



REIMAGINING RECREATION SERVICES CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

TECHNICAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2024





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SECTION 1.0

INTRODUCTION



Recreation services are key contributors to the quality of life of people living in Castlegar, Electoral Area I, and Electoral Area J. Recreation contributes to the wellbeing of individuals whether that is physical, mental, or social health. Additionally, recreation activities can contribute to a healthy community, one in which people are more connected to each other and where people have a sense of place and pride. The benefits of recreation are plentiful.

Benefits of Recreation



Is essential to personal health and wellbeing



Is a significant economic generator



Provides a foundation for quality of life



Reduces health care and social service costs



Provides the key to balanced human development



Builds strong and healthy communities



Green spaces are essential to wellbeing



Supports positive mental health and social connections

Recreation services are varied and include opportunities provided by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), the City of Castlegar, and innumerable community organizations – many of which are volunteer led. Opportunities include facilities such as the Castlegar & District Recreation Complex, community halls, regional parks, sports fields, and many things in between. Programs and activities are key aspects of recreation. While the RDCK and City deliver some programs directly, most are offered by community organizations.

While there may be some commonly held views of what recreation opportunities should be provided in a community, there is no legislated list of services. Determining the service offerings reflects community desires and political will. While the value of recreation is virtually universal, the identification of what recreation services should be provided in a community can be challenging. This is particularly true as it relates to publicly supported and provided recreation services.

Several studies have been completed that presented a future and/ or helped define a future for recreation in Castlegar and Areas I & J. Community engagement featured prominently in these studies. The findings from the engagement activities implemented through the following projects were considered as the engagement was planned and implemented for this project. It is important that the input provided by community members be considered across all pertinent planning projects to leverage the contributions of the community. The following list identifies some of these studies:

- RDCK Parks, Trails, and Water Access Strategy (2024)
- Town of Creston Parks Plan (2024)
- Campbell Field Feasibility Study (2022)
- Pass Creek Regional Park Service Review (2021)
- Castlegar & District Community Complex Feasibility Analysis and Concept Design (2017)
- Castlegar, Area I, and Area J Recreation and Culture Master Plan (2016)

The Castlegar & District Recreation Commission felt that enhancements to recreation in the area may be warranted. These improvements could include recreation services delivered throughout the District as well as potential enhancements to the Castlegar & District Community Complex. Efforts had been made in the past to proceed with enhancements to the Recreation Complex but these efforts did not come to fruition. To identify potential enhancements, the Commission initiated an engagement project to learn the opinions of residents in the Castlegar District. This report presents the findings of two community surveys.

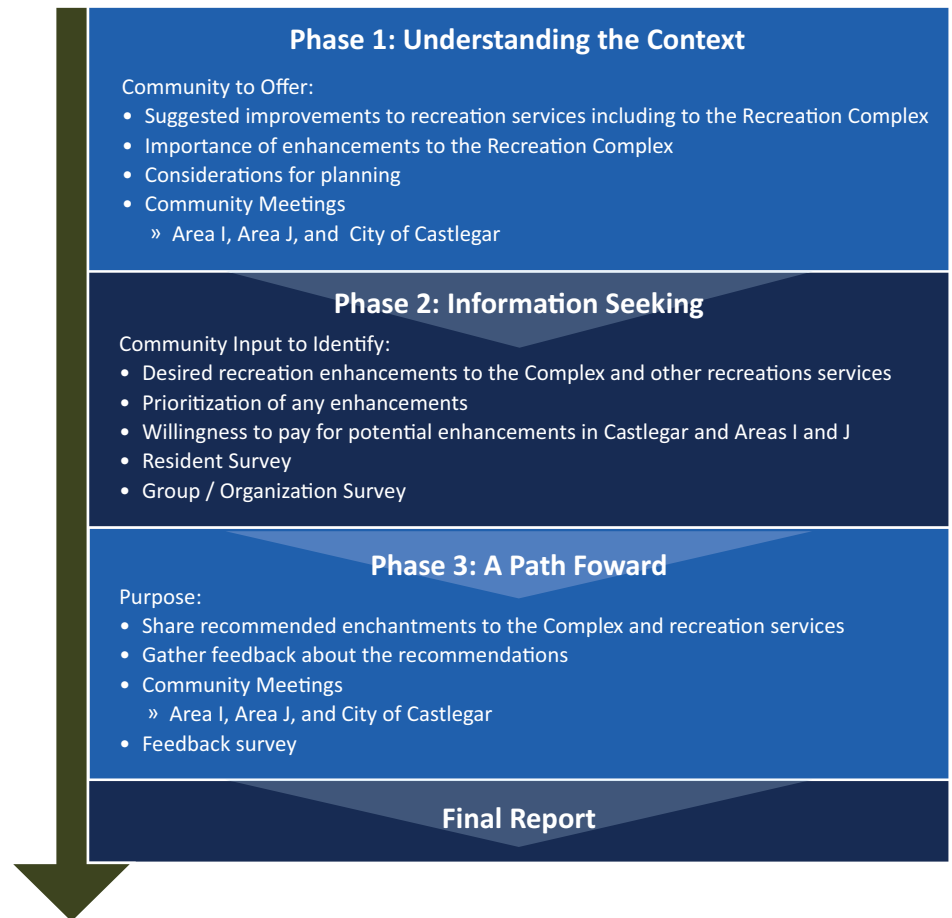
1.1 ABOUT ENGAGEMENT

The key elements of the engagement included two surveys:

- A resident survey, and
- A community group survey.

Prior to the fielding of the two surveys (Phase 2: Information Seeking), a series of community meetings and communication efforts were implemented. This upfront work (Phase 1: Understanding the Context) was intended to communicate to Castlegar District residents the interest of the Commission in the community's opinions about recreation provision and thoughts for improvements. Seven community meetings were convened in late April and early May. Some information was gathered at these Phase 1 sessions that was utilized in the development of survey instruments.

Survey	Sample Size
Resident survey	998 respondents
Community group survey	10 responses



The findings from each of these surveys is presented below¹. Overall findings from all survey respondents is presented along with the breakdown to the questions according to the Electoral Areas and City of Castlegar. The Appendix includes the breakdown by Electoral Area and the City but it also includes the responses to the open-ended questions by Electoral Areas I and J, and the City of Castlegar.

¹ The contributions of community members through their participation in engagement activities (and there have been numerous opportunities) is highly valued. While the findings from the various engagement tactics used in different projects have not formally been integrated into the findings reported here, they have been reviewed. This includes the engagement that has recently been in field for the RDCK Parks, Trails and Water Access Strategy.

SECTION 2.0

RESIDENT SURVEY



2.1 ABOUT THE SURVEY

A questionnaire was developed to gather the opinions of residents of Castlegar and Areas I and J. While primarily fielded online, hard copies were available for those who preferred that means of participating. The survey was collecting responses from June 12 through to July 5, 2024. Over that period, 998 responses were gathered.

A varied program of promotion was implemented to encourage the participation of residents. This included a postcard that described the purpose of the survey and types of questions posed. As well, the postcard offered several means for people to participate including the scanning of a QR code, visiting the RDCK's engagement webpage, and requesting a paper copy. Other promotional tactics included posters that were distributed via email to groups and posted throughout the community; advertising in social media and the Castlegar News; email "blasts" using contact lists from the Community Complex and the Engage webpage; media releases; and a variety of social media efforts. Recreation Commission members also promoted the survey personally.



2.2 FINDINGS

The findings are presented in the order the questions were posed in the survey. Not all respondents answered all questions; the percentages reflect the number of responses to each specific question. For each question, the response from all respondents is highlighted. Due to rounding some findings may not total to 100%. Accompanying these overall findings are the responses from respondents in each of the three areas: Castlegar, Area I, and Area J. For any open ended questions, a synopsis of the responses is presented according to the three areas (Castlegar, Area I, Area J) in the Appendix.

2.2.1 ABOUT YOU

The following table describes the respondents who participated in the survey.

Where do you live?	
Castlegar	61%
Electoral Area J	23%
Electoral Area I	13%
Other	3%

In which age category do you fall?	
17 yrs and younger	1%
18-29 yrs	5%
30-39 yrs	24%
40-49 yrs	22%
50-59 yrs	19%
60-69 yrs	20%
70-79 yrs	9%
80 yrs and older	1%

Which of the following best represents your household income before tax?	
Under \$50,000	13%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	16%
\$100,000 to less than \$125,000	13%
\$125,000 to less than \$150,000	12%
\$150,000 or more	21%
Prefer not to answer	11%

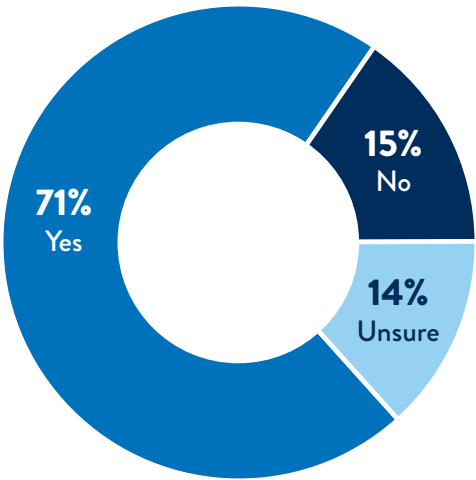
What best describes your household's composition?	
Couple with child / children	43%
Couple without children	34%
One person household	9%
Two or more adults who are not a couple (e.g. roommates, siblings living together)	4%
Single parent with child / children (full time)	3%
Multi-generational household (at least three generations)	3%
Single parent with child / children (part time)	2%
Prefer not to answer	3%

Are you an active member or volunteer of a recreation club or organized group?	
Yes	41%
No	52%
Unsure	7%

2.2.2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION

To begin the survey, respondents were asked if they think enhancements or improvements are needed to community facilities, parks and recreation (including programs and events) in the Castlegar & District Area. When answering this question, respondents were informed that they should not consider the Castlegar & District Community Complex. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, almost three-quarters (71%) of respondents said that enhancements or improvements are needed.

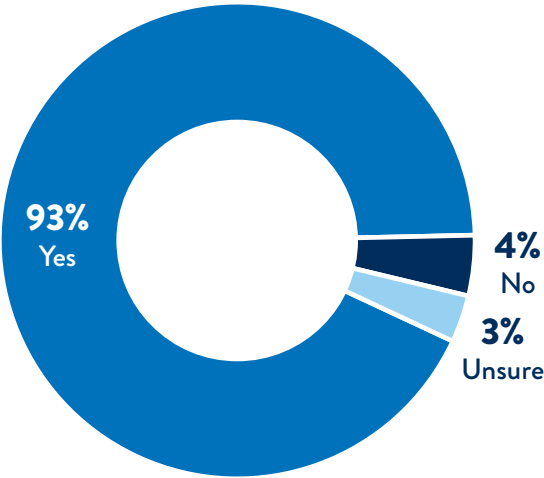
GRAPH 1
Do you think enhancements / improvements are needed to facilities, parks and recreation in the Castlegar & District Area?



Do you think enhancements / improvements are needed to facilities, parks and recreation in the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	52%	69%	77%
No	31%	19%	11%
Unsure	17%	12%	13%

Next, respondents were asked if they value the facilities, parks and recreation offerings in the Castlegar & District Area. These offerings include things like programs, parks, trails, sport fields, sport courts, community halls, community beaches, and events. Almost universally (93%), respondents said they value these offerings. Refer to the accompanying graph.

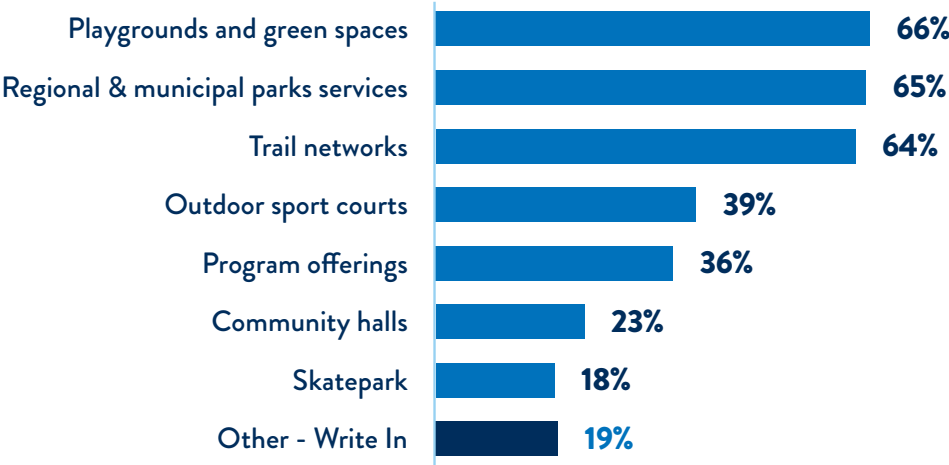
GRAPH 2
Do you value facilities, parks and recreation offerings in the Castlegar & District Area?



Do you value facilities, parks and recreation offerings in the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	85%	91%	95%
No	10%	5%	2%
Unsure	5%	4%	3%

As illustrated in the graph, playgrounds and green spaces, regional & municipal parks services, and trail networks were most valued by respondents.

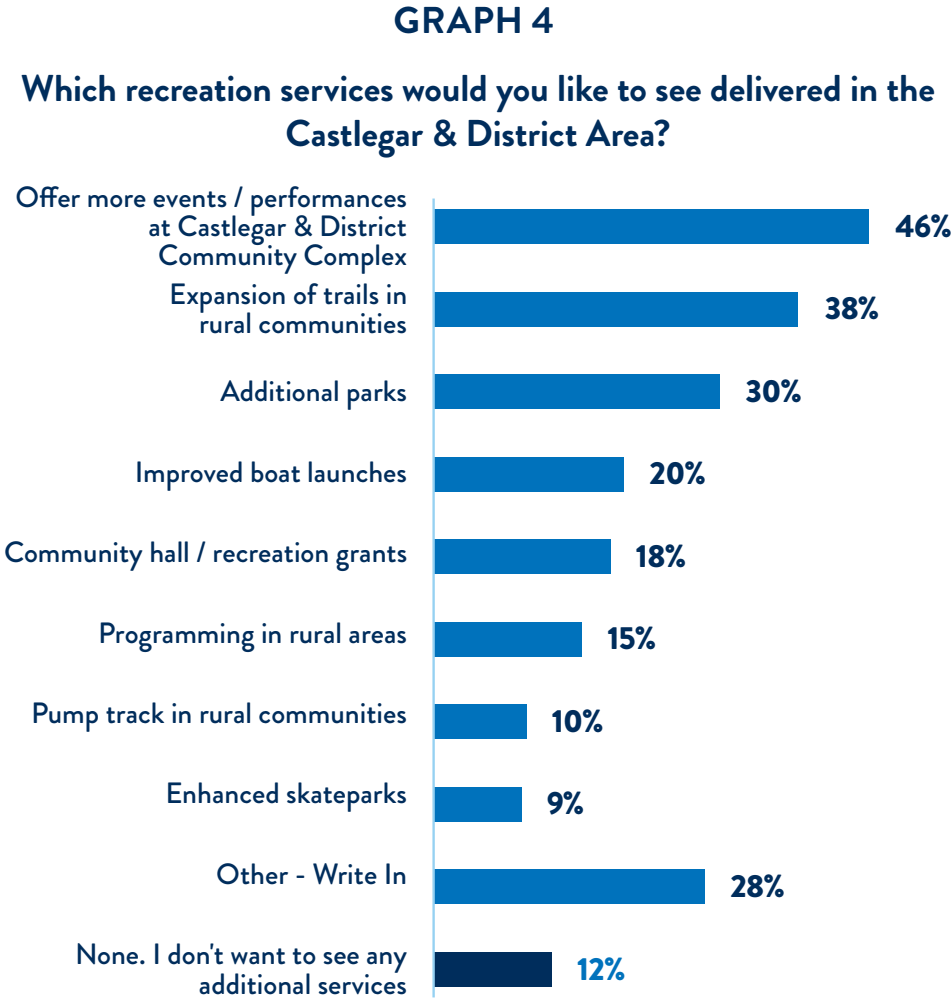
GRAPH 3
What recreation amenities do you most value that occur within the Castlegar & District Area?



Refer to the Appendix for a synopsis of “Other - Write In”.

What recreation amenities do you most value that occur within the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Playgrounds and green spaces	53%	62%	70%
Regional & municipal parks services	51%	64%	68%
Trail networks	63%	61%	65%
Outdoor sport courts	28%	45%	40%
Program offerings	30%	40%	36%
Community halls	24%	28%	20%
Skatepark	16%	19%	18%

Finally in this section, respondents were able to select, from a list, the recreation services that they would like to see delivered in the Castlegar & District Area. Almost half (46%) said they would like to see more events / performances at the Castlegar & District Community Complex while approximately one-third (38%) want to see the expansion of trails in rural communities. Refer to the graph for additional responses.



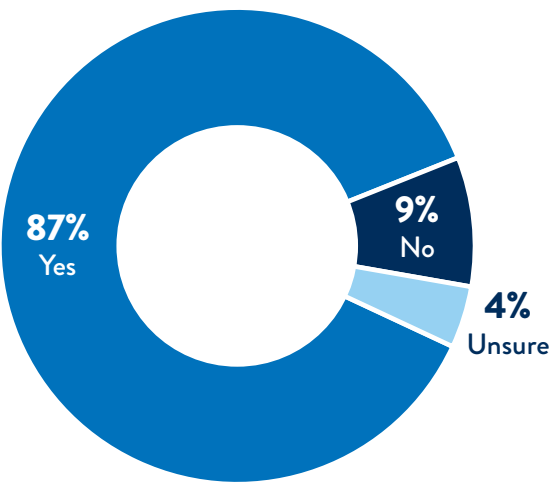
Refer to the Appendix for a synopsis of “Other - Write In”.

Which recreation services would you like to see delivered in the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Offer more events / performances at the Community Complex	32%	45%	49%
Expansion of trails in rural communities	36%	39%	39%
Additional parks	19%	31%	32%
Improved boat launches	23%	27%	16%
Community hall / recreation grants	19%	27%	15%
Programming in rural areas	31%	21%	9%
Pump track in rural communities	12%	11%	9%
Enhanced skateparks	6%	9%	10%
None, I don't want to see any additional services	22%	13%	10%

2.2.3 CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX

The questions in this section of the survey pertain to the Castlegar & District Community Complex. To begin, respondents were asked if they value the amenities currently available at the Complex including the aquatic areas, arena, fitness centre, community spaces, seniors centre, meeting rooms, and banquet facility. Well over three-quarters (87%) said they do value the amenities as illustrated in the graph.

GRAPH 5
Do you value the current amenities at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?

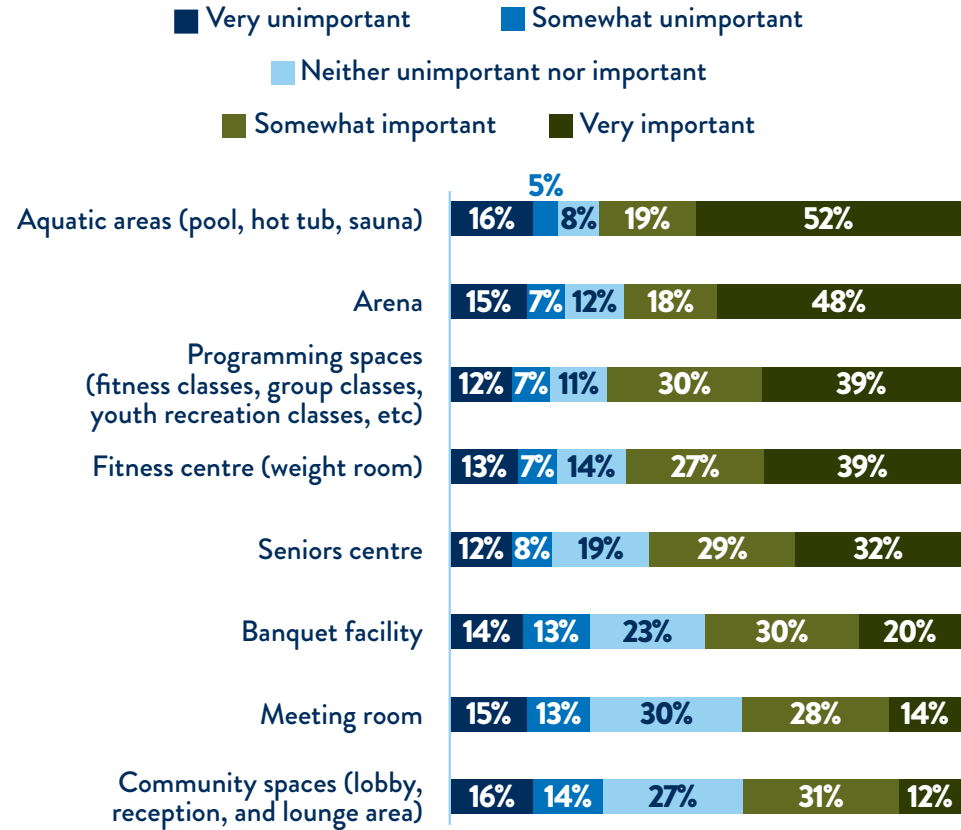


Do you value the current amenities at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	74%	88%	90%
No	19%	8%	7%
Unsure	7%	4%	3%

Next, respondents were asked to indicate the importance of each amenity offered at the Community Complex. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, approximately half (52%) said the aquatic areas are very important to them. A similar proportion (48%) said the arena is very important to them. Except for the meeting rooms, and the community spaces, at least half of respondents said the amenities are somewhat or very important to them.

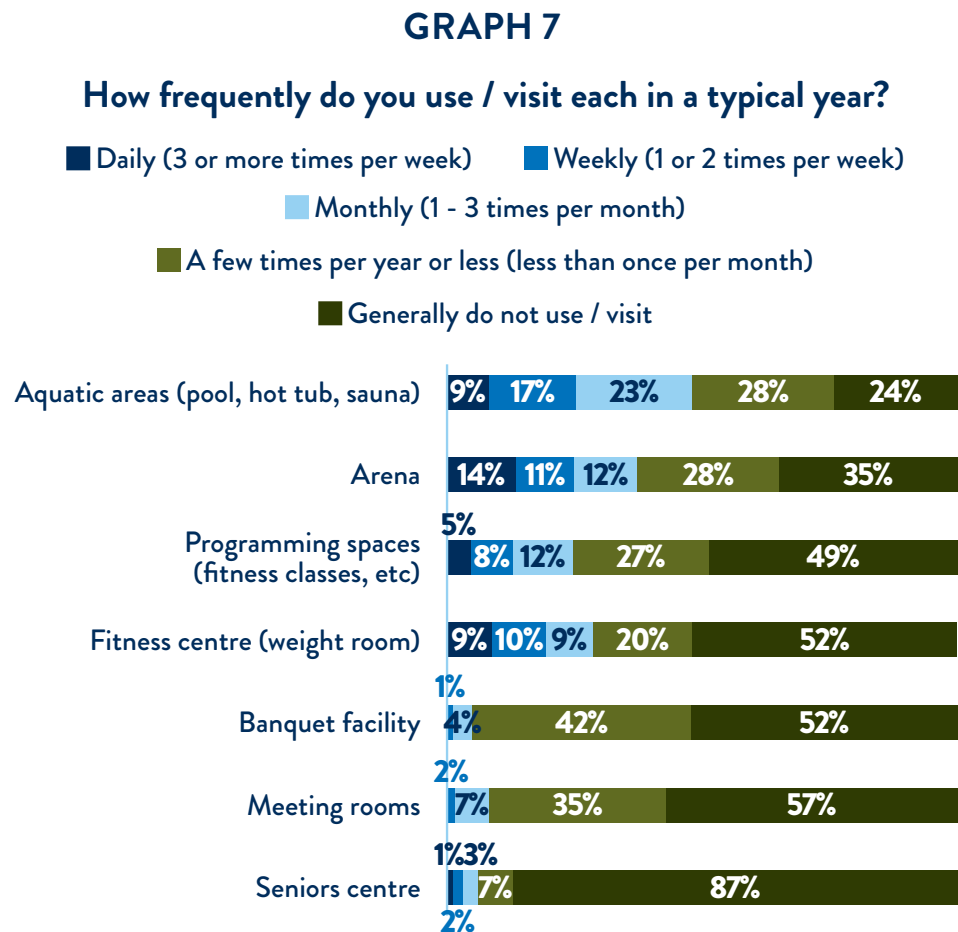
GRAPH 6

How Important to you is each amenity offered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?



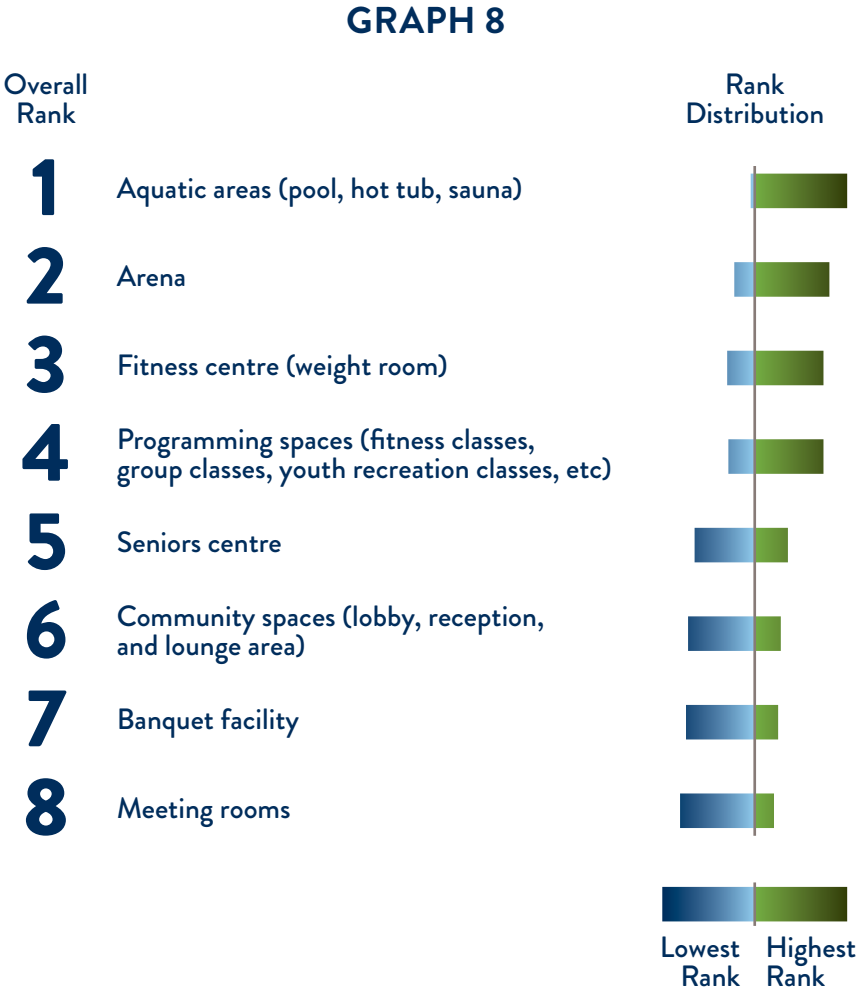
How Important to you is each amenity offered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?					
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither	Somewhat important	Very important
Area I					
Aquatic areas	22%	5%	17%	17%	40%
Arena	23%	7%	21%	11%	39%
Programming spaces	21%	9%	23%	20%	28%
Fitness Centre	20%	9%	21%	25%	24%
Seniors centre	16%	13%	25%	25%	23%
Banquet facility	23%	12%	31%	18%	17%
Meeting room	22%	11%	36%	20%	10%
Community spaces	24%	11%	37%	18%	11%
Area J					
Aquatic areas	17%	5%	8%	18%	52%
Arena	15%	7%	9%	20%	50%
Programming spaces	13%	8%	6%	35%	38%
Fitness Centre	17%	5%	11%	25%	42%
Seniors centre	12%	9%	18%	28%	33%
Banquet facility	16%	12%	22%	31%	19%
Meeting room	14%	14%	32%	29%	11%
Community spaces	20%	15%	24%	33%	9%
Castlegar					
Aquatic areas	14%	5%	7%	20%	54%
Arena	13%	8%	11%	20%	49%
Programming spaces	10%	7%	12%	30%	41%
Fitness Centre	11%	8%	14%	27%	41%
Seniors centre	12%	6%	19%	30%	34%
Banquet facility	11%	14%	21%	33%	22%
Meeting room	13%	12%	28%	30%	17%
Community spaces	13%	14%	27%	32%	14%

For each of the different spaces in the Castlegar & District Community Complex, respondents indicated their frequency of using or visiting it in a typical year (and considering seasonality). As illustrated in the accompanying graph, approximately three-quarters of respondents (76%) use the aquatic areas at least a few times per year. Over half of respondents use the arena and programming spaces in a typical year.



How frequently do you use / visit each in a typical year?					
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	A few times per year	Do not visit
Area I					
Aquatic areas	6%	11%	14%	33%	37
Arena	11%	7%	9%	23%	51
Programming spaces	-	6%	9%	20%	65
Fitness Centre	1%	6%	4%	25%	64
Banquet facility	-	-	1%	30%	69
Meeting room	-	-	2%	25%	73
Seniors centre	-	-	1%	7%	92
Area J					
Aquatic areas	9%	20%	22%	25%	24%
Arena	18%	16%	10%	28%	30%
Programming spaces	5%	9%	12%	26%	48%
Fitness Centre	11%	14%	10%	19%	47%
Banquet facility	-	1%	4%	46%	49%
Meeting room	-	2%	5%	40%	53%
Seniors centre	1%	1%	1%	7%	90%
Castlegar					
Aquatic areas	9%	17%	25%	27%	22%
Arena	13%	10%	14%	29%	34%
Programming spaces	5%	9%	11%	28%	46%
Fitness Centre	10%	9%	10%	19%	51%
Banquet facility	-	1%	5%	44%	49%
Meeting room	-	2%	9%	35%	55%
Seniors centre	1%	3%	4%	7%	85%

Given the list of amenities offered at the Community Complex, respondents ranked them in priority order as to their importance. The top of the priorities resembles the utilization levels. The aquatic areas is ranked as the most important amenity at the Community Complex and the arena second most important. Refer to the accompanying graph¹.

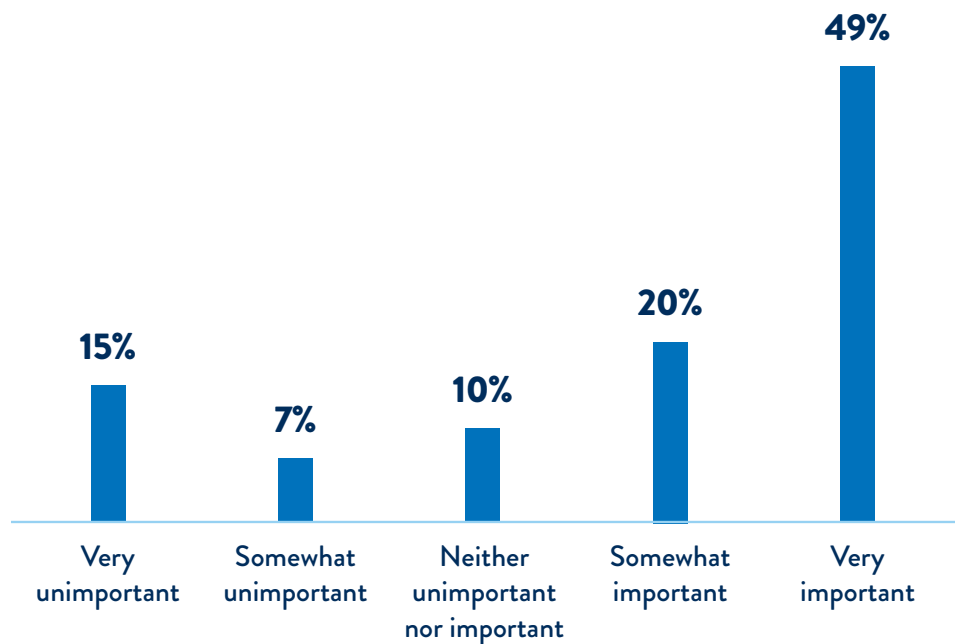


Ranking of Priority of Importance			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Aquatic areas	1	1	1
Arena	2	2	2
Fitness centre	3	3	3
Programming spaces	4	4	4
Seniors centre	5	5	5
Community spaces	7	7	6
Banquet facility	6	6	7
Meeting rooms	8	8	8

1 When ranking all eight amenities, a ranking of “1” awarded 8 points to that amenity, a ranking of “2” awarded 7 points and so on. Total points were added from all respondents and the amenity with the highest point total received the overall top rank.

Approximately two-thirds (69%) of respondents think it is important (somewhat or very) that recreation programming is delivered at the Community Complex. Refer to Graph 9.

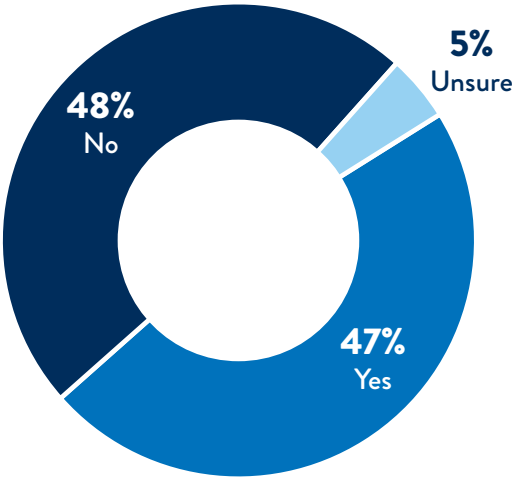
GRAPH 9
How important is it that recreation programming is delivered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?



How important is it that recreation programming is delivered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Very unimportant	22%	15%	13%
Somewhat unimportant	9%	7%	6%
Neither	15%	9%	10%
Somewhat important	18%	21%	20%
Very important	36%	48%	51%

As illustrated in the graph, slightly less than half (47%) of respondents have participated in the past twelve months in recreation programming delivered at the Community Complex. A similar proportion (48%) have not.

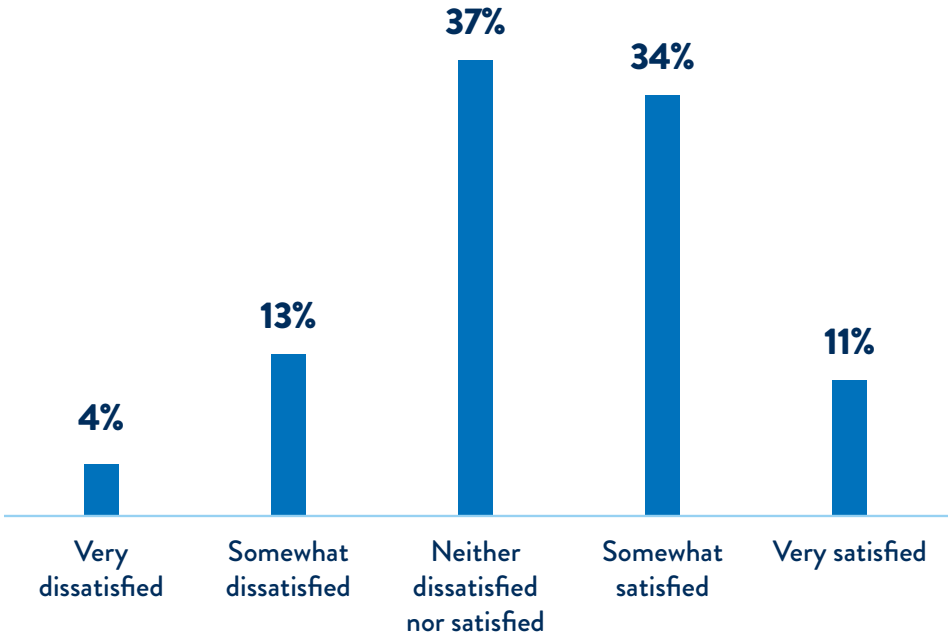
GRAPH 10
Have you participated in rec programming at the Community Complex in the past 12 months?



Have you participated in rec programming at the Community Complex in the past 12 months?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	37%	47%	50%
No	60%	48%	46%
Unsure	3%	5%	4%

When asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the current recreation programming delivered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex, less than half (45%) said they are somewhat or very satisfied. Approximately one-third (37) are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

GRAPH 11
How satisfied are you with the current rec programming at the Community Complex?

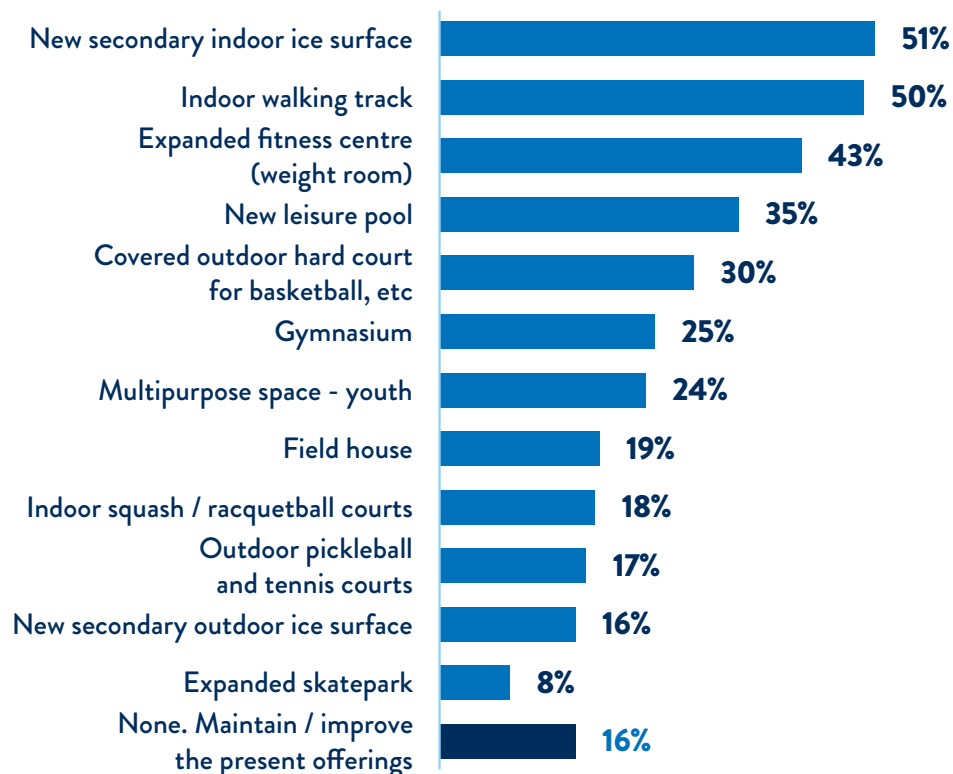


How satisfied are you with the current rec programming at the Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Very dissatisfied	6%	4%	4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8%	14%	14%
Neither	49%	38%	35%
Somewhat satisfied	30%	30%	36%
Very satisfied	9%	13%	10%

Finally in this section, respondents were asked to identify the amenities they would like to see added at the Castlegar & District Community Complex. As illustrated in the graph, about half of respondents would like to see a secondary indoor ice surface (51%) added to the Community Complex. Half (50%) said they would like an indoor walking track added to the Complex.

GRAPH 12

What amenities would you like to see added at the Community Complex?



What amenities would you like to see added at the Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
New secondary ice surface	35%	61%	52%
Indoor walking track	40%	49%	53%
Expanded fitness centre	28%	46%	46%
New leisure pool	25%	32%	39%
Covered outdoor hard court	22%	30%	32%
Gymnasium	16%	25%	27%
Multipurpose space - youth	21%	21%	26%
Field house	15%	20%	20%
Indoor squash / racquetball courts	16%	16%	20%
Outdoor pickleball and tennis courts	11%	22%	17%
New secondary outdoor ice surface	12%	17%	16%
Expanded skatepark	8%	8%	9%
None. Maintain / improve present offerings	33%	16%	13%

2.2.4 UNDERSTANDING THE COSTS

Prior to the questions being posed in this section, respondents were provided with some information related to taxation. The first table showed the current level of taxation for recreation and the Community Complex and for parks services.

Current Annual Taxation for Present Recreation at the Castlegar & District Community Complex and Parks Services

Present Recreation Services	2024 Taxation (per year) for residents with a property assessed at \$500,000 who live in:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreacres • Glade • Voykin Subdivision • Playmor Junction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Castlegar • Ootischenia • Robson • Thrums • Tarrys • Pass Creek • Brilliant • Arrow Lakes region
Regional Parks - Waterloo Eddy, Brilliant Bridge, Pass Creek Regional Park and Exhibition Grounds, Robson Boat Ramp, Glade Municipal Parks - Funding to the City of Castlegar for Millennium Park (playing fields), Kinnaird Playing Fields (ball diamonds), Recreation Complex Fields (ball diamonds and playing fields) Castlegar & District Community Complex - Arena, Meeting and Banquet Rooms, Seniors Centre Space, Day Care, Skateboard Park, and public spaces.	\$335.46	\$335.46
Aquatic and Fitness Centre	\$0* (do not pay for these services)	\$137.31
Total (Annual) For RDCK funded Recreation, Facility and Park Services	\$335.46	\$472.77

The second table (below) presented potential taxation related to borrowing for new amenities or recreation services (for a 25 year borrowing period).

Potential Annual Taxation to Borrow for 25 years for **NEW** Amenities or Recreation Services in the Castlegar & District Area

The following numbers represent the potential range that each new amenity would cost residents annually.

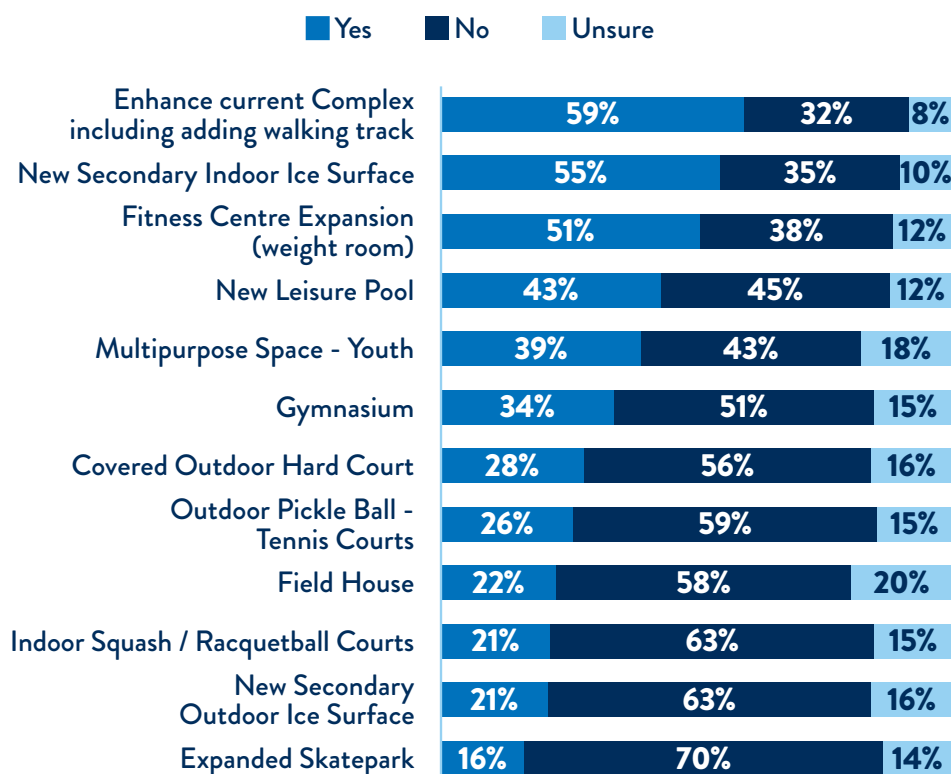
Potential New Amenity or Recreation Service	Increase in Taxation (per year) for Residents with a property assessed at \$500,000 who live in:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreacres • Glade • Voykin Subdivision • Playmor Junction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Castlegar • Ootischenia • Robson • Thrums • Tarrys • Pass Creek • Brilliant • Arrow Lakes region
New Secondary Indoor Ice Surface	\$200 to \$250	\$200 to \$250
New Secondary Outdoor Ice Surface	\$100 to \$150	\$100 to \$150
Field House	\$200 to \$250	\$200 to \$250
Covered Outdoor Hard Court	\$25 to \$50	\$25 to \$50
Gymnasium	\$75 to \$125	\$75 to \$125
Multipurpose Space - Youth	\$50 to \$75	\$50 to \$75
Outdoor Pickle Ball – Tennis Courts	\$10 to \$15	\$10 to \$15
Indoor Squash / Racquetball Courts	\$75 to \$125	\$75 to \$125
Enhance current Complex including adding walking track	\$50 to \$75	\$50 to \$75
Expanded Skatepark	\$10 to \$15	\$10 to \$15
New Leisure Pool	\$215 to \$265*	\$75 to \$125
Fitness Centre Expansion (Weight Room)	\$190 to \$240*	\$50 to \$75

**If this area were to be included in the provision of a new leisure pool or fitness centre expansion, there will be an additional increase in the cost to fund aquatics and fitness because these households are not funding these two areas currently.*

The two tables provided context for current levels of taxation for current recreation provision (depending upon place of residence in the Castlegar & District Area) and for some potential enhancements to service. Based on that information, respondents were asked, for each potential enhancement, if they would support the enhancement and the associated increase in taxation. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, over half of respondents would support enhancement to the current Complex including adding a walking track (59%); a new secondary indoor ice surface (55%); and fitness centre expansion (51%).

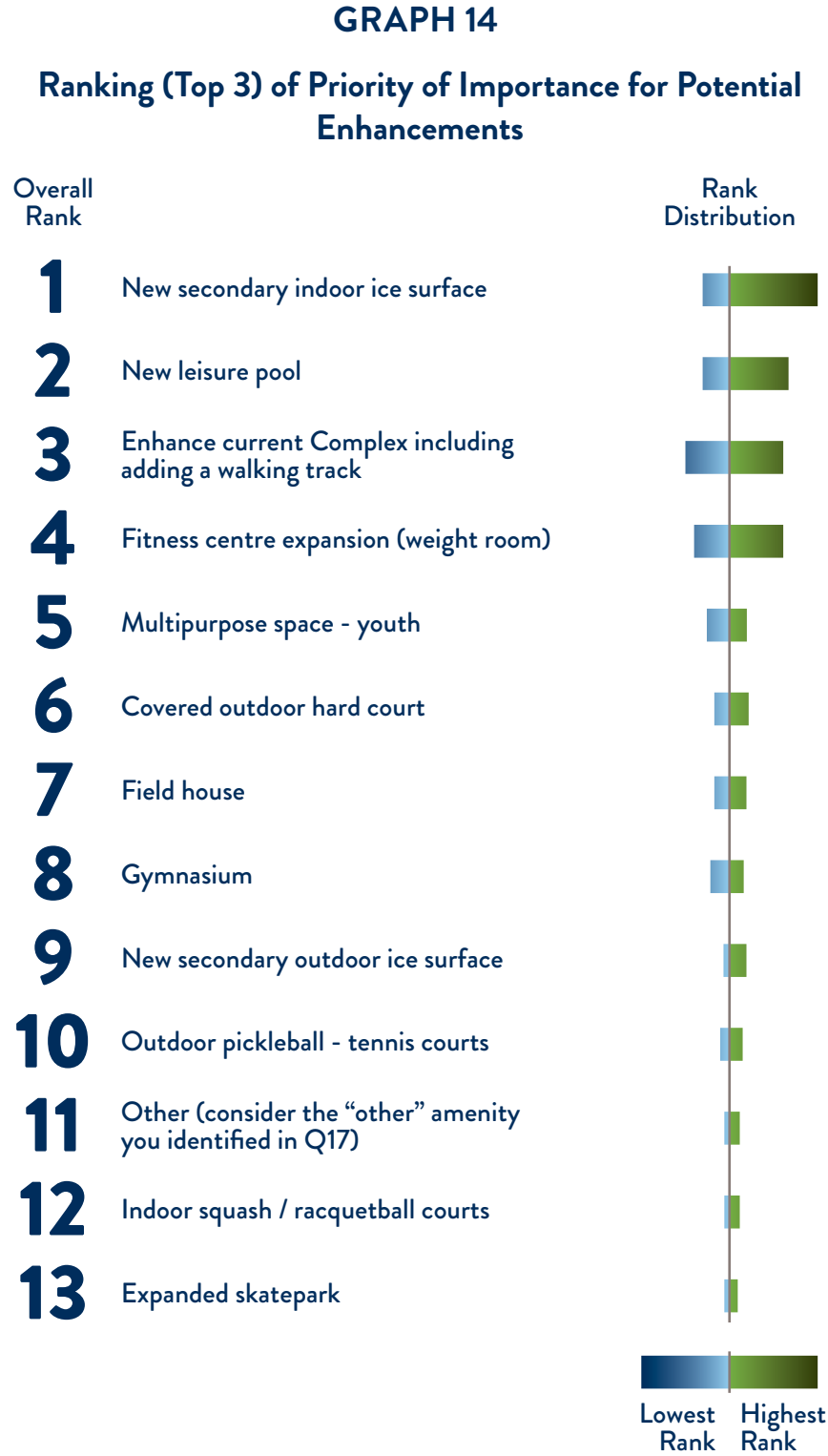
GRAPH 13

Consider the potential residential tax increase, what enhancements would you support?



Consider the potential residential tax increase, what enhancements would you support?									
	Area I			Area J			Castlegar		
	Yes	No	Unsure	Yes	No	Unsure	Yes	No	Unsure
Enhance current Complex incl. walking track	42%	49%	9%	59%	35%	6%	63%	28%	9%
New secondary ice surface	37%	55%	8%	60%	31%	10%	56%	33%	11%
Expanded fitness centre	33%	53%	14%	52%	41%	8%	54%	34%	12%
New leisure pool	33%	59%	8%	40%	48%	12%	47%	40%	13%
Multipurpose space - youth	30%	53%	17%	37%	47%	16%	41%	40%	18%
Gymnasium	24%	64%	12%	33%	52%	15%	36%	48%	16%
Covered outdoor hard court	19%	69%	12%	29%	58%	13%	28%	54%	18%
Outdoor pickleball and tennis courts	17%	74%	10%	28%	58%	14%	27%	57%	16%
Field house	17%	65%	18%	23%	59%	18%	23%	56%	20%
Indoor squash / racquetball courts	22%	72%	5%	20%	66%	14%	22%	61%	17%
New secondary outdoor ice surface	12%	78%	11%	23%	62%	15%	22%	62%	17%
Expanded skatepark	9%	81%	11%	16%	72%	12%	18%	68%	15%

Next, respondents were asked to select their top three preferences. The secondary indoor ice surface was identified as the top ranked enhancement followed by a new leisure pool, and the Complex enhancement with a walking track. Refer to the accompanying graph².



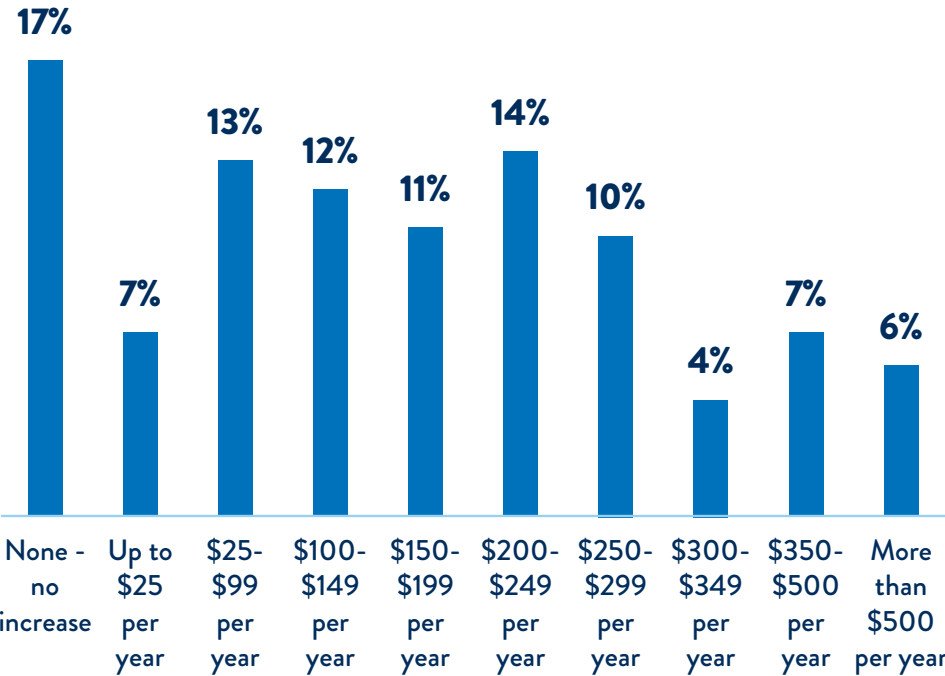
² When ranking three amenities, a ranking of “1” awarded 3 points to that amenity, a ranking of “2” awarded 2 points, and a ranking of “3” awarded 1 point. Total points were added from all respondents and the amenity with the highest point total received the overall top rank.

Ranking of Priority of Importance			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
New secondary indoor ice surface	1	1	1
New leisure pool	3	2	3
Enhance current Complex incl. walking track	2	4	2
Fitness centre expansion	4	3	4
Multipurpose space – youth	5	9	5
Covered outdoor hard court	7	8	6
Field house	6	5	8
Gymnasium	8	10	7
New secondary outdoor ice surface	9	7	9
Outdoor pickleball – tennis courts	13	6	11
Other	10	12	10
Indoor squash / racquetball courts	11	11	13
Expanded skatepark	12	13	12

In the previous questions, potential taxation increases were identified according to potential enhancements. In this question, respondents were asked to identify the total increase they would support annually to fund for borrowing for enhancements or new amenities. As illustrated in the accompanying graph less than one-quarter (17%) would not support any increase. Approximately half (52%) would support at least an increase of \$150-\$199 per year.

GRAPH 15

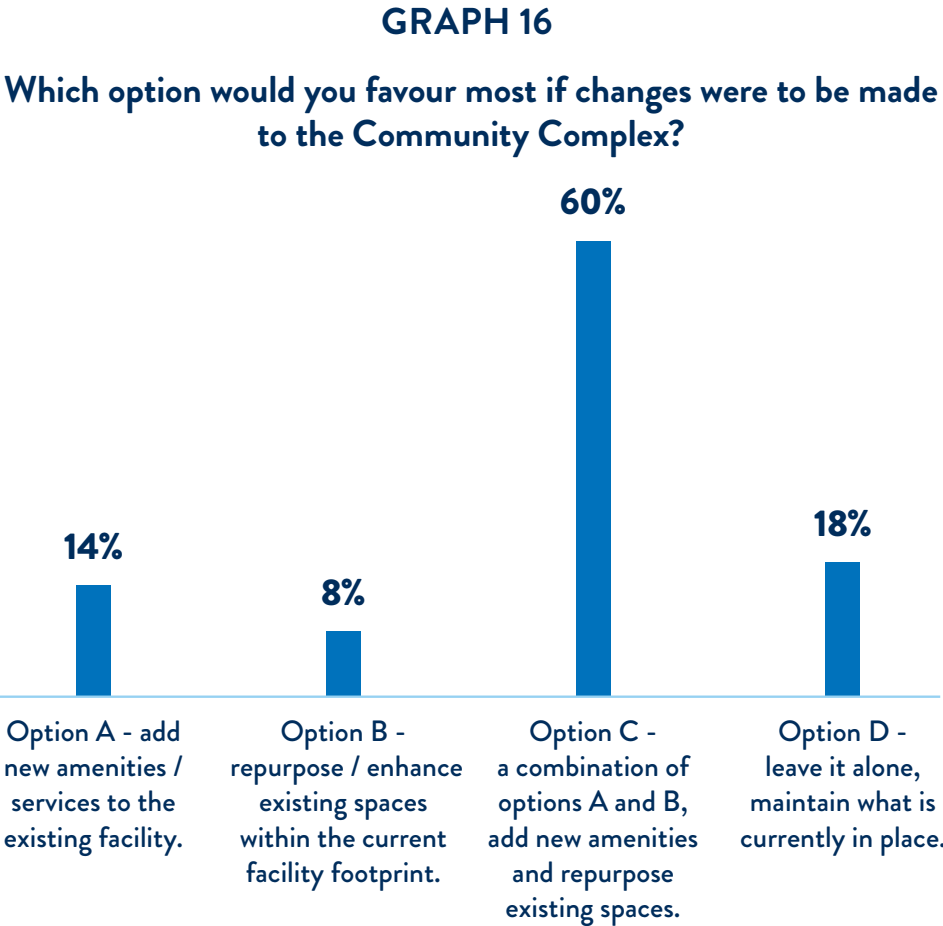
How much would you support paying annually to fund borrowing for enhancements or new amenities?



How much would you support paying annually to fund borrowing for enhancements or new amenities?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
None – no increase	34%	19%	13%
Up to \$25 per year	7%	3%	9%
\$25-\$99 per year	11%	12%	14%
\$100-\$149 per year	8%	13%	12%
\$150-\$199 per year	12%	7%	12%
\$200-\$249 per year	9%	15%	14%
\$250-\$299 per year	11%	12%	10%
\$300-\$349 per year	3%	6%	4%
\$350-\$500 per year	5%	8%	6%
More than \$500 per year	1%	6%	6%

2.2.5 PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

Presented with four options related to potential changes to the Community Complex, almost two-thirds (60%) preferred Option C which is a combination of adding new amenities and repurposing or enhancing existing spaces. Combining Option A (add new amenities) and Option C (add new and enhance existing), approximately three-quarters (74%) of respondents support adding new amenities to the Community Complex. Similarly, approximately two-thirds (68%) support repurposing / enhancing existing spaces (Option B and Option C).

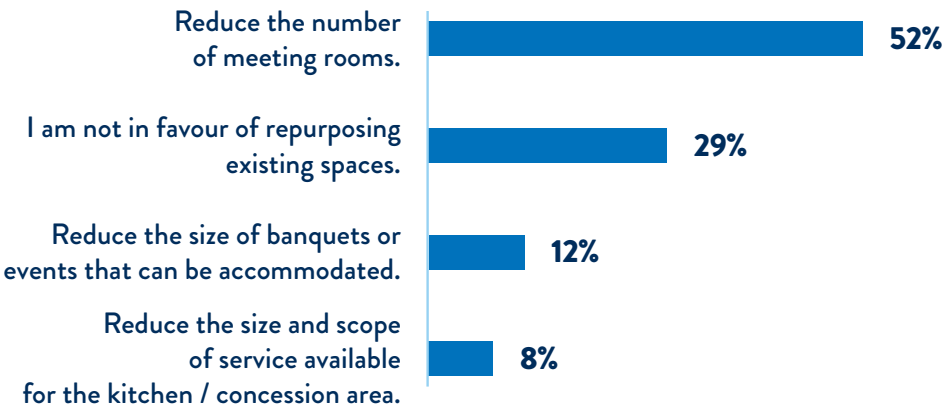


Which option would you favour most if changes were to be made to the Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Option A – add new amenities / services	11%	13%	15%
Option B – repurpose / enhance existing spaces	4%	8%	9%
Option C – combination of A and B	46%	61%	62%
Option D – leave it alone	39%	18%	13%

About half (52%) of respondents would support a reduction in the number of meeting rooms if it meant supporting new or enhanced spaces. Refer to the graph.

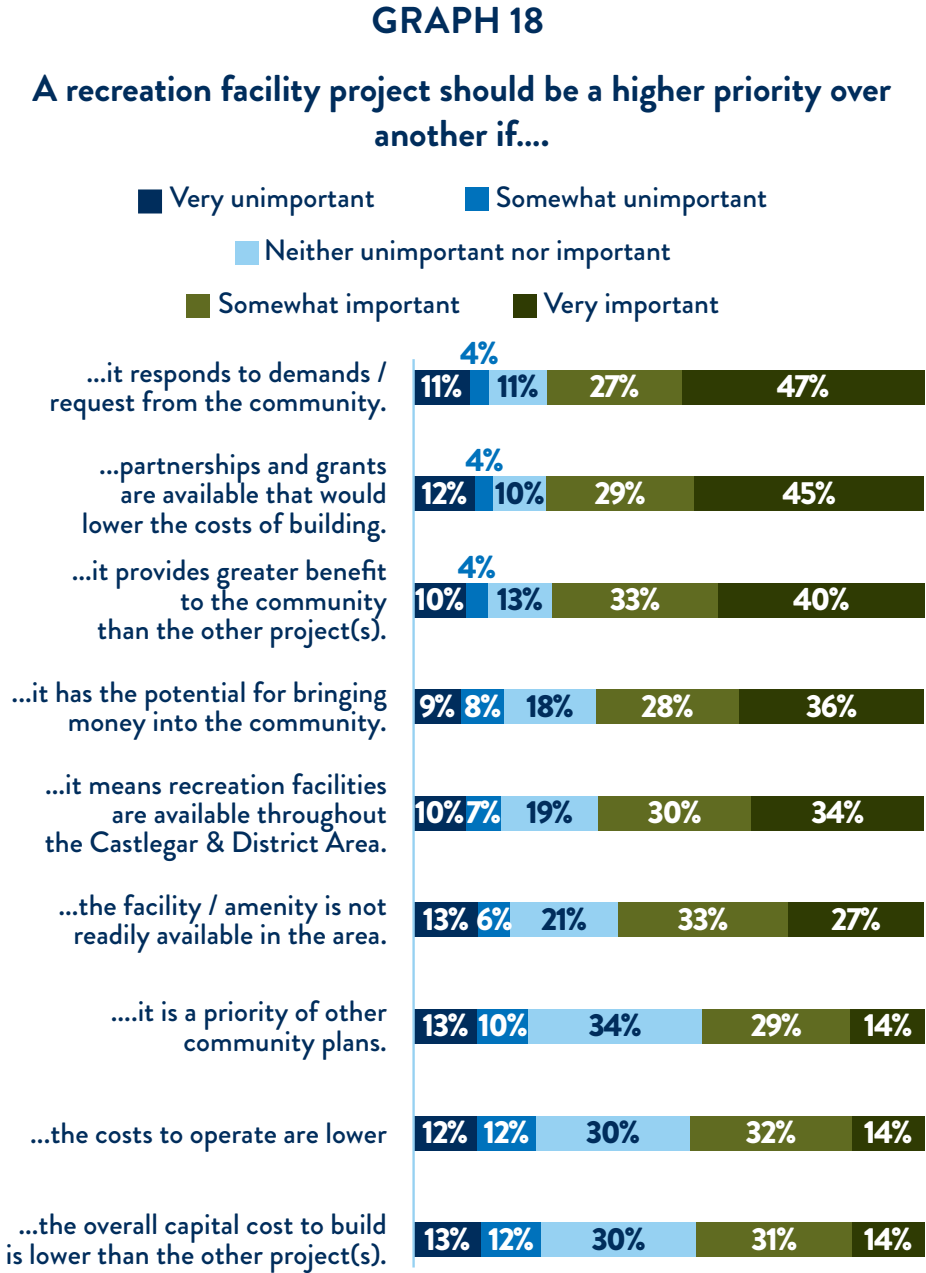
GRAPH 17

What space are you most in favour?



What space are you most in favour?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Reduce the number of meeting rooms	42%	58%	51%
I am not in favour or repurposing existing spaces	46%	23%	28%
Reduce the size of banquets or events that can be accommodated	9%	13%	12%
Reduce the size and scope of service available for the kitchen / concession area	3%	6%	9%

Municipalities are generally unable to undertake multiple facility projects at once, instead projects need to be prioritized. Respondents were provided with a list of criteria and asked to indicate the importance of each when prioritizing one facility project over another. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, approximately three-quarters (74%) of respondents said that an important (somewhat or very important) criteria to determine facility priorities is the degree to which a project responds to demands / requests from the community. A similar proportion (although slightly smaller proportion who identified it as very important 45% vs 47%), said a facility project that brings partnerships and grants that would lower the costs of building it would be important. Refer to the graph for the ranking of different prioritization criteria.



A recreation facility project should be a higher priority over another if....					
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither	Somewhat important	Very important
Area I					
...it responds to demands / requests from the community.	14%	3%	22%	31%	30%
...partnerships and grants are available that would lower the costs of building.	15%	2%	16%	29%	38%
...it provides greater benefit to the community than the other project(s).	14%	4%	23%	28%	30%
...it has the potential for bringing money into the community.	16%	4%	30%	19%	30%
...it means recreation facilities are available throughout the Castlegar & District Area.	15%	4%	25%	29%	26%
...the facility / amenity is not readily available in the area.	23%	4%	28%	24%	21%
...it is a priority of other community plans.	16%	5%	39%	29%	10%
...the costs to operate are lower.	14%	5%	37%	34%	11%
...the overall capital cost to build is lower than the other project(s).	15%	7%	35%	34%	10%
Area J					
...it responds to demands / requests from the community.	11%	6%	11%	24%	49%
...partnerships and grants are available that would lower the costs of building.	12%	6%	13%	28%	41%
...it provides greater benefit to the community than the other project(s).	11%	5%	12%	31%	41%
...it has the potential for bringing money into the community.	10%	8%	15%	30%	37%
...it means recreation facilities are available throughout the Castlegar & District Area.	10%	11%	20%	28%	31%
...the facility / amenity is not readily available in the area.	11%	5%	25%	32%	28%
...it is a priority of other community plans.	12%	16%	37%	24%	12%
...the costs to operate are lower.	17%	12%	31%	27%	13%
...the overall capital cost to build is lower than the other project(s).	17%	12%	32%	26%	13%

A recreation facility project should be a higher priority over another if....					
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither	Somewhat important	Very important
Castlegar					
...it responds to demands / requests from the community.	10%	3%	9%	27%	50%
...partnerships and grants are available that would lower the costs of building.	11%	3%	8%	29%	48%
...it provides greater benefit to the community than the other project(s).	9%	4%	10%	34%	42%
...it has the potential for bringing money into the community.	7%	10%	16%	30%	37%
...it means recreation facilities are available throughout the Castlegar & District Area.	9%	6%	17%	31%	36%
...the facility / amenity is not readily available in the area.	11%	8%	18%	36%	27%
....it is a priority of other community plans.	12%	9%	32%	31%	16%
...the costs to operate are lower.	10%	13%	29%	33%	15%
...the overall capital cost to build is lower than the other project(s).	11%	13%	29%	32%	15%

SECTION 3.0

COMMUNITY GROUP SURVEY



3.1 ABOUT THE SURVEY

Groups, through their representatives, were invited to participate in a survey. Utilizing lists held by the RDCK and City of Castlegar, emails were sent out to groups inviting their participation. The email explained about the survey, its purpose, and the importance of their participation in the survey. Additionally, the email included a link to the online version of the survey and a pdf version of the questionnaire itself. A follow-up to the original invitation went out as well. In total, ten (10) groups provided a response.

3.2 FINDINGS

The findings of the survey are presented in the order the questions were posed in the survey. Because of the size of the respondent pool, the findings are presented using raw numbers rather than percentages. Not all respondents answered all questions so the findings may not sum to 10.

3.2.1 ABOUT YOUR GROUP / ORGANIZATION

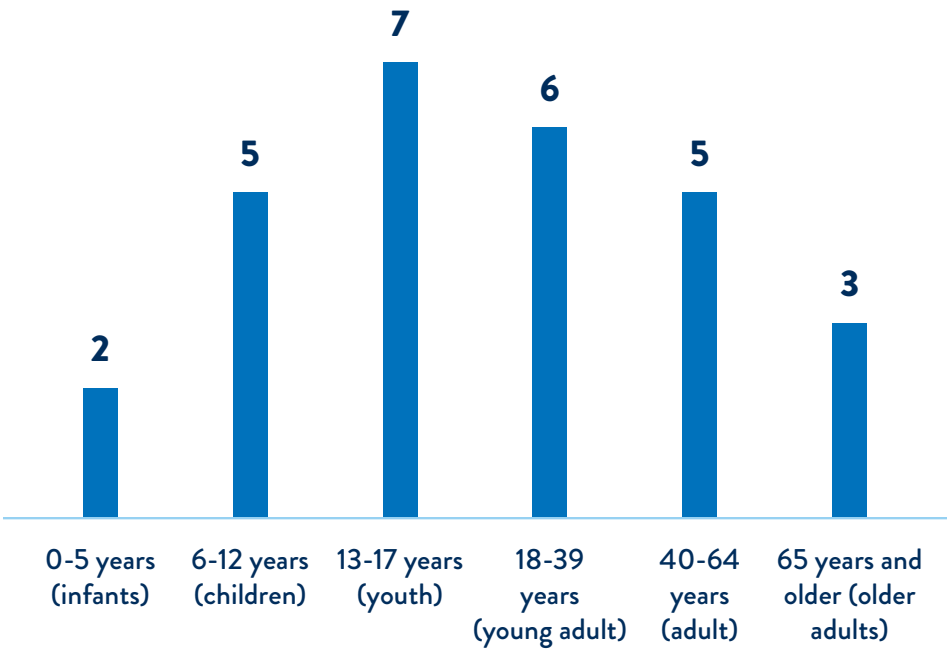
The first section of the questionnaire had respondents describe their organizations to provide insight into those who had participated in the survey. To begin, they identified themselves; the ten group respondents are:

1. Air Cadets Castlegar 581 Squadron
2. The Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers (TAWKROC)
3. West Kootenay Football Club
4. Kootenay Swim Club
5. Max Ice Hockey
6. Castlegar Community Response Network Increasing Recreation Involving Seniors (IRIS) Program & Castlegar Community Services Better at Home program
7. Castlegar Minor Hockey
8. Castlegar Girls Softball Association
9. Kootenay Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show Committee
10. Castlegar Aquanauts

These respondents deliver their programs in both indoor and outdoor settings and include a range of recreation and sport activities. Six of the ten deliver their programs and offer activities throughout the year (including one who indicated it operates eleven months); three of ten have a certain “season” in which they are active; while one group’s activity is influenced by the weather.

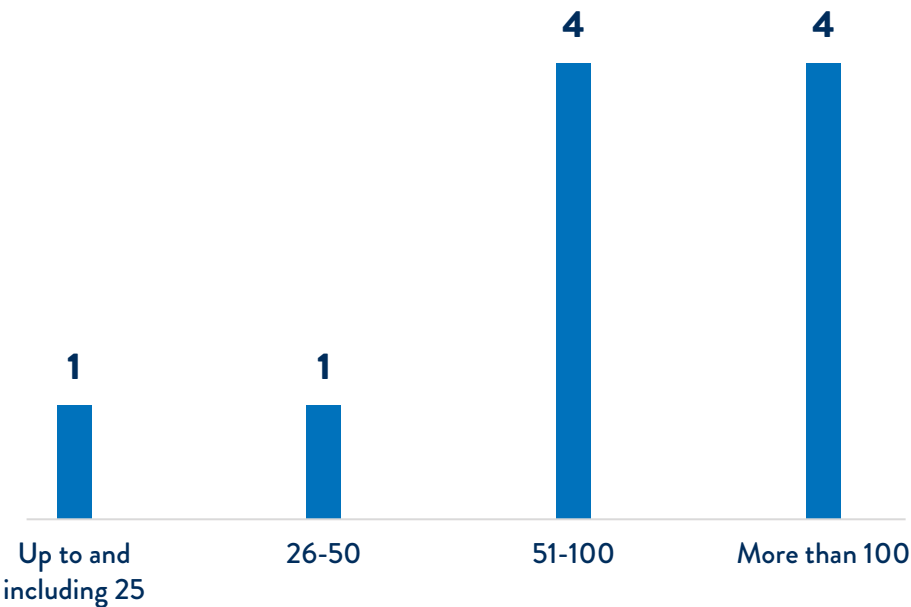
In terms of age of participants, the respondents deliver programming to a variety of ages, with youth (13-17 years) being served by the largest number of respondent groups. Refer to the graph.

GRAPH 19
Which age groups describe your primary participants/members?



The groups vary in size but tend to be larger considering membership or participant numbers (see graph).

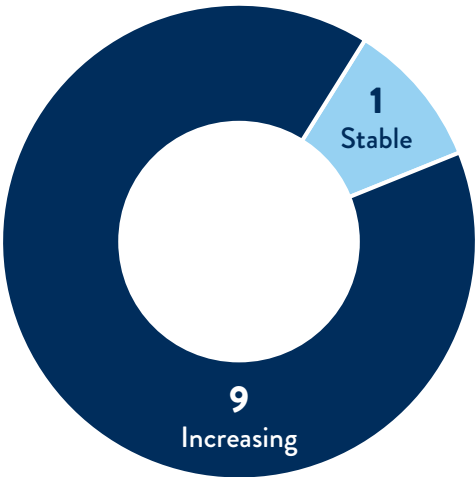
GRAPH 20
What best describes the size of your group?
(Consider participant / membership numbers)



Finally, almost all groups are seeing growth in their numbers while one is stable.

GRAPH 21

What trend are you seeing in your membership / participant numbers?

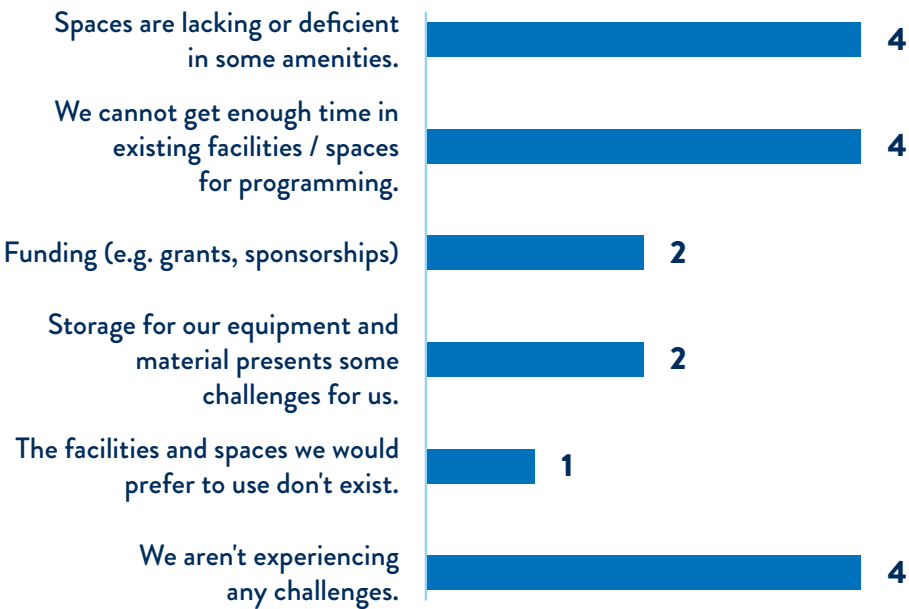


3.2.2 CURRENT OPERATION & CHALLENGES

Respondents identified the indoor and outdoor amenities and facilities that they used most frequently in the previous year. Seven (7) of the respondents identified the Castlegar & District Community Complex – meeting rooms and the pool were specifically cited. The Pioneer Arena was also mentioned by multiple (2) respondents. An array of parks in the area were identified including Millenium Park, Lakeside Park, Rotary Park, Cone Hill Park, and the Brilliant Overlook Trail. Ball diamonds (Kinnaira) and soccer fields were identified. Other mentions included the Castlegar Airport, Cadet Hall, the Nelson & District Community Complex, Waterline Rock Bluff, Kinnaird Rock Bluff, Grad Wall Rock Bluff, and Lions Head Rock Bluff.

While four (4) respondents said they are not experiencing any challenges as it delivers its programs and services to Castlegar & District Area residents, other respondent groups identified some challenges. Four respondents cited a deficiency in spaces and the inability to get sufficient time in existing spaces as two main challenges. Refer to Graph 22 for other challenges cited.

GRAPH 22
What challenges are you experiencing as you deliver programs and services?

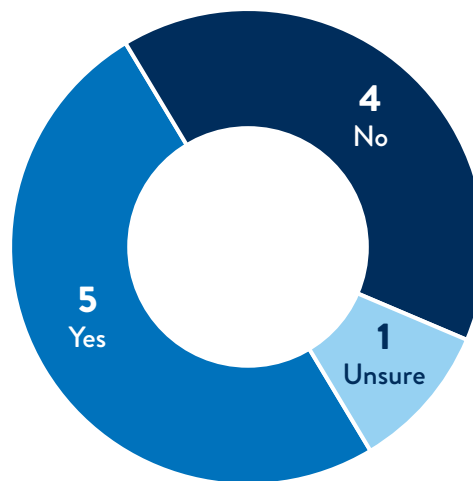


3.2.3 AMENITY / FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS & ADDITIONS

Half of the respondents think there is a need for improvements to existing amenities / facilities or recreation services in the Castlegar & District Area aside from the Community Complex.

GRAPH 23

Is there a need in the Castlegar & District Area for improvements to existing amenities or recreation services?
(Not the Community Complex)

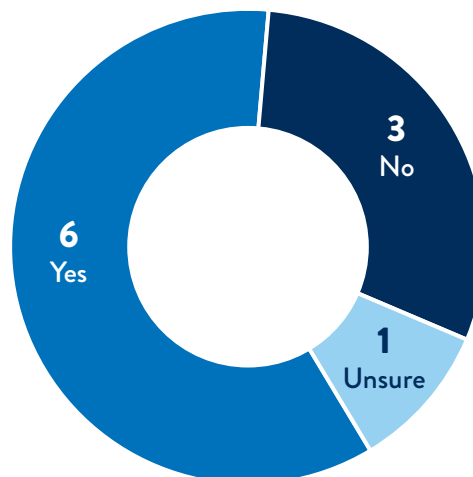


Those who said improvements are needed (and those who are unsure) next identified the areas of improvement to support their activities. Only the need for additional parks was identified by more than one respondent (2 respondents). Other improvements needed included: more trails in rural communities; more events / performances at the Community Complex; community hall / recreation grants; additional ball diamonds; an indoor track; a sheet of ice to replace the Pioneer Arena; and outhouses at outdoor amenities.

Considering the Castlegar & District Community Complex specifically, six of the ten respondents said there is a need for improvements at the Complex.

GRAPH 24

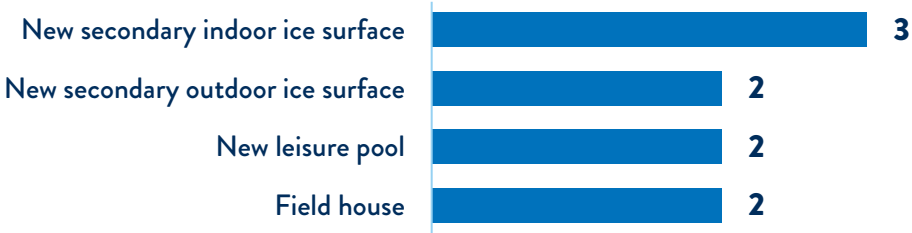
Is there a need for improvements to the Community Complex?



Respondents who said improvements at the Community Complex are needed (and those who are unsure) were then asked to identify the amenities they would like to see added to the Complex. The most frequently identified amenity is a new secondary indoor ice surface (3 responses). Refer to the graph for the improvements identified by more than one respondent.

GRAPH 25

What amenities would you like to see added to the Castlegar & District Community Complex?



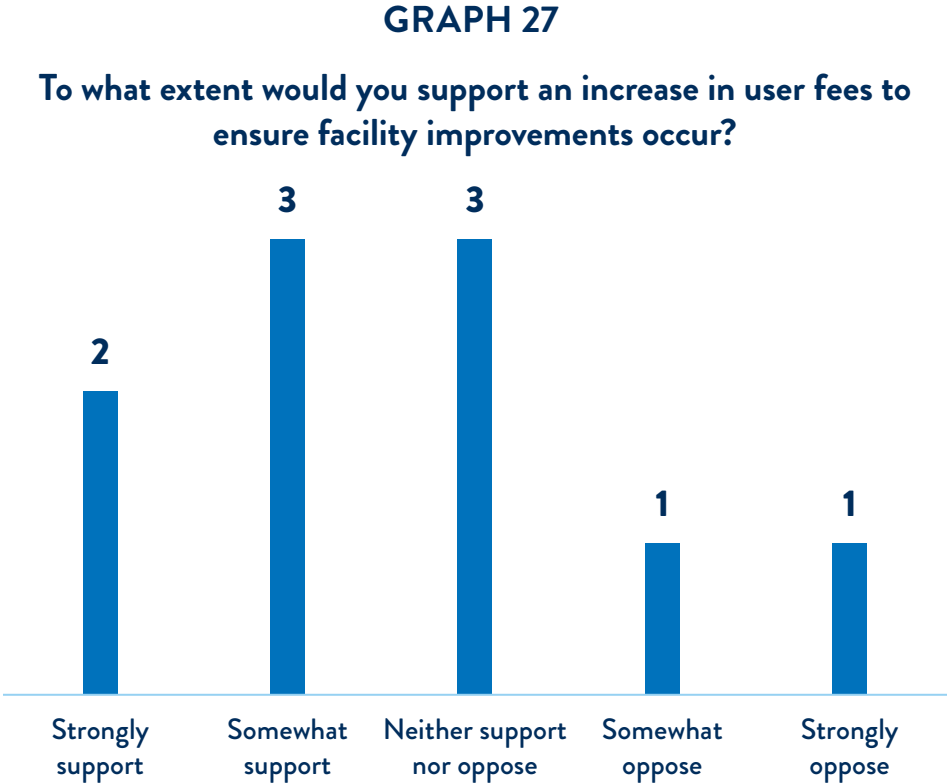
Given a list of potential improvements to the Castlegar and District Complex, respondents were asked to identify, in order, their top three priorities. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, the top priority is a new secondary indoor ice surface followed by a new leisure pool.

GRAPH 26



3.2.4 PARTNERSHIPS AND COST

Making enhancements to the Castlegar & District Community Complex can be costly. Groups were asked the extent to which they would support an increase in user / rental fees to ensure facility improvements could occur. As illustrated in the graph, half of the respondents supported to some extent an increase in user / rental fees. Two opposed an increase.

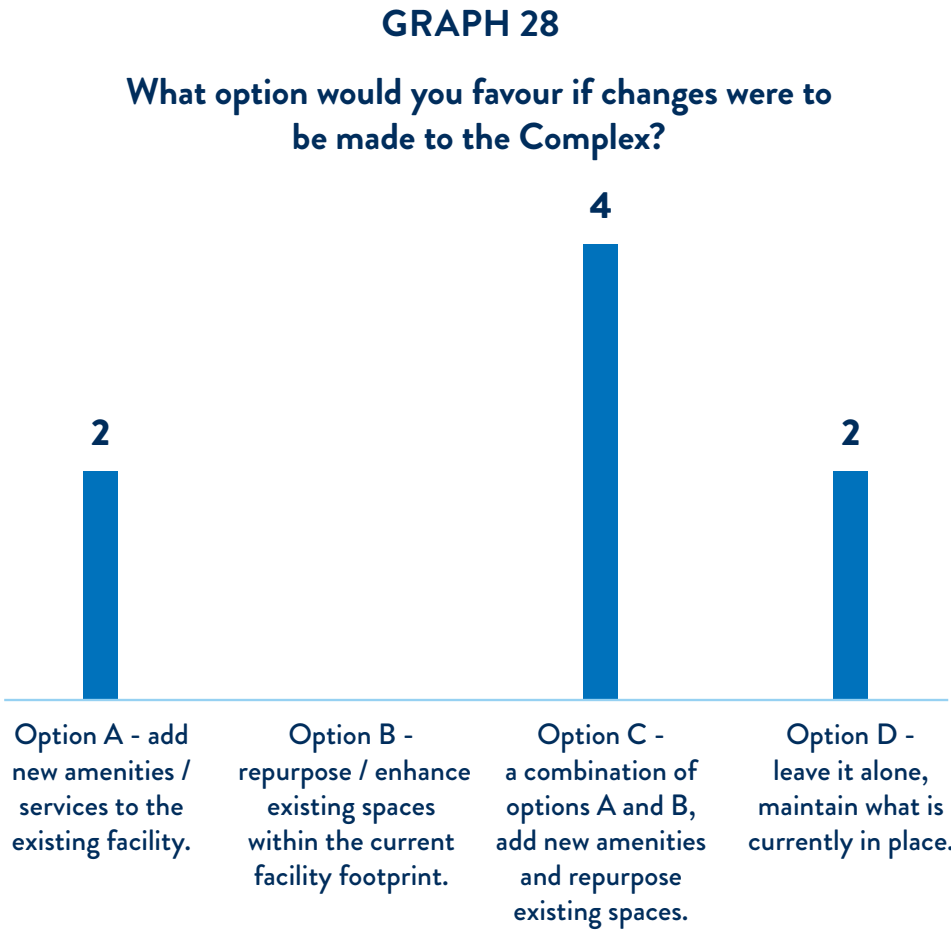


Respondents offered an explanation for their responses. Four respondents commented on the current costs being challenging for them and their members to afford. With limited funds and increasing costs in a status quo situation, additional increases would be difficult to pay. A couple respondents (2) do not use the facility so cost increases there would have no impact on them. Two respondents felt that the benefits gained through improvements would make an increase palatable and that, spread out across their memberships, it would be affordable.

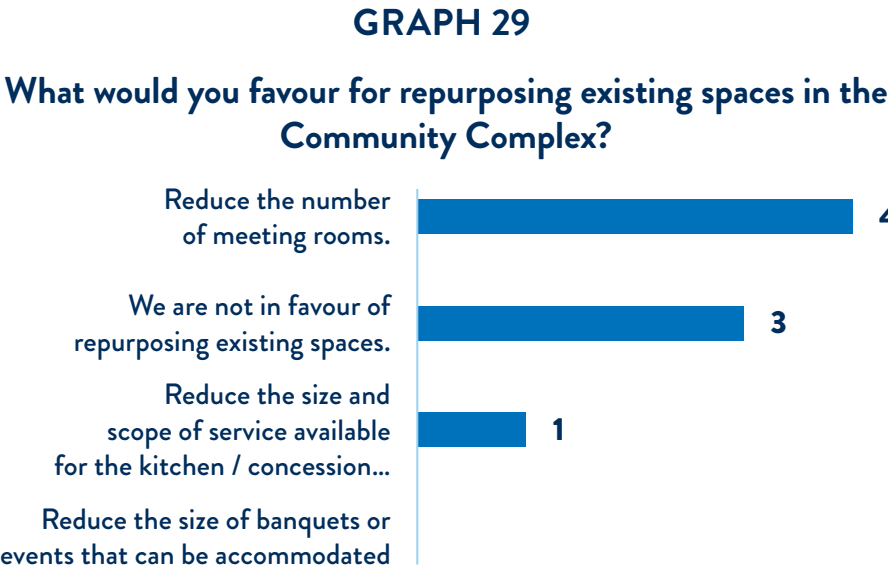
Next, respondents were asked to describe any **partnership opportunities** between themselves and the RDCK as improvements are considered to recreation services in the Castlegar & District Area. There is a general openness to the idea of partnerships even from those unsure what form that would take. Multiple respondents (3) said that their participation on committees to help increase opportunities for the community and to generally share their knowledge and expertise is a way for them to partner and contribute. Two respondents own their spaces - one would partner to provide space for other programming to occur while the other spoke about partnering to help manage the amenity.

3.2.5 PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

Four of the eight respondents¹ said they favoured a combination of adding new amenities and repurposing existing spaces when asked which of four options they favoured if changes were to be made to the Castlegar & District Community Complex. Not a single respondent favoured only repurposing or enhancing existing spaces.



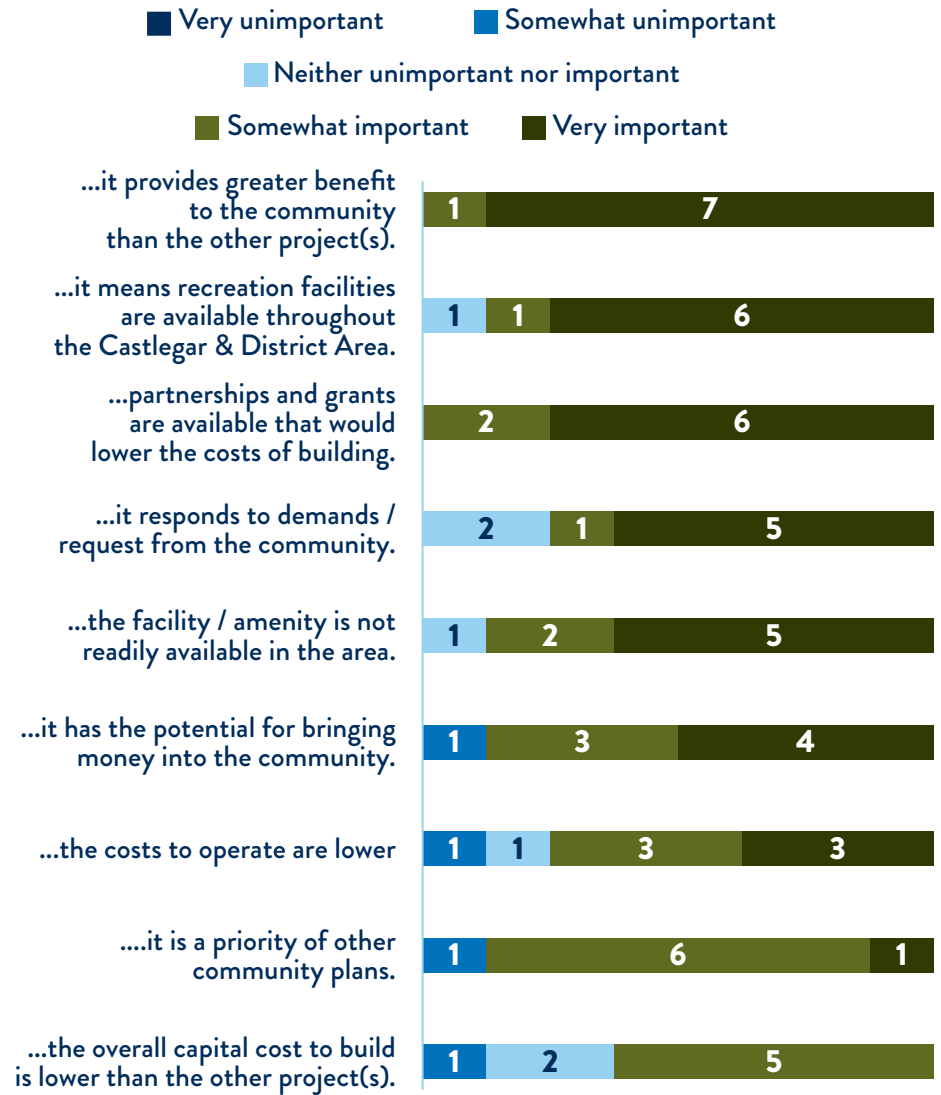
If a decision was made to repurpose existing spaces within the Castlegar & District Complex, half of the respondents (4 of 8) favoured reducing the number of meeting rooms to support new or enhanced services. Not a single respondent favoured reducing the size of banquets or events that can be accommodated. Refer to the graph below for additional information.



¹ Not all ten groups answered this question.

Municipalities are generally unable to undertake multiple facility projects at once, instead projects need to be prioritized. Respondents were provided with a list of criteria and asked to indicate the importance of each as a criteria to be used when prioritizing one facility project over another. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, almost all respondents (7 of 8) said that a very important criteria to determine facility priorities is it provides greater benefit to the community than other projects. Refer to the graph for the ranking of different prioritization criteria.

GRAPH 30
A recreation project should be a higher priority over another if....



3.2.6 FINAL THOUGHTS

Finally, respondents were able to share any other comments they have as improvements are considered to recreation in the Castlegar & District Area. A range of comments were provided including the following that were made by more than one respondent.

- More activities are needed for youth (12-18 yrs) in the community. (2 comments)
- Another sheet of ice is needed to replace the Pioneer Arena. (2 comments)

Other comments made:

- Other than the Castlegar & District Community Complex, there is no other venue to hold larger events. If there was, the Complex may not require the number of meeting rooms.
- The Official Community Plan for Castlegar speaks to increasing outdoor recreation including in the urban wilderness. The Waterline Park offers a great opportunity for a park.
- An indoor walking track is needed to provide for safe, year round walking.
- During weekend events / rentals at the Community Complex, having the kitchen / concession open would support the event and generate revenue.

APPENDICES

DETAILED HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FINDINGS



RESPONDENTS WHO ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF RECREATION CLUBS OR ORGANIZED GROUPS.

AREA I RESPONDENTS

- Hockey (5)
- Soccer (4)
- Community societies (4)
- Snowmobile Club (3)
- Football (2)
- Baseball (1)
- Basketball (1)
- Pickleball (1)
- Volleyball (1)

AREA J RESPONDENTS

- Hockey (26)
- Trails (8)
- Baseball (6)
- Swim (6)
- Curling (5)
- Pickleball (4)
- Golf (3)
- Lacrosse (3)
- Snowmobile (3)
- Soccer (3)
- Softball (2)

CASTLEGAR RESPONDENTS

- Hockey (34)
- Soccer (17)
- Golf (15)
- Nordic / ski (11)
- Swim (11)
- Curling (9)
- Baseball (8)
- Pickleball (8)
- Lacrosse (7)
- Senior (7)
- Community societies (6)
- Gymnastics (6)
- Dance (4)
- Tennis (4)
- Snowmobile (3)
- Arts (3)

GRAPH 1: DO YOU THINK ENHANCEMENTS / IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED TO FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA?

Do you think enhancements / improvements are needed to facilities, parks and recreation in the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	52%	69%	77%
No	31%	19%	11%
Unsure	17%	12%	13%

YES – ENHANCEMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION

AREA I

The Area I community would like improvements and upgrades to recreation amenities, parks, and trails listed below. They also identified the need for new or additional amenities including additional ice surfaces and a general desire for more outdoor spaces for all age groups. There were comments related to enhancing existing amenities through better maintenance and introducing more local activities and programs to keep the community healthy.

- Ice sheets (15)
- Sport fields and diamonds (12)
- Pool – indoor (9)
- Trails (9)
- Shoreacres beach (3)
- Tennis courts (3)
- Basketball courts (2)
- Pool – outdoor (2)

Sample Comments:

“Community facilities, parks and recreation need a review and masterplan to set out the short, medium, and long-term goals for the Castlegar & District Area.”

“Upgrades are definitely needed. We’re a big hockey community, the pool is boring, there is no where to walk indoors during winter months, gym is far too small and the other gyms in the area have better machines.”

AREA J

The Area J community members who responded are seeking more opportunities for recreation and gathering spaces for people of all ages. Respondents indicated that improved facilities are needed, such as a second ice sheet, improved park maintenance, including playgrounds and outdoor swimming areas, enhanced trail network, and accessible programming. Overall, there is a desire for a more recreational options for residents and visitors alike.

Key Themes:

- Park improvements (maintenance, support amenities, additional parks) (52)
- Additional ice sheets (21)
- Pool upgrades (20)
- More walking trails, improved trail network (14)
- General update to indoor facilities (11)
- Fitness centre upgrades (11)
- Indoor field (6)

Sample Comments:

“Outdoor programs such as yoga in the park, informative flora/fauna classes. Millennium Ponds need to be better maintained to facilitate use by the public.”

“Healthy community is an active community. Our city is growing, and our amenities need to match.”

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members who responded would like to have improved parks, facilities, and recreational spaces in their community. Suggestions include upgrades to existing parks, new green spaces, expanded trail network, additional ice sheets, improved gym space and courts, more diverse activities with expanded programming, and an indoor fieldhouse. Some comments focused on the need for additional funding for recreational spaces to create a vibrant community environment.

Key Themes:

- Park improvements (maintenance, support amenities, additional parks) (188)
- Additional ice sheets (82)
- More walking trails, improved trail network (69)
- General update to indoor facilities (46)
- Improved maintenance of Millennial ponds (39)
- Pool upgrades (38)
- Basketball courts (26)
- Indoor field (25)
- More community events (16)
- Tennis / pickleball courts (11)

Sample Comments:

“We need a theatre (like the one in Vernon) or at least an outdoor amphitheatre. We need more small neighbourhood parks for families with young children and people who can’t - or don’t want to - drive to Millennium or Kinnaird Park.”

“There is always room for improvement regardless of what one is talking about, and it is important to recognize and respect a community’s changing needs based on its demographics. What was great ten years ago may not quite hit the mark now.”

NO – ENHANCEMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION

AREA I

The Area I community members express contentment with the current level of recreation facilities and believe that resources should be redirected towards other priorities like healthcare and community policing. Generally, responses indicated that the existing facilities are sufficient for the population size and that increasing taxes for more recreational amenities is not warranted. Many residents believe that the current tax burden is already high and that the focus should be on improving vital infrastructure instead of expanding recreation facilities. Within the responses there were concerns about the perceived neglect of rural residents in favor of investment in Castlegar.

Key Themes:

- Existing facilities are sufficient (11)
- Economic burden / better use of tax dollars (9)
- Don't use facilities (4)
- Concerns with quality of life for rural residents (4)

Sample Comments:

"I believe our current facilities suit our current needs."

"Recreation facilities and parks are not useful to rural citizens who have an added expenditure of time and money to access these services; therefore rarely use them."

AREA J

Area J respondents indicated that maintaining the status quo is sufficient during the current economic climate. Respondents are generally satisfied with current facilities and parks, which they feel are adequate and do not require major expansions, especially if that requires new or increased taxation. Comments indicated that they focus should be on fiscal restraint and controlling spending without increasing tax obligations. Respondents value outdoor options and natural areas, expressing a desire for resources to be spent on upgrading existing facilities rather than creating new ones.

Key Themes:

- Concerns about cost and tax implications (12)
- Appreciation of parks and outdoor spaces (11)
- Satisfied with current facilities (7)
- Focus on trails (5)

Sample Comments:

"We have lots of outdoor options that are free to use and represent traditional rural needs. We do not need more parks but need to focus on fiscal restraint lowering tax obligations."

"Enhancements would be welcome as long as not increasing already allocated tax dollars. Families hard hit and increasing taxes for improvements not ideal."

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members who responded believe that the current parks and recreation facilities in Castlegar are well-maintained and sufficient. They express concern about additional spending on recreational improvements that may lead to higher taxes. Suggestions include focusing on maintaining existing facilities, investing in food sustainability, constructing affordable housing, and addressing the needs of seniors during colder months. Residents emphasize the importance of fiscal responsibility and careful consideration of taxpayer burdens before undertaking new projects.

Key Themes:

- Concerns about cost and tax implications (16)
- Appreciation of parks and outdoor spaces (13)
- Satisfied with current facilities (10)
- Other community social concerns (6)
- Satisfied with trails (4)
- Second ice sheet (2)

Sample Comments:

"We have a variety of parks and walking paths in the area. They are maintained well and used well by a wide range of people."

"Based on historical maintenance, upkeep and operation of facilities, management is not fiscally responsible and it is a bad investment"

UNSURE – ENHANCEMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION

AREA I

- Not sure what is needed (5)
- Don't use them (3)
- Maintenance needed (3)

Sample Comments:

"My workplace is in Nelson, I am less familiar with the recreation services offered in Castlegar."

"Basic maintenance is always needed."

AREA J

The responses offered some suggestions for improvements include better opportunities for disabled individuals, Indigenous interpretive signage, and improved information and amenities for outdoor swimming. Other comments mention satisfaction with current facilities, a desire for more parks and trails, and the need for more community events that are free or low cost for families.

Key Themes:

- Dependant on facility improvements (5)
- Improved signage (3)
- Concern with cost (2)

Sample Comments:

"I think they are well maintained and have a decent number of options but there is room for improvement"

"I don't know what is available or what needs improvement on a general standpoint"

CASTLEGAR

Respondents shared mixed opinions on park and recreational facilities in Castlegar, with some unsure about needed enhancements, while others emphasize the need for improved facilities or services, such as promoting outdoor activities like hiking and biking, more community events, or specific amenities like indoor rock climbing. Concerns were also raised about taxpayer costs, suggestions were made for user contributions for facility enhancements, and the importance of focusing on maintaining existing facilities.

Key Themes:

- Unsure of recreation opportunities / what improvements are needed (22)
- Satisfied with current opportunities (4)
- Dependant on the project (3)
- Focus on maintaining current (3)
- Concern with cost (3)

Sample Comments:

"Great variety of parks, would love though to see more indoor rock climbing, squash courts, and running track."

"We're outdoorsy people and would love to see more promotion of the beautiful hiking trails, fishing, biking, and climbing opportunities in our area. We're absolutely surrounded by amazing recreation opportunities"

GRAPH 2: DO YOU VALUE FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS IN THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA?

Do you value facilities, parks and recreation offerings in the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	85%	91%	95%
No	10%	5%	2%
Unsure	5%	4%	3%

YES – VALUE FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS IN CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA

AREA I

The Area I community members who responded indicated that they value trails and outdoor activities. Respondents appreciate the current opportunities, such as parks and community events, but also see potential for improvements. Specific suggestions include upgrading the arena to host a variety of events beyond hockey, modernizing the swimming pool, expanding recreational opportunities for all ages, and improving transportation services to outdoor destinations. Overall, community members enjoy outdoor activities, and value the sense of belonging and community that these spaces provide.

Sample Comments:

“The parks are a huge asset to our community, they bring in others from around the region, they make our community more vibrant and give our community a place to gather, meet and engage.”

“We have participated in sports activities ourselves, with our children and look forward to same with grandchildren”

Key themes:

- Well maintained trails (9)
- Parks are highly valued (8)
- Access to beaches (6)
- Community events to bring people together (3)
- Importance of community halls (3)
- Availability of different sports (3)

AREA J

The Area J community members responded that they value the existing amenities in the community, especially the gym, aquatics, ice surfaces, and indoor spaces for community activities. Many respondents indicated that they use the Community Complex regularly for various programs and events, such as hockey, swimming, fitness classes, and meetings. Multiple suggestions were made to improve facilities and add new features like a second ice rink or an indoor field facility. Overall, respondents indicated that the recreation facilities play a crucial role in the community, providing essential resources for physical activity, social connection, and recreational programs.

Key Themes:

- Facilities providing community and individual benefits (45)
- Parks are highly valued (38)
- Availability of facilities (30)
- Availability of trails (26)
- Availability of different sports (20)
- Recreation programs (availability, variety) (11)

Sample Comments:

"I especially value outdoor access such as parks, trails, and community beaches. I use these facilities frequently throughout the year."

"These are vital to the community and offer a space to gather, enjoy the outdoors and get exercise."

CASTLEGAR

The community members in Castlegar who responded feel that the Community Complex serves as a vital hub for activities, but many believe that it needs upgrades and expansions are needed in the community, such as a second ice rink, an outdoor ice surface, a larger gym, enhanced leisure pool, trail network and improved outdoor amenities. While users value the current amenities, they emphasize the need for improvements and the need for increased programming to cater to all age groups, abilities and interests.

Key Themes:

- Parks are highly valued (121)
- Facilities providing community and individual benefits (106)
- Availability of trails (85)
- Availability of facilities (66)
- Recreation programs (availability, variety) (37)
- Availability of different sports (36)
- Access to beaches (23)

Sample Comments:

"Having trails accessible and a brochure outlining where they are would be a great thing to find. Instead of people keeping some a secret. Having parks listed for people visiting the city would be great too."

"The current facilities and programs are great, especially the recent improvements to millennium park!"

NO – VALUE FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS IN CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA

AREA I

The Area I community members who responded expressed frustration over the allocation of taxes to projects in Castlegar, while feeling that community facilities in their communities are in decline.

Key Themes

- Concerns with economic burden (3)
- Not relevant for rural community members (2)
- Poor maintenance of existing facilities and amenities (2)
- Don't use / fine as is (2)

Sample Comments:

"Again, these services are not useful to rural residents who bear an expenditure of time and money to access the services"

"Millenium park pools are full of geese droppings and are filthy. Almost every park is outdated. I take my children to Trail pool, Trail public skating and Trail parks."

AREA J

Key Themes:

- Concerns with economic burden (3)
- Don't use / fine as is (3)
- Community benefit of recreation (2)

Sample Comments:

"Taxes High enough already without more being shoveled on."

"I would like to see a Track and Field that everyone can go use for running and other activities."

CASTLEGAR

Respondents expressed their dissatisfied with community recreation facilities due to various issues including high fees, poor management, outdated facilities, lack of accessibility, small gym and fitness rooms, cold pool, lack of privacy, and scheduling conflicts. Many are opting to use facilities in neighboring communities instead.

Key Themes:

- Facility concerns (availability / access / cost) (6)
- Concerns with public management (3)

Sample Comments:

"They are a bit outdated and not enough to fulfill our needs. We often leave town to use the rec facilities elsewhere."

"I haven't heard any plans to increase or develop anything only taking away facilities and programs."

UNSURE – VALUE FACILITIES, PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS IN CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA

AREA I

Key Themes:

- Don't use / unaware

Sample Comment:

"I don't go to a lot of parks and sports facilities so i don't really have an answer"

AREA J

Key Themes:

- Unsure of question / lack of clarity (3)
- Facility concerns (availability / access / cost) (2)

Sample Comments:

"Which one and at what costs ? Loaded questions"

CASTLEGAR

Respondents notes that many of the current facilities are not inviting or effective in meeting the needs of the community, specific problems noted in overcrowding at facilities, challenges for youth to access facilities, and maintenance issues.

Key Themes:

- Satisfied with existing facilities and spaces (2)
- Facility concerns (availability / access / cost) (2)
- Concerns with public management (3)
- Not actively using facilities and spaces (2)

Sample Comments:

"Very rarely utilize outside venues, & nothing indoors to attract me."

"I'm not actively involved and the few places I would go are becoming more and more restrictive."

GRAPH 3: WHAT RECREATION AMENITIES DO YOU MOST VALUE THAT OCCUR WITHIN THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA?

What recreation amenities do you most value that occur within the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Playgrounds and green spaces	53%	62%	70%
Regional & municipal parks services	51%	64%	68%
Trail networks	63%	61%	65%
Outdoor sport courts	28%	45%	40%
Program offerings	30%	40%	36%
Community halls	24%	28%	20%
Skatepark	16%	19%	18%

THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENT AMENITIES THAT WERE LISTED BY RESPONDENTS AS “OTHER” – SOME OF WHICH SUPPORTS THE CHOICES ABOVE.

AREA I

- Parks / Open Spaces / Trails (6)
- None (5)
- Ice Sheets (5)
- Pool (5)
- Complex (2)
- Program spaces (2)
- Climbing areas (1)

AREA J

- Ice Sheets (18)
- Parks / Open Spaces / Trails (7)
- Outdoor water access / boat launches (7)
- Gym spaces (5)
- None (3)
- Pool (3)
- Complex (3)
- Climbing areas (2)
- Library (1)

CASTLEGAR

- All (3)
- None (3)
- Ice sheets (26)
- Pool (13)
- Parks / Open Spaces / Trails (10)
- Outdoor water access / boat launches (8)
- Complex (6)
- Climbing areas (3)
- Gymnasiums (3)
- Library (2)
- Bike park (2)

GRAPH 4: WHICH RECREATION SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DELIVERED IN THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA?

Which recreation services would you like to see delivered in the Castlegar & District Area?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Offer more events / performances at the Community Complex	32%	45%	49%
Expansion of trails in rural communities	36%	39%	39%
Additional parks	19%	31%	32%
Improved boat launches	23%	27%	16%
Community hall / recreation grants	19%	27%	15%
Programming in rural areas	31%	21%	9%
Pump track in rural communities	12%	11%	9%
Enhanced skateparks	6%	9%	10%
None, I don't want to see any additional services	22%	13%	10%

RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED A VARIETY OF SERVICES WHEN THEY SELECTED “OTHER”.

AREA I

- Parks / open spaces / trails (8)
- Ice sheets (4)
- Gymnasium (2)
- Indoor field (2)
- Water access (1)
- Program spaces (1)
- Rock climbing spaces (1)
- Aquatic programs (1)

AREA J

- Additional ice sheets (14)
- Enhanced amenities at pool (4)
- Parks / trails / open spaces (6)
- Courts (5)
- Bike park and trails (4)
- Field house (3)
- Dog parks (3)
- Improved gym access (3)
- More youth programming (3)
- Sani dump (1)

CASTLEGAR

- Additional ice sheets (38)
- Bike paths (16)
- Sani dump (13)
- Walking track (13)
- Parks / open spaces (10)
- Basketball courts (10)
- Enhanced amenities at pool (8)
- Improved water access (5)
- Improvements to Complex (5)
- Gym (5)
- Outdoor sport courts (5)
- Skatepark (4)
- Climbing areas (4)
- Bike parks (3)
- Indoor fields (3)
- Pickleball courts (3)
- Performing arts venues (3)
- Youth programming (3)
- Dog parks (2)
- Disc golf (2)
- Senior programming (2)
- Indoor programming (2)
- Lacrosse facility (2)

GRAPH 5: DO YOU VALUE THE CURRENT AMENITIES AT THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX?

Do you value the current amenities at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	74%	88%	90%
No	19%	8%	7%
Unsure	7%	4%	3%

YES – VALUE AMENITIES AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I

The Area I community members who responded value the ice rink and pool facilities but believe they need to expand to keep up with the growing population. Users appreciate the current offerings but suggest improvements like having two ice arenas, expanding fitness areas, updating equipment, and adjusting activity times to accommodate working individuals and families. Overall, the Complex is seen as an essential hub that could benefit from upgrades to increase community participation.

Sample Comments:

“The facility supports an active community. The complex desperately needs a substantial fitness/gym overhaul.”

“These spaces are essential for communities, with upgrades community participation would increase.”

Key Themes:

- Ice surface (20)
- Pool (17)
- Recreation facilities and spaces (8)
- Fitness centre (8)
- Community events (4)
- Trails (3)

AREA J

The Area J community members who responded value the existing amenities at the Community Complex, especially the gym, pool, ice surface, and indoor spaces for activities. Many respondents indicated they use the Complex regularly for various programs and events, such as hockey, swimming, fitness classes, and meetings.

Key Themes:

- Ice surface (42)
- Pool (36)
- Recreation facilities and spaces (22)
- Fitness centre (14)
- Recreation programs (19)
- Community events (9)

Sample Comments:

“All have value. However, at this time, I feel that maintenance should be the focus.”

“For me it is all in with the pool and fitness area. Then long periods of time where I don’t use anything indoors.”

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members who responded indicated that the Community Complex is an important hub in the community, offering a variety of amenities that are well-used and valued. However, there’s a need for improvements and expansion, such as adding another ice sheet, enhancing the workout room, walking track, and upgrading the pool leisure features. The Complex provides essential activities for all ages, including youth engagement, senior programs, and community gatherings. Many individuals and families utilize the facilities regularly but highlight areas for improvement and future developments to better serve the community’s needs.

Key Themes:

- Pool (125)
- Ice surface (78)
- Fitness centre (74)
- Recreation facilities and spaces (62)
- Community benefits (61)
- Recreation programs (40)
- Community events (25)

Sample Comments:

“It is important for maintaining physical health and social connections. The draws people together for community events.”

“We attend events and everything is valuable for the community. An indoor walking facility would be very valuable for winter months.”

NO – VALUE AMENITIES AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I (19 COMMENTS)

The Area I respondents indicated that as rural residents they feel that they do not need to compete with larger municipalities when it comes to facilities like the Community Complex. Some express concerns about high costs, underutilization of facility, safety and privacy issues, lack of amenities, and the financial burden placed on rural taxpayers. Some comments highlighted that seniors find it difficult to afford programs and face challenges with transportation. Many rural residents feel that these facilities are a costly luxury that they rarely use due to distance and expenses involved in accessing them.

Key Themes:

- Don't use facilities and spaces (10)
- Concern with cost / tax implications (9)

Sample Comments:

"I do not use the complex except maybe on voting day. But I do pay for it more every year in property taxes due to ridiculous property values."

"These are a very expensive luxury. The way it is currently set up taking approximately 50 percent of our tax base in most areas is unacceptable for the amenities."

AREA J (11 COMMENTS)

Key Themes:

- Don't use (9)
- Concerns with cost / tax implications (3)

Sample Comments:

"Don't use very much if any amenities at the complex."

"Can't afford to use it due to user fees and excess taxation."

CASTLEGAR (27 COMMENTS)

Respondents indicated their dissatisfaction with the Community Complex due to various issues including high fees, poor management, outdated amenities, lack of accessibility, small gym and fitness rooms, cold pool, lack of privacy, and scheduling conflicts. Many are opting to use facilities in neighboring communities that meet their expectations.

Key Themes:

- Facility concerns (14)
- Don't use (8)
- Prefer outdoor recreation (4)
- Concerns with public management (3)
- Concerns with cost / tax implications (2)

Sample Comments:

"I'm an outdoor enthusiast. I just don't use the complex."

"Public ice time has been scaled back so much that it is not even worth going anymore"

UNSURE – VALUE AMENITIES AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I

Key Themes:

- Unsure / don't use facilities and spaces

Sample Comments:

"Never had the pleasure."

"I am not aware of the full range of services available."

AREA J

Key Themes:

- Don't use (3)
- Facility concerns (2)

Sample Comments:

"Specifically the pool and gym area are way too small for the growing area. It is very seldom that both facilities are not overcrowded. Many people avoid coming for that reason alone."

"I don't use them."

CASTLEGAR

Respondents noted issues with the Complex including management concerns, programming limitations and overcrowding which had limited their use. Other respondents indicated life style factors and / or life stages that limit their use or awareness of the Complex.

Key Themes:

- Facility concerns (7)
- Don't use (5)
- Concerns with public management (3)
- Concerns with cost / tax implications (3)

Sample Comments:

"I like that we have something but don't feel they're inviting or effective. Often when I attend the gym, its cramped/over capacity."

"No personal experience using the facilities much. Perhaps, that is also a factor in why there is a need to create better or offer more programs to attract individuals to the facilities."

GRAPH 6: HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU IS EACH AMENITY OFFERED AT THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX?

How Important to you is each amenity offered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?					
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither	Somewhat important	Very important
Area I					
Aquatic areas	22%	5%	17%	17%	40%
Arena	23%	7%	21%	11%	39%
Programming spaces	21%	9%	23%	20%	28%
Fitness Centre	20%	9%	21%	25%	24%
Seniors centre	16%	13%	25%	25%	23%
Banquet facility	23%	12%	31%	18%	17%
Meeting room	22%	11%	36%	20%	10%
Community spaces	24%	11%	37%	18%	11%
Area J					
Aquatic areas	17%	5%	8%	18%	52%
Arena	15%	7%	9%	20%	50%
Programming spaces	13%	8%	6%	35%	38%
Fitness Centre	17%	5%	11%	25%	42%
Seniors centre	12%	9%	18%	28%	33%
Banquet facility	16%	12%	22%	31%	19%
Meeting room	14%	14%	32%	29%	11%
Community spaces	20%	15%	24%	33%	9%
Castlegar					
Aquatic areas	14%	5%	7%	20%	54%
Arena	13%	8%	11%	20%	49%
Programming spaces	10%	7%	12%	30%	41%
Fitness Centre	11%	8%	14%	27%	41%
Seniors centre	12%	6%	19%	30%	34%
Banquet facility	11%	14%	21%	33%	22%
Meeting room	13%	12%	28%	30%	17%
Community spaces	13%	14%	27%	32%	14%

GRAPH 7: HOW FREQUENTLY DO YOU USE / VISIT EACH IN A TYPICAL YEAR?

How frequently do you use / visit each in a typical year?					
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	A few times per year	Do not visit
Area I					
Aquatic areas	6%	11%	14%	33%	37
Arena	11%	7%	9%	23%	51
Programming spaces	-	6%	9%	20%	65
Fitness Centre	1%	6%	4%	25%	64
Banquet facility	-	-	1%	30%	69
Meeting room	-	-	2%	25%	73
Seniors centre	-	-	1%	7%	92
Area J					
Aquatic areas	9%	20%	22%	25%	24%
Arena	18%	16%	10%	28%	30%
Programming spaces	5%	9%	12%	26%	48%
Fitness Centre	11%	14%	10%	19%	47%
Banquet facility	-	1%	4%	46%	49%
Meeting room	-	2%	5%	40%	53%
Seniors centre	1%	1%	1%	7%	90%
Castlegar					
Aquatic areas	9%	17%	25%	27%	22%
Arena	13%	10%	14%	29%	34%
Programming spaces	5%	9%	11%	28%	46%
Fitness Centre	10%	9%	10%	19%	51%
Banquet facility	-	1%	5%	44%	49%
Meeting room	-	2%	9%	35%	55%
Seniors centre	1%	3%	4%	7%	85%

GRAPH 8: PRIORITIES OF THE AMENITIES OFFERED AT THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX

Ranking of Priority of Importance			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Aquatic areas	1	1	1
Arena	2	2	2
Fitness centre	3	3	3
Programming spaces	4	4	4
Seniors centre	5	5	5
Community spaces	7	7	6
Banquet facility	6	6	7
Meeting rooms	8	8	8

GRAPH 9: HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT RECREATION PROGRAMMING IS DELIVERED AT THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX?

How important is it that recreation programming is delivered at the Castlegar & District Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Very unimportant	22%	15%	13%
Somewhat unimportant	9%	7%	6%
Neither	15%	9%	10%
Somewhat important	18%	21%	20%
Very important	36%	48%	51%

SOMEWHAT OR VERY IMPORTANT THAT RECREATION PROGRAMMING IS DELIVERED AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I

The Area I community members who responded indicated that programming is important for children and families to engage in activities for learning, socializing, and exercise. Learning how to swim is crucial for both children and adults. Staying active is important for the community's well-being. Consideration for accessible programming and a varied scheduled activities are important, as well as programming for all ages.

Sample Comments:

"That type of programming brings people together and provides access to important activities."

"Fitness and life skills opportunities are vital for the health of the community. Swimming and lifesaving skills are essential for youth to learn."

Key Themes:

- Youth activity (11)
- Access to swimming lessons (9)
- Participation in physical activity (7)
- Individual health and wellness benefits (5)
- Community benefits (3)

AREA J

The Area J community members who responded emphasize the importance of programming at the Complex in Castlegar, as it serves as a hub for various activities, including fitness classes, swim lessons, and recreational opportunities. These programs are crucial for community engagement, health, and social connections, especially for families and youth. The respondents indicated that the facility is seen as a valuable asset that strengthens community bonds and promotes overall wellness. Residents value the variety of programs offered and the accessibility of the Complex, highlighting its significance in fostering a healthy and active community.

Key Themes:

- Community benefits (32)
- Youth activity (30)
- Access to swimming lessons (10)
- Participation in physical activity (16)
- Individual health and wellness benefits (15)

Sample Comments:

“Activities are important for every age of person in the community for their mental and physical health.”

“These can be critical for getting people active that may not have the confidence to do so individually.”

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members who responded indicated they value the programming offered at the Complex, including swim lessons, fitness classes, and camps, noting that these programs play a crucial role in keeping residents engaged, healthy, and connected. Additionally, there were comment related to the need for more diverse and accessible programs, especially for teens, seniors and adults.

Key Themes:

- Youth activity (82)
- Access to swimming lessons (68)
- Community benefits (59)
- Individual health and wellness benefits (42)
- Participation in physical activity (15)

Sample Comments:

“Like seeing the options and availability. I’d love to see more inclusive/ diverse camps for children with neuro diverse issues.”

“This is an essential service for families, children, youth, seniors. It brings the community together and provides opportunities not found elsewhere.”

SOMEWHAT OR VERY UNIMPORTANT THAT RECREATION PROGRAMMING IS DELIVERED AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I

There were varied comments shared. Some respondents indicated that they believe that recreational facilities and the programs offered should be fully funded by users with no taxpayer subsidy. Others noted the importance of programming, particularly inclusive programming for individuals with diverse needs and believe that recreational programs are vital for youth to help build a more engaged community.

Key Themes:

- Don't use (6)
- Prefer facilities and spaces closer to residence (4)
- Concerns with facilities (3)

Sample Comments:

"These should be fully user paid items, with no taxpayer subsidy."

"I find the instruction for these classes are too loud and take over the whole pool when in progress."

AREA J

While many Area J residents indicated that they do not use programming current, they do acknowledge the importance of being active especially for children and youth and in particular participating in swim lessons.

Key Themes:

- Don't use (11)
- Community and individual benefits (5)
- Importance of swim lessons (4)
- More variety desired (4)
- Concerns with facilities (3)
- Prefer to recreate outdoors (3)

Sample Comments:

"Healthy lifestyle choices are paramount to promote a healthy positive community."

"People need to learn how to swim and to be safe in and around water."

CASTLEGAR

Some respondents indicated that, despite not personally using the programs, they recognize the importance of offering recreational activities and services such as swim lessons, fitness classes, and camps for all age groups. These programs are seen as vital for promoting physical and mental well-being, building a sense of community, and providing opportunities for socializing and skill development. While some acknowledge the financial burden on seniors and fixed-income individuals who may not utilize these services, they still value the benefits these programs bring to the community. Additionally, there are calls for improving the quality and accessibility of facilities to better meet the diverse recreational needs of residents, particularly focusing on providing opportunities for youth and teens.

Key Themes:

- Don't use (42)
- Value for others (14)
- Concerns with cost of programs (5)
- Prefer outdoor recreation (4)
- More variety desired (4)

Sample Comments:

"Though I haven't yet used any of the registered classes, I definitely may in the future and I see the value in having them offered to the community. Lots of my friends have used these programs and our kids learned to swim through them."

"These programs are more affordable and accessible for community members when offered through a community complex."

GRAPH 10: HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN REC PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

Have you participated in rec programming at the Community Complex in the past 12 months?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Yes	37%	47%	50%
No	60%	48%	46%
Unsure	3%	5%	4%

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN RECREATION PROGRAMMING IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX EXPLAINED WHY NOT.

AREA I

The Area I community members who have not participated in programming said they have not participated due to various reasons such as distance, lack of interest, cost, alternative options, time commitments, focusing on outdoor activities, living rurally, personal circumstances, lack of appeal in programming offered, and not feeling a sense of belonging or need for such services.

“Not useful to rural residents who bear an expenditure of time and money travelling to access the services; so rarely use them.”

AREA J

The Area J community members who have not participated in programming said it is due to personal reasons, busy schedules, health conditions, lack of interest in the offerings, or engaging in other outdoor activities. Some find the facilities unappealing, programs not suited to their needs, difficult to register, or classes not fitting their schedules.

“I can only fit evening and weekend classes into my schedule. I am not always sure if a class is a good fit for me.”

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members who have not participated in programming said it is due to financial constraints, lack of programs for their age group or interests, scheduling conflicts, busy lifestyles, health issues, preference for outdoor activities, and dissatisfaction with the facility’s offerings. Some mentioned they engage in their own fitness routines, have physical limitations, or have other commitments that prevent them from participating. Many also indicated they prefer outdoor activities or have found alternatives that better suit their needs and preferences.

“With how crowded and not having many spots available with less amenities not interested so looking at different cities to get our kids registered.”

GRAPH 11: HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE CURRENT REC PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX?

How satisfied are you with the current rec programming at the Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Very dissatisfied	6%	4%	4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8%	14%	14%
Neither	49%	38%	35%
Somewhat satisfied	30%	30%	36%
Very satisfied	9%	13%	10%

DISSATISFIED WITH CURRENT RECREATION PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I

The Area I community members who responded they are dissatisfied with programming pointed to dissatisfaction with the community programs, especially for children, due to limited variety and inconvenient timings for young adults. They are troubled about having to pay for programs in a community they believe they do not belong to and feel that rural areas are not considered sufficiently.

Sample Comments:

- “There are not enough programs!”*
- “It’s not my community and I am very upset I have to pay for their programming while I watch my community fall apart.”*

Key Themes:

- Program issues (limited variety, program times) (6)
- Facility concerns (2)
- Financial / tax concerns (3)

AREA J

The Area J community members who are dissatisfied with the program offered, said it is due to concerns with overcrowded gyms, lack of promotion for sports programs like hockey and lacrosse, early closure of ice arenas, unfriendly staff, poorly trained staff, limited evening classes, outdated facilities, cold pool, limited swim lesson spots, and not enough weekend programs.

Key Themes:

- Program issues (limited variety, program times) (11)
- Facility concerns (8)
- Financial / tax concerns (6)
- Staff concerns (3)

Sample Comments:

"I still work and there doesn't seem to be any classes I can attend in the evenings that are in my level of activity."

"The instructors for swim lessons were not appropriately training the children in the class and were not able to keep them entertained"

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members who indicated they are dissatisfied with programming highlighted several concerns regarding the limited options and availability of fitness classes and programs, particularly for women, active seniors, and working individuals. The quality and variety of programming, as well as the availability of facilities during convenient hours, were noted as areas in need of improvement. Some specific suggestions included offering more evening classes, beginners' classes that progress in difficulty, weight room classes in the evenings, and adult-oriented swimming programs. There were also mentions of issues with inconsistent scheduling, lack of oversight for swim instructors, limited pool hours, and dissatisfaction with the current facilities and management. The general sentiment is that there is a need for more diverse, accessible, and engaging programming for different demographics, along with improvements to facility amenities and hours of operation.

Key Themes:

- More programming needed (variety, times) (56)
- Don't use (18)
- Unaware of opportunities (6)
- Facility concerns (6)

Sample Comments:

"Nothing of interest for an active senior. Just a lot of programming for other demographics. Programs for seniors are boring if not embarrassing. If you're going to ask me for more of my money you need to represent my demographic."

"There aren't enough options for programming for adults outside regular work hours. The pool hours could be longer."

SATISFIED WITH CURRENT RECREATION PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX

AREA I

The Area I community members who are satisfied with the recreation programming indicated the importance of swim lessons and in general that the Complex is a great place for kids to stay active and engaged in healthy behaviours. Respondents noted that there would be benefit from expanding programming with a gym or fieldhouse. As well that communication about swim lesson times could be improved, and more ice time and pool hours are needed. More options for 1-1 swim lessons and better advertising of programs are also suggested. Overall, the programming meets most needs, but there are still areas for improvement.

Key Themes:

- General satisfaction (9)
- Good variety (4)
- Good staff (3)
- Improved communication (3)
- Need for more swim lessons (3)

Sample Comments:

"This will hugely expand the provision of recreation services to our area and greatly broaden the range of users of the facility - especially among female youth."

"There is always something I'm interested in, but I have had many that I've registered for, be canceled. There needs to be better advertising of all the programs."

AREA J

Overall, the responses from Area J community members were mostly positive, however they did still express some concerns. The common themes were high demand leading to wait lists for programs, desire for more program variety and flexibility in scheduling, and better advertising. The majority find the programs accessible and engaging, with some minor issues like inconsistent swim lesson lengths. Many expressed an interest in participating in more programs.

Key Themes:

- General satisfaction (32)
- Good variety (6)
- More programming needed (variety, times) (5)
- Need for more swim lessons (5)
- Unaware of opportunities (4)
- Good staff (3)
- Concerns with staff (3)

Sample Comments:

"It needs to be better advertise so more people are aware of what is being offered."

"I appreciate the variety of programs offered at the complex. There needs to be more. It is a competition to get into certain swim lessons and often will be put in wait lists"

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar respondents who said they are satisfied with programming indicated that they appreciate the offerings like swim lessons and hockey but highlight challenges such as limited class availability. Suggestions include expanding pool hours, offering more varied classes, increasing senior discounts, and improving communication about programs. Some note issues with scheduling, low enrollment, and the need for upgrades. Many expressed an interest in diverse programming, more evening options, and enhanced amenities at the Complex.

Key Themes:

- General satisfaction (117)
- Good variety (48)
- Improved scheduling of programs (23)
- Need for more swim lessons (17)
- Good staff (13)
- More program options (12)

Sample Comments:

"I don't think I've used a "program" but I do swim seasonally and I love the early bird swim time."

"I feel there is room for improvement but generally happy with it."

GRAPH 12: WHAT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX?

What amenities would you like to see added at the Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
New secondary ice surface	35%	61%	52%
Indoor walking track	40%	49%	53%
Expanded fitness centre	28%	46%	46%
New leisure pool	25%	32%	39%
Covered outdoor hard court	22%	30%	32%
Gymnasium	16%	25%	27%
Multipurpose space - youth	21%	21%	26%
Field house	15%	20%	20%
Indoor squash / racquetball courts	16%	16%	20%
Outdoor pickleball and tennis courts	11%	22%	17%
New secondary outdoor ice surface	12%	17%	16%
Expanded skatepark	8%	8%	9%
None. Maintain / improve present offerings	33%	16%	13%

GRAPH 13: CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL RESIDENTIAL TAX INCREASE, WHAT ENHANCEMENTS WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Consider the potential residential tax increase, what enhancements would you support?									
	Area I			Area J			Castlegar		
	Yes	No	Unsure	Yes	No	Unsure	Yes	No	Unsure
Enhance current Complex incl. walking track	42%	49%	9%	59%	35%	6%	63%	28%	9%
New secondary ice surface	37%	55%	8%	60%	31%	10%	56%	33%	11%
Expanded fitness centre	33%	53%	14%	52%	41%	8%	54%	34%	12%
New leisure pool	33%	59%	8%	40%	48%	12%	47%	40%	13%
Multipurpose space - youth	30%	53%	17%	37%	47%	16%	41%	40%	18%
Gymnasium	24%	64%	12%	33%	52%	15%	36%	48%	16%
Covered outdoor hard court	19%	69%	12%	29%	58%	13%	28%	54%	18%
Outdoor pickleball and tennis courts	17%	74%	10%	28%	58%	14%	27%	57%	16%
Field house	17%	65%	18%	23%	59%	18%	23%	56%	20%
Indoor squash / racquetball courts	22%	72%	5%	20%	66%	14%	22%	61%	17%
New secondary outdoor ice surface	12%	78%	11%	23%	62%	15%	22%	62%	17%
Expanded skatepark	9%	81%	11%	16%	72%	12%	18%	68%	15%

GRAPH 14: TOP THREE PREFERENCES FOR POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS

Ranking of Priority of Importance			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
New secondary indoor ice surface	1	1	1
New leisure pool	3	2	3
Enhance current Complex incl. walking track	2	4	2
Fitness centre expansion	4	3	4
Multipurpose space – youth	5	9	5
Covered outdoor hard court	7	8	6
Field house	6	5	8
Gymnasium	8	10	7
New secondary outdoor ice surface	9	7	9
Outdoor pickleball – tennis courts	13	6	11
Other	10	12	10
Indoor squash / racquetball courts	11	11	13
Expanded skatepark	12	13	12

GRAPH 15: HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SUPPORT PAYING ANNUALLY TO FUND BORROWING FOR ENHANCEMENTS OR NEW AMENITIES?

How much would you support paying annually to fund borrowing for enhancements or new amenities?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
None – no increase	34%	19%	13%
Up to \$25 per year	7%	3%	9%
\$25-\$99 per year	11%	12%	14%
\$100-\$149 per year	8%	13%	12%
\$150-\$199 per year	12%	7%	12%
\$200-\$249 per year	9%	15%	14%
\$250-\$299 per year	11%	12%	10%
\$300-\$349 per year	3%	6%	4%
\$350-\$500 per year	5%	8%	6%
More than \$500 per year	1%	6%	6%

GRAPH 16: WHICH OPTION WOULD YOU FAVOUR MOST IF CHANGES WERE TO BE MADE TO THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX?

Which option would you favour most if changes were to be made to the Community Complex?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Option A – add new amenities / services	11%	13%	15%
Option B – repurpose / enhance existing spaces	4%	8%	9%
Option C – combination of A and B	46%	61%	62%
Option D – leave it alone	39%	18%	13%

GRAPH 17: WHAT SPACE ARE YOU MOST IN FAVOUR OF CHANGING TO SUPPORT NEW OR ENHANCED SERVICES?

What space are you most in favour?			
	Area I	Area J	Castlegar
Reduce the number of meeting rooms	42%	58%	51%
I am not in favour or repurposing existing spaces	46%	23%	28%
Reduce the size of banquets or events that can be accommodated	9%	13%	12%
Reduce the size and scope of service available for the kitchen / concession area	3%	6%	9%

GRAPH 18: A RECREATION FACILITY PROJECT SHOULD BE A HIGHER PRIORITY OVER ANOTHER IF...

A recreation facility project should be a higher priority over another if....					
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither	Somewhat important	Very important
Area I					
...it responds to demands / requests from the community.	14%	3%	22%	31%	30%
...partnerships and grants are available that would lower the costs of building.	15%	2%	16%	29%	38%
...it provides greater benefit to the community than the other project(s).	14%	4%	23%	28%	30%
...it has the potential for bringing money into the community.	16%	4%	30%	19%	30%
...it means recreation facilities are available throughout the Castlegar & District Area.	15%	4%	25%	29%	26%
...the facility / amenity is not readily available in the area.	23%	4%	28%	24%	21%
...it is a priority of other community plans.	16%	5%	39%	29%	10%
...the costs to operate are lower.	14%	5%	37%	34%	11%
...the overall capital cost to build is lower than the other project(s).	15%	7%	35%	34%	10%
Area J					
...it responds to demands / requests from the community.	11%	6%	11%	24%	49%
...partnerships and grants are available that would lower the costs of building.	12%	6%	13%	28%	41%
...it provides greater benefit to the community than the other project(s).	11%	5%	12%	31%	41%
...it has the potential for bringing money into the community.	10%	8%	15%	30%	37%

A recreation facility project should be a higher priority over another if....					
	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither	Somewhat important	Very important
...it means recreation facilities are available throughout the Castlegar & District Area.	10%	11%	20%	28%	31%
...the facility / amenity is not readily available in the area.	11%	5%	25%	32%	28%
...it is a priority of other community plans.	12%	16%	37%	24%	12%
...the costs to operate are lower.	17%	12%	31%	27%	13%
...the overall capital cost to build is lower than the other project(s).	17%	12%	32%	26%	13%
Castlegar					
...it responds to demands / requests from the community.	10%	3%	9%	27%	50%
...partnerships and grants are available that would lower the costs of building.	11%	3%	8%	29%	48%
...it provides greater benefit to the community than the other project(s).	9%	4%	10%	34%	42%
...it has the potential for bringing money into the community.	7%	10%	16%	30%	37%
...it means recreation facilities are available throughout the Castlegar & District Area.	9%	6%	17%	31%	36%
...the facility / amenity is not readily available in the area.	11%	8%	18%	36%	27%
...it is a priority of other community plans.	12%	9%	32%	31%	16%
...the costs to operate are lower.	10%	13%	29%	33%	15%
...the overall capital cost to build is lower than the other project(s).	11%	13%	29%	32%	15%

FINAL THOUGHTS

ANY RECREATION ACTIVITIES THEY WISH THEY COULD PARTICIPATE IN OR ANY AMENITIES THEY WISH THEY COULD ACCESS THAT ARE CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE.

AREA I

Area I community members would like to participate in the following activities soccer, basketball, walking, art programming, tennis, and camps for youth. Additional amenities needed include indoor soccer facility, walking track, year-round access to ice as well as a second ice arena. There were also requests for enhanced facilities and programs in rural areas to promote healthy living for all ages.

Sample Comments:

"Everything is available to me as I live in Shoreacres. What is not in Castlegar is available in Nelson."

"Times of classes and programs be adjusted to end of working day to include working people to attend before they leave town for the day"

AREA J

The community members from Area J would like to have more programming focused on year-round activity, outdoor activities, fitness programs and adult sport programs such as volleyball and basketball. They also identified additional amenities they would like to see such as additional ice surfaces, indoor sports facilities, better trails and bike lanes, boat launches, pickleball courts, basketball courts, indoor walking track and updated pool and fitness facilities.

Sample Comments:

"Please don't let this be just another survey that goes nowhere. This town needs and deserves better recreational amenities. I love living here, but I'll be disappointed if we can't find a way to increase rec options."

"Between the community complex and the college there are a lot of great facilities available to us in the community. The imminent closure of the Pioneer arena needs to be addressed."

CASTLEGAR

The Castlegar community members responded that there is a need for the addition of a second ice sheet, many noting it should be prioritized over other proposed facilities like the pool, fitness areas, and tennis courts. Other suggestions include enhancing existing facilities, such as the weight room and pool, and improving outdoor spaces like walking trails and playgrounds. There is also a call for more diverse programming catering to different age groups and interests, as well as requests for better maintenance of current amenities and considerations for accessibility issues. Additionally, concerns about cost, taxpayer funding, grants, and the need to balance the needs of different groups within the community are highlighted within the comments.

Sample Comments:

“Voting is based on population. Castlegar is a retirement community and the recreation reflects this. Unfortunately, this does not benefit my kids, which is my main concern for future recreation opportunities.”

“More green space, walking trails. Indoor walking track for winter months. More flexibility with pool hours with a modernized and updated pool.”

ANY COMMENTS TO SHARE AS IMPROVEMENTS ARE CONSIDERED TO RECREATION IN THE CASTLEGAR & DISTRICT AREA?

AREA I

Area I community members' comments were varied on the proposed improvements to recreational facilities in the area. Some feel that the current facilities should be maintained and suggest focusing on outdoor recreational spaces and adding more trails. Others express concerns about potential tax increases and prefer cost-effective solutions. There are also suggestions for specific upgrades, such as an additional ice sheet or a better-equipped gym. Some residents indicated that they feel strongly about not wanting to be taxed for amenities they do not use, while others highlight the importance of recreational facilities for the community.

Sample Comments:

"This is bad time to be raising taxes on families. Please don't make any improvements."

"We need access to more community sports to bring young families into this community."

AREA J

Some Area J community members commented about the need to prioritize improvements to recreation facilities such as adding to the fitness center, additional ice sheets, and pool enhancements. Concerns were raised about tax increases, user fees, and funding allocation. These comments included calls for prudent strategic planning and a focus on essential services. Suggestions include optimizing existing amenities, enhancing facilities to attract families and professionals, and improving accessibility for all community members. There are conflicting opinions on the scale of the proposed projects, the allocation of resources, maintenance of current facilities, and the role of private and public sectors in recreation development.

Sample Comments:

"Taxes are too high and it is hurting families. Adding more taxes and having high fees to go swimming only allows the wealth these services."

"Future planning needs to include growth of our city. More families and people to ensure that we have the recreational facilities to support them"

CASTLEGAR

Castlegar community members provided additional suggestions including improvements to community facilities, relocating the ball diamond to Millennium Park next to the dog park, enhancing cycling routes to downtown Castlegar, adding neighborhood playgrounds and green spaces, expanding pool hours, adding a second ice sheet, providing a variety of sports, better maintenance of current facilities and involving the Selkirk College, and SD20 for collaboration on recreational services. Some comments focus on economic concerns, the need to focus on basic infrastructure before adding new amenities, concerns about transparency in decision-making, fiscal responsibility, and the need for proper communication to engage residents effectively in the planning process.

Sample Comments:

"Kids in our community should have more options to use our facilities."

"New second sheet of ice surface is needed to sustain the ice demands in the community and keep families to stay and new ones to arrive. Improved fitness facility and improved aquatic center."



