

Village of Nakusp Recreation Master Plan WHAT WE HEARD

2026



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Overview

Community engagement occurred across three phases. The first phase included the online community survey and the crowdsourcing tactic I.Contribute. The second phase took place during the first in-person engagement week (February 3–5), which included Open House 1, focus group meetings, and staff discussions. The third phase occurred during the second in-person engagement week (February 24–26), which included Open House 2, focus groups with business and tourism representatives, user groups, recreation-adjacent organizations, students, and a council and staff meeting.

In total, 571 residents, stakeholders, and staff participated throughout the engagement process.

Themes

- 1. Recreation Supports Overall Well-being**
Recreation is viewed as important for physical health, mental wellness, social connection, happiness, and overall quality of life. It is seen as a core part of a healthy community.
- 2. Strong Pride in Existing Recreation Assets**
Residents value many existing assets, including the arena, hot springs, waterfront, trails, district park, and community events. These spaces contribute to community identity and pride.
- 3. Trails and Nature Are Major Strengths**
Trails, walking routes, and nature-based recreation are among the most valued and most frequently used recreation opportunities in Nakusp.
- 4. Arena Remains a Top Priority**
The arena is one of the most important community recreation assets and the top choice for tax-dollar investment at both open houses. It is heavily used and widely valued.
- 5. Hot Springs Are Highly Valued but Need Improvement**
The hot springs are a major draw and a frequently used facility, but participants identified concerns with operations, comfort, amenities, customer experience, and modernization.
- 6. Maintain and Improve What Exists First**
Many participants emphasized that existing recreation spaces should be repaired, maintained, and upgraded before major new development occurs.
- 7. Communication Is a Major Gap**
A key barrier is that residents do not know what programs, facilities, or opportunities are available, when they happen, or how to access them.

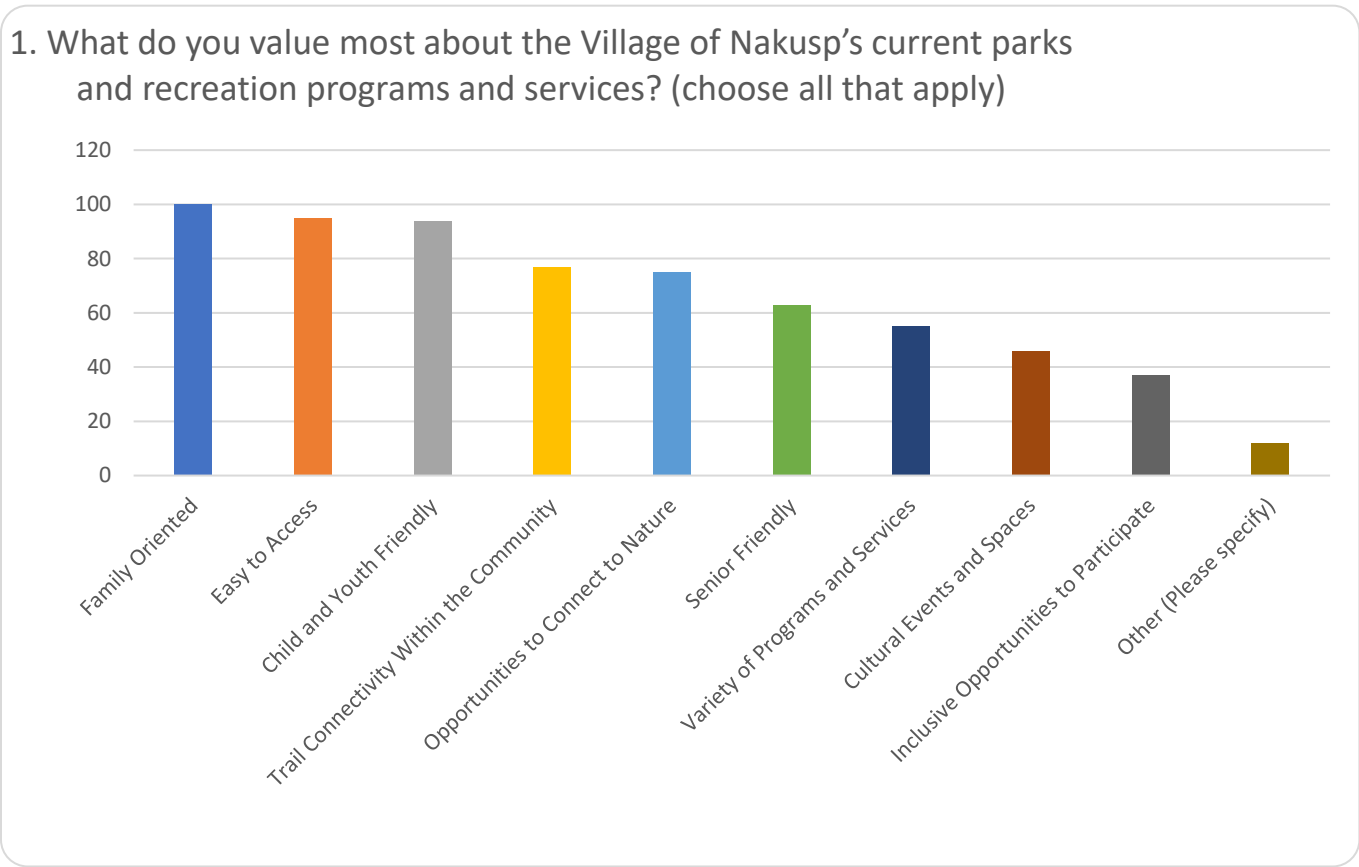
8. **Communication Should Use Multiple Channels**
Facebook is the most preferred communication method overall, but participants also identified bulletin boards, posters, websites, signage, school channels, and word-of-mouth as important.
9. **Community-Led Delivery Is Preferred**
Residents and stakeholders often see the Village's role as supporting, coordinating, and enabling recreation, while clubs, volunteers, and organizations lead much of the programming.
10. **Volunteers Are Essential but Stretched**
Volunteers are critical to program and event delivery, but many groups noted burnout, aging volunteer bases, and limited capacity to expand offerings.
11. **Multi-Use Spaces Are Preferred**
Participants consistently supported flexible, multi-purpose spaces that can serve recreation, events, meetings, tourism, and community activities.
12. **Some Facilities Are Underused or Lack Visibility**
Spaces such as the squash courts, curling lounge, auditorium, gazebo, and some fields were seen as underused, overlooked, or in need of rethinking.
13. **Youth Want More Spaces and Opportunities**
Youth are active and interested, but identified gaps in drop-in space, age-specific programming, transportation, and places to gather and socialize.
14. **Accessibility Needs Improvement**
Participants identified physical accessibility barriers, lack of inclusive amenities, and the need for safer, more welcoming access to facilities and outdoor spaces.
15. **Outdoor Amenity Upgrades Are Needed**
People want practical improvements such as washrooms, lighting, shelters, seating, signage, safer access, parking guidance, and upgraded courts and beach amenities.
16. **Aquatic Opportunities Are a Major Gap**
There is a strong interest in more swimming-related opportunities, including swim lessons, aquafit, splash park features, and longer-term aquatic facility ideas.
17. **Affordability and Value for Money Matter**
Residents are open to funding recreation improvements, but most support is concentrated at lower tax amounts and tied to clear value, affordability, and sustainability.
18. **Tourism and Recreation Are Closely Linked**
Recreation assets such as trails, the hot springs, Music in the Park, waterfront, and hiking help attract visitors, but supporting infrastructure is limited.

Community Survey Results

The Village of Nakusp’s Recreation Master Plan community survey was conducted online, with responses collected from January 16, 2026 (first response) through February 27, 2026 (last response). A total of 168 surveys were completed during this period.

Question 1

What do you value most about the Village of Nakusp’s current parks and recreation programs and services? (choose all that apply)



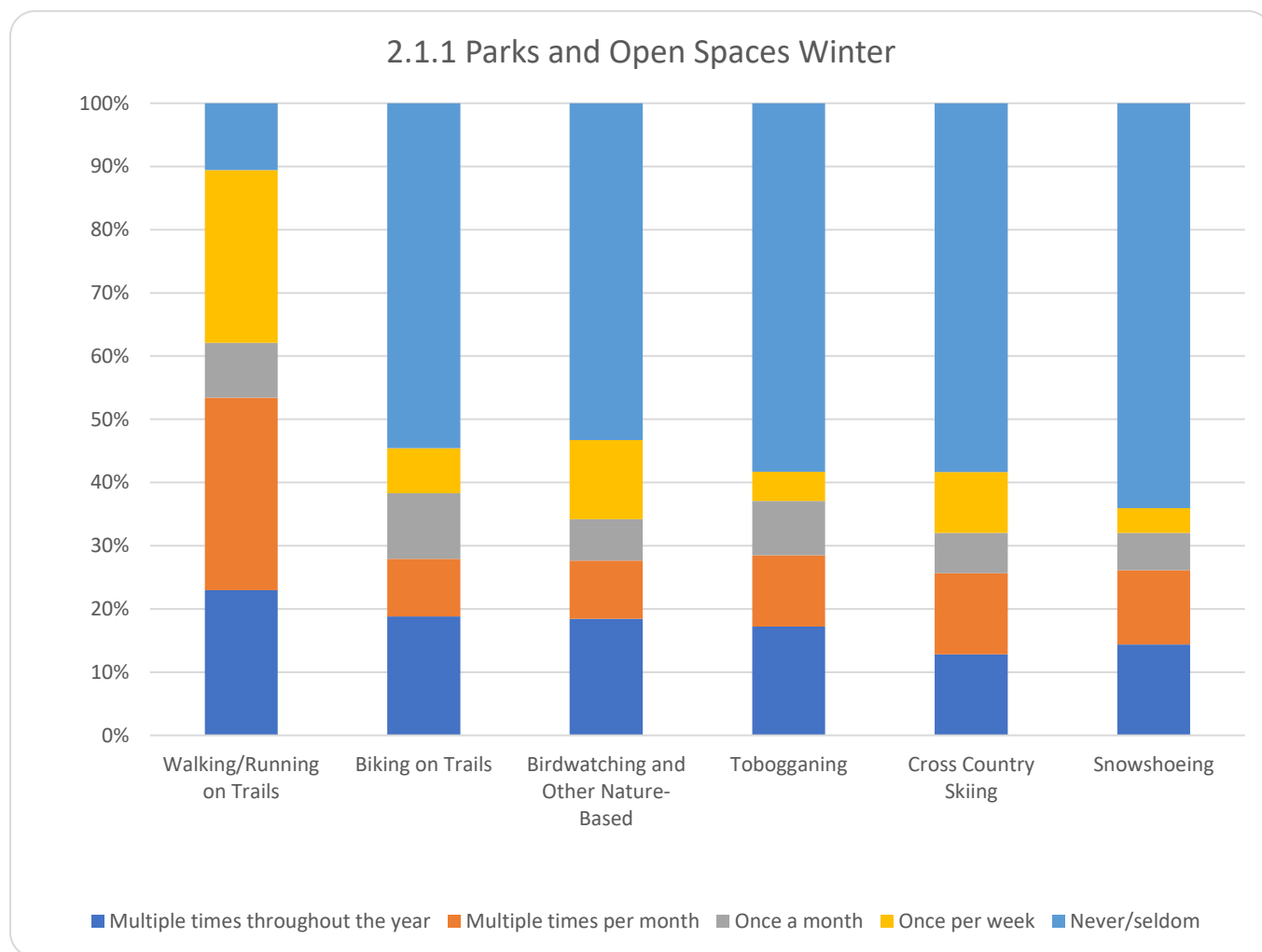
Responses most frequently highlighted **family-oriented spaces, ease of access, and child and youth-friendly amenities** as the most valued aspects of Nakusp’s parks and recreation services. **Trail connectivity and opportunities to connect with nature** were also commonly selected. **Senior-friendly amenities** received moderate support, while **variety of programs, cultural events and spaces, and inclusive opportunities** were selected less frequently. A small number of respondents selected “Other.”

Question 2

Please identify how often you or someone in your household participates in activities:

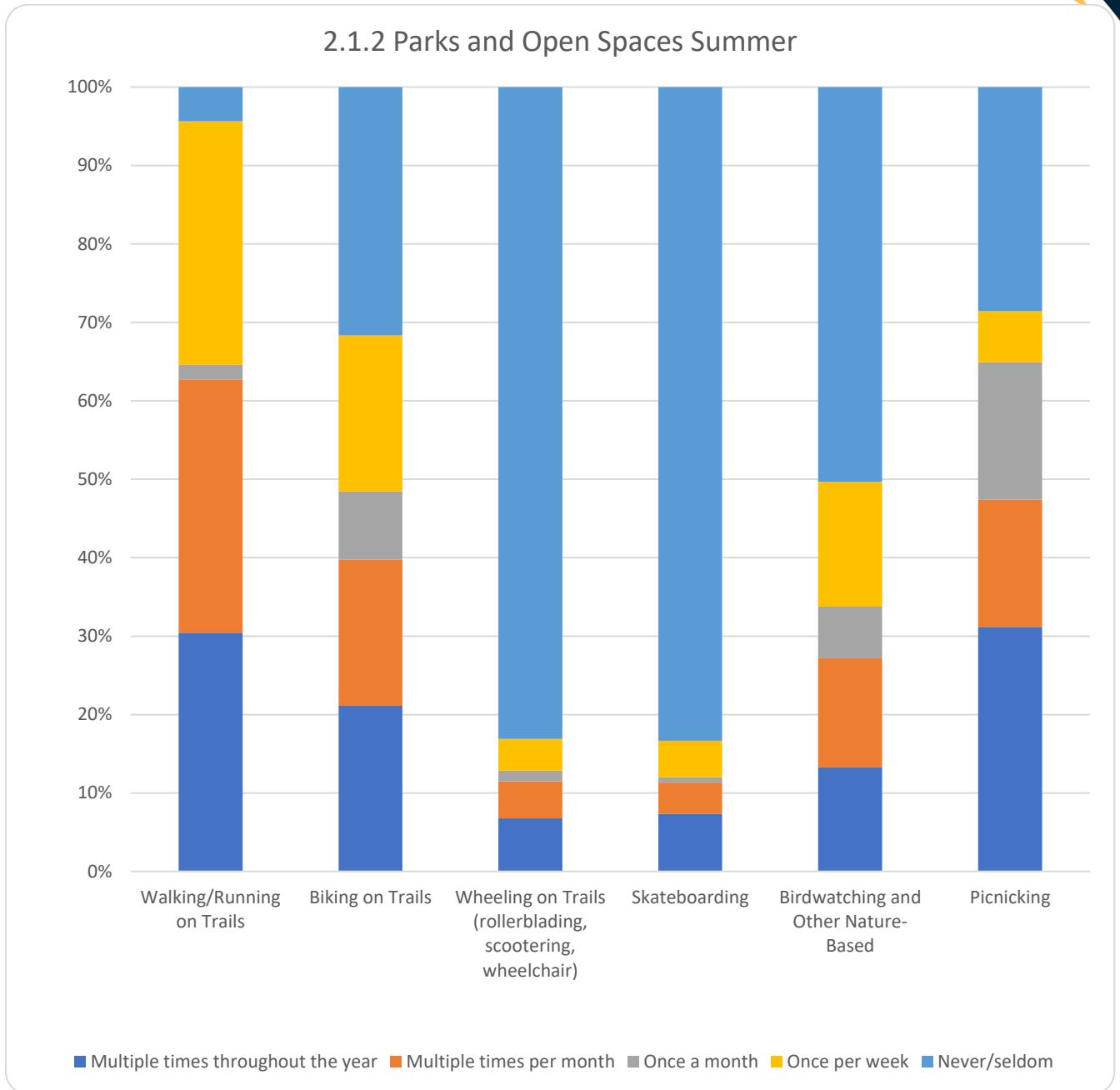
Outdoor Recreation

Parks and Open Spaces Winter



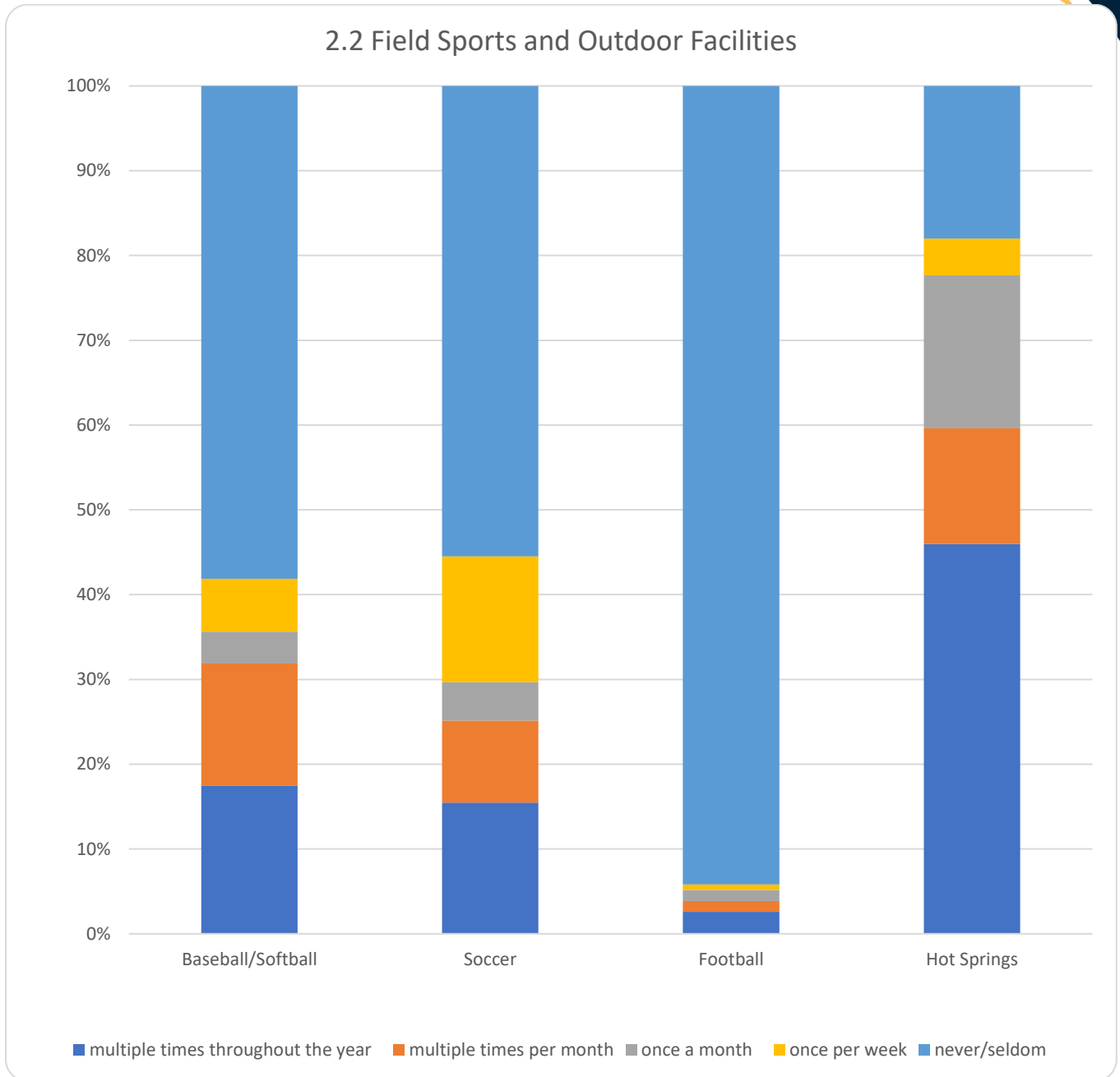
Winter activity participation varies, with walking or running on trails reported more frequently than other activities. Most other winter activities, including biking on trails, birdwatching and other nature-based activities, tobogganing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, were more commonly reported as never or seldom used, indicating lower regular participation.

2.1.2 Parks and Open Spaces Summer



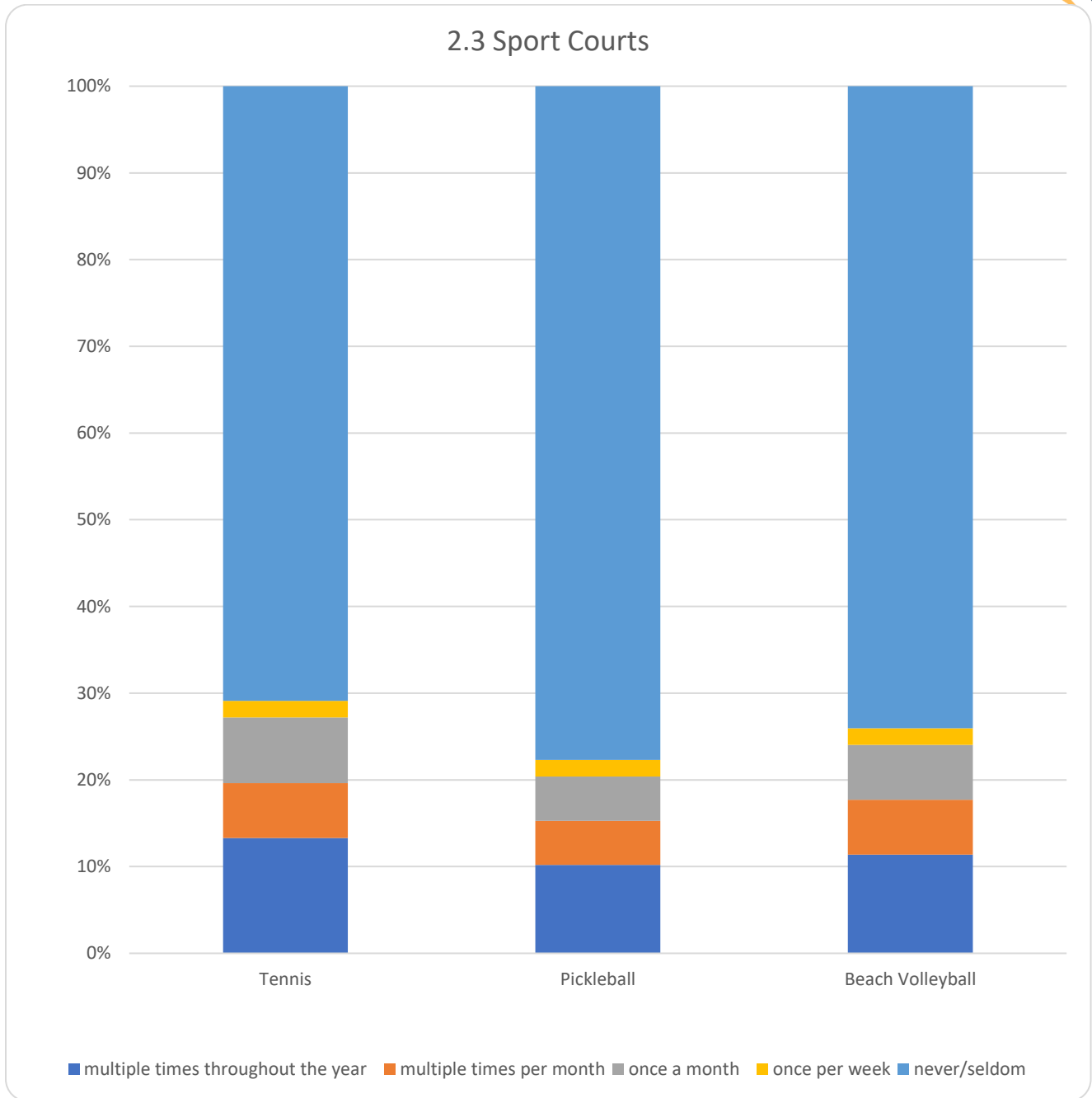
Summer participation is highest for walking or running on trails, with biking and picnicking also showing regular use. Activities such as wheeling on trails and skateboarding were most often reported as never or seldom used; while birdwatching and other nature-based activities show mixed participation.

2.2 Field Sports and Outdoor Facilities



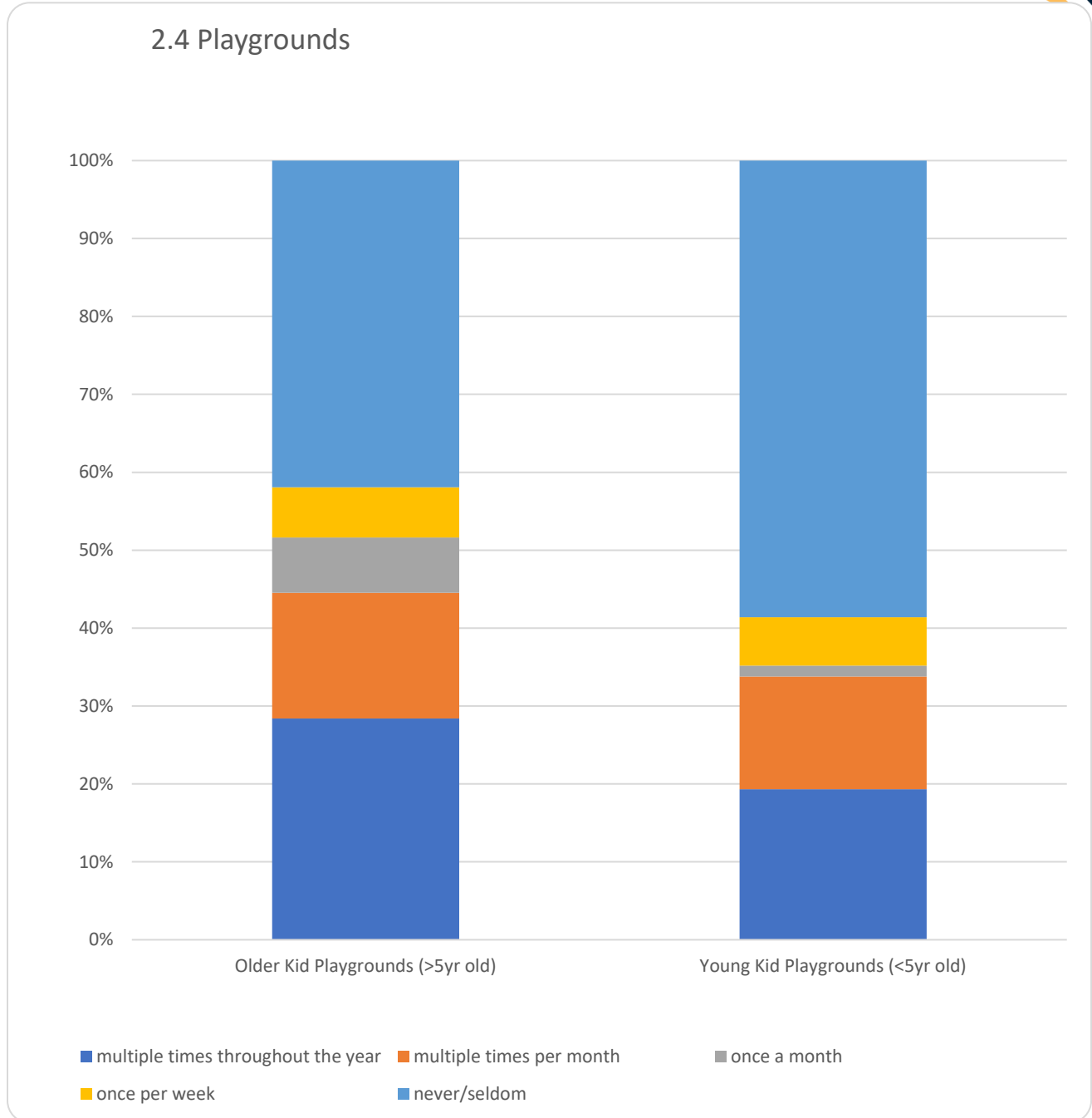
Use of the hot springs shows the most consistent participation, with many respondents reporting regular or occasional use. Baseball/softball and soccer show mixed participation levels, while football is most commonly reported as never or seldom used.

2.3 Sport Courts



Most responses fall under never or seldom for tennis, pickleball, and beach volleyball, indicating limited participation. Smaller shares report occasional or regular use across the three court activities.

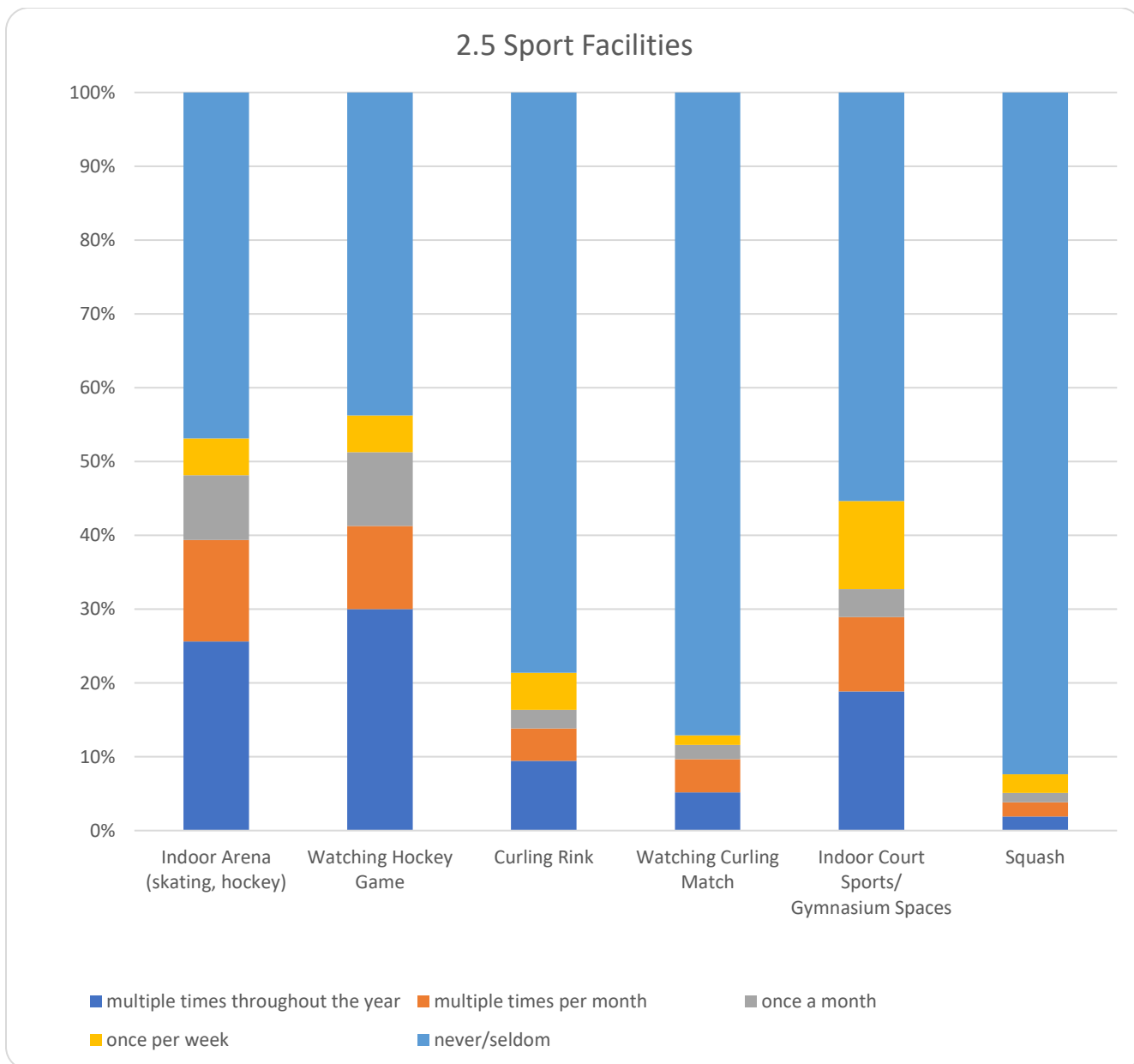
2.4 Playgrounds



Older-kid playgrounds are used slightly more frequently than younger-kid playgrounds, though both show a large share of responses reporting never or seldom use. -

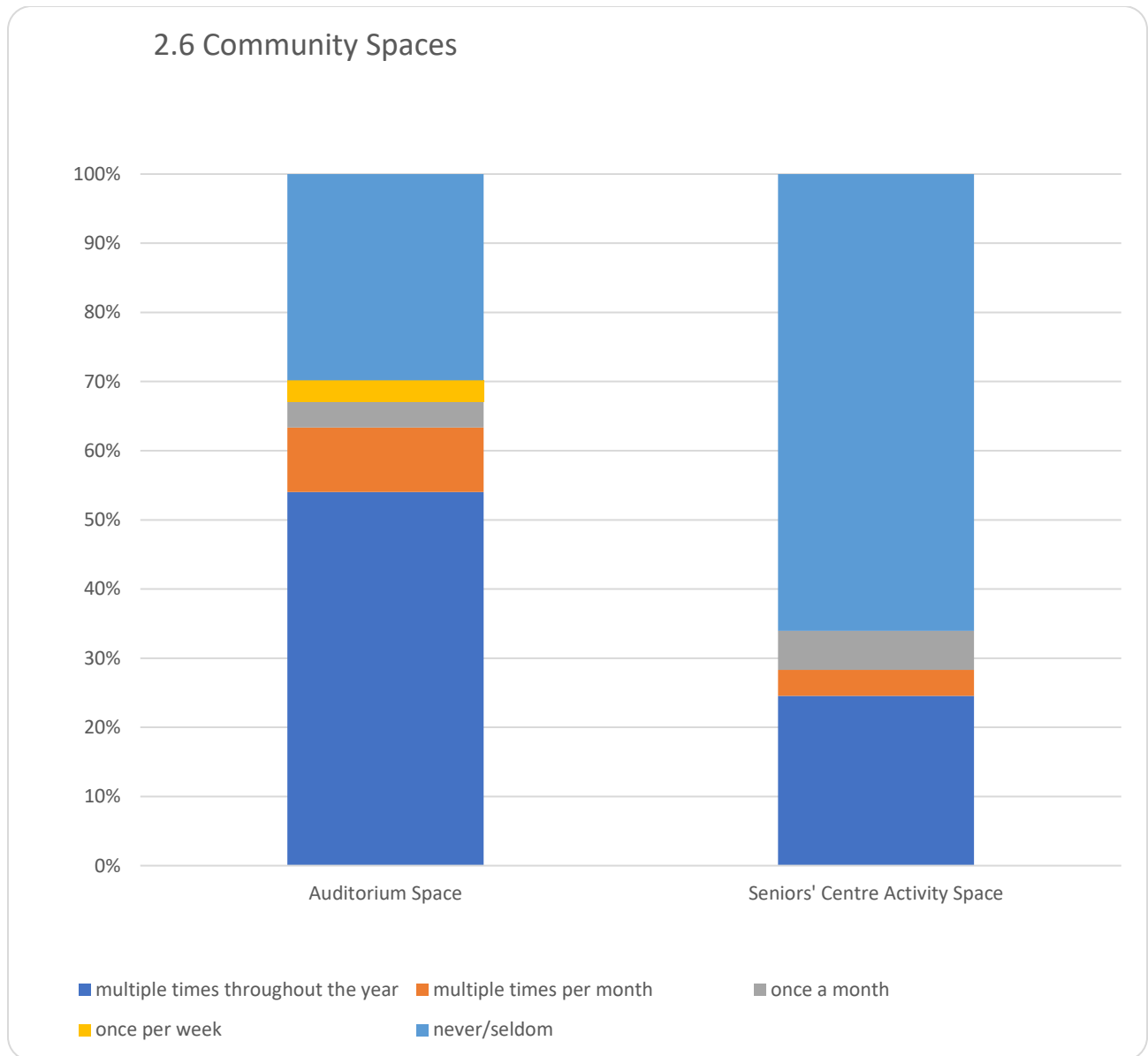
INDOOR RECREATION & SPACES

2.5 Sport Facilities



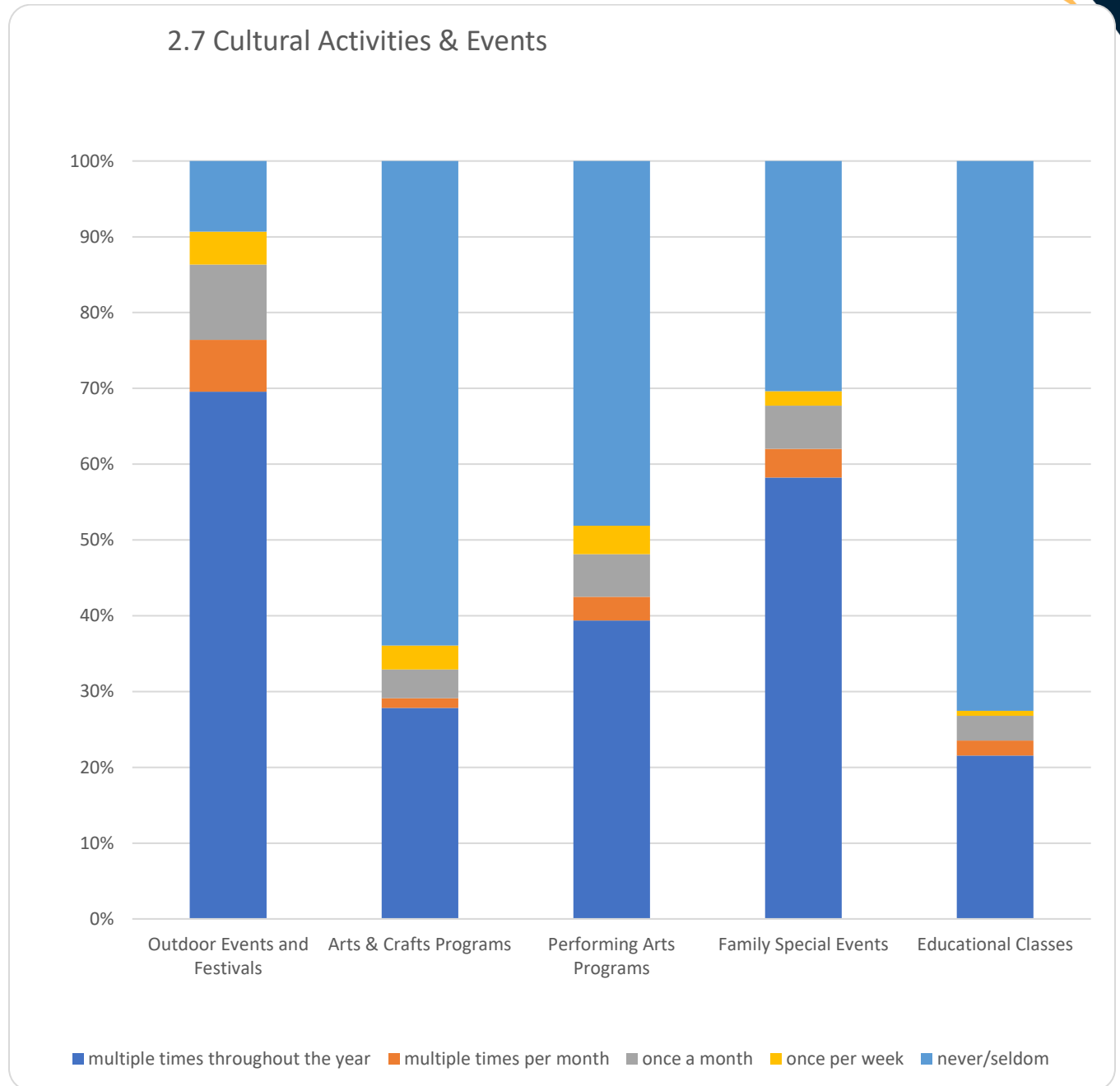
Indoor arena uses and watching hockey games show the highest participation among sport facilities. Curling, squash, and watching curling matches are most commonly reported as never or seldom used, while indoor courts and gymnasium spaces show moderate participation.

2.6 Community Spaces



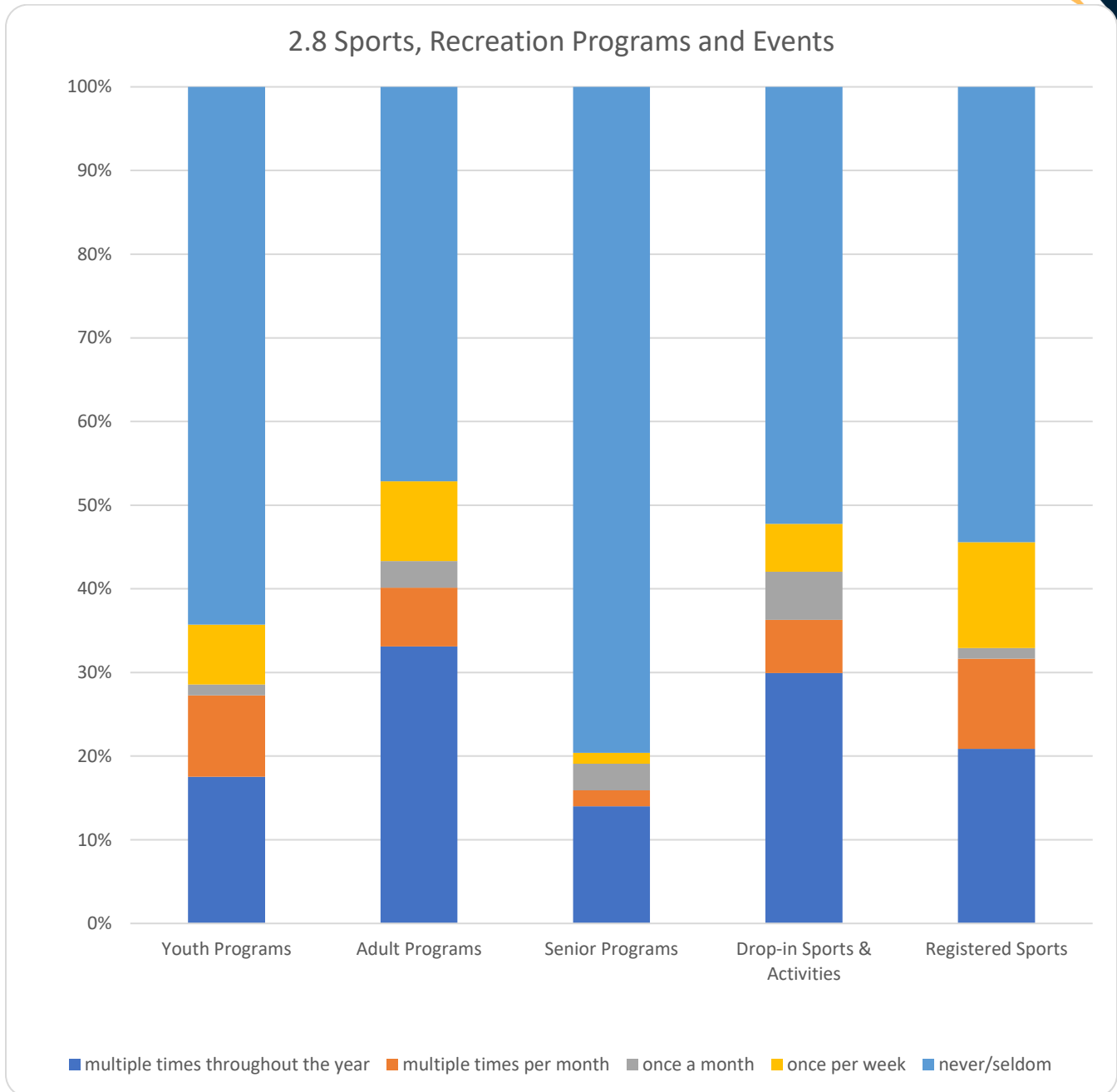
Auditorium space is used more frequently than the seniors' Centre activity space, which is most commonly reported as never or seldom used.

2.7 Cultural Activities & Events



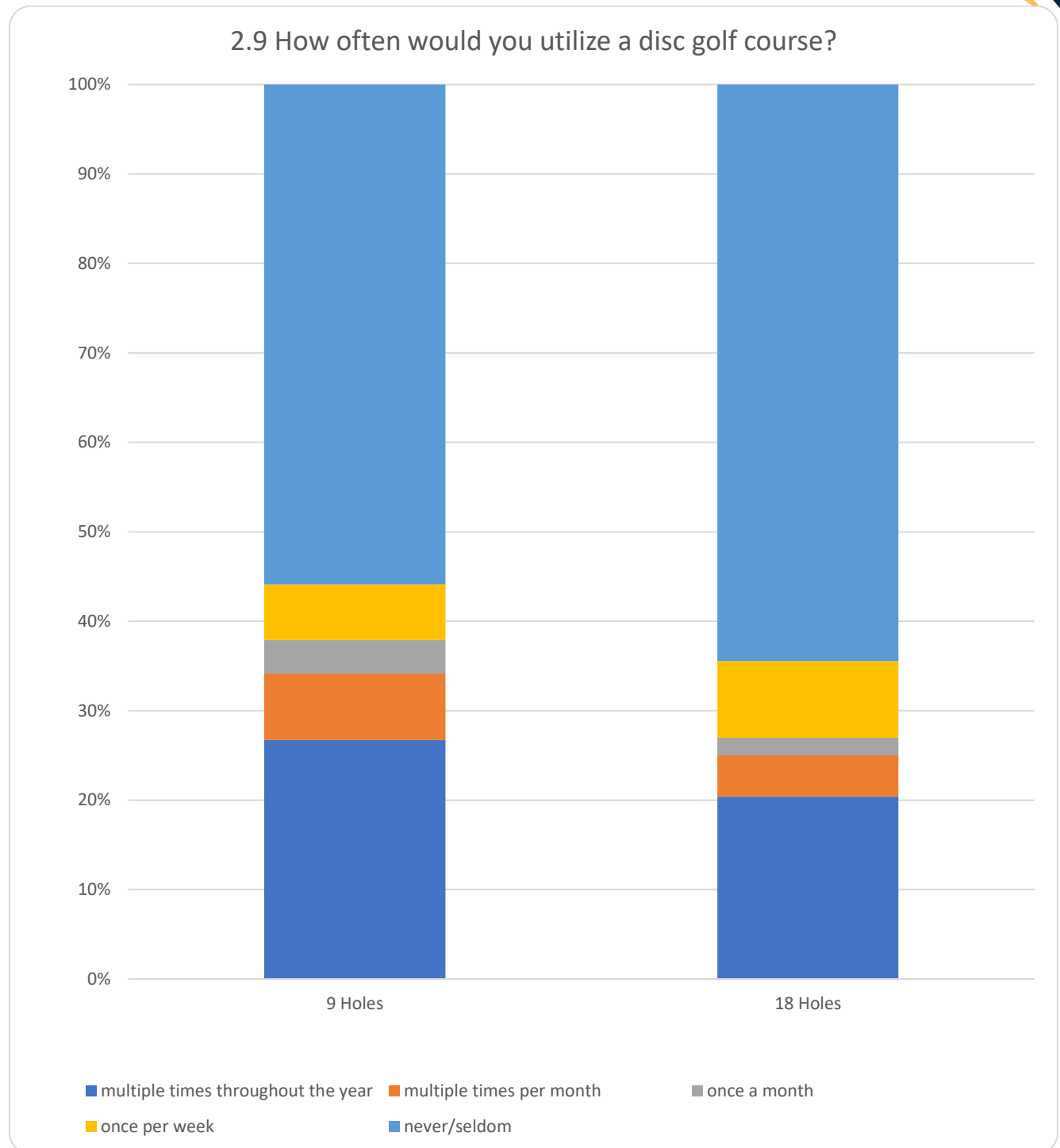
Outdoor events/festivals and family special events show the most frequent participation. Arts and crafts programs and educational classes are more often reported as never or seldom attended, while performing arts programs show moderate participation.

2.8 Sports, Recreation Programs and Events



Adult programs and drop-in sports show higher participation than youth and senior programs. However, all program types include a large share of responses reporting never or seldom participation.

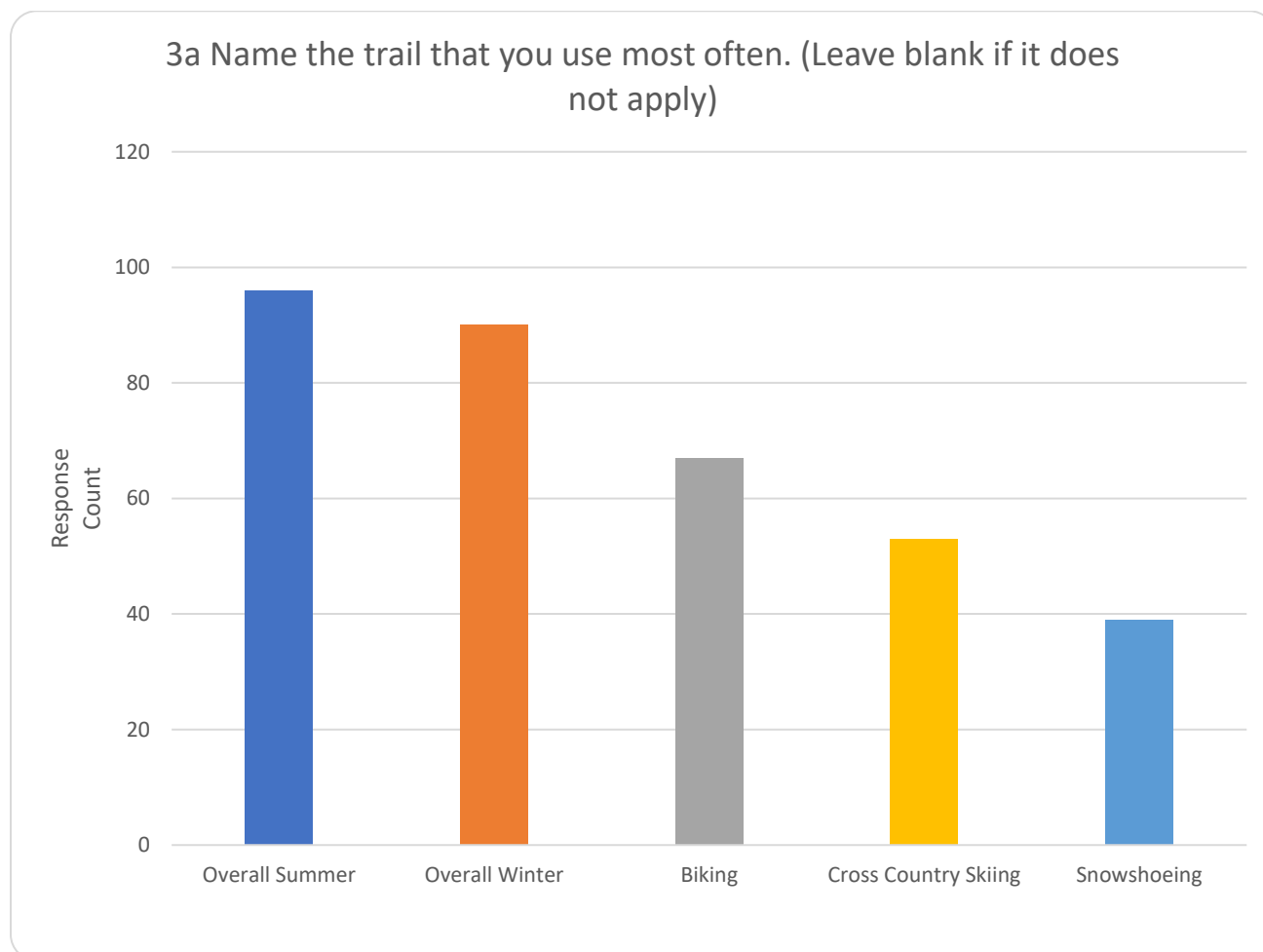
2.9 How often would you utilize a disk golf course?



Both 9-hole and 18-hole disc golf options are most commonly reported as never or seldom used, with smaller shares indicating occasional or regular use.

Question 3

Name the trail that you use most often. (Leave blank if it does not apply)



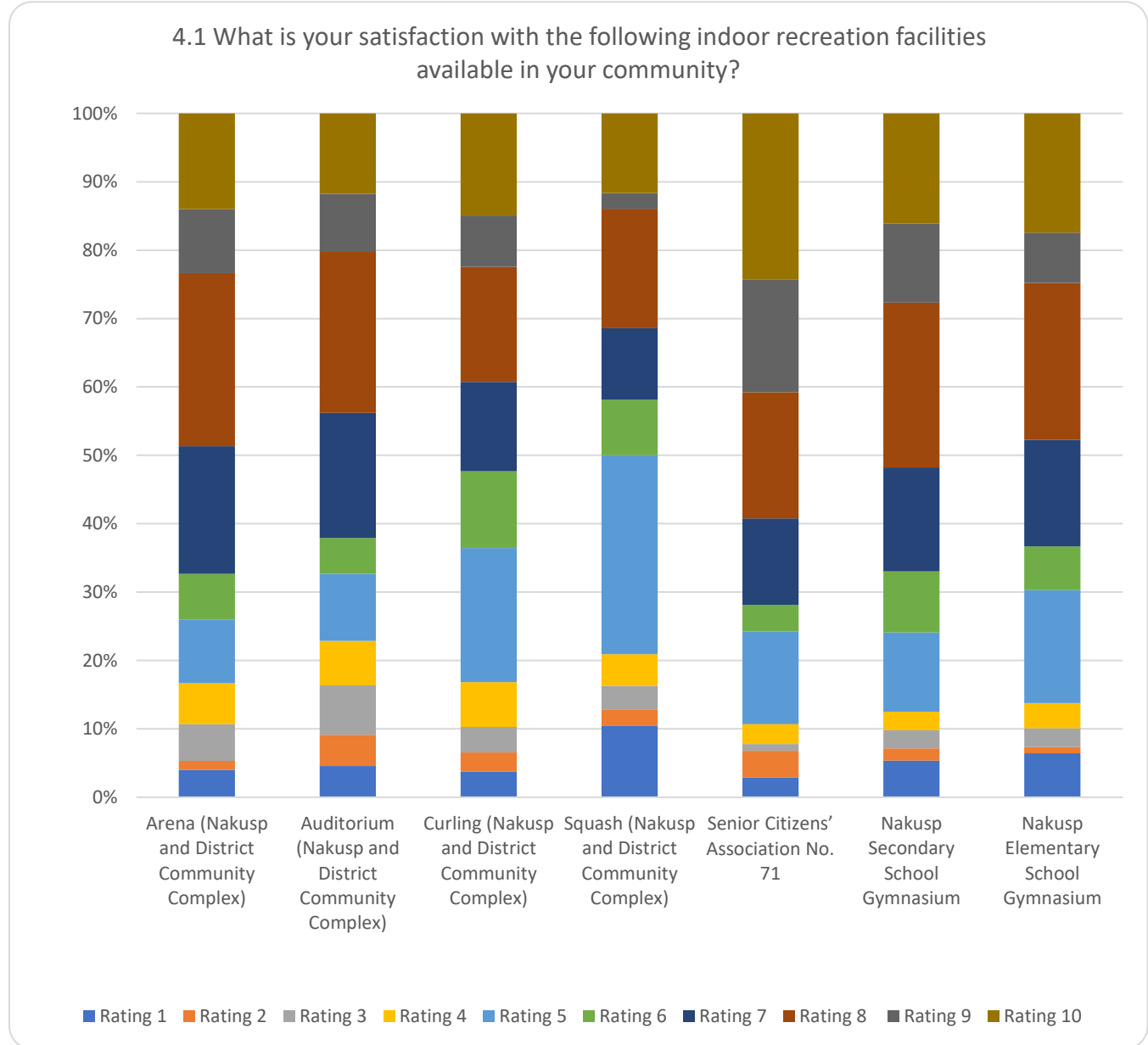
Trail responses most often referenced summer trail use, followed by winter use and biking. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails were mentioned less frequently.

Name the trail that has the most issues.

Open-ended responses most frequently referenced the Rail Trail and around-town trail connections. Common concerns included barriers or bollards restricting bike access, maintenance issues such as weeds or damage, motorized vehicle conflicts, and safety or access concerns near connectors and the hot springs boardwalk.

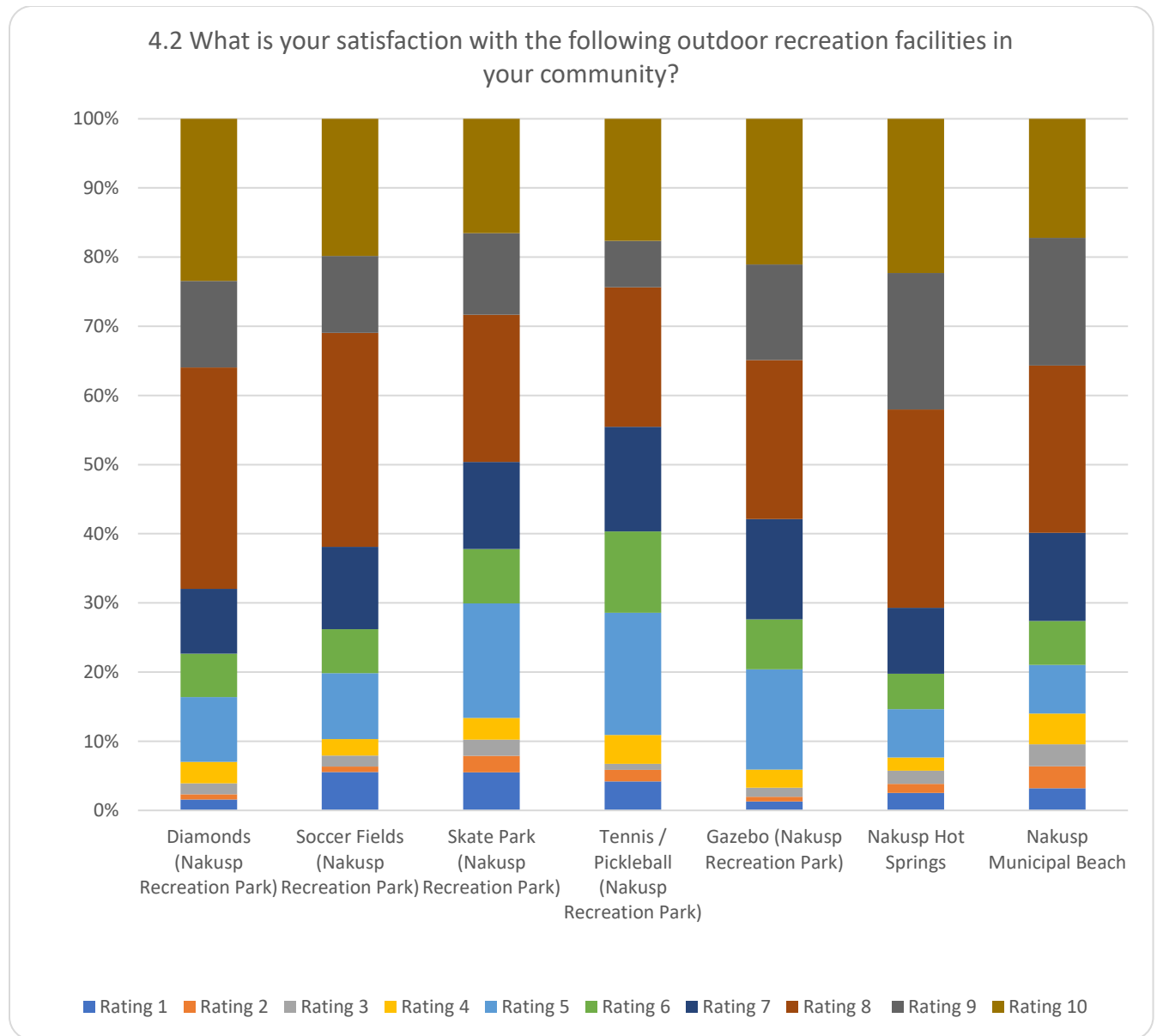
Question 4

What is your satisfaction with the following indoor recreation facilities available in your community?



The rating ranges from 1 to 10. 1 is the lowest in satisfaction, and 10 is the highest in satisfaction. Satisfaction ratings are generally mid-to-high across indoor facilities, with the seniors' association and arena receiving higher ratings, while squash shows comparatively lower satisfaction. The average rating amongst indoor facilities was 6.8 out of 10.

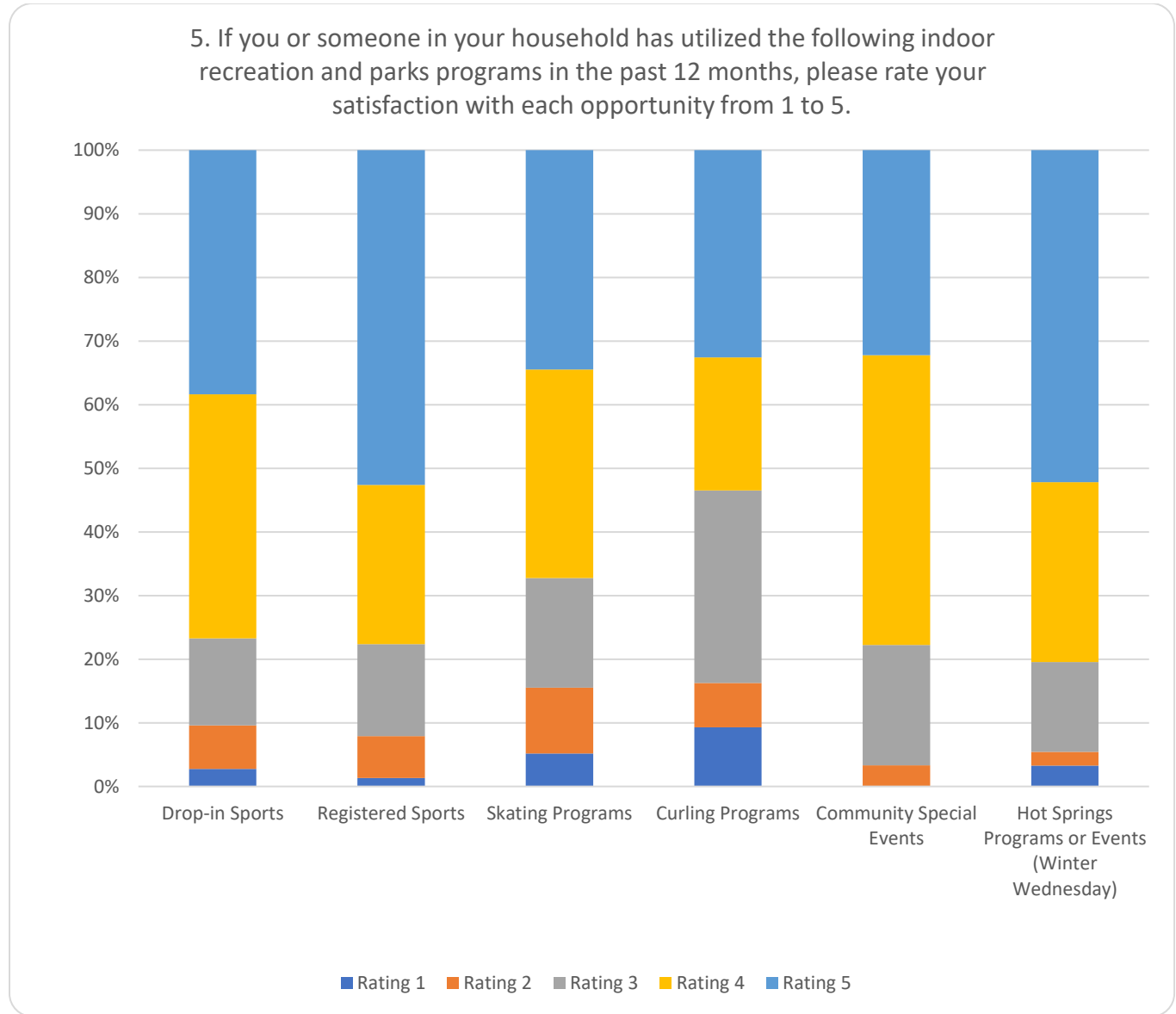
What is your satisfaction with the following outdoor recreation facilities in your community?



The rating ranges from 1 to 10. 1 is the lowest in satisfaction, and 10 is the highest in satisfaction. Satisfaction with outdoor recreation facilities is generally positive, with diamonds and the hot springs receiving higher ratings, while facilities such as the skate park and tennis/pickleball courts show comparatively lower satisfaction. The average rating amongst outdoor facilities was 7.4 out of 10

Question 5

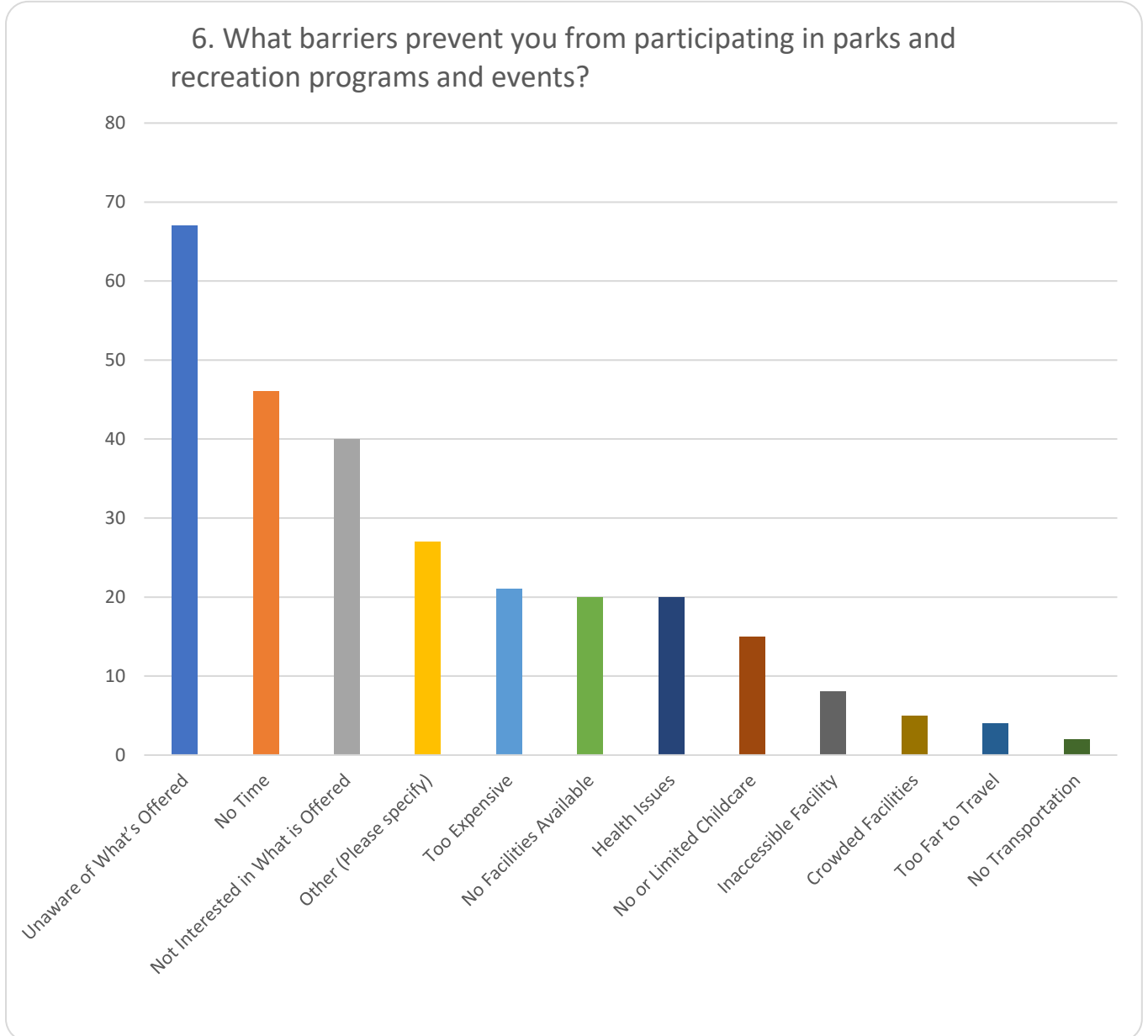
If you or someone in your household has utilized the following indoor recreation and parks programs in the past 12 months, please rate your satisfaction with each opportunity from 1 to 5.



The rating ranges from 1 to 5. 1 is the lowest in satisfaction, and 5 is the highest in satisfaction. Program satisfaction is generally positive, with hot springs programs/events and registered sports receiving higher ratings, while curling programs show comparatively lower satisfaction. The average satisfaction rating was 4.0.

Question 6

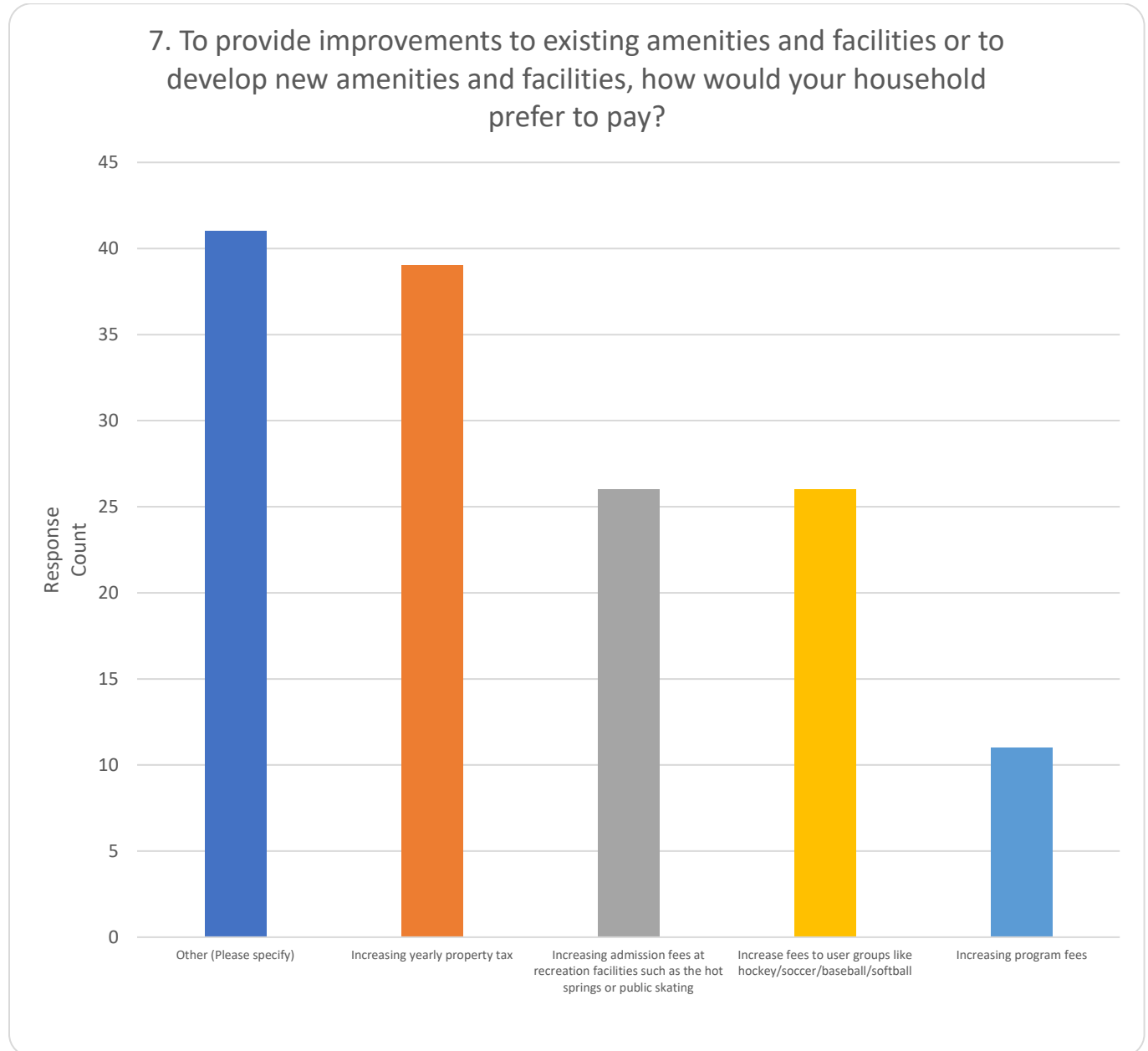
What barriers prevent you from participating in parks and recreation programs and events?



The most commonly reported barrier is lack of awareness about what is offered, followed by lack of time and lack of interest. Cost, health issues, and limited facilities are also noted, while transportation and travel distance are reported least often.

Question 7

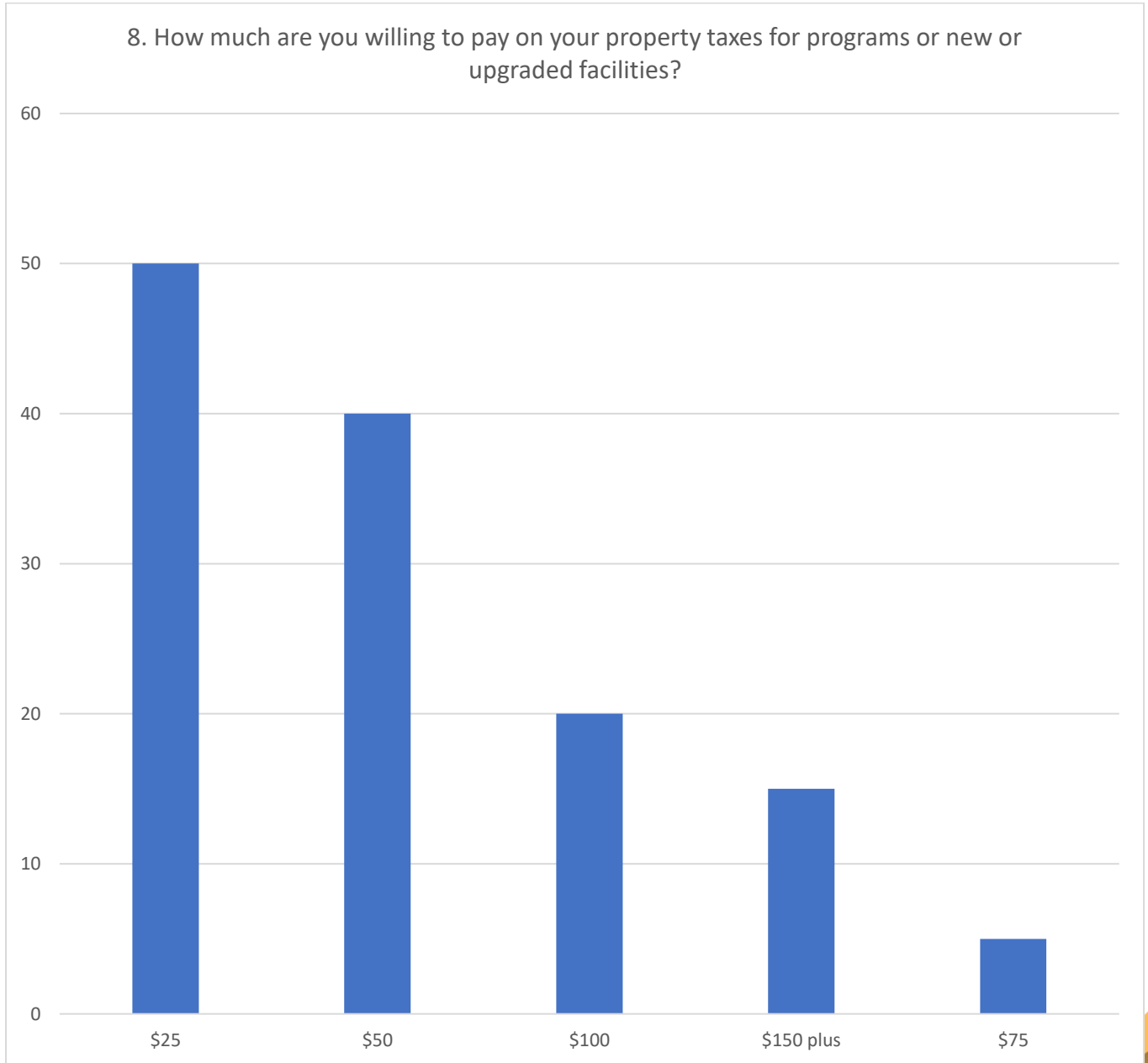
To provide improvements to existing amenities and facilities or to develop new amenities and facilities, how would your household prefer to pay?



Responses show mixed preferences for funding improvements, with property tax increases and “other” options selected most often. Smaller shares preferred increases to admission fees or program fees.

Question 8

How much are you willing to pay on your property taxes for programs or new or upgraded facilities?

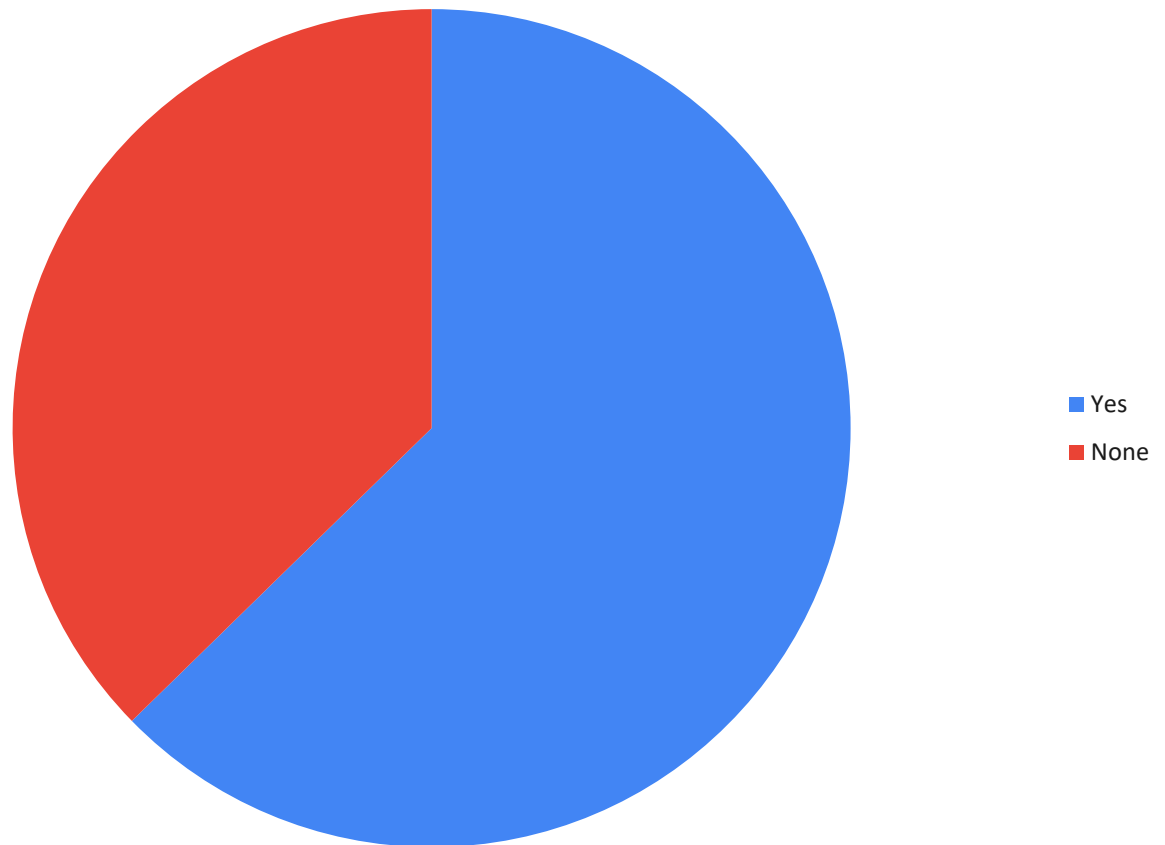


Responses cluster at the lower end of the scale, with \$25 and \$50 selected most often, indicating a preference for smaller property tax increases to support programs or facility improvements. Smaller but notable shares indicated willingness to contribute \$100 or more, suggesting some openness to higher contributions when improvements are clearly identified.

Question 9

Are there any significant recreational Facility improvements or additions that would be important to your household?

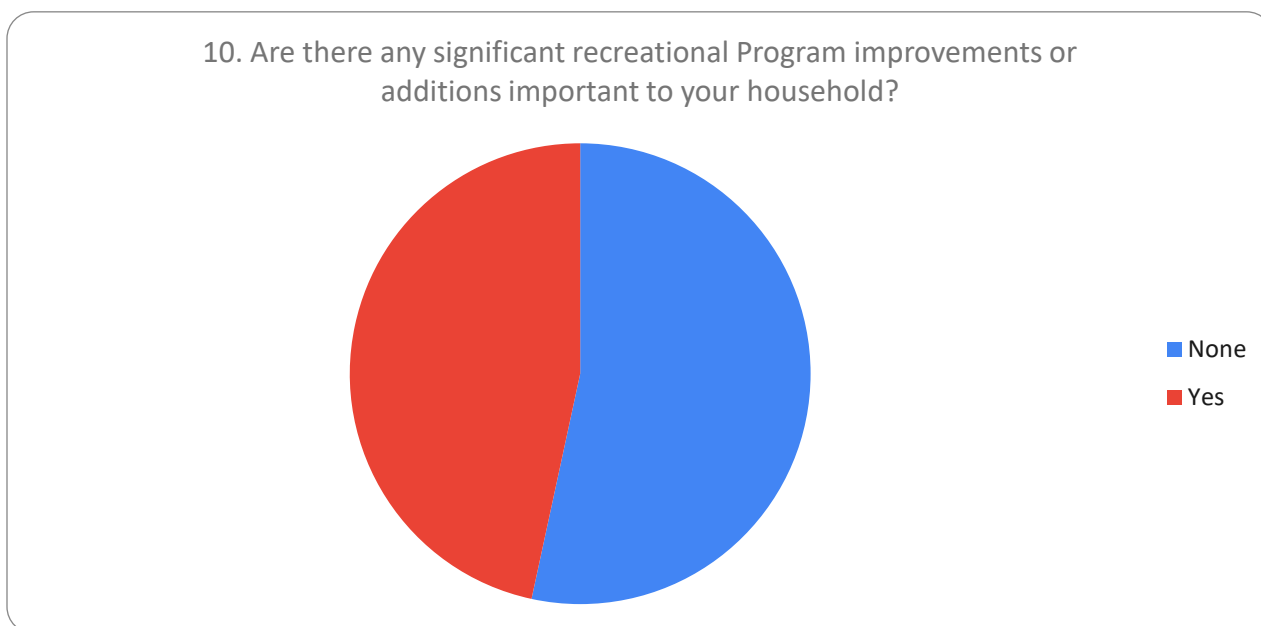
9. Are there any significant recreational Facility improvements or additions that would be important to your household?



A majority of respondents indicated that significant recreational facility improvements or additions are needed. In total, 84 respondents (about 63%) selected "Yes," while 50 respondents (about 37%) selected "None," suggesting stronger community support for improving or expanding recreation facilities.

Question 10

Are there any significant recreational Program improvements or additions important to your household?



Responses are relatively evenly split, with 63 respondents (about 53%) selecting “None” and 55 respondents (about 47%) indicating that program improvements or additions are important to their household.

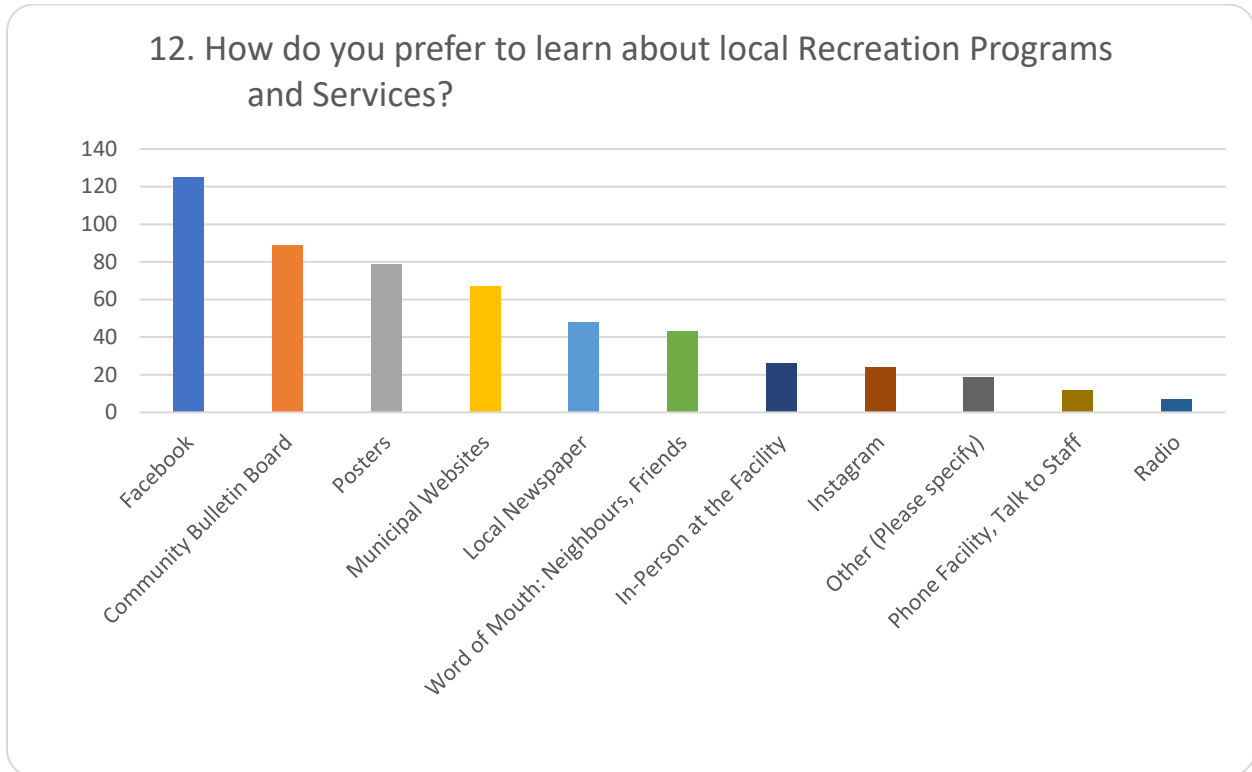
Question 11

In your opinion, what are the most successful programs or services that are currently offered in the Village, and what makes them successful?

Open-ended responses most frequently referenced hockey, skating, gymnastics, music in the park, and hot springs as successful programs or services. Respondents commonly attributed their success to strong volunteer leadership, community participation, affordable access, and well-maintained facilities. Many also noted that several successful programs are organized by local clubs or third-party organizations rather than directly by the Village.

Question 12

How do you prefer to learn about local Recreation Programs and Services?



Facebook is the most commonly preferred way to learn about recreation programs and services, followed by community bulletin boards, posters, and the municipal website. Word-of-mouth and local newspapers are also used, while Instagram, radio, and phone or in-person methods are selected less frequently.

Question 13

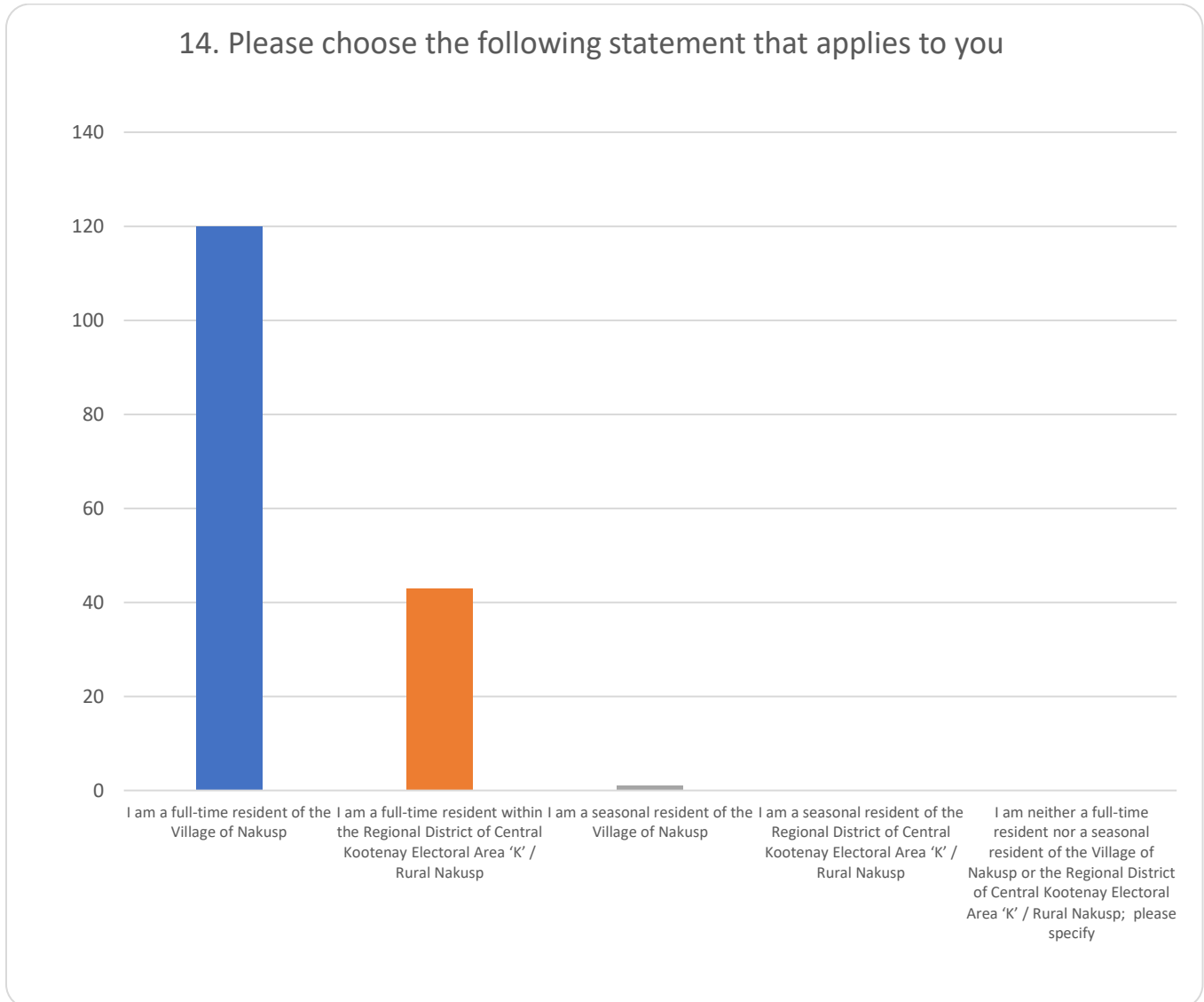
Please describe your household by recording the number of members in the following age groups. (Please do not forget yourself!)

Age group	Respondent count	% of respondents	% of total residents (Stats Canada 2021)
0-4 years	30	6.80%	3.92%
5-9 years	51	11.56%	4.90%
10-14 years	43	9.75%	3.43%
15-19 years	36	8.16%	5.88%
20-24 years	19	4.31%	4.41%
25-34 years	25	5.67%	10.29%
35-44 years	67	15.19%	12.25%
45-54 years	51	11.56%	11.76%
55-64 years	46	10.43%	14.71%
65-74 years	52	11.79%	13.24%
75+ years	21	4.76%	15.20%
Total	441	100.00%	100.00%

Household responses include 441 individuals across the listed age groups. The largest shares are in the 35–44, 5–9, and 45–54 age groups, while smaller shares appear in the 20–24 and 75+ age groups compared with other categories.

Question 14

Please choose the following statement that applies to you



Most respondents identified as full-time residents of the Village of Nakusp, with a smaller share indicating they live in the surrounding Regional District area. No respondents identified as seasonal residents or non-residents.

Question 15

Do you have any additional information or comments you would like to share regarding the Village of Nakusp's Recreation Master Plan?

Open-ended comments emphasize maintaining and improving existing facilities before adding new ones. Frequently mentioned priorities include an indoor pool or year-round swimming, improvements to the beach and waterfront, expanded trail connections and safer walking and cycling infrastructure, and increased program variety for youth, families, and seniors. Respondents also highlighted the importance of affordability, accessibility improvements, support for volunteer-run programs, and better communication about recreation opportunities. Concerns about rising taxes and the need for financially sustainable planning were also commonly noted.

Key Takeaways

- Survey responses most frequently identified family and youth-oriented recreation, accessibility, and connection to nature as important values.
- Participation patterns show regular use concentrated in a smaller set of activities, particularly trail use and arena-related activities, with many other activities reported as occasional or seldom used.
- Cultural participation is strongest for outdoor events and family-focused community events compared with other cultural programming.
- Among facilities, the hot springs show the most consistent use compared with many other amenities.
- The most commonly reported barrier to participation is lack of awareness about available programs, followed by time constraints.
- Facebook is the most commonly preferred communication channel, followed by bulletin boards and posters.
- Funding preferences are mixed, with willingness-to-pay responses concentrated at lower amounts and comments emphasizing value for money.
- More respondents indicated interest in facility improvements than program additions.
- Successful programs are commonly attributed to strong volunteer leadership, community support, and third-party organizations or clubs.

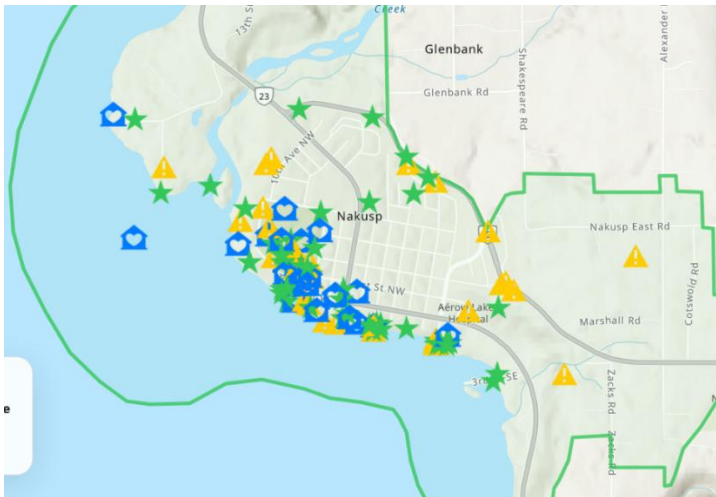
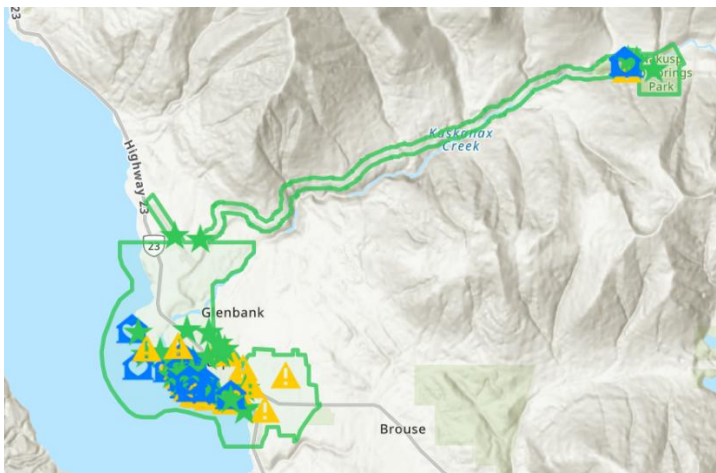
- Many open-ended responses emphasize maintaining existing infrastructure, targeted upgrades, clearer scheduling and communication, and follow-through on improvements.

I. Contribute

The I. Contribute was collected after the completion of the online survey from January 16, 2026 (first response) through February 27, 2026 (last response).

Reponses 110

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1BREQtPbBAIAYpEHF3WhecI8RAcTvRzY&ll=50.26511387679363%2C-117.81284302640171&z=16>



There was the ability to state what was Best, Issue, and Want. The comments ranged from actual comments to comments on spaces like the district park, waterfront, hot springs and trails.

Some of the comments are below:

Best

District Complex	curling facility - already submitted but it doesn't show. A valuable asset for Nakusp and lots of potential for improvement with a growing community. Love the arena! It's a mainstay for Nakusp... love the rink burgers and watching the local teams play.
District Park	Adventure playground is a great asset Fantastic facility in the adventure park Gazebo is a great asset for park users. Why does it have to be rented? love all the walking trails through this part of the park, and that the crews plow them in winter as necessary. We LOVE the new outdoor exercise equipment. It would be great if it had an awning to protect it from the elements (and allow us to get a workout even when it's raining!) winter plowing in campground trails are perfect for a winter walk or dog walk - well used and most people are respectable with picking up after [Name of dog]
Hot Springs	We love the Nakusp Hot Springs and surrounding trails!

Issue

District Complex	how are you letting food service happen out of that kitchen? Are you prepared for the liability of that?
District Park	Curling is not accessible Doesn't make sense to redirect storm water and sediment into the picnic area of the park. Provide restroom access for winter activities. People gotta "go" at anytime of the year. Skatepark garbage can is till not bear proof Staff need to stop robbing sand from here and undermining the trees why does the soccer field have to become a fenced ball field for the entire season? Why is this spot a dumping zone for organic waste? Parks crew seems to be dumping over the bank into the ravine. When will it stop? Isn't this a park? will JJ field EVER be completed?!
Hot Springs	The cold showers and cold floors and unheated change rooms is a disgrace. if local trades can't fix it bring in some one who can

Want

District Complex	Everyone is always shocked to hear that there is a squash court. Improve awareness of this aspect of the facility. Improve curling facility and viewing area
------------------	---

District Park	<p>24/7/365 aed here or bathrooms near gazebo in park.</p> <p>Outside of Auditorium Wall facing lake is a perfect opportunity for a colourful Mural! Maybe Arts council can team up with the village to get a grant.</p> <p>Provide guidance for parking at the playground. People can't figure it out.</p> <p>Tennis Court: New Practice Wall, Fix Fence, Flower Boxes around outside perimeter of Courts, some sort of climbing vine on the chain link.</p> <p>"The arena and park area need improvements.</p> <p>Could use a spray park in park area"</p> <p>Women's bathroom facilities near beach could use better lighting for safety.</p> <p>Would be very nice if the kitchen in the outdoor bathroom buildings was usable and could be rented to ambitious entrepreneurs during the summer.</p> <p>provide picnic shelter near soccer and ball fields</p> <p>Tennis court could use a new backboard/practice wall. It would also be great to have a bench with some shade/coverage. Love the previous commentor's idea of adding more flowers/plants near the court.</p>
Hot Springs	No Comments for Want

Key Takeaways

- Overall, there is a lot of community pride, and recreational assets are valued. Comments have mentioned that there is a need for maintenance, upkeep and improvement for access through trail linkages and accessibility supports. There were also inadequate amenities at outdoor recreational areas, like washrooms, lighting, and shelters.

User Groups & Recreation Adjacent Focus Group 1

There were 11 participants in the meeting from user groups and recreation adjacent organizations.

Question 1

What is currently working well in recreation in the Village of Nakusp? (Amenities, facilities, staffing support, etc.)

- The arena is working well for tai chi
- Nice large windows
- great staff
- Good turnout in tai chi
- Sports complex - With volunteers keeping programs going and funded
- Seniors' hall - excellent facility
- Waterfront path
- MTB trails

- Municipal Park and events in the park - Canada Day
- Campground and proximity to beach/ downtown
- Waterfront trails & winter maintenance of it
- Beautiful field facilities
- Lots of opportunities but not through the village, through private user groups
- Lots of how barrier's opportunities for recreation
- Arena is great but always seems to be on the list to chop
- Lots of things are going well! Arena, curling, slow pitch, music in the park, the beach, etc. Better trails and pathways community deriatite
- Curling rink, youth adults and seniors
- Ball parks, youth, adults + tourism for tournaments
- Rink is well used and maintenance required
- Auditorium - community user groups
- Curling rink, arena, auditorium, waterfront walk, gazebo
- Firehall yoga class
- Ice surface - lots of ice available
- Outdoor facilities lots
- Good walking trails

Question 2

What is currently not working well or needs improvement in recreation? (Amenities, facilities, staffing support, etc.)

- Lack of Volunteers
- Accessible Recreation within Village limits for kids and youth
- Cost of facilities
- Year-round recreation/activities
- BC Hydro Dictates Ice Time
- Village needs to do a better job of advertising recreation opportunities
- Signage
- Facility schedule
- Getting the information out about programs
- Chambers has digital kiosks
- Communication lacking
- Facebook is not really the top communication
- Facility signage
- Facility website that is up to date
- What is actually there, and how can you join or use the space
- How can we do it versus here you do it yourself
- Collaboration between users and municipalities
- Streamlining the process
- Support for group users
- Help with insurance, no process for how to do a program

- Courtesy to run programs instead of spontaneous use of space
- Time and capacity
- lack of fundraising and events
- Shared use of spaces
- Adversarial piece of “Village versus us”
- Volunteers stretched thin
- Partnering and shared resources
- Running tournaments lack of volunteers - Curling bonspiel
- Trails society - volunteers, capital, where a rec coordinate to help societies
- Fields too expensive to rent consistently
- Long process to rent
- Lots of red tape for renting

Question 3

What priorities or principles should guide this future recreation master plan? (Big Picture)

- Marketing /Communication of programs and services
- Ownership of facilities and spaces - Duplication of services, for example school soccer fields versus on park not used
- Village to not run programs
- Events and recreation are separate
- Making hard decisions on what recreation facility spaces should be used ex. tennis versus pickleball
- Structures for communication
- Access to recreation
- Balance maintenance versus long term planning

Question 4

How can the Village of Nakusp support in your sport, activity, or program?

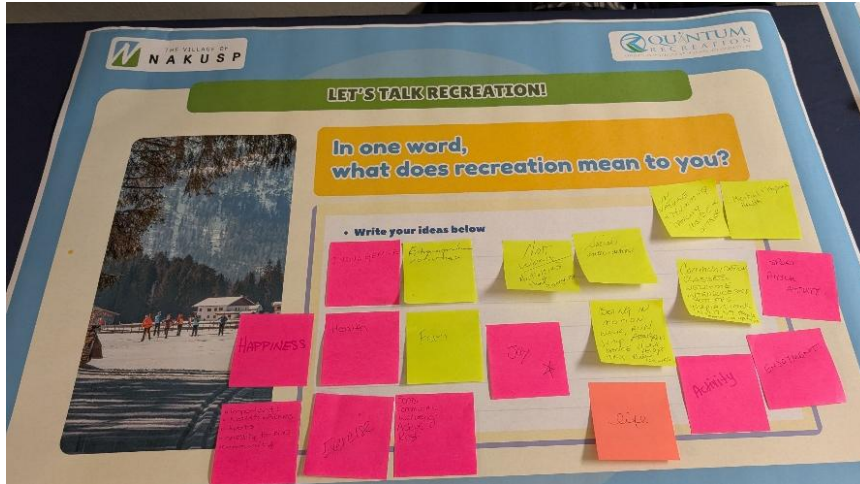
- Change in the service delivery
- No visible staff at the District Centre
- Understanding best practices - contacts like insurance and volunteering
- Support - who to get keys from and how to open things up
- General Support - Insurance, Grants, etc.

Responses:

- | | | | |
|----------------|----|----------------|----|
| • Winter Trail | 6 | • Soccer Field | 2 |
| • Disc Golf | 8 | • Diamond | 5 |
| • Summer Trail | 10 | • Arena | 16 |
| • Hot Springs | 7 | | |

Question 2

In one word, what does recreation mean to you?



Responses:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Indulgence | • Life |
| • Extracurricular activities | • Activity |
| • Important, health + fitness, sports, necessity for kids, community | • Mental & Physical Health |
| • Happiness | • In Nature +Drumming, dancing inside or outside |
| • Exercise | • Sport Physical Activity |
| • Health | • Enjoyment |
| • Social, Community, Wellbeing, active, rest | • Communication, Classes, welcome, introduce self + others, inspirations, inviting people, sharing opinions |
| • Fun | • Not Work, Activities that energize |
| • Joy | • Social interaction |
| • Being in motion, walk, run, jump, rock n roll, dance, hula hoops, TRX, rings, silks | |

Question 3

What recreation programs have you seen or heard about that you would like to have in the current recreation facilities and spaces?



Responses:

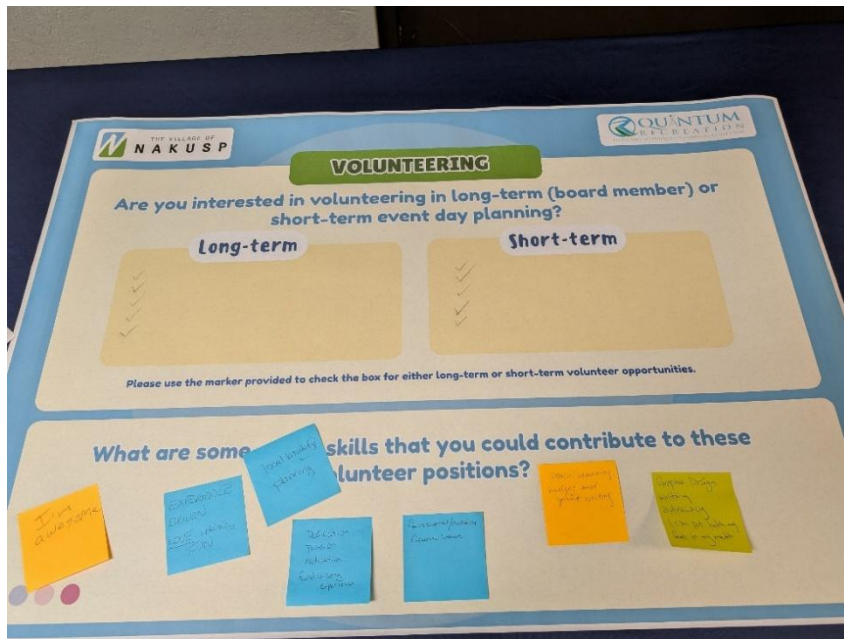
Facility or Space	Program	Event / One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Hot Springs	Water/Pool Workout classes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sauna Massage Gondola 		
Tennis Courts			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repaint Lines for Pickleball - Make 4 courts Upgraded Practice Backboard (2x) 		
Skate Park			Dedicated Bowl		
Rectangular Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flag Football Ultimate Frisbee 				
Diamonds			Seating + Kids Playground		
Playground			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sprinkler Park Mini golf (2x) 		

Facility or Space	Program	Event / One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Indoor Squash Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volleyball (2x) • Basketball • Dancing club 				
Curling Rink		Rink Rave	Roller Skating Rink		
Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacrosse (3x) • Broom Ball • Weight classes • Roller Derby • Floor Hockey • Figure Skating • Ringette • Hockey All Levels • Salsa Classes • Dance • Quadra Pedic Exercises - Primal move, Leo moves, animal flow • Indoor Tennis • Indoor Hockey 				
Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance for Youth/Kids • Kids Dance Classes • Zumba • Jazzercise • Adult Dance Classes 	Concerts	Upgraded Kitchen		Improved Esthetics Acoustics
Waterfront	Volleyball (Organized Games)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Picnic Tables • Splash Park (2x) • Food Trucks or Concession Stand (2x) • Shaded Area on Beach 		

Facility or Space	Program	Event / One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Summer Trails			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkages to existing trails • Pit Toilets 		
Winter Trails			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pit Toilets 		
Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disc Golf • Splash Park (3X) • Waterpark 		
Other	Swim Lessons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming Pool (9x) • Gym Facility (3) • Meeting Spaces (Groups, AGM, Interviews) 		

Question 5a

Are you Interested in Volunteering in long-term or short term?



Type	Reponses
Short-term	5
Long-term	5

Question 5b

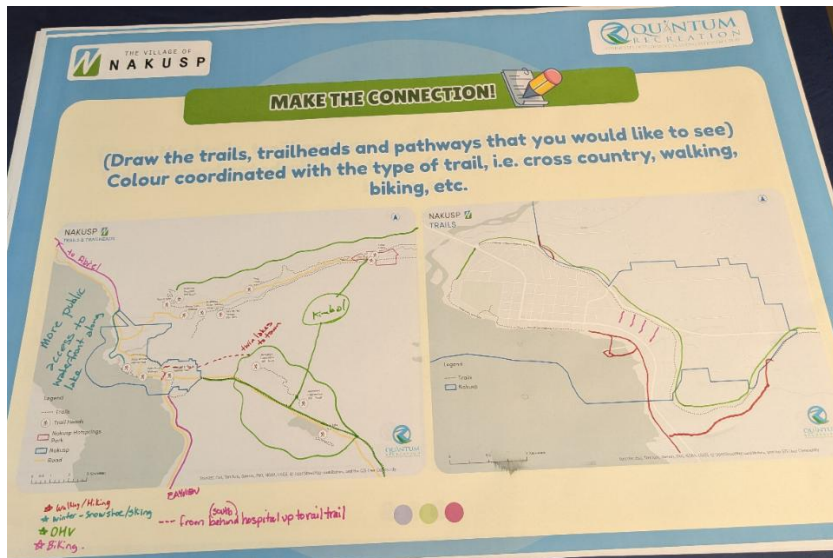
What are some of the skills that you could contribute to these volunteer positions?

Responses:

- Project Planning, budget, grant writing
- Graphic Design, Writing, Advocacy, I can put both my feet in my mouth
- Construction/Carpentry, General Labour
- Dedicated, Passion, motivation, fundraising experience
- I'm awesome
- Experience Driven, Love having fun
- Local Knowledge, planning

Question 6

Draw the trails, trailheads, and pathways that you would like to see!



Key Takeaways

- The arena was the most voted for option for tax dollar followed by summer trails, then disc golf.
- Recreation is physical movement and social connection
- In most amenities, the public is looking to change the space or add additional amenities to the space instead of new programming. In contrast, the auditorium had various dance and step programming options.
- Volunteering skills varied from organizational to physical skill-based.

Business & Tourism Focus Group

A focus group was conducted with participants representing a cross-section of business tourism stakeholders. The session aimed to gather qualitative insights on travel behaviours, preferences, and challenges within the travel landscape, providing a foundation for informed decision-making and strategic planning for the Recreation Master Plan.

Question 1

What is currently working well in recreation in the Village of Nakusp? (Amenities, facilities, staffing support, etc.)

- Ice Surface accessible to the public every day of the week no barrier
- Trail network working well, well-maintained, strong advocates. Massive draw
- hot springs is a big draw.
- In the summer time. Free Music in the Park Wednesday night. High caliber free music. Promoting local and basin performers. This attracts tourism in the summer time. We have numerous families who come back because this is offered.
- Saddle Mountain 2 of the best summiting hikes in BC. A really appealing multimode studies in 2017 Nakusp plan
- Waterfront train (needs more signage). Improved the use of trails accessibility grade improvements. Better access to the 5km loop
- Curling rink is suitable for the curlers
- Have a lot of returning tourists
- Each group excels at their individual pieces

Question 2

What is currently not working well or needs improvement in recreation? (Amenities, facilities, staffing support, etc.)

- Lynn-Hot springs shut down times are an issue. Staffing engagement, promotion, little bit of pricing, hours, general info about the hot springs
- Wayfinding-marketing
- Accommodation, food and beverage for the big events.
- Access to the Bonnington Arts Centre - Attached to the Elementary School. Used mainly be seniors so this is vital. (no signage)
- Curling lack of volunteers.
- accessibility required. Did the rink and rave (disco lights) it's a lot of work need wants lights installed. Carnival ideas

- Kitchen needs some improvements
- Working collectively needed NABS, climb saddle and do dinner at night
- Better sound, lighting and flooring at the auditorium

Question 3

What new businesses/tourism opportunities are coming to the area?

- Brewery Coming...
- AAA guided tours
- Guiding hiking tours → Lazy picnic
- Coordination of information
- Chamber Kiosk @ Mt Abriel → WANT ONE but needs power and WIFI
- 200 binders for Airbnb, hotels
- Cross marketing a business could sponsor a trail with signage
- Electronic business for wedding and good stuff and a list of places to stay.

Question 4

Which recreation building do you feel is the most important to the community?

- Auditorium events
- Rink (skating club, hockey)
- Hot springs

Question 5

What priorities or principles should guide this future recreation master plan?

(Big Picture)

- Having more happen at the recreation facility. Talk about moving the village office. More life their local bus needs a stop at the auditorium. Arena complex is the big-ticket item for the village. Meet more of the needs of the community
- Trails vital part of the community.
- Buildings into the recreation plan.
- Priorities should be focus on small town... but need to modern and up to speed up with other beneficial or obstacle

Question 6

What barriers or gaps do you see related to hosting events, tournaments, festivals, or business-related activities in local recreation spaces?

- Barriers– Accommodations.
- Not having good access to the kitchen space
- FAB X was hosted.
- Auditorium issues. Not having that kitchen space. Not having enough breakout rooms, not enough space for a dinner
- Aging Volunteer base. As many of these organizations are on the backs of Volunteers.
- Moving people into the market – ie. Bringing people from camping to the Hot Springs, better transportation

User Groups & Recreation Adjacent Focus Group 2

The second User Groups & Recreation Adjacent Focus Group brought together seven participants for an in-depth conversation centered on recreational interests, community programming, and user experiences. This intimate session fostered open dialogue, allowing attendees to share valuable insights and perspectives that will help shape future recreation-focused initiatives and decision-making

Question 1

Which recreation building do you feel is the most important to the community?

The most important building spaces are the curling rink, hot springs, arena and auditorium.

Question 2

Which recreation building do you use the least and why?

The least used recreation facility building is the squash courts. Not many people know how to play squash.

Question 3

Provide programming ideas that your organization can deliver in these spaces

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skatepark - Lessons, Competitions • Tennis Court - Roller Hockey 	Fundraiser during Community Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disc Golf • BBQ Area • Pump Truck • Spray Park 		

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Curling Rink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skating Club - Roller Skating • Dance yoga in lounge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or two bonspiels per yr potential • Lounge area is a good MTG space • More rentals with or w/o curling 			year - round liquor license
Squash Court	Fabric Acrobatics		Dance studio/Yoga		
Hot Springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnastics field trip- Water resistance training • Swim lessons 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gondola top of mountain, Winter ski, summer trails • Wellness Centre • Spa Services 		
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest therapy • shinrin-yoku (Forest bathing) • Part of summer camp programming for gymnastics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marathons • Sufferfest • Bike Races/ training 	Art installations		
Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broom ball • Lacrosse • training programs • fitness • Roller skating (Summer) • Roller Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts • Trade / home shows 			

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Waterfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Volleyball league • Swim lessons • water sports, clubs -sailing, canoe, fishing, paddleboard, kayak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand castle lessons/ competitions • Events • Concerts • Market • Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marina-Pier - kayak storage • Beach Marina • New docking on pier area for canoe, kayak, and paddleboard 	Volleyball net needs improvement	
Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports/fitness • Dancing - Ballroom, Hiphop, Belly, Ballet, etc • Fabric acrobatics / circus arts- expanded gymnastics programming • Summer gymnastics camps • Acting Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth performances • Pop-up - Virtual reality, Gaming, Escape room, smash room • Meetings / Conferences • Weddings • Events • Concerts • Fundraisers • Dinner Theatre • Classes- Business, Art, Improvement- public speaking, etc • Farmers Market. (Winter) • Movie Film Screening • Theatre, Art exhibitions 			Use it more of an open house community space/ gathering for families - open gym play
Other		Library - Art/Craft Nights			

Open House 2

The second open house took place on February 25th, welcoming 33 attendees for a continued conversation built on the momentum of the first session. This gathering allowed for deeper dialogue and further exploration of key topics, reinforcing the community's ongoing interest and commitment to the process.

Question 1

Where would you spend your dollar for upgrades or increase amenities? (Drop a dollar into the bin that fits most with where you would like to put your tax dollar.)

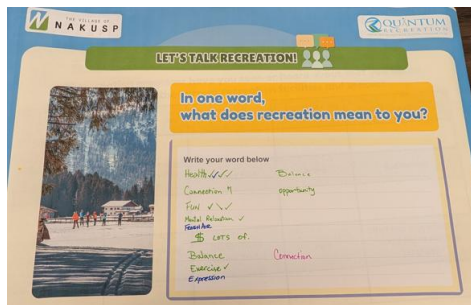


Responses:

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|----|
| • Winter Trail | 6 | • Soccer Field | 0 |
| • Disc Golf | 1 | • Diamond | 1 |
| • Summer Trail | 8 | • Arena | 16 |
| • Hot Springs | 5 | | |

Question 2

In one word, what does recreation mean to you?



Responses:

- Fun 3x
- Balance 2x
- Connection 3x
- Mental Relaxation
- \$ Lots of.
- Exercise 2x
- Expression
- Opportunity
- Festivals

Question 3

What recreation programs have you seen or heard about that you would like to have in the current recreation facilities and spaces?



Responses:

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Hot Springs	Aqua/Swim classes 2x			Keep the hot springs maintained as they are	Large enough for families to have picnic, srt, enjoy (check out Coldstream)
Tennis Courts	Tennis/ pickleball				To incorporate family

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Skate Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike rickshaws for seniors • Add bike trails behind skatepark in the little forest with a cpl little jump 		Good enough
Rectangular Fields			Dog park - designated off leash area		
Diamonds	Seniors League 2x				
Playground			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterpark for kids • Splash park 5x 		
Indoor Squash Courts	Dance+ movement studio				
Curling Rink			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would love to have a roller rink/ curling rink • Wheelchair access to the ice surface so they can come watch or play 		Kids need to learn to play in school programs - were available in 80's etc. Not anymore - Response by different person - Mon 3:00 Yes, it is

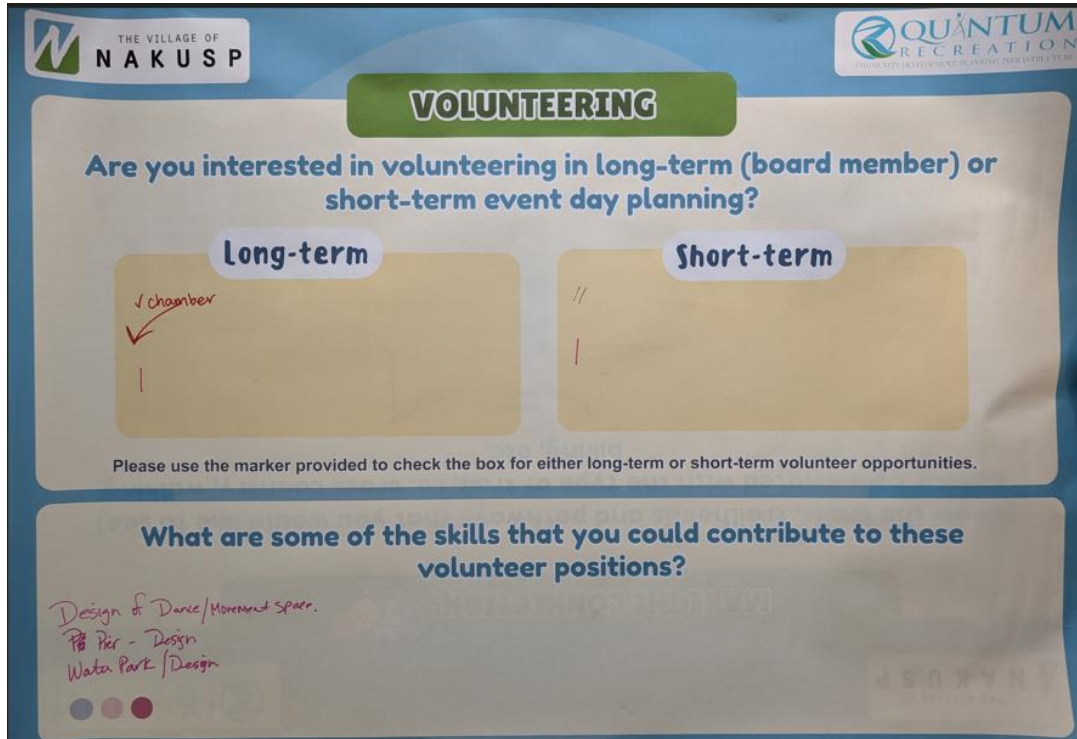
Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Arena			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arena Lounge 3x • Equipment Rentals (Accessibility to equipment that is too expensive to purchase as an individual) • Dorms for Hockey/Sports visitors/teams 		Begin the planning process to replace the arena floor. Engage a consultant so the village is shovel ready for grants
Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance classes - fitness classes with qualified instructor • Adapted Rec options - eg. Tinkle ball for blind, etc. - taken from adapted PE ideas 	Dances			

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One- Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Waterfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach kids to swim • Stand Up Paddle Board Lessons • Somewhere, somehow to learn to swim - we need instructors too • Stand up paddle board lessons / programs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splash Park - with outside slide, ect. • Beach - move the log booms • Pier at the waterfront • 2nd volleyball net @ beach 		
Summer Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mushroom walk 2x • Plant knowledge walk • Group Hikes to alpine areas - we have a hiking club • Hiking groups • group mountain biking classes / programs 		Quad Trail from town to join to Old rail trail		Please don't destroy forest by the camp with a frisbee golf

Facility or Space	Program	Event/ One-Time Activity	Amenity or Facility	Maintenance	Comment
Winter Trails	X country ski classes / lessons			XC ski trails maintain treacherous road access (muddy, slushy, slippery, etc.)	We have lots! - Wensley, Valhalla, Peter Ralston, Mac. Ck. Pk.
Park			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Garden • Disc Golf! • More Picnic tables 2x 		
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga+ bootcamp at the old firehall in the beautiful upstairs studio • Community art murals • Art classes (all ages) outdoor or indoor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rage room • Seasonal pool behind arena in current heat sync • Aquatic Centre 		

Question 4a

Are you Interested in Volunteering in long-term or short term?



Type	Reponses
Short-term	3
Long-term	3

Question 4b

What are some of the skills that you could contribute to these volunteer positions?

Responses:

- Design of Dance/Movement Space
- Pier – Design
- Water Park/Design

Question 5

Draw the trails, trailheads, and pathways that you would like to see!



Question 6

Where do you recreate?



Responses:

Indoor Area	Outdoor Area
Indoor Rock Climbing	Arrow Lake (Paddle swim) + Trails
Curling 4x	Music in the Park – Rotary Park 2x
Hockey	Biking Trails -Mountain, gravel, x country
Outdoor Hockey Rink	Trails 3x
Golf	Tennis / Pickleball
Arena -Skating	Basketball
Ice Rink	Waterfront 4x
Basketball	H.S.
Old Firehall – Yoga Studio 3x	Waterfront walk and extended along beach 2x
Gardening Class @ Old Firehall	Rail Trail 6x
Old Firehall	Biking 2x
	Beach 2x
	Campground
	Hot Springs 2x
	Biking on Highways
	Beach Volleyball (Add 2 nd net)
	Walking 2x
	Ski Hill
	Valhalla Trails
	Wensley Creek

Question 7

What level of responsibility should the Village take in providing parks and recreation services to the community?

Responses ranged from the middle of the spectrum towards the user group/community development model.



Key Takeaways

- The arena was the most voted for option for tax dollars, followed by summer trails, then winter trails.
- Recreation is physical movement and holistic
- In most amenities, the public is looking to change the space or add additional amenities to the space instead of new programming. In contrast, the trails focused on diverse programming, such as a mushroom walk.
- Volunteering skills identified were design-based.
- Spaces used are trails, waterfront, curling, and arena.
- Community is more interested in having the community provide programming than the Village.

School Focus Group

The Nakusp Secondary School Focus Group had nine student attendees. These responses offer a candid and direct look at the perspectives and experiences of the next generation, providing valuable insight that will help shape future planning of the Recreation Master Plan.

Youth shared that they are highly active and most engaged in team sports such as volleyball, soccer, basketball, hockey, and skiing, with a strong interest in both spontaneous play and organized programs. Participation is largely driven by the social aspect of sport, and students noted that when school teams or drop-in programs are offered, interest and involvement are high. Summer recreation is centered around outdoor and water-based activities (biking, beach volleyball, swimming, paddle boarding), but youth identified gaps, including limited transportation into the village, smoky conditions, inconsistent water levels, and the absence of a dedicated space to gather once school is closed. In winter, skiing and hockey are popular, yet youth expressed concerns about limited prime-time ice access, overlapping programs, and the lack of a public gym or informal “YMCA-style” drop-in space.

There is a strong desire for year-round, grade-specific programming, particularly for teens aged 12–16, including learn-to-play opportunities, expanded volleyball and baseball, arts and music programs, and improvements to existing facilities such as the outdoor beach volleyball courts, skatepark, and ball fields. Overall, youth emphasized

the need for a safe, welcoming space to study and socialize without having to purchase anything, improved transportation options (bike lanes and shuttles), and clearer communication through social media, school channels, and a dedicated youth calendar.

Council and Staff Meeting

This meeting brought together 8 council members and staff to facilitate open communication, alignment, and collaborative discussion on key initiatives and priorities. The session provided an opportunity for both groups to exchange perspectives, address ongoing matters, and work collectively toward informed decisions that support the Recreation Master Plan.

Council and Staff shared that parks and recreation are foundational to community health, connection, and quality of life in the Village. Recreation is seen as a way to build social bonds, promote physical and mental wellness, support families and youth, preserve natural character, and contribute to tourism and economic development. A key concern identified was limited youth programming, aging or underutilized facilities, fragmented volunteer coordination, and funding constraints; however, they also noted strong community pride, passionate staff, valuable assets such as the hot springs and trail systems, and a committed volunteer base. Many expressed that without continued investment in recreation, the Village would be less vibrant, less attractive to young families and professionals, and more vulnerable to social challenges such as isolation and reduced community engagement.

Administratively, the Village is viewed as the hub and facilitator of recreation, providing leadership, spaces, coordination, and partnerships while balancing affordability and sustainability. The most significant challenges identified include financial limitations, infrastructure demands, staffing capacity, accessibility barriers, and competing capital priorities such as water, sewer, and roads. Recreation-related capital priorities highlighted through discussion include arena upgrades, marina and waterfront improvements, hot springs modernization, campground and trail enhancements, and long-term planning to align master plans and capital investments with a cohesive community vision.

User Groups & Recreation Adjacent Focus Group Exit Survey

The User Groups & Recreation Adjacent Focus Group Exit Survey received 3 responses from participants after the session concluded. While a small sample, these responses offer direct and candid feedback reflective of the attendees' experiences, providing meaningful insight to help the Recreation Master Plan. The responses were from Ice, Auditorium and Rectangular User

Question 1

Where in the stages of the Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity 3.0 Framework would you fit most closely with?

Responses:

- Active for Life 3x
- Learn to Train
- Train to Win

Question 2

How is the overall satisfaction with the state of the facilities you use? (1=Very Dissatisfied and 100 Very Satisfied)

Responses:

- 60.5
- 70
- 100

Question 3

When visiting other neighbouring communities, what is missing or lacking from the facilities you use?

- Issue with water purification system that causes a buildup.
- Missing dedicated space, storage space and time available for increased programming offering.
- Indoor multisport facility

Question 4

Are there spaces that are underused or could be improved?

- The curling rink lounge is underutilized in the offseason, but it is in needs of improvement and renovations to the bar. There is a lack of functionality in the space, especially during an event like a bonspiel.
- The auditorium and gazebo are underutilized. The auditorium specifically has a lot of time designed for pickleball.
- The rectangular field is underutilized due to cost.

Question 5

Are there any barriers preventing participation in the program?

- Lack of time to use facilities to offer programming.
- Cost to use the space.

Question 6

If you can choose the type of partnership or collaboration with the Village of Nakusp, what would it be?

- Collation through letters of support with grant opportunities.
- Long-time collaborative partnership with recognition for community programming, facility and fees priority and opportunities to collaborate on community events and programs.
- Open to discussion.

Question 7

Are you willing to provide capital for increased facilities, available timeslots, or increased service delivery?

- Yes 2x
- No 1x

7a. If yes, what would it be?

- Grants to improve facility and water systems
- Open to discussion

Question 8

Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

- There is interest to learn to try programs and other programming options with ice availability

- Volunteering limitations affect what can be offered.

Business and Tourism Focus Group Exit Survey

The Business and Tourism Focus Group Exit Survey collected 6 responses from participants after the session concluded. These responses provide direct feedback from attendees, offering valuable perspectives on their experience and key takeaways that will help guide future Recreation Master Plan.

Question 1

How is the overall satisfaction with the state of the facilities you use? (1=Very Dissatisfied and 100 Very Satisfied)

Responses:

- 40
- 100
- 46
- 50
- 16
- 81

Question 2

When visiting other neighbouring communities, what is missing or lacking from the facilities you use?

- The difference in meeting/ break out rooms, conference and wedding appropriate spaces. As well as functional gymnasium spaces.
- One central community hub.
- Organized events, activities and classes
- Music for the seniors – music that can be sung and danced to.

Question 3

Are there spaces that are underused or could be improved?

- All of them. The Curling rink could be used as a roller rink with black lights in the off season. The arena could be equipped with permanent event lighting for rink and raves. The kitchen could be better utilized if made into a commercial kitchen. The gym would be much better utilized if the drop ceiling was removed so one could bounce a ball and the flooring was changed to a wooden gym floor so the space could be aesthetically better suited to events/ weddings/ conferences. The squash court is under-utilized. The curling rink lounge is dated and could meet many needs if renovated.

- The auditorium before has been under-utilized, however I think it is now a lot better having a lot of great options for all ages. If there was a way to have a set weekend time for kids use especially during the winter that would be great (when its open kids love it during hockey games)
- The Arena 2x
- Sports complex
- Rail Trail improvements/signage

Question 4

Are there any barriers preventing participation in the program?

- There are financial barriers for many as well as the facility doesn't meet its potential.
- People to run programming
- Not wheelchair accessible

Question 5

If you can choose the type of partnership or collaboration with the Village of Nakusp, what would it be?

- Involve not only residents of Nakusp but also RDCK residents
- Promotion
- Partnering to cover the costs of rentals for running programming.

Question 6

Are you willing to provide capital for increased facilities, available timeslots, or increased service delivery?

- Yes 2x
- No 3x
- One Omitted – Increase Taxes

6a. If yes, what would it be?

- Responses were not capital suggestions, but ideas on where funding should go. Added to the last question.

Question 7

Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

- The community complex already gets the lion's share of tax dollars, so it would be nice if it were better utilized. While recreation centres are often a loss leader, it would be nice if the space could generate some more income in the way of weddings, private events or conferences. Hosting numerous events in the rec complex, I've struggled immensely with the functionality and athletics of the space and the lack of space size options. It would also be nice to have recreation spaces for hobbies/crafts and senior activities such as shuffleboard. Finally, I feel that the space would generate much more usage if the village office were within the arena. People appreciate convenience. It would also save money on having staff working at the arena. Volunteering limitations affect what can be offered.
- Would love to see some kind of kids swim lessons at the hot springs so many parents here want swim lessons, and if there are any at the lake its challenging with the weather and cold water. Maybe this could run before the public hot springs time. Also, a seniors aquafit before it opens.
- Think of putting the money towards multi-use, not just certain sports. The complex needs to include all big and small vendors/events. We do not need several locations in this small town. Let us make the rec centre multi-purpose. This does not include fixing the ice. That is not for everyone to enjoy. Use the money from sales of properties towards this.
- Facility improvement

Interviews

Visitor Centre/Chamber of Commerce

The chamber is receiving new members, but they are members of the Village and not new businesses to the Village. Overall, the Village experiences many different events and outdoor tourism opportunities that utilize the campground, but has noted that due to the limited accommodations and restaurants, it is a stop destination and not a stay. As well, many complaints are that people living and visiting would like to purchase Hot Springs passes or certificates at the Visitor Centre/Chamber of Commerce, but cannot, as the system is not shared. The Visitor Centre/Chamber of Commerce also mentioned that they monitor vehicles left at the visitor centre for when they are using the outdoor spaces, like the trails. This is part of their emergency planning for people using the outdoor spaces, so when someone in their plan does not return at the indicated time, they would call emergency services.