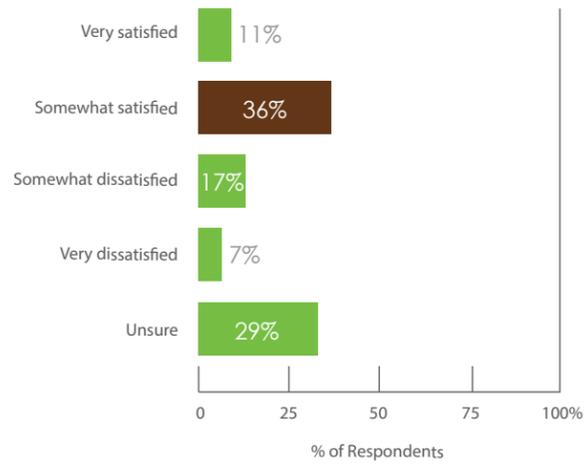


Figure 11: SATISFACTION WITH RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Satisfaction with Recreational Programming

As demonstrated in the top graph (Figure 11), 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 12).

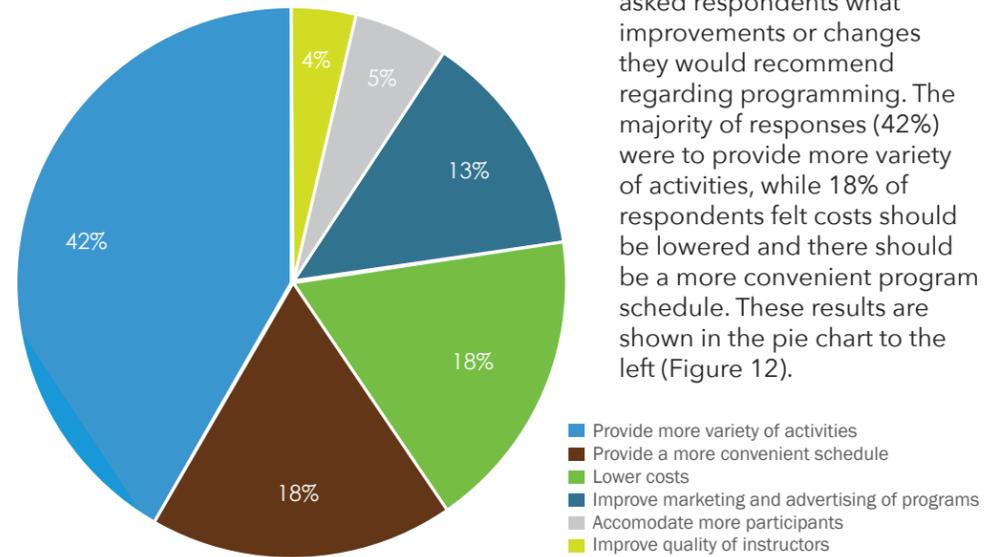


Figure 12: RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

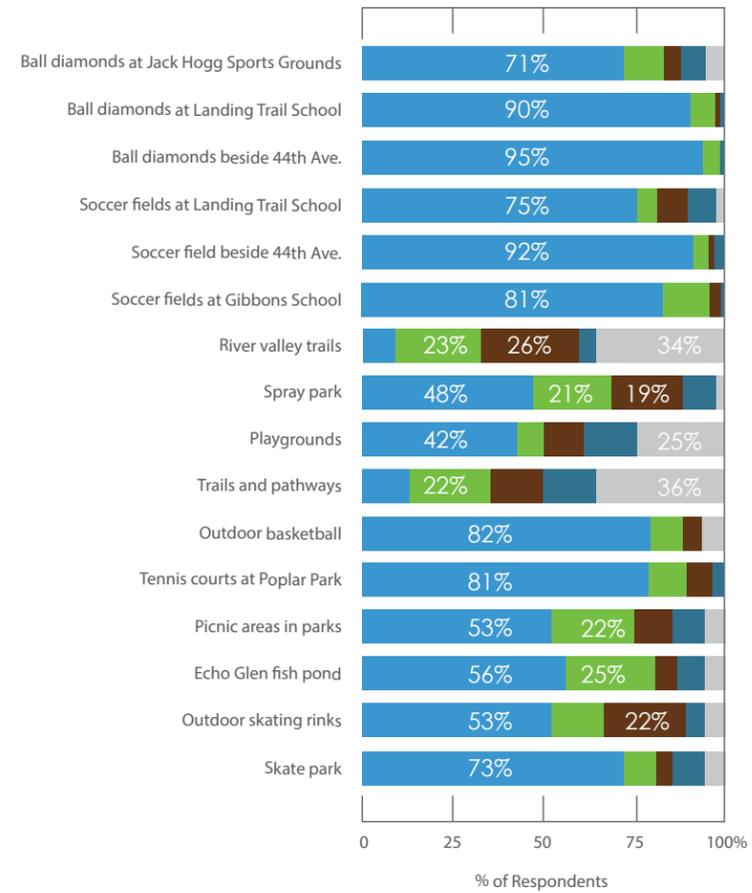


Figure 13: USE OF EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

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 13 for more information.

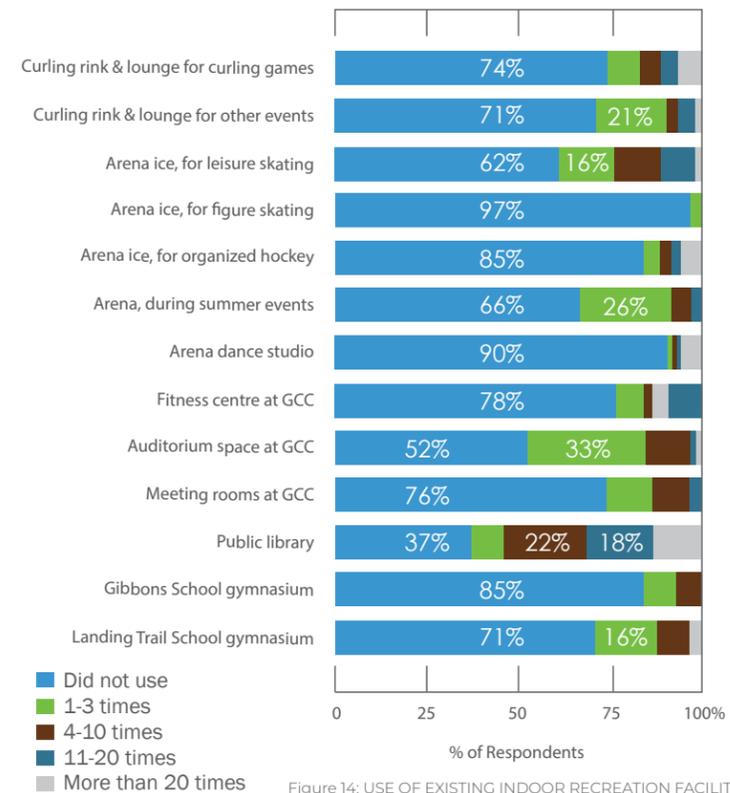


Figure 14: USE OF EXISTING INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

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 14.

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%).

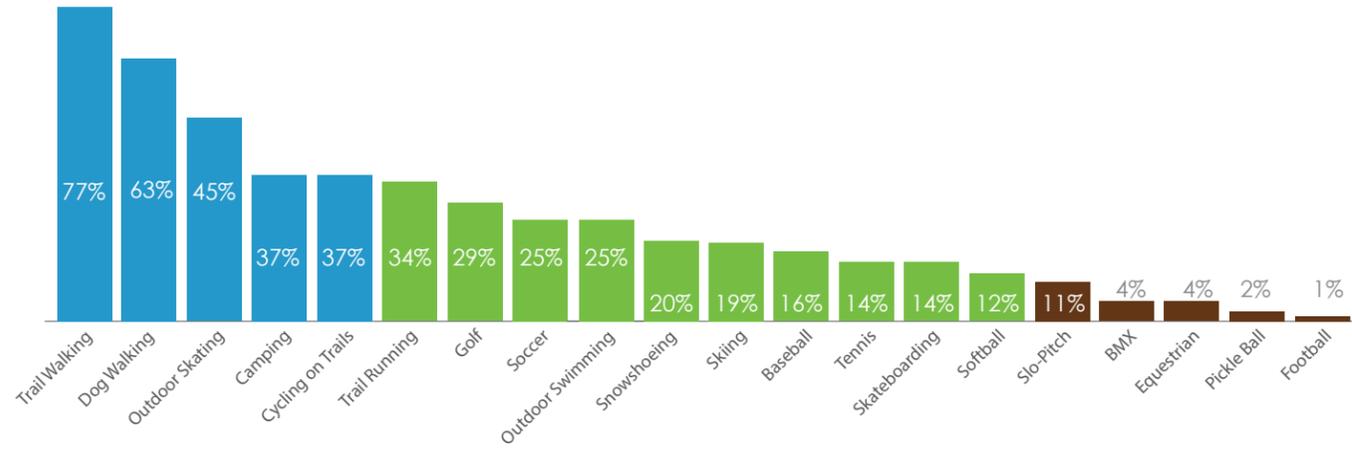


Figure 15: PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

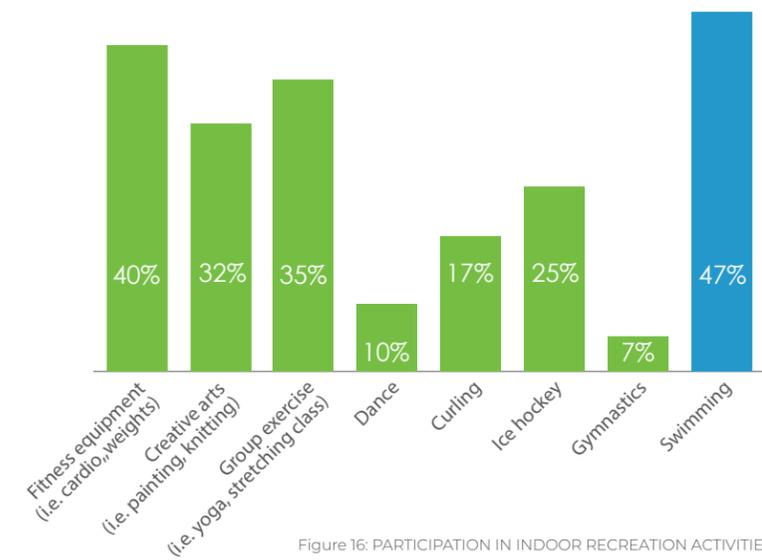


Figure 16: PARTICIPATION IN INDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

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.

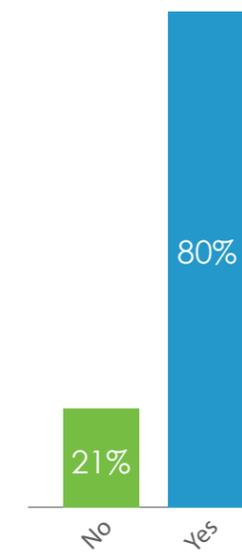


Figure 17: EVENT ATTENDANCE

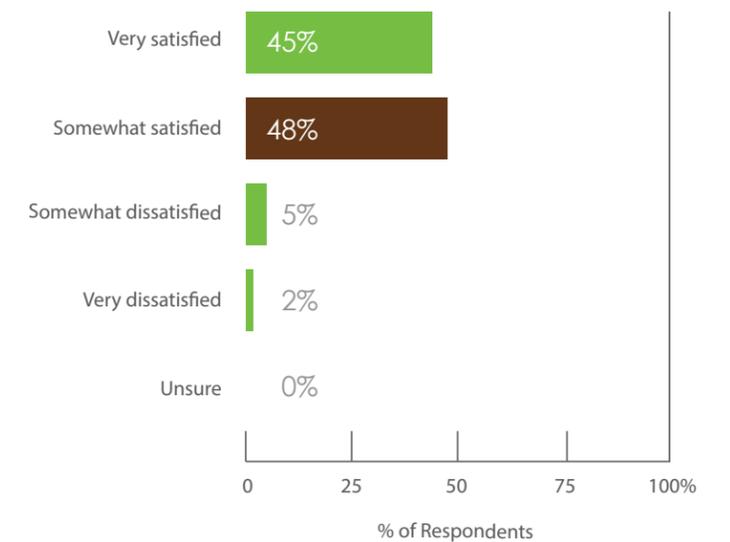


Figure 18: SATISFACTION WITH EVENTS



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.

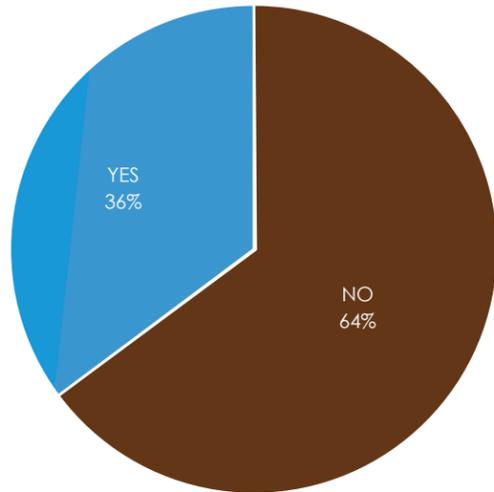


Figure 19: SUPPORT OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

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.

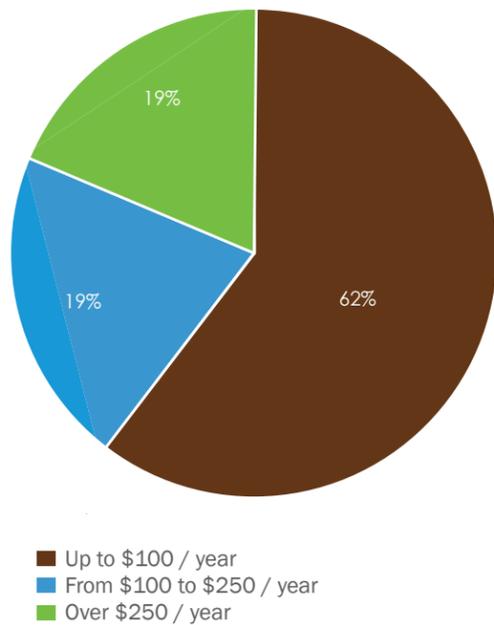


Figure 20: LEVEL OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

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.

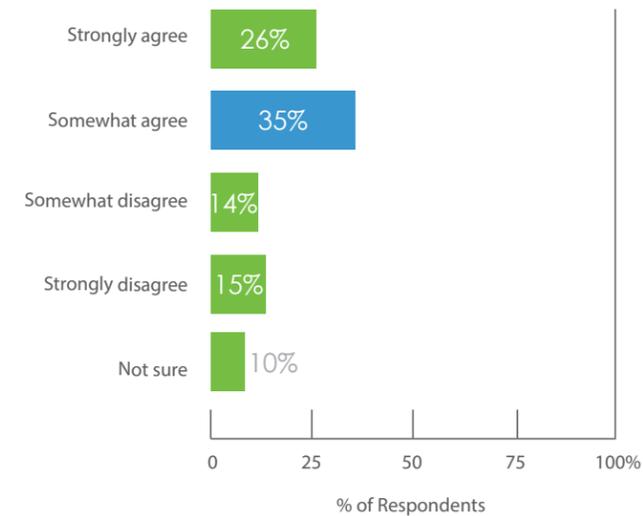


Figure 21: NEED FOR NEW / UPGRADED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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.

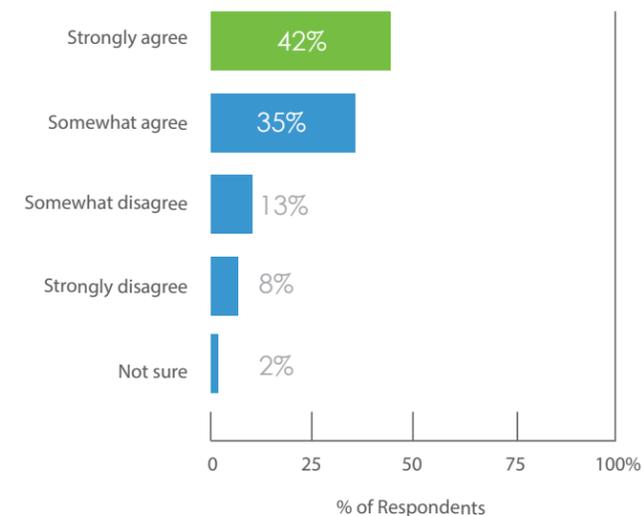


Figure 22: NEED FOR NEW / IMPROVED PARKS AND TRAILS

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%).

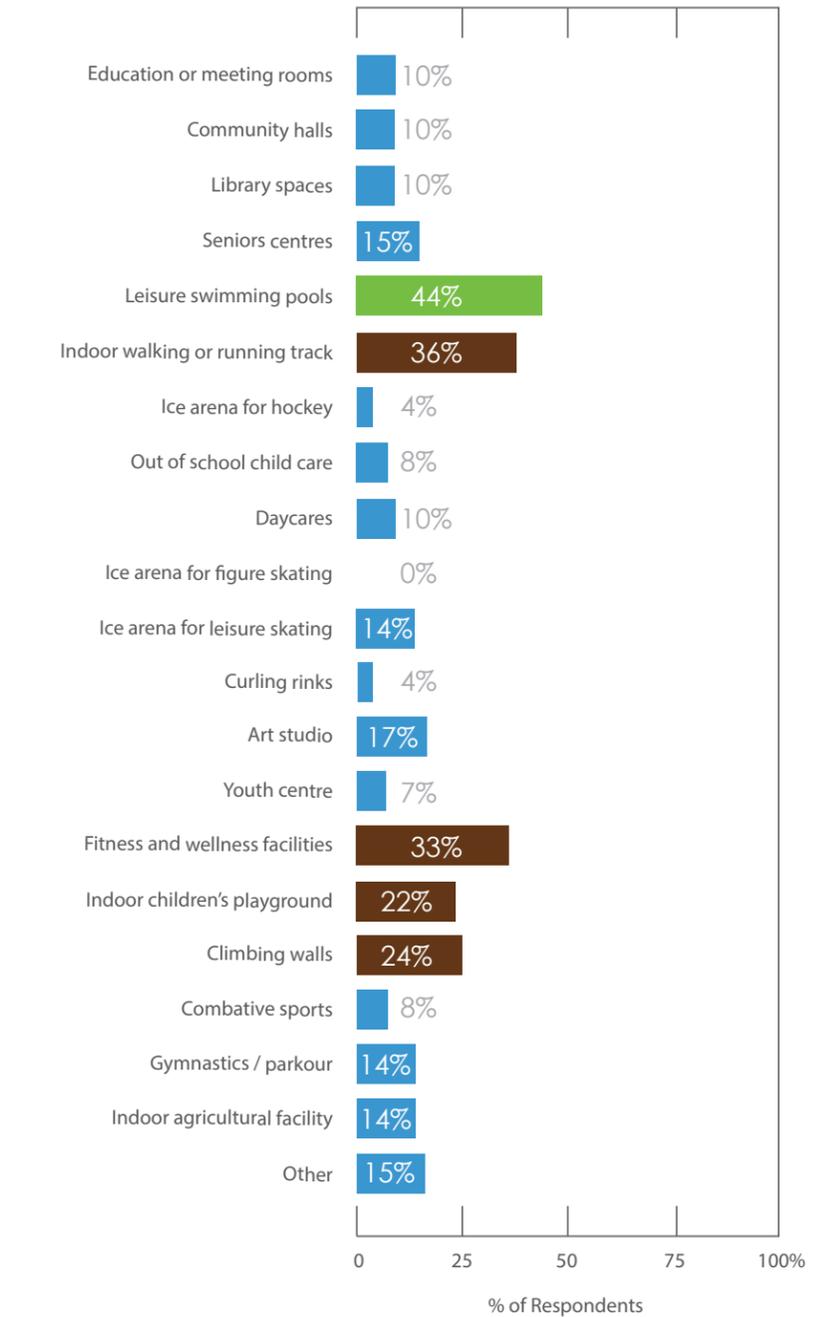


Figure 23: INDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE

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%).

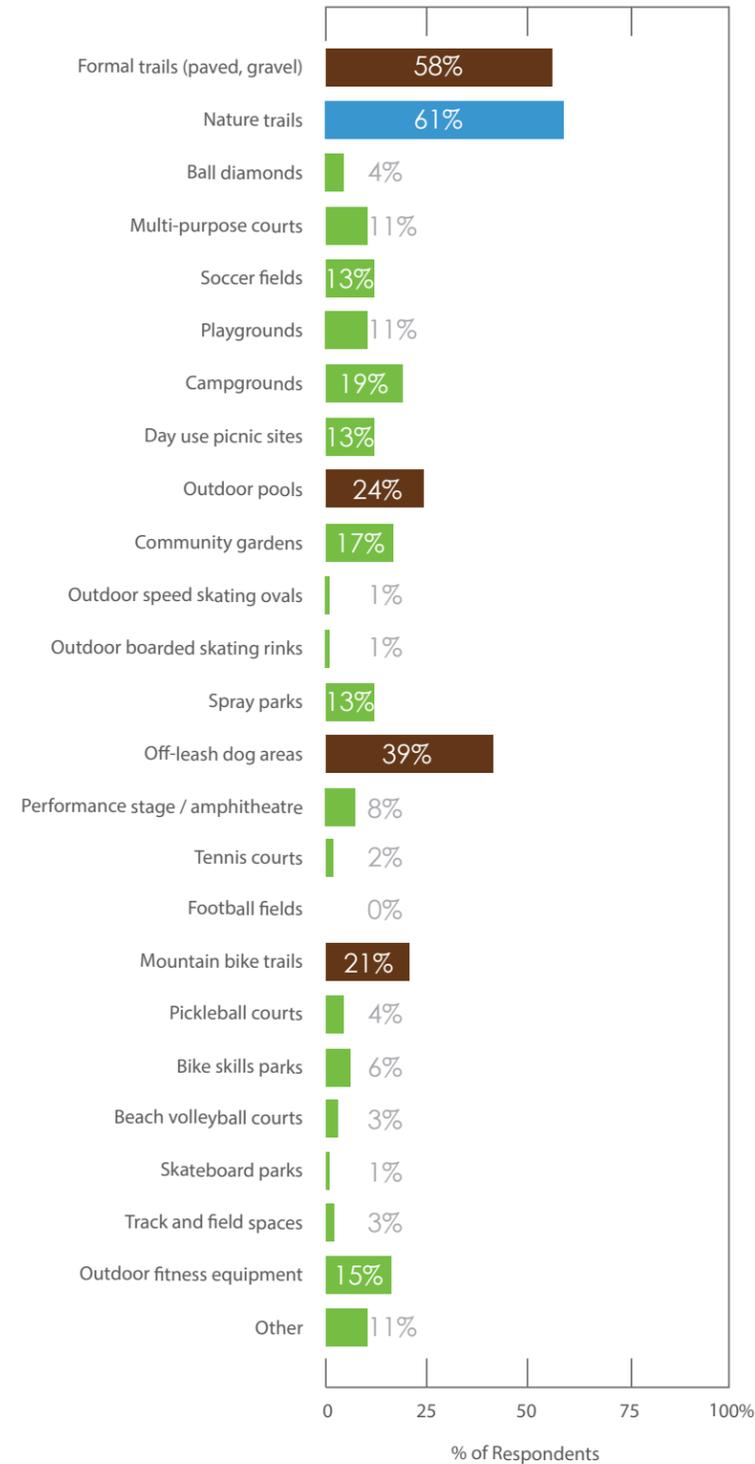
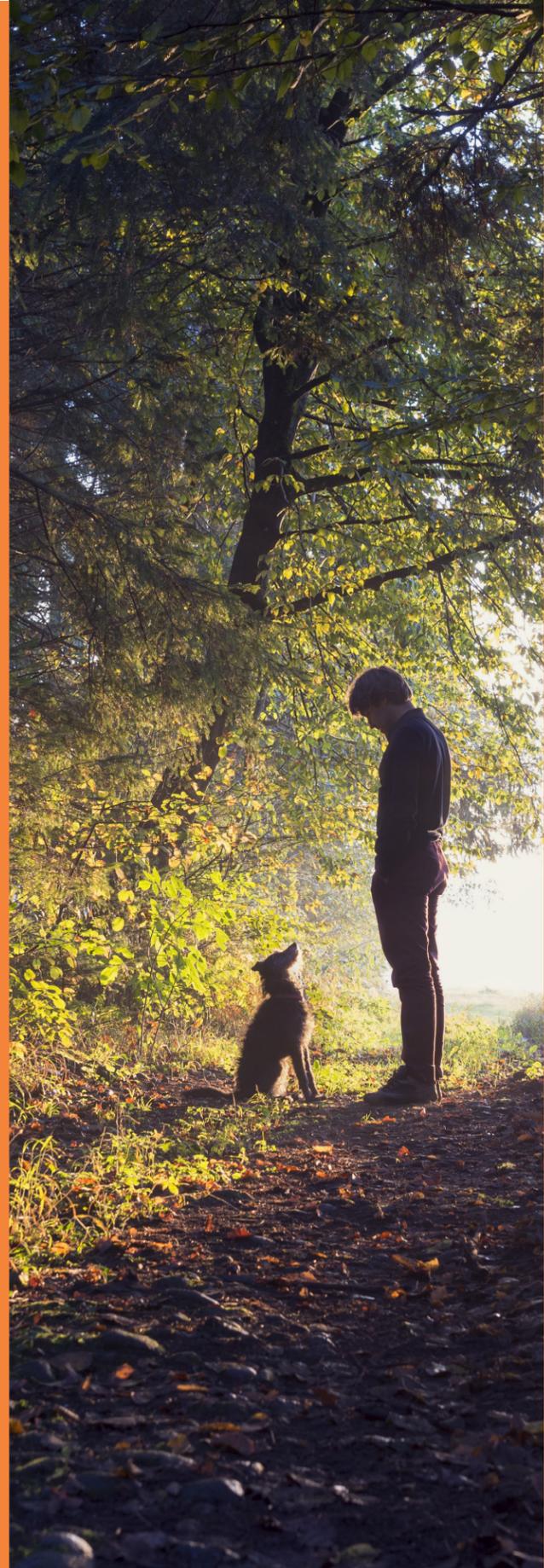


Figure 24: OUTDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE



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.

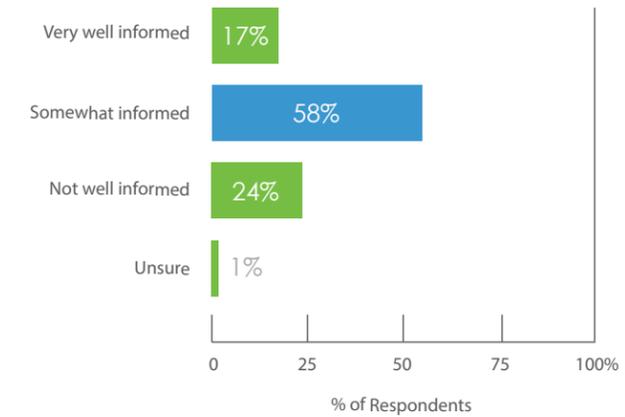


Figure 25: HOW WELL INFORMED ARE THE RESIDENTS OF GIBBONS

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%).

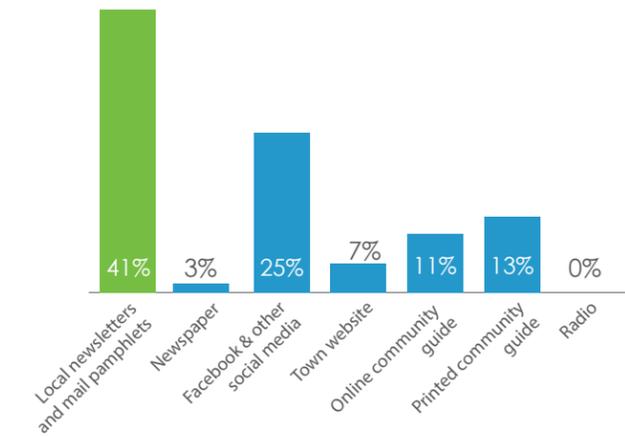


Figure 26: PREFERRED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

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.

Despite public interest in not building new facilities and utilizing existing amenities, research on facility bookings and assessment of the types of uses compatible with each current facility demonstrates the **need for a new multi-purpose facility**.

8.0

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.

8.1 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) |
| Pickleball / racquetball | Spray park |
| Art Gallery of Alberta - TREX (traveling exhibitions) | Permanent outdoor restrooms |
| | Beach volleyball courts |

Figure 27: NEW ACTIVITIES THAT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN GIBBONS

3. The chart below (Figure 28) 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.

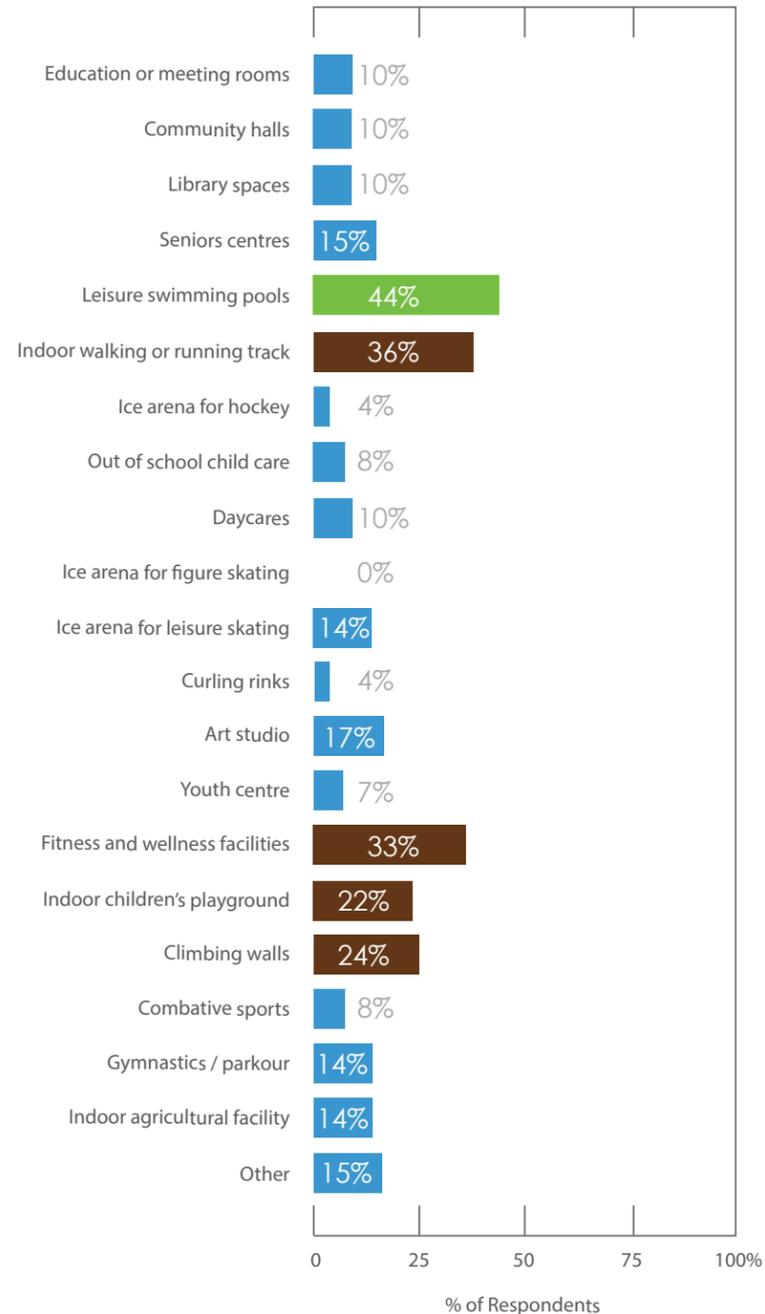


Figure 28: INDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE

4. The chart below (Figure 29) 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)
- Pickleball 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.

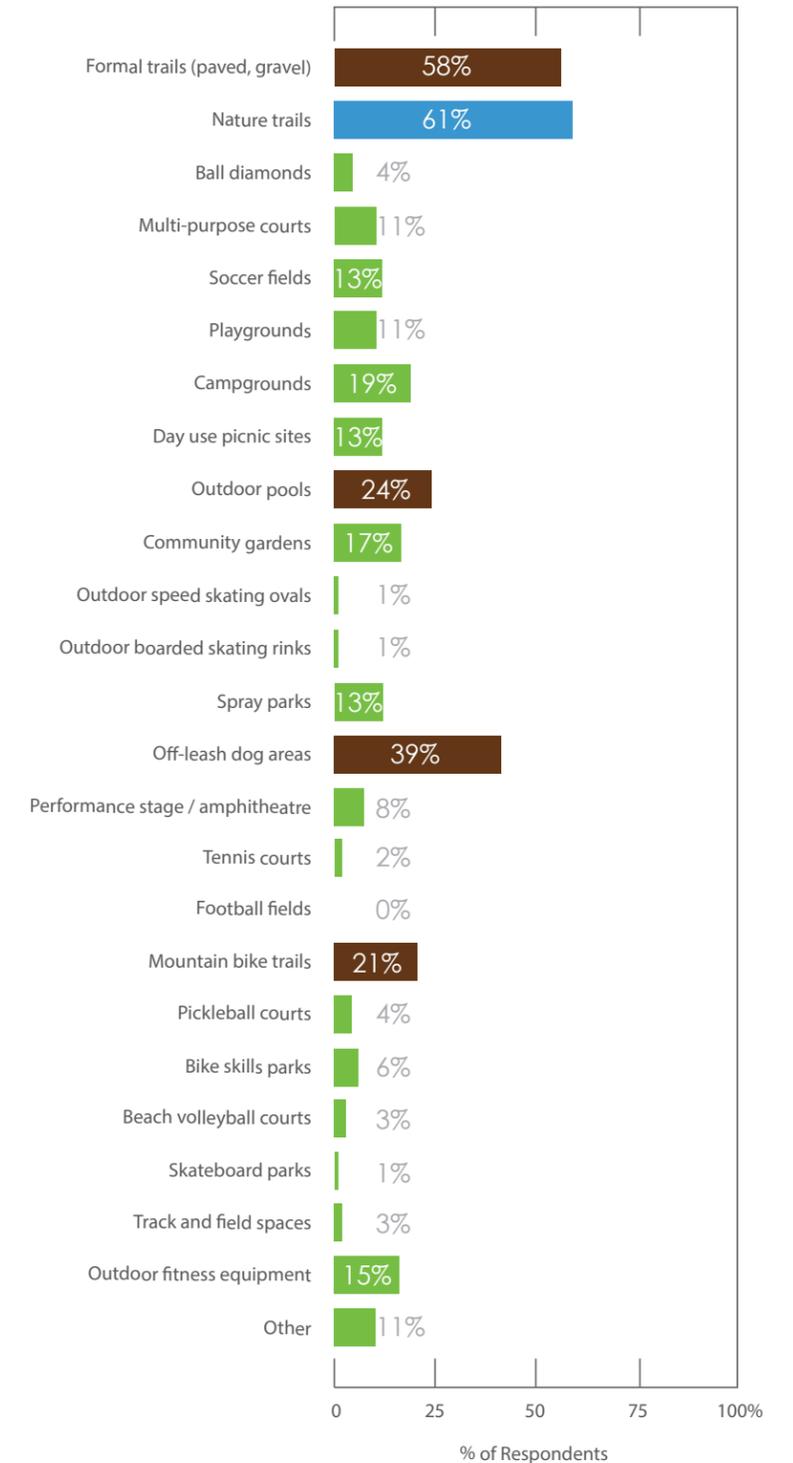


Figure 29: OUTDOOR FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE MORE READILY AVAILABLE

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; • Pickleball 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 pickleball / 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.

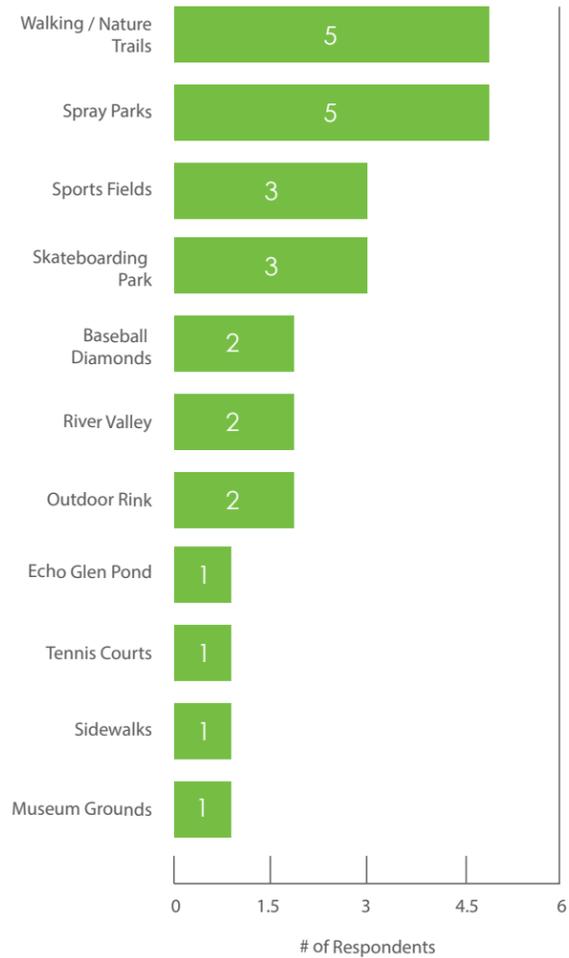


Figure 30: BEST EXISTING OUTDOOR AMENITIES / FACILITIES

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.

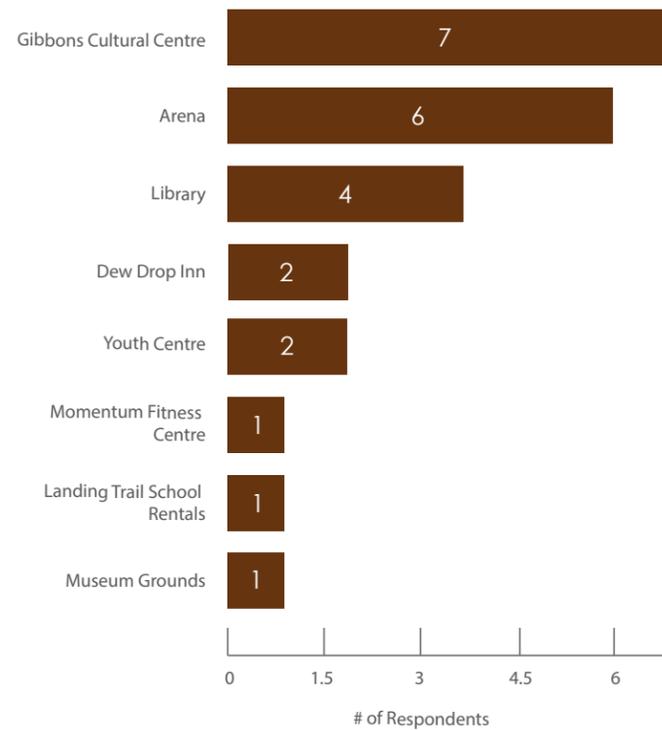


Figure 31: BEST EXISTING INDOOR AMENITIES / FACILITIES

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 32: 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.

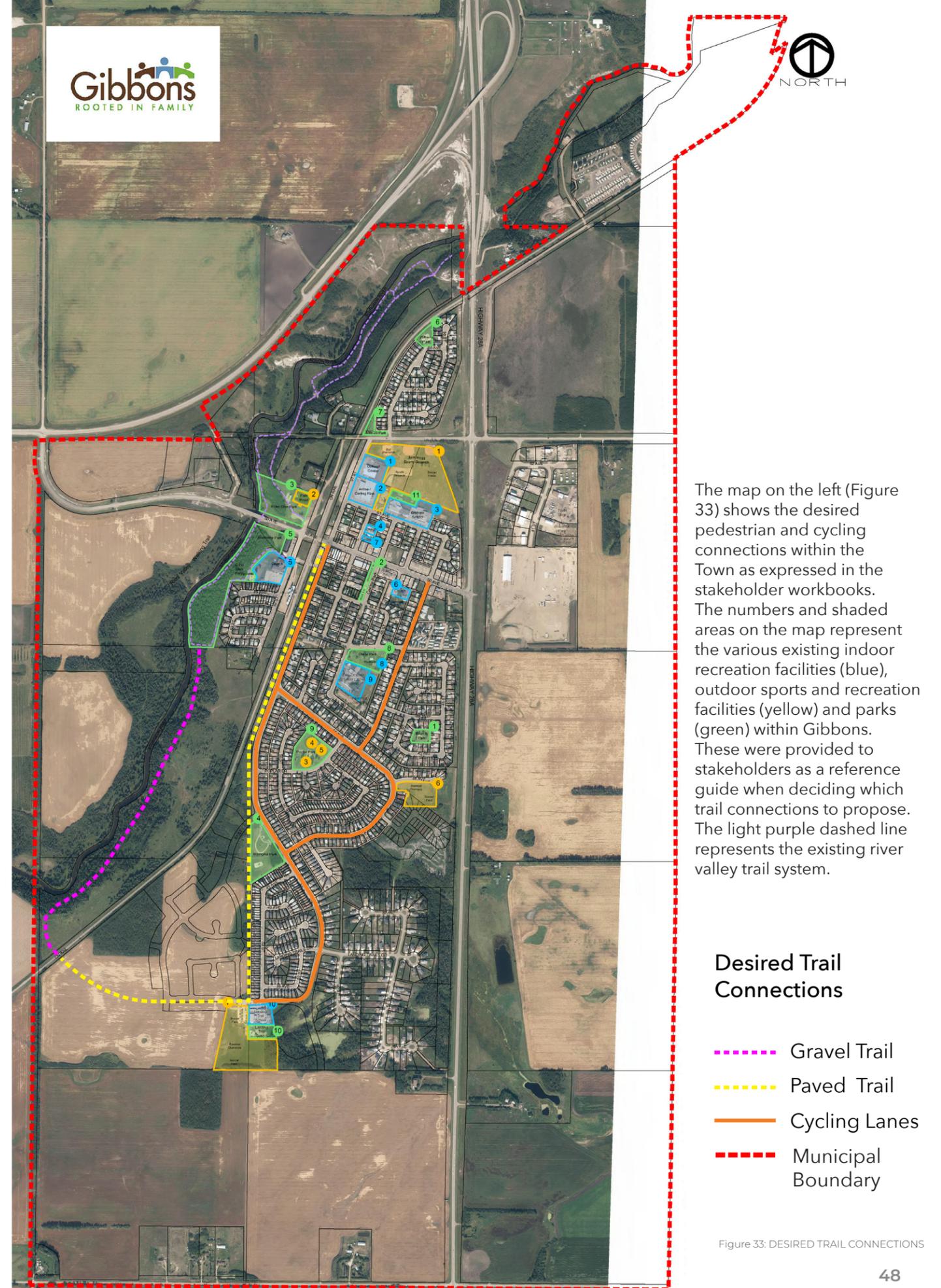
17. If Gibbons was to host a new recreation-based event that attracts visitors to Town and provides local residents with a great experience, what would it be? For example, an annual outdoor curling bonspiel. Does the Town currently have the amenities required to host the event you've identified? If not, 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 33) shows the desired pedestrian and cycling connections within the Town as indicated in respondent's workbooks. 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 33) 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
- Municipal Boundary

Figure 33: DESIRED TRAIL CONNECTIONS

8.2 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 (refer to Appendix B for a list of invited stakeholders). 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 participants:



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.*

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 GCC);
- Sturgeon Alliance Church;
- Town of Gibbons Recreation and Youth Coordination;
- Town of Gibbons Public Works; and
- Royal Canadian Legion Gibbons Branch #226.

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?*

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. Pickleball 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 be required?

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.

8.3 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 evening 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;
- Pickleball;
- Spray park (though many hoped it could be expanded);
- Arena and outdoor skating rink;
- Skate park; and
- Momentum Fitness Club.

While it is not currently a formalized recreational asset within the town of Gibbons, 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.



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 / splash pad 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

9.0

9.1 Infrastructure and Programming Priorities

Indoor Recreation Priorities

The following table (Figure 34) 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 34 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.

Resulting Indoor Priorities Table

| 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 34: INDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

Note: For both resulting indoor and outdoor priorities tables (Figures 34 & 35) 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".

During the stakeholder workshop, proponents were asked to complete a group activity that involved them locating proposed indoor recreation facilities throughout the town and indicating upgrades and retrofitting to existing indoor facilities. Following the engagement session, these ideas were discussed in depth with Town staff to ensure recommendations were realistic and implementable for the Town. The following section outlines the results of this process. Facilities are numbered to correspond to Figure 35. More detail regarding recommendations and implementation can be found in sections 9.2: *Action Plan* & 9.3: *Performance Measures*.

Proposed Indoor Recreation Facilities / Amenities (colour coded turquoise on Figure 35)

1.

Multi-Use Recreation Facility

The one largely supported indoor recreation facility that both residents and stakeholders agree should be constructed in town is a multi-use facility. This facility would house a number of the indoor recreation priorities that are identified in the chart on the previous page (Figure 34). This proposed facility would include an indoor children's playground, fitness & wellness facilities (i.e. rooms for fitness classes), indoor sport courts / gymnasium, a leisure swimming pool, indoor walking or running track and climbing walls. As seen in Figure 35, the exact location of this facility is yet to be determined. In order to successfully implement a facility of this caliber in a small town, agreements and / or partnerships with surrounding municipalities must be made. For this reason, the proposed facility is shown to be placed somewhere just outside of the Town boundaries so that it is easily accessible from neighbouring communities.

Proposed Changes to Existing Indoor Recreation Facilities / Amenities (colour coded dark blue on Figure 35)

1.

Gibbons Cultural Centre (GCC)

While most residents agree that the GCC is the most successful example of indoor recreation in Gibbons, there is a common misconception that the auditorium space is underutilized. In preparation of this master plan report, booking records for the auditorium were analyzed and many discussions were had with Town representatives. It was determined that this facility is widely utilized. The auditorium is booked nearly every weekday / weeknight for various functions and programs such as yoga, senior walking groups, meetings and presentations. There is, however, an apparent gap in weekend bookings. In order to increase community utilization of this space on weekends, it is recommended that a special discount rate be put in place to make it more enticing for local groups to rent and make use of the space during this time. It is also recommended that the Town advertise the various amenities available to those who book space at the GCC in order to increase awareness and overall utilization.

2a.

Arena

There is a great deal of interest from the community in having greater access to the arena for public skating. After discussion with Town representatives it is understood that much of this frustration over lack of public ice time is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During previous years, public skating occurred three times a week. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, current public skating times have been canceled. Therefore, it is the recommendation of this plan that public skating return to its original schedule booking three times a week once government restrictions allow the Town to do so.

2b.

Curling Rink

The Curling Rink is listed as one of the most underutilized indoor recreation facilities in Gibbons due to the lack of programming during the curling off-season. With minor improvements such as cosmetic upgrades, the facility would become much more desirable as a rental for events, meetings and any other community function.

5/

Sturgeon Alliance Church / Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The numerous Churches in Gibbons may not be town-owned and operated facilities, but they are key pieces of the community. These Churches offer many recreation and leisure opportunities to residents. The addition of an art studio is listed among the top priorities for indoor recreation in Gibbons. Therefore, it is a recommendation of this report that the Town explore partnerships with the various Churches in town to utilize their space to hold activities such as art / maker workshops and classes. A partnership between an art-focused community group and a Church could be a great way to infuse more art-based activities into Gibbons.

6.

Gibbons Museum

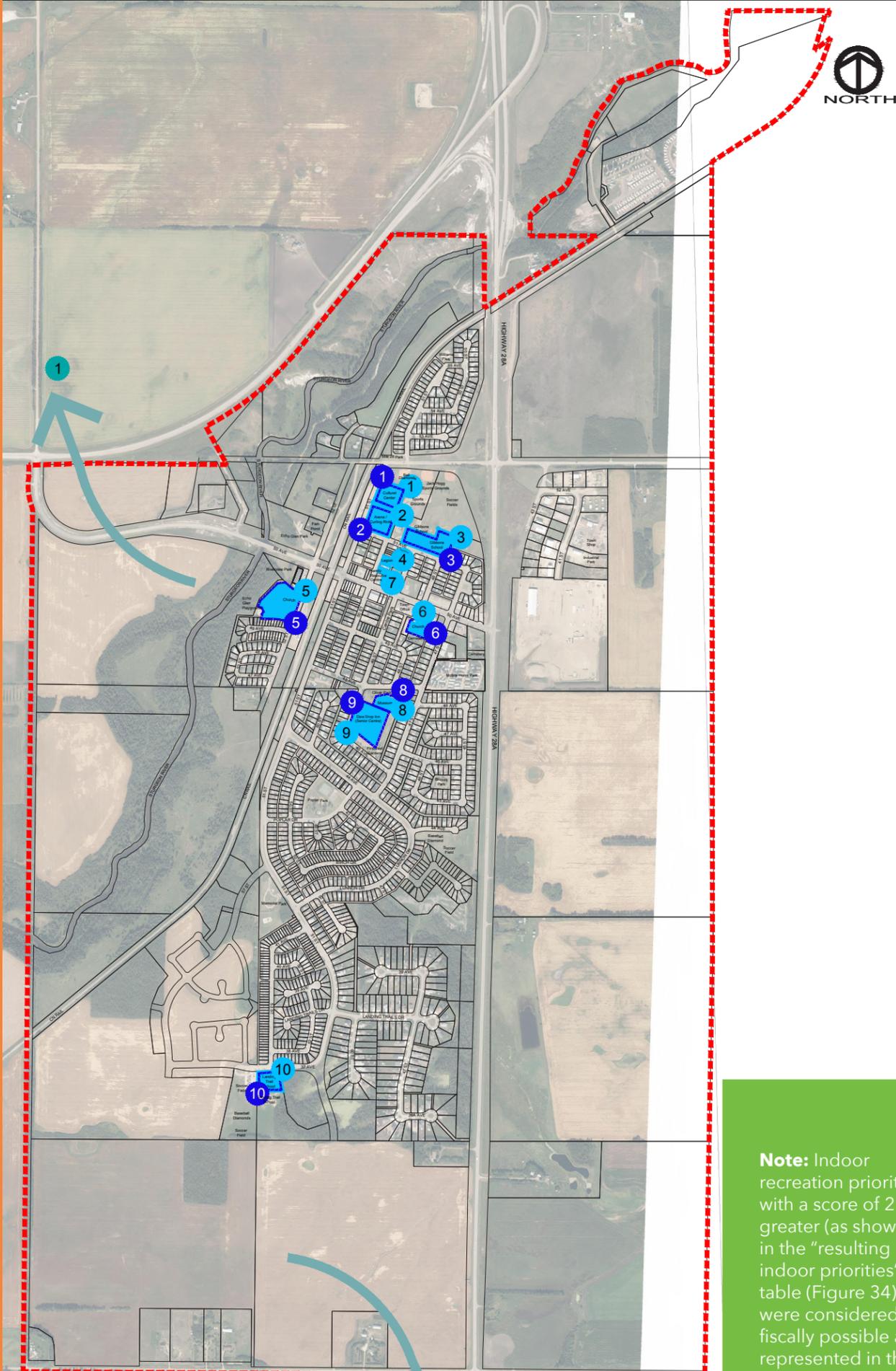
The Gibbons Museum has a heated extension and barn that are available for the public to rent. This space would also be a great place for art / maker classes and workshops to be held. It is a recommendation of this plan that a partnership between art-focused community groups and the Museum be explored.

8.

Dew Drop Inn

The Town of Gibbons just completed extensive renovations to the Dew Drop Inn. It is the recommendation of this master plan that the Town advertise these new improvements and hold an open house so that seniors in town know this new space is available to them.

9.



Note: Indoor recreation priorities with a score of 2 or greater (as shown in the "resulting indoor priorities" table (Figure 34) that were considered fiscally possible are represented in this map.

ALL EXISTING INDOOR FACILITIES

- 1 Gibbons Cultural Centre (GCC)**
 - Public Library
 - Community Programs
 - Venue for Public Events
 - Auditorium with Seating for 500 People
 - Full Commercial Kitchen
 - Stage and Projection Screens
 - Fitness Centre
 - Agrium Youth Centre
 - Gazebo planned for installation in 2021
- 2a Arena**
 - 1 Regulation Ice Surface
 - Community Groups (Dance studio)
 - Seating for 500
- 2b Curling Rink**
 - 4 Sheets of Ice
 - Upstairs Viewing Lounge
- 3 Gibbons School**
 - Sturgeon Public School (Grades 5-9)
 - Extracurricular Programs (Music, Sports)
- 4 Royal Canadian Legion**
 - Veterans Organization
- 5 Sturgeon Alliance Church**
 - Public Ministry
 - King's Kids Preschool
 - Community Groups
- 6 Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
 - Public Ministry
- 7 Family Resource Centre**
 - Community Programs and Events
 - Community Support Services
- 8 Gibbons Museum (Located in Oliver Park)**
 - Interpretive Program
 - Indoor Public Washroom
- 9 Dew Drop Inn**
 - Home of the Gibbons Twilight Club
 - Received numerous upgrades completed Nov. 2020 to become community Senior Centre
- 10 Landing Trail School**
 - Sturgeon Public School (Grades K-4)
 - Extracurricular Programs (Music, Sports)

PROPOSED INDOOR AMENITIES (LOCATION TBD)

- 1 Multi-Use Recreation Facility**
 - Indoor Children's Playground
 - Field house (indoor sports field)
 - Open Gymnasium (indoor sport courts)
 - Indoor Walking / Running Track
 - Fitness and Wellness Facilities
 - Leisure Swimming Pool
 - Climbing walls

PROPOSED UPGRADES TO EXISTING INDOOR AMENITIES

- 1 Gibbons Cultural Centre (GCC)**
 - Decrease cost to rent auditorium on weekends so it can be utilized by more local groups
- 2 Curling Rink**
 - Rent lounge during off-season to increase usage
 - Scheduled for facility upgrades in 2021 to modernize and increase usage
- 2 Arena**
 - Maintain pre-COVID public skating ice time
- 5 Sturgeon Alliance Church**
 - Look at opportunity to work with local community groups to host activities such as art / maker workshops and classes
- 6 Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
 - Look at opportunity to work with local community groups to host activities such as art / maker workshops and classes
- 8 Museum**
 - Look at opportunity to work with local community groups to host activities such as art / maker workshops and classes in heated extension and / or barn
- 9 Dew Drop Inn**
 - Increase awareness of new upgrades (advertise, hold open house, etc.)

Figure 35: RECOMMENDED INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES MAPPING

Outdoor Recreation Priorities

The table on the following page (Figure 36) outlines, through frequency of response, the outdoor priorities as identified through the research and consultation. As illustrated in the table to the right, the top outdoor priorities are:

- Formal trails (paved, gravel);
- Nature trails;
- Off-leash dog areas;
- Multi-purpose courts;
- Soccer fields;
- Playgrounds;
- Performance stage / amphitheatre;
- Mountain bike trails;
- Outdoor fitness equipment;
- Outdoor pools;
- Community gardens;
- Outdoor skating rinks; and
- Spray parks.

Figure 36 shows a graphical summary of the outdoor recreation priorities for Gibbons, determined in the same way as described for the indoor priorities (on page 58). To receive a score for each category the amenity space / facility needed to be identified as a need or priority within that category.



Resulting Outdoor Priorities Table

| 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 |
| Bike Skills Parks | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Track and Field Spaces | | | | | 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 36: OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

Note: For both resulting indoor and outdoor priorities tables (Figures 34 & 36) 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".

During the stakeholder workshop, proponents were asked to complete multiple group activities that involved them locating proposed outdoor sports and recreation facilities, parks and trails throughout the town and indicating upgrades and retrofitting to existing facilities. Following the engagement session, these ideas were discussed in depth with Town staff to ensure recommendations were realistic and implementable for the Town. The following section outlines the results of this process. Outdoor sports and recreation facilities are numbered to correspond to Figure 37, while parks and trails amenities are numbered to correspond to Figure 38. More detail regarding recommendations and implementation can be found in sections 9.2: Action Plan & 9.3: Performance Measures.

Proposed Outdoor Sports & Recreation Facilities / Amenities (colour coded pink on Figure 37)

1.

Outdoor Skating Rink

Additional opportunities for outdoor skating was ranked relatively high among outdoor recreation priorities for the Town. As noted under “Proposed Changes / Upgrades to Existing Outdoor Sports & Recreation Facilities / Amenities,” the existing splash pad at Poplar Park is recommended to be retrofitted into a public rink when the existing infrastructure ages out. This central location is the perfect location for an informal rink. This will provide the residents of Gibbons with an additional temporary rink until a more permanent option can be constructed adjacent to the future multi-use recreational facility (as indicated in #4, below). If this rink proves to be incredibly successful and is well-utilized by the community, the Town may choose to maintain this rink permanently.

2.

Splash Pad

The residents of Gibbons have indicated that the existing splash pad at Poplar Park is much too small to satisfy the needs of the community. This need, combined with the aging infrastructure at the Poplar Park spray pad led to the recommendation of a new splash pad at Memorial Park. This location was determined based off of engagement and conversations with Town staff. This splash pad is recommended to be larger than the existing pad at Poplar Park. It is also recommended that this amenity be completely accessible / barrier-free and include features for all ages and abilities.

3.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

“Healthy living” and “get outside” are both recreation trends that the Gibbons community strongly supports. So, it is not surprising that outdoor fitness equipment, which combines both of these trends, is near the top of the list of priorities for outdoor recreation in Gibbons. In order to be well-utilized a feature like outdoor fitness equipment should be centrally located in the community in a spot that is convenient for many. It is the recommendation of this plan that outdoor fitness equipment be located at Poplar Park. Not only does this park have the space available to install outdoor fitness equipment, but the location is also perfect for both parents and seniors. Poplar Park offers numerous activities for children of all ages, so if placed strategically around the park, parents can utilize the fitness equipment while they supervise their children. This location is also walking distance to the Dew Drop Inn and Spruce View Manor which is very convenient for seniors who wish to utilize the equipment.

4.

Outdoor Skating Rink

This plan recommends a permanent outdoor skating rink be installed adjacent to the proposed indoor multi-use recreation facility. While a specific location is not determined for this facility it is clear that an outdoor rink would be well utilized when combined with such an all-inclusive indoor facility. Like the multi-use recreation facility, it is recommended that the public rink also be constructed in partnership with neighbouring communities.



Proposed Changes to Existing Outdoor Sports & Recreation Facilities / Amenities (colour coded burnt orange on Figure 37)

2.

Echo Glen Fish Pond

The Echo Glen Fish Pond is stocked annually with trout and plays host to the Kids Can Catch event every year during Pioneer Days. There is no question that this pond is enjoyed by the community. However, due to aging infrastructure the pond is beginning to leak and is in need of repairs and upgrading. For this reason, this master plan recommends completing the necessary updates and repairs to keep the pond in prime working order so that it can continue to host such events within the community.

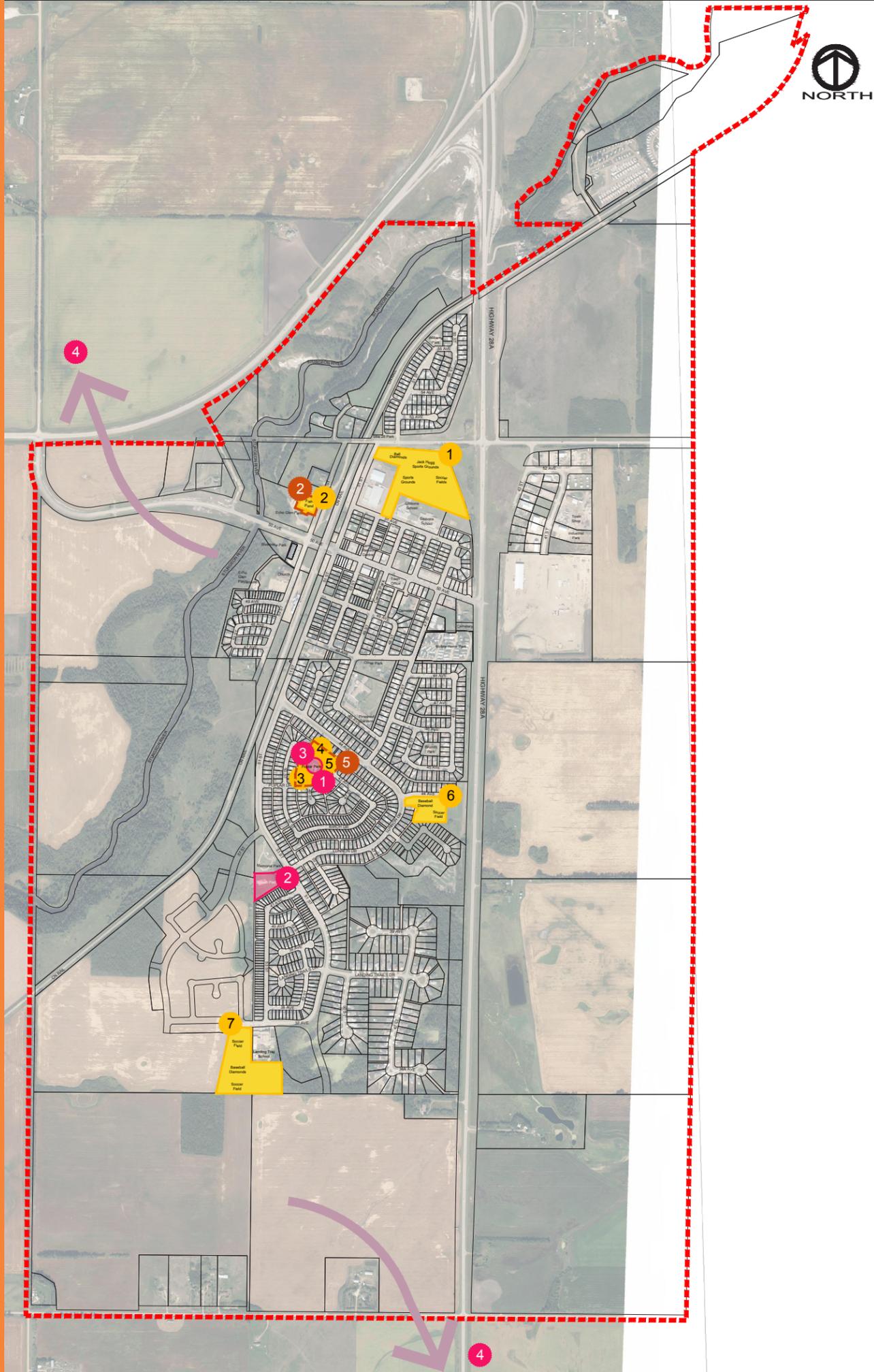
5.

Basketball Court

The basketball court at Poplar Park is in very poor shape. When the community was asked about the court, there was overwhelming support for refurbishing and upgrading the court. It is clear that the court will be well utilized by the community once these upgrades are complete. This master plan recommends refurbishing this court so that it can accommodate the community's desire to play basketball. Additionally, it is noted that a community basketball league would be well supported by residents once this court is in usable condition.



Outdoor Sports & Recreation Mapping



EXISTING SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

- 1 **Jack Hogg Sports Grounds**
 - 3 Shale Ball Diamonds (one on Gibbons School grounds)
 - 1 Full Size Soccer Pitch
 - 1 Mini Soccer Pitch
 - Outdoor Rink & Skate Shack
 - Public Washrooms
 - Skateboard Park
- 2 **Echo Glen Fish Pond (Located in Echo Glen Park)**
 - Stocked Yearly with Trout
 - Home of Annual Kids Can Catch Event
- 3 **Poplar Spray Park (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - Auto-timed Spray Park
 - Change Room
 - Public Washroom
- 4 **Tennis & Pickleball Courts (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - 4 courts (1 tennis, 3 pickleball)
- 5 **Basketball Court (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - 1 court
- 6 **T-Ball Park**
 - 1 Baseball Diamond
 - 1 Soccer Field
- 7 **Landing Trail School Sport Field**
 - 2 Baseball Diamonds
 - 4 Soccer Fields (1 Large, 3 Small)

PROPOSED OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

- 1 **Outdoor Skating Rink**
 - Locate at Poplar Park
 - Existing splash pad can be converted into an outdoor rink when the existing infrastructure phases out
 - Community focused (no organized sports)
- 2 **Splash Pad**
 - Locate at Memorial Park
 - Large and accessible for all
- 3 **Outdoor Fitness Equipment**
 - Locate at Poplar Park
- 4 **Outdoor Skating Rink**
 - Locate at future Multi-Use Recreation Facility

PROPOSED UPGRADES TO EXISTING OUTDOOR SPORTS & RECREATION AMENITIES

- 2 **Echo Glen Fish Pond (Located in Echo Glen Park)**
 - Pond is currently leaking and in need of repairs / upgrade
- 5 **Basketball Court (Located in Poplar Park)**
 - Upgrade / refurbish court

Figure 37: RECOMMENDED OUTDOOR SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES MAPPING

Note: Outdoor sports & recreation priorities with a score of 2 or greater (as shown in the "resulting outdoor priorities" table (Figure 36) that were considered fiscally possible are represented in this map.

1.

Dog Park

Dog parks are ranked as the second highest priority for outdoor recreation in Gibbons, behind only trails. It is clear that a safe and secure off-leash area is a top priority for residents and that a solution needs to be implemented right away. For this reason, this master plan recommends the addition of a fenced dog park along the west side of Highway 28A. This plot of land is currently zoned as SP (semi-public) and is the optimal location to implement a dog park in the near term, with convenient access off the highway and plenty of room for parking. This area is approximately 5 acres in size.

2.

Toboggan Hill Park

There is currently an informal toboggan hill located behind Sturgeon Alliance Church that draws children and families every winter to recreate. Residents, stakeholders and even staff at the Church all expressed the desire to formalize this into Toboggan Hill Park. With this formalization would come site amenities such as picnic tables, benches, fire pits, etc. It is the recommendation of this master plan that formalizing Toboggan Hill Park be considered and that the necessary studies be conducted to ensure this is feasible without negatively impacting the natural area in which it is situated.

3.

Dog Park

Long-term future plans for Gibbons include the realignment and expansion of Highway 28A. These plans will include a plot of MR land (municipal reserve) that would lend itself well to a Visitor Info Centre / dog park combination. This feature would be a great resting place for those passing through town along their journey and has the potential to bring in revenue as people decide to stop in Gibbons for their lunch and gas on route to their final destination. The location of this dog park would be large enough (approximately 12 acres) to allow for the separation of areas for dogs of different sizes (a fenced area for each of small, medium and large dogs). Based off the preliminary findings of this report, this dog park would be a widely supported amenity for the community. For this reason, this master plan report recommends consideration of a future dog park in this general location once the future highway alignment has been determined.

Expansion of Trail System



The overwhelming top priority for outdoor recreation in Gibbons was the addition of formal (paved / gravel) and nature trails. Nearly every resident supports the expansion of the existing trail system. The recommended parks and trails amenities map (Figure 38) shows three categories of trail expansion that this master plan recommends. The first, is to expand the existing river valley trail system to the south. This expansion would feature a combination of nature trails in areas that are ecologically sensitive and formal paved trails to provide an accessible option for all residents to enjoy in areas that can accommodate it. The second, is to create pedestrian and cycling loops throughout town. These loops would consist of paved multi-use trails that are measured and signed. This would allow them to be used for both casual recreation and formal physical training exercises. Lastly, this master plan recommends the development of trail connections into and throughout all future residential subdivisions. This will ensure that these areas are integrated into the overall trail network for residents to enjoy and move throughout the community. It is also the recommendation of this master plan that the town work with existing community groups and organizations such as the Sturgeon County River Valley Alliance to implement new trails and encourage connection to a larger regional trail network.

1.

Brumfit Park

Residents ranked Brumfit Park as the most underutilized park in Gibbons due to its seemingly hidden location. In order to increase use of this park, this master plan recommends introducing additional park signage to advertise the presence of the park. It is also recommended that this park play host to an upcoming community event to ensure that all residents are aware of the park and the amenities that it has to offer.

4.

Memorial Park

Memorial Park is scheduled for upgrades in 2021 and so the stakeholder workshop included a design activity that asked stakeholders what they would like to see at Memorial Park. With this in mind, there are a number of outdoor recreation priorities that this master plan suggest be implemented at this park. One amenity to consider is a splash pad and updated playground that are accessible / barrier-free and include features for all ages and abilities. Secondly, the addition of a small fenced off-leash dog area. Lastly, a washroom facility and picnic area would provide families a place to gather and a change room for splash pad users.

7.

Mile 26 Park

Mile 26 Park is a historical landmark in Gibbons as it marks Mile 26 of the Athabasca Landing Trail. This park is currently mostly open green space that is underutilized. This master plan suggests consideration of including an edible landscape and public art in this park. This would increase passive use of this otherwise relatively underutilized park.

9.

Poplar Park

With its central location, Poplar Park lends itself to being host to a number of recreational amenities. Recommendations from this master plan are directly resulting from public engagement and discussions with Town staff. These recommendations include converting the existing splash pad into an outdoor skating rink when the existing splash pad infrastructure ages out, updating the playground to accommodate children of all ages and abilities, upgrading / repairing the existing basketball court, installing outdoor exercise equipment, constructing a performance stage / amphitheatre to host community events and planting additional shade trees or installing a gazebo to provide relief from the sun.

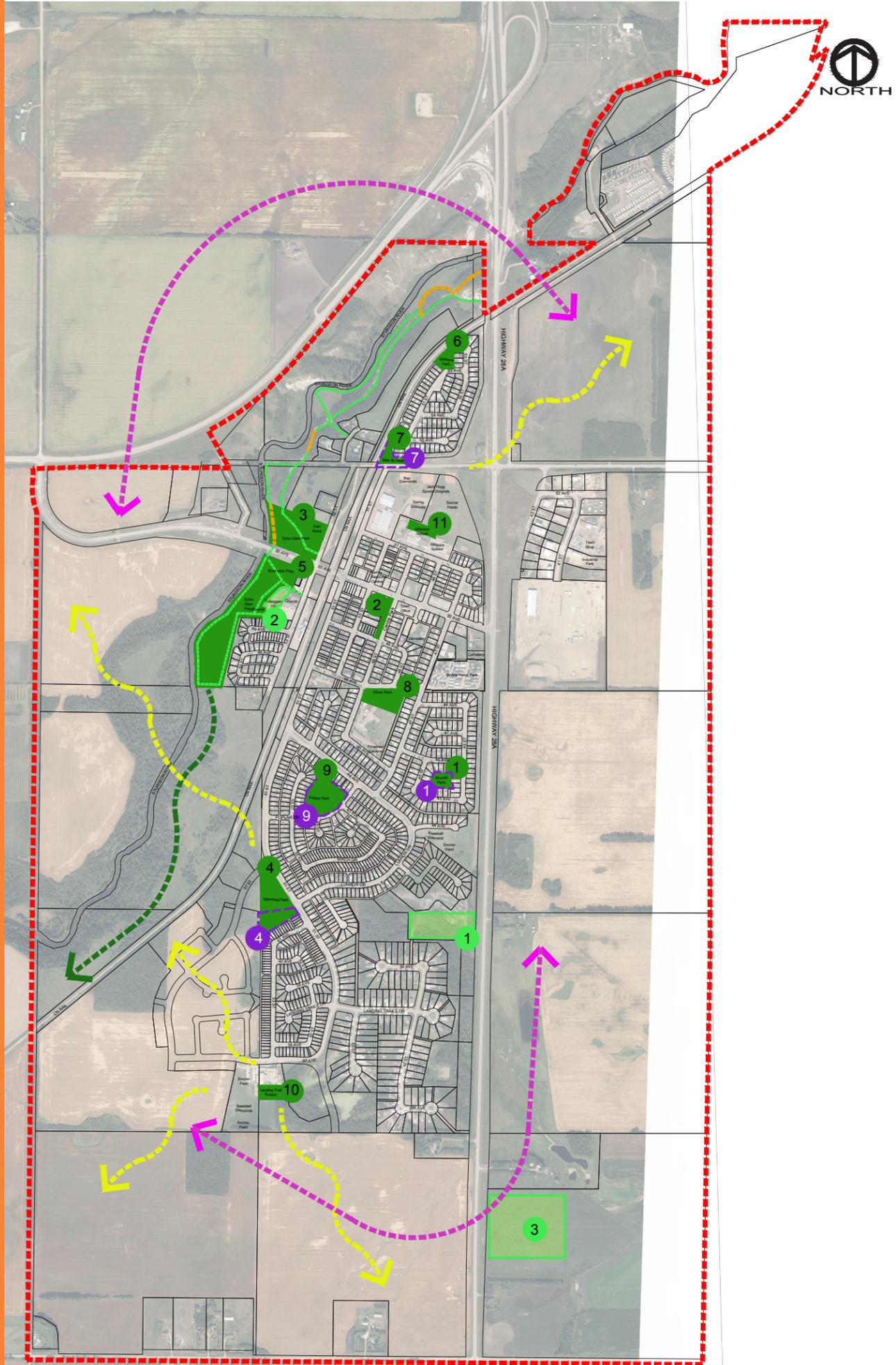


Trail Repairs / Upgrades

There are a few sections of trail (as outlined in the map on the following page) that require repair and / or maintenance. These sections of trail are experiencing washouts and erosion, making the trail unsafe for use. It is the recommendation of this master plan that these existing sections of trail be repaired so that they may be used safely. This master plan also recommends conducting any necessary geotechnical testing and research to ensure stable slopes / banks and determine how best to prevent further erosion and washout.

Community Art Displays

It is a recommendation of this master plan that future community parks be designed with opportunities for community art displays in mind. Public engagement revealed the community's desire to increase opportunities for public art in Town. Collaboration with community arts and craft groups would provide the opportunity to design future park spaces with well-planned displays for various forms of art to be shared with the community.



EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS

- 1 **Brumfit Park**
- Playground
- 2 **Centre Park**
- Playground
- Exercise Equipment
- Gazebo
- Picnic Area
- Memorial for 9/11
- Recognition Wall
- 3 **Echo Glen Park**
- 2km of Natural Walking Trails Along River
- Picnic Area with Cook Stoves
- Stocked Fish Pond (Trout)
- 4 **Gibbons Memorial Park**
- Playground (for pre-teens)
- 5 **Riverview Park**
- Playground (Historic Theme)
- Ties into Echo Glen Walking Trails
- 6 **Williams Park**
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- 7 **Mile 26 Park**
- Historic landmark
- Communities in Bloom Rock
- Picnic Area
- 8 **Oliver Park**
- Passive Park Shared with Gibbons Museum
- Community Gardens
- 9 **Poplar Park**
- Spray Park
- Public Washrooms
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Courts (3)
- Basketball Court
- Picnic Area
- Playground (for pre-teens)
- 10 **Landing Trail School**
- Playground
- 11 **Gibbons School**
- Playground

Existing Trails

PROPOSED PARKS AND TRAILS

- 1 **Dog Park**
- Approximately 5 acres in size
- Easily accessible from Highway 28A
- 2 **Toboggan Hill Park**
- Look at opportunity to formalize the toboggan hill behind the church
- Provide park amenities such as picnic tables and fire pits
- Would require agreement with Sturgeon Alliance Church
- 3 **Dog Park**
- Future potential fenced off-leash area (size TBD)

Expansion of River Valley Trails

Proposed Pedestrian & Cycling Loops Throughout Town

Trail Connections in Future Residential Areas

PROPOSED UPGRADES TO EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS

- 1 **Brumfit Park**
- Increase visibility
- Improve signage / advertisement of park
- 4 **Memorial Park:**
- Scheduled for upgrades in 2021
- Addition of splash pad for youth of all abilities
- Upgrades to existing playground
- Washroom facility
- Picnic area / shelter
- Small dog park
- 7 **Mile 26 Park:**
- Addition of edible landscape
- 9 **Poplar Park**
- Convert existing splash pad into outdoor skating rink when existing infrastructure ages out
- Addition of performance stage / amphitheatre
- Upgrade playground
- Upgrade / Repair basketball court
- Incorporate shade trees or gazebo
- Addition of outdoor exercise equipment

Trail Repairs / Upgrades

Figure 38: RECOMMENDED PARKS & TRAILS AMENITIES MAPPING

Note: Parks & trails priorities with a score of 2 or greater (as shown in the "resulting outdoor priorities" table (Figure 36) that were considered fiscally possible are represented in this map.

Immediate - Term Action Items:

- Hold Open House at the Dew Drop Inn to make seniors aware of the recent renovations and show them the new amenities that are available to them;
- Decrease cost for local groups to rent GCC on weekends;
- Upgrade Curling Rink Facility: cosmetic enhancements to increase rental interest;
- Explore partnerships between Museum / Churches and local art groups to bring art and craft workshops / classes to the community;
- Upgrade Poplar Park: basketball court and addition of performance stage / amphitheatre;
- Upgrade Memorial Park: washroom facility, picnic area, splash pad, playground, small dog park and parking;
- Develop new (approx. 5 acre) off-leash dog park (fenced);
- Analyze feasibility of formalizing Toboggan Hill Park behind Sturgeon Alliance Church;
- Conduct necessary testing and trail repairs in Echo Glen Park and River Valley;
- Commence expansion of River Valley trails southward (in coordination with the Alliance and conducting all necessary studies and geotechnical testing);
- Satisfaction Surveys: Implement regular satisfaction surveys (approximately bi-annually, each two years) that evaluate resident perspectives on parks and recreation in the Town, including the quality of current services and amenities and forecasting resident demands for growth and renewal for future recreational planning; and
- Rates and Charges: Re-evaluate current user fees for all amenities, based on a preview of comparable services and facilities of the region and to potentially lower fees to promote increased facility use.

**1 - 3 year
timeline**

Near - Term Action Items:

- Design / implementation process begins for new indoor Multi-Use Recreational Facility (including planning and partnership agreements with neighbouring communities and / or Sturgeon County);
- Develop Outdoor Rink adjacent to new multi-use recreational facility;
- Upgrade Echo Glen Pond: repair and upgrade existing pond;
- Upgrade Poplar Park: addition of outdoor exercise equipment, decommissioning splash pad and repurposing the space into an outdoor skating rink;
- Expansion of River Valley trails continues southward (explore partnership with the Alliance and executing any necessary access agreements);
- Expansion of parks and trail system into new subdivisions with special consideration for opportunities for public art displays; and
- Expand the Community League, and increase awareness of the League, to gain new local expertise to help guide the delivery of recreation, capital planning and programming.

**4 - 7 year
timeline**

Long - Term Action Items:

- Develop New Off-Leash Dog Park: located on MR land (in line with future highway alignment);
- Develop Town-wide paved multi-use loop trails (formalization and expansion);
- Expansion of parks and trail system into new subdivisions with special consideration for opportunities for public art displays continues;
- Upgrade Mile 26 Park: introduction of edible landscape to increase utilization;
- Implementation of Town-wide signage program to increase visibility / awareness of facilities and amenities available; and
- Exercise the Town's ability to assign land as Environmental Reserve (ER) where possible, under the provisions included in the Municipal Government Act. With a careful balance between the pressure of recreational use and environmental protection, explore opportunities for expanding trail networks through these ER areas for a more diverse trail experience and to promote stronger human-nature connections.

**8 + year
timeline**

9.3 Performance Measures

This Recreation and Parks Master Plan is not a statutory document, whereby there is no force and effect on the direction cast by the document's recommendation. On the other hand, this should become an important document that influences other Municipal plans, development standards, capital and operating budgets and decisions to pursue growth of the community. Over the next ten years, during the life of this plan, the Municipality and various stakeholders will need to work together to ensure implementation is monitored, adjusted as required and measured for success.

The implementation strategy is based on five pillars:

1. Common Goals:

The vision for parks and recreation in Gibbons must be shared amongst local government, regional government, local residents and area stakeholders. Success of a holistic plan requires the support, buy-in and effort by all;

2. Proactive Planning

The delivery of programs, events and services requires a methodical sequence of events leading from public engagement that establishes a vision, to diligent input of effort to deliver and perfect. Building a new amenity is only part of the success of community recreation, whereby the program needs to be deliberate and supported by users and taxpayers and programming needs to be fully supported;

3. Strategic Timeframes

In order for any plan to be realized, developing clear, achievable and measurable actions are required. This plan identifies goals for immediate-term (1-3 years), near-term (4-7 years) and long-term (8+ years) horizons, with each recommendation being tangible goals that can be measured;

4. Adaptive Management

Times do change, alike how trends in recreation change over successive generations. Some aspects of providing community recreation can be changed at a moment's notice, such as programs offered or venues used for particular events. Other elements, such as the construction of new parks or buildings, are much more permanent and require us to forecast long-term needs. Any plan needs to be adaptive to meet the times of the present, while being mindful of capital investment that needs to last the test of time; and

5. Access to All

Philosophically, recreation should be accessible to all people of all ages, abilities and personal perspectives. While not every possible recreational activity can be provided at the same time, a diversity of opportunities needs to be available and not favour a particular cohort.



This Recreation and Parks Master Plan for the Town of Gibbons offers a proposed network of recreational opportunities that align with local needs and desires, considers regional trends in recreation demands and takes advantage of existing recreational amenities already available in the community. The plan is built on the premise that a well-planned system of indoor and outdoor recreation has a combination of economic, health, transportation and environmental benefits to residents and the natural environment. There are several strategies that will increase the success in implementing the recommended immediate-, near- and long-term recommendations of the plan, as shown on Figure 39: Action Plan. Implementing the recommendations of this plan will have both tangible and immeasurable benefits to the local economy, human health, local transportation network and ecological protection. Some strategies include:

Establishing New Priorities

Key guiding documents such as the Town's Municipal Development Plan identifies the importance of recreation and the natural environment as key elements of promoting a sense of community. As future growth of the Town continues, planning decisions should prioritize the recommendations of this Plan. For example, trail alignments of this Plan should be considered when developing new Area Structure Plans for new growth areas. Land use zoning should also support the growth of the recreational network by strategically zoning Municipal Reserve lands in appropriate locations that will support new recreational amenities. As new public facilities are developed or old ones are retrofitted, it is important to consider accommodating the recommended activities in this Plan. Recognizing the importance of recreation in Gibbons requires a shift in priorities as new growth occurs and new amenities are developed.

Alike most communities across the western world, recent generations of community planning have prioritized mobility by automobile whereby the public realm is dominated by motor vehicles. Priority shifting toward active transportation should be considered as a primary objective when redeveloping streetscapes and improving the transportation network of the Town. Active transportation has multi-faceted benefits, from environmental to health benefits associated with a strong network of getting place to place without reliance on vehicles.

Recreation has numerous health benefits to people such as improvements to physical well-being and mental health. Physical health can be easily measured through a variety of indicators. Other less tangible benefits of recreation include factors such as sense of community and team spirit, and creating a sense of place and local identity. These are more challenging to measure but can be evaluated on the basis of usership and attendance, retention of residents and the ability of people to identify with their community on the basis of the recreational amenities available to them. Placing a priority on the human health benefits associated with community development is essential.

Strengthening Partnerships with the Development Industry

As the Town of Gibbons expands into raw land areas it is essential for Administration to work with the development industry to support the growth of parks, recreation and trails as plans are developed. Providing a safe, comfortable and attractive public realm is encouraged, which would be well-supported by newly created parks and open space development standards. Rather than the option of cash-in-lieu of Municipal Reserve (MR), it is recommended that the Town encourages the allocation of at least 10% MR, as allowed for within the Municipal Government Act, and if possible to increase this allocation to 15% to 20% through the purchase of additional land or land swapping. Larger percentages of MR dedication would be required to allow for the development of amenities such as a multi-use recreational facility. Further, acquiring Environmental Reserve land, as permitted by the Municipal Government Act, will allow for opportunities to expand the community's parks, open space and trails network and provide excellent opportunities for human-nature connections.



Outreach, Promotion and Alternative Funding

Committing the necessary financial and labour resources to establish, maintain, operate and improve on recreational programs and amenities is important to the success of an implementation plan. Capital and operating costs should be clear at the onset of recreation planning and can be established through collaboration with input from internal staff or from other communities in the region.

An annual capital and operating budget should continue to be identified and value the recommendations of this Plan. The current network of recreational amenities in Gibbons is well maintained, however there is no apparent surplus of financial or labour resources for any new programming or facilities. Promoting the importance of recreation to community leaders including Town Council and regional governments is important in order to secure the necessary capital and operating resources.

Over past years, funding has been available to communities under specific themes, such as ecological restoration, active transportation planning, tourism marketing, healthy communities and supporting not-for-profits. The Town is encouraged to continue exploring grants and external funding programs. Many grants are only eligible to non-government groups such as youth sport organizations. As opportunities for funding organizations outside the eligibility of the Town arise, these recommendations encourage collaboration with local stakeholders and community groups to apply.

Inter-Governmental Collaboration

Partnerships between different levels of government are essential. The Town of Gibbons is encouraged to continue working with the Province of Alberta to seek funding and provide assistance in the growth, development, maintenance and operations of indoor and outdoor recreational amenities. Federal programs with the Government of Canada may also provide opportunities to add financial assistance and knowledge resources to projects. Recognizing the ability for residents to travel outside Gibbons to meet recreational demands, it is essential that the network of amenities in the region be considered. Prior to implementing new, or enhancing existing programs, events and amenities it is important to consider capacity for those activities in the broader region.

The development of a multi-use recreational facility may be too ambitious of a project for the Town of Gibbons to provide capital and operating resources alone. This plan recommends a partnership with Sturgeon County along with other nearby communities such as Bon Accord for a combined effort to develop major recreational amenities, and potentially locate them outside of Gibbons within Sturgeon County jurisdiction.

Comprehensive Planning

This Plan provides a series of recommended recreational activities and amenities and is based on a high-level investigation of site conditions and facility suitability. Further site analysis and monitoring of use patterns specific to proposed outdoor sites and indoor facilities is essential in order to refine the recommendations of this Plan. With a lack of user data on many amenities in Town, particularly outdoor recreation amenities, the feasibility of proposed features in this Plan should be further explored as part of new or redevelopment projects. Planning for new or retrofitted recreation projects should consider the following stages, or an iteration of the following:

- Additional public and stakeholder engagement - focusing on the specific project, while also looking holistically at recreational offerings in Town and in the region so that the current project is identified in the broader context;
- Big picture review - forecasting overall recreational needs to consider combining proposed recreational amenities or programs together and sharing the required infrastructure and staffing with other public amenities, private operators or possibly with other communities;
- Funding assessment - considering alternative sources of funding for projects including grants, exploring partnerships with industry or other levels of government and considering alternative approaches to project delivery;
- Preliminary design and operation model - prior to spending significant time and financial resources on detailed design and land acquisition, completing a thorough preliminary design and operations study to establish more precise project and operating costs;
- Value assessment - scrutinizing the preliminary design to explore cost efficiencies or alternative approaches to delivering the project to minimize costs where possible and improve on timelines; and
- Detailed design and implementation - pursuing design and implementation with a highly qualified team of support staff, consultants or other entities with a proven track record in the field.

Performance measures of comprehensive planning are typically based on the ability to deliver projects on time and within originally proposed budgets.

Community League vs. The Recreation Advisory Committee

Financial and labour resources of a community such as Gibbons are often constrained. Many comparable communities have forged relationships with non-government groups such as Rotary Clubs, naturalists' societies, sport organizations and churches to host, deliver or help operate recreational amenities and programs. The Town of Gibbons includes several comparable organizations and outreach to these groups to help host, operate and deliver programs not only reduces financial and labour resources from the Town, but also creates an added sense of community and pride as various groups contribute to the vibrancy of Gibbons. A lot of expertise lies within many communities, and Gibbons should continue to reach out to experts in Town through the Community League (or a broader committee that has a component of recreation) to advise on key decisions focused on the delivery of recreation, capital planning and programming. Stewardship groups such as the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance should be key partners in parks and recreation planning with their extensive knowledge, resources of information and individual expertise.

The success of partnerships can be measured by the number of networks and partnerships established and maintained, and the ability of non-municipal resources to take on ongoing programming, maintenance and operation of recreational assets.

Fees and Charges Evaluation

Philosophically, recreation should be accessible to people of all ages, abilities and financial means. The reality, however, is that some components of a community recreation system require cost recoveries through user fees, facility leases, venue rental fees and other charges. While a proportion of municipal tax is allocated to development and maintenance of a recreational network, some elements require additional fees and charges in order to be sustainable. Gibbons has an existing framework for fees and charges, which is regularly updated. This plan recommends that re-evaluating fees and charges be done on a regular basis (approximately bi-annually, each two years) with the following principles:

- having a simple system that is clear, fair, equitable and easily understood;
- providing special rates for some groups to ensure equal accessibility, including those people with systemic financial challenges (ie. seniors, children);
- reflecting the goals of various plans such as this Recreation and Parks Master Plan;
- encouraging use at non-peak times for facilities that are higher in demand; and
- promoting opportunities for new groups, recreational offerings and programs to emerge, through subsidized rates or staffing assistance as these new activities establish.

An effective set of rates and charges can be measured by facility use that is maximized, with bookings taking place in both peak and non-peak times of day with still some availability for new groups to make bookings for emerging activities.



10.0 CLOSING SUMMARY

10.1 Plan Alignment with Guiding Principles

The recommendations of this plan align with the initial guiding principles included in Section 1.2 - Plan Guiding Principles, summarized as follows:

- 1. Pertains specifically to Gibbons.** This plan was developed with significant outreach to local residents, Town staff and area stakeholders. This engagement process is well documented in this plan and should serve as a model for future recreational planning initiatives to ensure they are homegrown, and pertain specifically to Gibbons;
- 2. Serves as a foundation for responding to parks, recreation and leisure issues.** This plan is only the first step in ensuring a well-orchestrated network of recreation and parks in Gibbons. This is a strong foundation upon which future planning may take place, while current issues may need to be addressed that require deviation from this plan;
- 3. Provides opportunities for the assessment of the impact of demographic, social and economic changes on residents.** The life of this plan is approximately a ten-year horizon, and within the plan there are recommendations for refinement such as coordination with satisfaction survey results, reviewing rates and charges, and for more robust approaches as necessary as recreation and parks amenities are built and operated;
- 4. Provides for the assessment of parks, recreation and leisure impact of municipal decisions on the quality of life of residents** - with well-written survey questions, the recommended satisfaction surveys will help gauge quality of life of residents. Municipal decisions will be impacted by the results of these surveys, and by other means of feedback from taxpayers and recreational user groups;

5. **Facilitates the prioritization and planning for current and future parks, recreation and leisure needs.** This master plan is the first of its kind for the Town of Gibbons, and sets forth a firm direction for immediate-, near- and long-term recreation needs;
6. **Aids in monitoring key socio-economic demographic indicators to address issues as they emerge.** Various indicators were used to establish plan recommendations, such as user group and public resident feedback in surveys and workshop activities and user booking statistics. There is often a direct correlation between socio-economic conditions of a population and the uptake of recreational activities. This plan recommends regular surveying of residents to help identify any issues as they emerge;
7. **Clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the Town and other sectors.** This plan recommends a deliberate effort to forge partnerships with various levels of government in different jurisdictions, partnerships with outside organizations that can offer assistance in parks and facility programming, operations and maintenance, as well as the development of a local advisory committee with a focus on recreation. The Town must take a leading role in orchestrating these partnerships;
8. **Guides the development of policies to address parks, recreation and leisure services issues.** While this is not a statutory plan with force and effect, it will be a primary tool that influences other plans and policies with statutory power;
9. **Strengthens the Town's commitment to integrated planning for all parks, recreation and leisure services.** This plan identifies the importance of comprehensive planning and the need for calibration of this Plan's recommendations at the inception of new planning initiatives. This includes strong community engagement, proper pre-planning to refine our thinking and utilizing experienced resources to conduct detailed planning;
10. **Highlights community assets, recognizes and values community expertise and processes and generates local solutions to local problems.** A detailed inventory of both indoor and outdoor recreational assets is included in this Plan. Working with this inventory, the Plan was established with a robust community and stakeholder engagement program that empowered local knowledge to derive the final recommendations;
11. **Supports and reinforces concepts such as inclusion, diversity, community stewardship and community cohesion.** Recreational for all is a key factor that influenced the direction of this Plan. Providing recreational opportunities and making them accessible to all people regardless of age or physical ability is essential; and
12. **Seeks to build local capital and capacity.** Alike any other community that seeks to offer access to quality parks and recreation, The Town of Gibbons can't do it alone. Strategies to help build local capital and capacity involves outreach to local residents, stakeholders and stewardship groups to advise on and help execute the pursuit for sound recreational amenities and programming. To avert significant tax dollars assigned to recreation, establishing and maintaining effective partnerships is key.



Appendix A:

Winter / Spring 2020 Community Guide

Town of Gibbons Community Guide Winter/Spring 2020



The Momentum Fitness Club

"Creating Motion for Life"

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday - 5am to 10pm
 Saturday & Sunday - 9am to 6pm

| Rates | Monthly | 6 month | Annual |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Adult (18-64) | \$50 | \$275 | \$525 |
| Youth (14-17) 14 & 15 yrs must complete orientation prior to 1st workout | \$45 | \$250 | \$375 |
| Senior (65+) | \$45 | \$250 | \$375 |
| Drop In | \$10 single use | | |
| 10 Pass Card | \$75 | | |
| Family of 4 (16+) | Must reside at same residence | | \$1600 |

*Call for group pricing. Qualifies on 5+ memberships from same employer/team.

*Prices subject to GST

Contact Us

780-578-3359

mfc@gibbons.ca

780-578-3364

5115 - 51 Street, 2nd floor Cultural Center

6 WEEK FITNESS, SPORT & HIGH PERFORMANCE CLASSES WITH TRAINER OFFERED FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS. ASK US FOR DETAILS

Gibbons Community Services

Community Services Director:

Mike Dubreuil mdubreuil@gibbons.ca (780) 923-3331

Community Special Events & Recreation Programmer:

Stephanie Wilibnisky swilibnisky@gibbons.ca (780) 578-2109

Manager of Family Support Services:

Laura Schmidt lschmidt@gibbons.ca (780) 923-2374

Facility Coordinator:

Noelle Parisian nparisian@gibbons.ca (780) 578-2109

Online Registration:

Follow these easy steps and sign up today:

1. Go to app.booking.ca/gibbonspub
2. Login or create a new account. If you are registering a child or other family member make sure to create a **group member** account.
3. Browse all available courses or search by course name or course code.
4. Add desired courses to cart and proceed to payment.

Recreation Program Subsidy

Residents of Gibbons may qualify to access a subsidy to offset course registration costs of children's programs. Apply in confidence to the Town of Gibbons.

All applications to this program are kept in strictest confidence



Gibbons
Family Resource Centre

Gibbons Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Bon Accord Gibbons Food Bank
Sturgeon Community Resource Network
Early Childhood Development Initiative
Sturgeon Adult Learning
Community Clothes Closet
Wecan Food Baskets
Sturgeon Victim Services
Meals on Wheels

P: 780-923-2374 F: 780-923-2379
office@GibbonsFRC.ca · www.gibbons.ca
Box 1457 5016 – 50 Street
Gibbons, Alberta T0A 1N0

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

What is FCSS?

FCSS is a preventative program that supports families and individuals with life's struggles. Programs developed are intended to help individuals in their community to adopt healthy lifestyles, thereby improving the quality of life and building the capacity to prevent and/or deal with crisis situations should they arise. By working in partnership with community groups, organizations, schools and regional agencies we are able to assist with:

- Subsidized Counselling
- Babysitter Safety
- Suicide Prevention and Intervention
- Early Childhood and Youth Programs
- First Aid
- Block Parties
- Tax Assistance
- Volunteer Coordination
- Family Workshops
- Home Alone Safety
- Meals On Wheels
- Childcare Subsidy
- Anti-Bullying Workshops
- Meet the Community Night
- Seniors Assistance
- Mammogram Screening Bus

Children & Youth Programs

**Join us B4 and
After School at...**

Bon Accord
Out of School Care Program
OR
Gibbons "Landing Pad"
Before and After School Program

**For Information and
Registration call...**

Gibbons Family and Community Support Services
780-923-2374



Gibbons

Before and After School Programs

Need a safe and fun place for your children before and after school? This fun-filled program is available for children in kindergarten up to grade 6. The program is located in Gibbons School with bussing to and from Landing Trail School and in Bon Accord Community School with bussing from other Sturgeon School Division Schools. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 6:00a.m. to school start and after school to 6:00p.m. PD Day programs offered. Alberta Child Care subsidies available for qualifying families. For more information and registration call: 780-923-2374.

Recycle for Youth

A great way to support the youth in our community! Join us in this youth empowerment initiative to engage local youth in positive activities within the community. Funds raised through this recycling program will support programming in the Agrium Youth Centre. Adults in the community can become role models by partnering with this project and showing their commitment to the environment. If you are a business that wishes to partner with this initiative or have bottles to donate, please call: 780-578-2109.



Children & Youth Programs



FREE drop in



Youth Centre

Grade 5 and up

Every Weekday

3:00-7:00pm

AYC is located in the Gibbons Cultural Centre

For more information contact Community Services at 780-578-2109

Youth Centre Direct Line: 780-578-6449 Email: YouthCentre@gibbons.ca



Children & Youth Programs

Home Alone Safety

This interactive safety training program is for youth ages 10+ twice per year. This program prepares our youth for the all-important step of being home alone safely. Being home alone can be an uncomfortable and unsafe situation without some basic skills. Safety, first aid, and comfort skills are covered in this course through interactive games and role playing. Let's work to keep our children safe and confident! Please bring snacks and a bagged lunch.

Course: W120

Where: Agrium Youth Centre

When: February 21, 2020 (PD Day)

Times: 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.

Instructor: Confident Consulting First Aid Training

Fee: \$30

Register by: February 14, 2020

Babysitting Safety

Prepare your child for the responsibilities of babysitting. Your child will learn the rights and responsibilities of the employer, child, and babysitter. Basic first aid, fire safety and child care will be taught during this all day class. A certificate will be awarded upon successful completion of this course. Please bring snacks, a bagged lunch, pen/pencil, and four 4x6 index cards, as well as a small doll or teddy bear with one diaper. Ages 11.5+

Course: W220

Where: Agrium Youth Centre

When: April 17, 2020 (PD Day)

Times: 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.

Instructor: Confident Consulting First Aid Training

Fee: \$45

Register by: April 10, 2020



Adult Programs

Yoga



Classic Hatha yoga postures that move with your breath to help you reduce stress and increase strength and flexibility. This class is designed for anyone and everyone, regardless of your yoga experience. The 60 minutes is roughly 50% stretching and 50% strengthening poses, all combined with breathing and grounding techniques. Devon's classes are suitable for all levels as she provides modifications throughout the class. Her classes offer a supportive, non-judgmental space where all levels of yoga experience are welcome. Devon's foremost goal is to teach in a way that is accessible and inclusive to all.

Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle.

Course: W420

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Yoga Rm

When: Thursdays, Jan. 16–Mar. 5, 2020
(8 Sessions)

Time: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120

Instructor: Devon Anderson

Register by: January 9, 2020

Course: W620

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Auditorium

When: Thursdays, Mar. 12–Apr. 30, 2020
(8 Sessions)

Time: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120

Instructor: Devon Anderson

Register by: April 23, 2020

Course: W320

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Yoga Rm

When: Tuesdays, Jan. 14–Mar. 3, 2020
(8 Sessions)

Time: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120

Instructor: Devon Anderson

Register by: January 7, 2020

Course: W520

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Auditorium

When: Tuesdays, Mar. 10–Apr. 28, 2020
(8 Sessions)

Time: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120

Instructor: Devon Anderson

Register by: April 21, 2020

Adult Programs

Circuit Variety

Circuit training is one of the most efficient ways to improve cardiovascular fitness and muscular endurance. Move through stations where you set the pace. Join me for a fun and challenging workout. Suitable for all fitness levels. What to bring: water bottle, exercise footwear, and weights (some available to borrow).

Course: W720

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Auditorium

When: Wednesdays, Jan. 15–Mar. 4, 2020
(8 Sessions)

Time: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120

Instructor: Michelle Logan

Register by: January 8, 2020

Course: W820

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Auditorium

When: Wednesdays, Mar. 11–Apr. 29, 2020
(8 Sessions)

Time: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120

Instructor: Michelle Logan

Register by: March 4, 2020

Walking Group

This program is designed for adults only who wish to enhance their physical health in a social setting. Activities include walking and gentle, no impact stretches, with modifications, including seated chair exercises. Concentration is on increasing range of motion, mobility, strength, and balance. Weekly professional instruction provided on Mondays with coffee and cards to follow.

****Please watch for bulletins on the insert at the Auditorium doors for unexpected class cancellations due to events (funerals, weddings, etc.)****

Course: W920

Where: Gibbons Cultural Centre Auditorium

When: Monday-Friday Jan. 6–May 15, 2020

Instruction on:
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27

Feb. 3, 10, 19

Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Apr. 6, 15, 20, 27

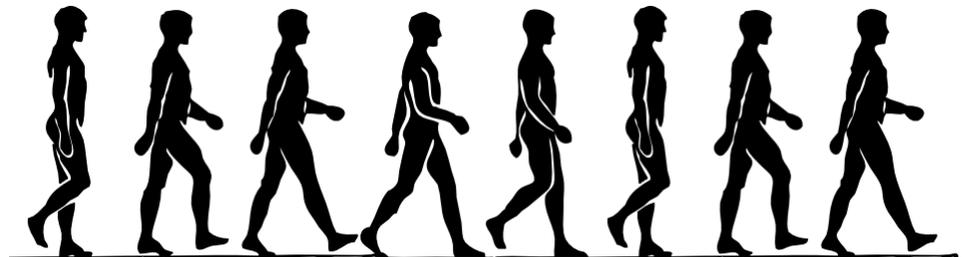
No Classes: Feb. 17 & Apr. 13

Time: 11:00a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$79 or \$2 Drop In

Instructor: Darryl Tetz

Registration: Ongoing



Join the Gibbons Community League!



What is the Community League?

The Gibbons Community League is an informal organization made up of local sporting groups, service clubs and not-for-profit organizations. In a community the size of Gibbons, being able to share resources, ideas, members, athletes and volunteers is crucial not only to the long term health of the organizations within our town, but to our residents and families through providing better opportunities to lead active, well balanced lives.

This recently formed organization exists to give forum to these groups in an effort to open the lines of communication, coordinate events and fundraising as well as to share resources such as equipment and volunteers.

Stay up to date on events being held by the Community League by following them on Facebook  @GibbonsCommunityLeague

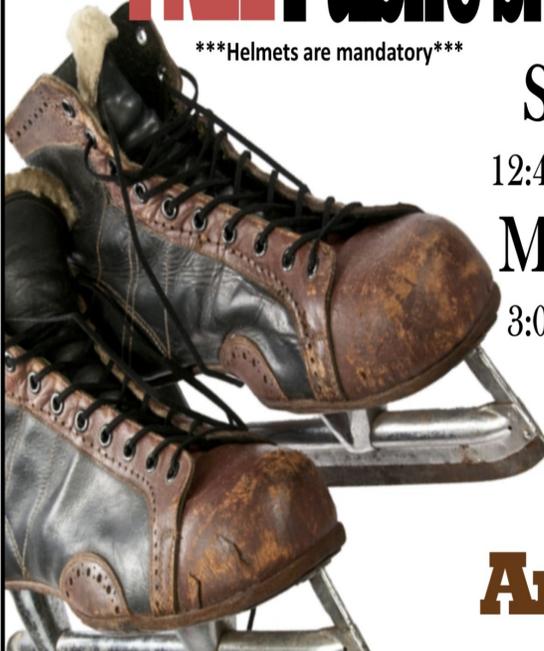
FREE Public Skating
 Helmets are mandatory

Sundays
 12:45pm-2:15pm

Mondays
 3:00pm-5:00pm

Fridays
 2:00-3:45pm





TOWN OF GIBBONS

SNOW ANGEL PROGRAM

For some of our local residents, particularly seniors and persons with disabilities, shovelling snow is difficult and even dangerous.

They need your help - they need a Snow Angel.

Snow Angels encourage Community members to help a neighbour in need by shovelling their snow. To be a Snow Angel, all you need to do is shovel snow for a person in need in your neighbourhood. Your efforts will help create a safer community for everyone.

REPORT SNOW ANGEL SIGHTINGS ON GIBBONS FACEBOOK OR CALL 780-578-2109 OR 780-923-2374

Library Programs



Adult

Tech Tuesdays

Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00PM

Cost: Free

Book a free appointment for one-on-one assistance with setting up and using your devices to access our e-books and other apps.

Adult Book Club

3rd Tuesday of the month

7:00 - 8:00pm

The adult book club meets monthly at the library to discuss a new book each month with other readers.

Knitting Circle (ages 16+)

Wednesdays

6:30 - 7:30PM

Practice your knitting skills and meet fellow knitters. Yarn and needles will be provided (\$5 deposit) or bring your own.

Senior's Coffee & Cards

Mondays

12:00 - 1:00PM

In partnership with the Town of Gibbons, drop in for a FREE coffee after Walking Group!

Kids

LEGO Club (ages 6+)

Saturdays

10:00 - 11:30AM

Each weekend, children can become master builders as they create their own LEGO creations. All LEGO is supplied.

Creation Station

Anytime

Come into the Library and make the featured craft for the month! All materials are supplied.

Snow Many Books - Winter Reading Program

January - February

Read the most this winter and have your name entered into a draw for a Samsung Galaxy Tab A tablet! Drop by the Library to pick up a reading log and get cozy with a hot chocolate, blanket, and a good read!

3D Printer

Date TBA

The Northern Lights Library System's 3D printer will be coming to the Gibbons Public Library! Search on www.thingiverse.com for ready made designs to print, or create your own if you know 3D design and bring in your file. Minimal cost for materials used TBD. Dates will be announced on gibbonslibrary.ab.ca and our Facebook page.

Experience Virtual Reality

Date TBA

Curious about VR? Book a 30-minute time slot to experience the world of virtual reality (ages 10+). Signed waiver required. Dates will be announced on gibbonslibrary.ab.ca and our Facebook page.

Watch gibbonslibrary.ab.ca
and our Facebook for updates!



Sturgeon Adult Learning

(Located in the Gibbons Family Resource Centre)

5016—50 Street Gibbons, Alberta

(780) 923 - 2374 Ext. 331 Learning Supports
literacy@sturgeonadultlearning.ca

(780) 923 - 2374 Ext. 330 Program Coordinator
programs@sturgeonadultlearning.ca

www.sturgeonadultlearning.ca

Community Kitchens

Plan, budget and cook four nutritious meals while working with others.

- Free child care (space is limited)
- Cooking group limited to 6 people

COST: \$25.00

You must attend both days:

Planning Day (Day One) 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cooking Day (Day Two) 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gibbons CK Dates

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Tues./Thurs. | Dec. 10 & 12 |
| Tues./Thurs. | Jan. 21 & 23 |
| Tues./Thurs. | Feb. 18 & 20 |
| Tues./Thurs. | March 17 & 19 |
| Tues./Thurs. | April 21 & 23 |

Legal CK Dates

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Mon./Wed. | Dec. 2 & 4 |
| Mon./Wed. | Jan. 13 & 15 |
| Mon./Wed. | Feb. 10 & 12 |
| Mon./Wed. | March 9 & 11 |
| Mon./Wed. | April 27 & 29 |

Building Blocks

- A free program for learners wanting to get help with making good decisions and using creative problem solving
- Our staff will share ideas and provide a variety of tools to help with goals



Limited spaces are available

Parent Connection

- A free program for parents of children 0 - 6 years
 - Share ideas and resources for problem solving and making parenting decisions in a group setting
 - FREE childcare will be provided
- All classes are 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fridays | Jan. 10 - March 6, 2020 | Morinville Community Library |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------|

Parent Child Mother Goose

- A free interactive program for parents or caregivers with children 0 to 3 years
- Early exposure to stories and songs are important to a child's learning

All classes are from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.



| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesdays | January 21-Feb. 25 | Legal - location to be announced |
| Thursdays | Jan. 23 - Feb. 27 | Redwater - location to be announced |

Books Alive

- An eight week free program for parents or caregivers and children aged 3 to 6 years
- Parents learn how to bring "books alive" by adding props, games, actions, crafts and a snack related to the story

All classes are from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Wednesdays | March 25 - May 6, 2020 | Legal Citadel Centre |
|------------|------------------------|----------------------|

Call (780) 923 - 2374 to REGISTER or to find out more about any of our programs.





Vibrant Living...
...Lifelong Learning

Sturgeon Adult Learning

(Located in the Gibbons Family Resource Centre)

5016—50 Street Gibbons, Alberta

(780) 923-2374 Ext. 331 Learning Supports
literacy@sturgeonadultlearning.ca

(780) 923-2374 Ext. 330 Program Coordinator
programs@sturgeonadultlearning.ca

www.sturgeonadultlearning.ca

Improve your English

Morinville Community Library
10119 - 100 Avenue
Mondays, January 20 - April 6, 2020
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$40

Call Dyvonna (780) 923 - 2374.

Want to Learn French?

Morinville Community Library
January Classes

Cost: \$ 50

Beginner - Intermediate - Advanced

Call 780 961 - 3665
for dates and to
register for
French classes.



Je parle
français



Adult Learner Supports and Volunteer Tutor Program

We are looking for Volunteers to work with Adult Learners in your community. Volunteering runs from September until June, 1.5 hours per week and is flexible.

Learners may need help with:

- improving English speaking or reading skills
- preparing for exams or
- work related training

Please call Chris at (780) 923-2374 if you are needing help with your learning goals or if you are looking for a rewarding volunteer experience within your own community.

Basic Computers at Morinville Library

Basic Computers

Call 780 939-3292 for dates

TBA

Help with Basic Technology- Bring your device

Our Office in the
GFRC in Gibbons

January 10,
17, 24, 31
(Fridays)

1:00 pm -
2:00 pm



Drop In Computer Help

Free Drop-In Basic Computer help at the Gibbons Family Resource Centre.

Learning includes:

- Tour of a computer
- Mouse skills
- Keyboarding lessons
- What YOU need to learn

Call Chris for more information.

Call (780) 923 - 2374 to register or ask for information about any of our programs.



Girl Guides

Everything she wants to be.



Looking for a place where girls are empowered to take the lead, jump into awesome activities and explore what matters to them?

That's Girl Guides of Canada.

Girl Guides create their own story – because it's their journey to navigate.

Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Ranger Units in Gibbons for girls ages 5+
Volunteer leadership opportunities for women available.

Join today!

girlguides.ca/jointoday 1-800-565-8111



Real People.
Real Weight Loss.®
tops.org

Helping millions
Take Off Pounds Sensibly®
since 1948.

What do **YOU?**
have to lose

TOPS AB238 Gibbons

Wednesdays 6:45PM-8:15PM

Gibbons United Church

For more information:

4703 - 50 Avenue

Breanne 780-298-7834



KidSport™

FT SASKATCHEWAN

KidSport provides registration fee support to remove the financial barriers that prevent kids from playing sports

Email: fortsask@kidsport.ab.ca
www.KidSport.ca/FortSaskatchewan

CURLING ROCKS

GIBBONS CURLING CLUB

UPCOMING BONSPIELS

MIXED – Jan 27 to 29, 2020

DOUBLES – Feb 15, 2020

MENS – Feb 21 to 23, 2020

LADIES – Mar 13 to 15, 2020

WILMENS – Watch Website for Details

WIL – Watch Website for Details

REGISTER TODAY!

bit.ly/gibbonscurling

GibbonsCurlingClub@gmail.com



YOBUKAN KARATE



Sensei Justin Rybie - (780) 668-7160

\$210 Per Semester

GIBBONS
 Landing Trail School – **MON & WED**
 4-6 Yr. Old 6:00 – 6:45 pm
 White/Yellow 6:45 – 7:30 pm
 Orange/Green 7:30 – 8:15 pm
 Blue/Brown/Black 8:15 – 9:00 pm

BON ACCORD
 Bon Accord Community School
 All Ages **TUE & THU** 6:15 – 7:15

REDWATER
 Pembina Place
 All Ages **TUE** 7:45 – 8:45 pm
FRI 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Ask About Our Family Discount

www.yobukankarate.com

JOIN THE GIBBONS TWILIGHT CLUB!



MEMBERSHIPS 10\$ ANNUALLY

Stop by for Coffee, Games, Socializing & More

WANT MORE INFO?
 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT GIBBONS TWILIGHT CLUB,
 AND CONTACT (780) 923-2030 OR
GIBBONS.TWILIGHT.CLUB@OUTLOOK.COM

Gibbons Minor Soccer Association
www.gibbonsoccer.com



Upcoming Events!

Meet the coach / All-Sport Equipment Swap **April 26**

AGM and In Person Registration **March 1st**

COACHES NEEDED! The season cannot run without YOUR HELP! Contact us to volunteer!

SOCCER FEES 2020

| | |
|-------|-------|
| U3-U7 | \$80 |
| U9 | \$100 |
| U11 | \$145 |
| U13 | \$150 |
| U17 | \$165 |
| U19 | \$170 |

Visit our FaceBook and Instagram pages for updates and info!

#GibbonsMinorSoccer
www.facebook.com/gibbonsminorsoccer



Are you interested in the history of Gibbons and surrounding area?
The Gibbons Museum is always looking for Volunteers.

The more volunteers we have the better we can be.

The Museum is a great place to hold a Wedding, a small gathering or a meeting.

For information on rentals or any inquiries please call:
Jim Bauder - 780-923-3126

Your Gibbons Ladies Auxiliary needs you!



If you would like to help a large number of people in a short amount of time come hang out with us!
Email Gibbonsla226@gmail.com
Call Or text membership
Karen 587-590-7393



KING'S KIDS

PRESCHOOL

Accepting registrations for 3 and 4 year old classes.

www.sturgeonalliance.org

STURGEON ALLIANCE CHURCH

4910-52 Street, Gibbons
780-923-2727

4607-50 Ave. Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0

Emmanuel Anglican Church

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Bible Studies
MONDAY NIGHTS
7:00 - 8:00 PM

"Soups On" Community Lunch 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
EVERY THURSDAY

MENU: Vegetarian soup, meat soup and rolls
Based on free-will offering for those who can afford it.
Come and have soup even if you have no money.



Priest/Pastor, The Rev. Anthony Kwaw (780) 405-8657
www.gibbonsemmanuel.wix.com/anglicanchurch
f GibbonsEmmanuelAnglicanChurch
E: Emmanuelanglican2@gmail.com

Not sure whats going on around town for youth?

Stay up to date on what's happening in Gibbons for Grades 5- 12.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT:

Gibbons Youth

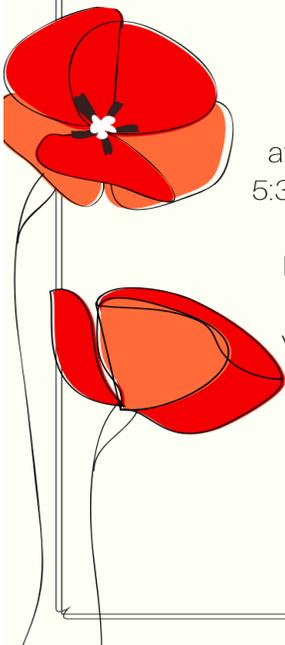


Gibbons Legion Branch #226

The Legion is open to Members and Guests every Friday evening.

Meat draws will be held at the Legion on Fridays at 5:30 starting January 3, 2020

For more information on memberships, rentals, veterans help or general questions please contact Louise Bauder at 780-923-3126



SKATECANADA
CANSKATE

LEARN TO SKATE FOR ALL ICE SPORTS
SKATECANADA.CA/CANSKATE

GIBBONS SKATING CLUB
Wednesdays & Fridays
GibbonsSkatingClub.com

Upcoming Events

Winter Walk
Day-
February 5,
2020

Family Day-
February 16,
2020

Easter Egg
Hunt-
April 11, 2020

Neighbour Day-
June 15, 2020

Seniors BBQ-
Date TBD

Canada Day-
July 1, 2020

Pioneer Days-
July 10-12,
2020

Keep up to date on all Town events by following us on  Facebook @TownofGibbons or online at Gibbons.ca → Residents → Festivals & Events



Interested in running a class for the Town of Gibbons?

CONTACT COMMUNITY SERVICES AT 780-578-2109 OR EMAIL SWILIBNISKY@GIBBONS.CA

Appendix B:

List of Invited Stakeholders

Organizations / Individuals Invited to Participate in Stakeholder Workshop:

Sturgeon River Historical Society
Sturgeon Unity Singers
Emmanuel Anglican Church
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish
Sturgeon Alliance Church
Gibbons & Coronado United Churches
Gibbons Public Library
Gibbons Twilight Club
Gibbons Volunteer Fire Department
Gibbons Legion Branch 226
Gibbons Ladies Auxiliary Branch 226
Sturgeon River AG Society
Gibbons Preschool Association
Gibbons School
East Sturgeon Gentleman's Hockey League
Landing Trail School
Landing Trail PIA/School Council
Gibbons School PAC
CNN Spurs Hockey
Dance Moves 2
Gibbons Drop In Volleyball
Gibbons Curling Club
Gibbons Minor Ball
Gibbons Minor Soccer
Gibbons Mixed Slow Pitch
Gibbons Pickleball Club
Gibbons Skating Club
MFC
Yobukan Karate Club
524 Sturgeon Air Cadets
Gibbons Girl Guides
1st Gibbons Scout
Sturgeon Victim Services
Bon Accord Gibbons Food Bank
Eric Paterson- Gibbons Recreation and Youth Coordinator
Mike Dubreuil- Assistant CAO
Noelle Parisian- Facility Coordinator
Joel Powlesland- Facility Manager
Denise Chartrand- Public Works Superintendent
Farrell Omalley- CAO