

OLIVER AND DISTRICT
RECREATION PLAN
FINAL
2024

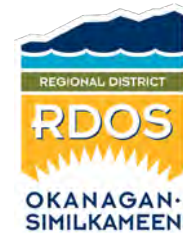


The development of this Plan was guided by input from the following groups and individuals:

Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee and Oliver and District Recreation Staff

Martin Johansen, Mayor Town of Oliver
David Mattes, Councillor Town of Oliver
Irwin Chahal, Alternate Director RDOS Area 'C'
Rick Knodel, Director RDOS Area 'C'
Karen Clayton, SD53 Trustee
Sonya Jensen, Osoyoos Indian Band Councillor
Shiela Lange, Member of the Public (Town)
Helene Urcullu, Member of the Public (Town)
Orion Kendrick, Member of the Public (RDOS)
Norm Gaumont, Member of the Public (RDOS)

Carol Sheridan, Director of Recreation
Katie Hadwin, Recreation Supervisor
Caitlyn Bennett, Recreation Programmer



The Consulting Team

Megan Turnock, LEES+Associates
Rebecca Anderson, LEES+Associates
Ian Ross McDonald, Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects



Carscadden

Thank you to those interested parties, rightsholders, residents and members of the public who shared their thoughts and ideas through two rounds of community engagement.

Photo credit (right): Lionel Trudel Photography Ltd.



Oliver and District Recreation acknowledges it is situated on the unceded and ancestral territory of the Osoyoos Indian Band and suk^wnaʔqin (Okanagan) people of the Syilx Nation. We give honour and pay respect to the Osoyoos Indian Band and its people.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary..... i

1 Introduction..... 1

1.1 Purpose of the Plan 2

1.2 Project Process..... 2

1.3 Framework For Recreation..... 3

1.4 Moving Forward Together 5

2 Recreation Context and Background 7

2.1 Community Profile..... 8

2.2 Demographic Profile 8

2.3 Strategic Alignment..... 9

2.4 Recreation Service Delivery 10

2.5 Investment in Recreation 11

3 Recreation in Oliver 12

3.1 Recreation Facilities..... 14

3.2 Recreation Programming 25

4 Community Engagement 28

5 Challenges and Opportunities 33

5.1 Strengths 34

5.2 Trends and Opportunities..... 34

6 Vision and Principles.....38

6.1 Vision 38

6.2 Principles 38

6.3 Recommendations 39

7 Implementation and Funding 49

7.1 Implementation Plan 50

7.2 Funding Strategies..... 51

Appendix A – Facility Inventory

Appendix B – Program Inventory

Appendix C – Community Engagement “What We Heard” Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Oliver and District Recreation Plan lays out the vision and priorities for recreation services and capital investments in the Town of Oliver and District over the next 10-20 years. Developed collaboratively with the Town of Oliver, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS), the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), and the community, the Plan aims to enhance recreation programs and facilities for residents of the Town, Electoral Area C, and the surrounding region.

Oliver and District Recreation is recognized for its high-quality, accessible services, supported by committed staff, strong partnerships, dedicated volunteers, and a wide variety of recreation facilities for the community's size. The Plan addresses key challenges, including aging facilities, limited staff capacity, climate change, and the diverse needs of Oliver's aging and ethnoculturally diverse population.

To ensure the continued delivery of excellent recreation programs, the Plan identifies a path forward through strategic partnerships and investments, external funding opportunities, and volunteer engagement. The vision, principles, goals, and recommendations of this Plan have been significantly shaped by two rounds of community engagement.

The Vision Statement: *Oliver and District Recreation works collaboratively to provide a variety of high-quality, accessible recreation opportunities that support community health and well-being, foster a sense of belonging, and are economically and ecologically sustainable.*

Principles:

Excellence in Service: We deliver excellent recreation services and programs that are cost-effective and align with the evolving needs of the community.

Partnerships: We build community capacity, encourage volunteerism and stewardship, and recognize that partnerships and collaboration are essential for providing high-quality recreation.

Fostering Connections: We value and respect the relationship with the Osoyoos Indian Band and create opportunities for inclusion, collaboration, representation, and reconciliation between communities.

Inclusive and Accessible: We actively create inclusive, affordable, and welcoming recreation opportunities to meet the diverse needs of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.

Four-Season Recreation: We are committed to offering year-round recreation opportunities, actively seeking and creating diverse programs for all seasons.

By leveraging these principles and addressing challenges through innovative solutions and strategic partnerships, Oliver and District Recreation will continue to provide exceptional services and foster community well-being.

The following table is a summary of the goals and recommendations included in this Recreation Plan.

Goals and Recommendations		Priority
Goal 1: Build Internal Capacity		
1.1	Enhance staff expertise by offering training on topics such as community development, Syilx/Okanagan culture, diversity, equity, and inclusion.	High
1.2	Work to find efficiencies and synergies in facility maintenance and operations and consider a dedicated facility manager position.	High
1.3	Consider offering local training or providing incentives for community members to become certified lifeguards, instructors, coaches, or referees.	Medium
Goal 2: Strengthen regional and community partnerships		
2.1	Clarify and streamline roles and responsibilities for parks and recreation service delivery to ensure efficient coordination between Oliver and District Recreation, Town of Oliver, Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS).	High
2.2	Collaborate with Town of Oliver Public Works and Development Services to ensure future parks align with Oliver and District Recreation principles and goals.	Medium
Goal 3: Retain and enhance volunteerism		
3.1	Continue to support volunteer groups by providing meeting room space, promoting resource sharing, and avoiding duplication in services.	High
3.2	Continue to advertise volunteer opportunities to members of the community, such as high-school students or retirees.	High
3.3	Continue to recognize volunteers for their contributions through the volunteer benefits program and Spirit of Oliver award.	High
3.4	Continue to work with local recreation organizations to promote their programs and services.	High

Goal 4: Take an inclusive and welcoming approach to recreation		
4.1	Partner with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to explore opportunities for sharing knowledge about sukʷnaʔqin (Okanagan) culture at recreation facilities, parks, activities, and events.	High
4.2	Collaborate with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to develop interpretive signage along the river to enrich and acknowledge cultural significance in parks and trails.	Medium
4.3	Work with the Oliver Accessibility and Age-Friendly Committee to ensure that Oliver and District Recreation facilities, programs, and events are welcoming for community members of all abilities.	Medium
4.4	Investigate opportunities to broaden programming aimed at encouraging participation from newcomers to Canada.	Medium
Goal 5: Balance affordability and cost recovery		
5.1	Develop and implement a Fees and Charges Bylaw for recreation services.	High
5.2	Review the current practices of offering subsidized rates for individuals to ensure that the program maximizes benefits for those in need and maintains financial viability.	Medium
5.3	Develop and implement a Facility Allocation Policy that prioritizes community programming needs.	High
5.4	Consider implementing fee assistance from Oliver and District Recreation as part of an integrated system for accessing social services within the Town to reduce the administrative burden for individuals in need.	Low
Goal 6: Take an age-friendly approach to recreation		
6.1	Continue to encourage seniors to join recreation programming and explore opportunities to expand seniors programming with a focus on arts and culture, digital literacy, integrating new technologies (such as e-bikes), and mental health/wellness.	High

6.2	Engage with the Oliver Accessibility and Age-Friendly Committee to explore opportunities for partnerships for senior-specific recreation and a more age-friendly built environment.	High
6.3	Explore partnership opportunities including, but not limited to, Oliver Senior’s Center and the South Okanagan General Hospital to expand recreation, health, and wellness programming for seniors.	Medium
6.4	Continue working with the School District and consider establishing a youth steering committee to advise on youth-focused recreation needs.	Medium
Goal 7: Provide flexible recreation programming for the community year-round		
7.1	Prioritize recreation programming that accommodates diverse schedules and preferences by refining evening and weekend fitness class options for working adults and well-subscribed drop-in programs.	Medium
7.2	Increase opportunities for connecting to nature by offering more outdoor recreation programs.	Medium
7.3	Prioritize expanding indoor recreation options during the winter months to ensure continuous engagement and enjoyment for community members.	Medium
7.4	Consider ‘Virtual Fitness’ and ‘Virtual learn to’ programs to help address the challenge of instructor shortages.	Low
7.5	Look for opportunities to activate underutilized indoor and outdoor spaces with recreation programming and special events.	Medium
Goal 8: Expand arts and cultural programming		
8.1	Continue to collaborate with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to support recreational programming that promotes intercultural sharing between communities.	High
8.2	Explore options to expand arts programming, including the option of contracting an external organization to enhance recreation offerings or collaborating with local businesses and arts organizations.	High

8.3	Implement food-related programming aligned with the objectives of the Food Action Plan, emphasizing the celebration of the community’s cultural diversity through food in recreation programs.	Medium
8.4	Explore partnership opportunities with arts organizations including, but not limited to, the Venables Theatre and Oliver Community Arts Council to offer cultural programming.	Medium
Goal 9: Maintain and upgrade recreation facilities, parks, and trails		
9.1	Provide input on the RDOS Asset Management Plan and other plans and strategies related to recreation.	High
9.2	Schedule regular Facility Condition Assessments every ten years to ensure continuous maintenance and optimize the building's efficiency.	High
9.3	<p>Plan for upgrades to the Oliver and District Community Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct a comprehensive review of staff needs to be considered in future renovations of the staff workstations. ▪ Continue to pursue potential renovations for the community kitchen to support community food programming. ▪ Explore options for expanding the fitness/ weight room to improve accessibility and incorporate stretching and non-machine exercise. ▪ Incorporate additional unprogrammed casual spaces. ▪ Repair and address parking lot issues related to stormwater, aging asphalt, and circulation. 	High
9.4	<p>Plan for upgrades to the Oliver and District Arena.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance the original change facilities and washrooms. ▪ Improve the use of auxiliary spaces. ▪ Review and formalize space use agreements with user groups. 	High
9.5	<p>Plan for upgrades to the Oliver and District Pool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct a technical review of the pool basin. ▪ Upgrade the change facilities and lobby. ▪ Consider shading options for the pool deck. 	High

Goal 10: Strategically expand recreation facilities and parks to meet evolving community needs		
10.1	Continue to explore opportunities for facility replacement and renewal. Prioritize the development of flexible and multi-functional facilities that can adapt to evolving community needs and support a range of recreational activities.	Medium
10.2	Assess the potential of current facilities to function as emergency or resilience hubs during extreme weather or other emergencies.	Medium
Goal 11: Enhance the user experience at parks and trails		
11.1	Develop an integrated Parks Plan that encompasses system-wide recommendations for parks and greenspaces while also addressing park-specific design considerations.	High
11.2	Consider the impact of climate change when designing new or upgraded parks.	Medium
11.3	Follow universal design standards when establishing or upgrading parks, trails, and playgrounds.	Medium
11.4	Improve the consistency of park signage and wayfinding in parks and trails to enhance the sense of place and ease of navigation.	Medium
11.5	Consider developing a pump track to encourage children and youth to develop mountain biking and BMX skills.	Medium
Goal 12: Support active transportation and a connected community		
12.1	Collaborate with the Town of Oliver, RDOS, and Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to ensure active transportation networks and sidewalks connect to recreation amenities and that park paths and trails are cleared of snow throughout the winter.	Medium
12.2	Install distance markers, lighting, and benches along high-use trails.	Medium

Implementation

Implementation of the recommendations is intended to cover the period from 2025 to 2035 and will be pursued based on available resources. Financial decisions are made by the Town and RDOS during the operating and capital financial planning process. Funding from the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) through the fee-for-service agreement is also critical for implementation, but any changes are at the discretion of the OIB Council. A variety of funding strategies will be needed to implement the plan including tax funding, user fees, grants, donations, partnerships/collaborations, sponsorships, fundraising by community groups, and creative revenue-generating initiatives. The referendum process may be needed to pursue any significant recreation facility upgrades, replacements, or expansions.





INTRODUCTION



1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Oliver and District Recreation Plan sets out the vision and priorities for recreation services and capital investments over the next 10-20 years. The Plan was developed in collaboration with the Town of Oliver, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and the Osoyoos Indian Band. The Plan focuses on recreation programs and facilities in the Town, which serve residents of the Town, Electoral Area C, and the surrounding region. The Plan includes an evaluation of current facilities and programs, a review of past and ongoing planning efforts, community engagement to identify recreation needs and gaps, a vision and guiding principles, and recommendations for decision-making and recreation planning.

1.2 PROJECT PROCESS

The Recreation Plan process included the following five phases:

- **Phase 1 – Start-up, Inventory, and Analysis:** The project kicked off with conversations with staff, background research, examining pertinent plans and regulations, and reviewing the inventory of indoor and outdoor recreation and park facilities.
- **Phase 2 – Round 1 Community Engagement:** The objective of Phase 2 was to introduce the project to the community, learn about their values and priorities, and identify challenges and opportunities related to Recreation in the Town.
- **Phase 3 – Draft Recreation Plan:** A draft plan was created, considering all the information and community input gathered during the initial phases of the project. The draft plan proposed a vision, along with supporting goals and recommendations.
- **Phase 4 – Round 2 Community Engagement:** The draft vision, goals, and recommendations were presented to the community for additional feedback to help refine the plan and prioritize the recommendations.
- **Phase 5 – Final Recreation Plan:** An implementation plan was added, and the Final Recreation Plan was presented to Town Council and the RDOS Board for consideration.



Figure 1 - Project Timeline

1.3 FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION

Defining and understanding the benefits of recreation is essential for shaping Oliver’s approach to recreation service delivery. A *Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)* defines recreation as “[an] experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.”

Recreation brings immense benefits to residents, the local economy, and can help address the many challenges faced by municipalities today such as sedentary living, decreased contact with nature, and inequities.

The Framework (2015) identifies several benefits of recreation including:

- ***Enhancing mental and physical well-being.*** Engaging in recreational activities and having access to parks promote both mental and physical health, leading to increased physical activity and enhanced overall well-being.
- ***Enhancing social wellbeing.*** Participation in recreation strengthens social bonds and community resilience, which creates a sense of belonging and reduces loneliness. Recreation that includes opportunities for diverse cultures and interests also creates a welcoming environment and brings people together.
- ***Helping people connect with nature.*** Spending time outside and in nature provides improved health and well-being. There is evidence that it can lead to significant health outcomes, such as stress relief and reduced blood pressure. Parks and natural areas also play a crucial role in creating climate-resilient communities by providing shade, access to water, and protection of important habitats.
- ***Providing economic benefits by investing in recreation.*** Investing in recreation yields economic benefits by creating jobs, boosting tourism, and enhancing community appeal. By prioritizing recreation, communities can achieve long-term cost savings in healthcare and social services, making it a strategic investment in overall community well-being.

1.3.1 GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The goals and priorities for recreation identified in the *Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)* continue to guide future decision-making and resource allocation related to recreation in Oliver, Electoral Area C, and the surrounding region through this Recreation Plan.

The strategic goals are:



GOAL 1: Active Living.

Foster active living through physical recreation.



GOAL 2: Inclusion and Access.

Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.



GOAL 3: Connecting People and Nature

Help people connect to nature through recreation.



GOAL 4: Supportive Environments

Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities.



GOAL 5: Recreation Capacity

Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

1.4 MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

The Oliver community was formed on and shaped by the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), whose history stretches back 10,000 years. The OIB is a respected partner in the delivery of recreation services in Oliver & Area "C". Governments at all levels are adopting the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls To Action. Oliver and District Recreation joins the [Canadian Parks and Recreation Association](#) and British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association in adopting UNDRIP as a framework for our activities.

1.4.1 CALL TO ACTION

Some of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls To Action related to recreation and health include, but are not limited to the following:

- #87 - We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.
- #88 - We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.
- #89 - We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.
- #90 - We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including but not limited to establishing:
 - i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
 - ii. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
 - iii. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
 - iv. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.

1.4.2 BELONGING MATTERS

In 2018, Oliver and District Recreation (known as Oliver Parks and Recreation Society at the time) employed the Belonging Matters framework, created by Jesse Sutherland of Intercultural Strategies, to forge new connections and relationships between leaders and Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) community members. Through this process, Oliver and District Recreation gathered valuable insights into the community's perspectives and needs regarding recreation and the development of inclusive spaces.

Through the process, Oliver and District Recreation gathered insights into the perspectives and needs of OIB community members regarding recreation and the development of inclusive spaces. Several of the outcomes from the Belonging Matters conversations have informed the vision, principles, and recommendations in this Recreation Plan, such as:

- The importance of creating welcoming and inclusive spaces.
- The significance of suk^wna[?]qin (Okanagan) culture in activities and events.
- The value of nature and activities outside for re-connecting to the land and each other.
- The important role of recreation in building quality relationships between communities.
- The importance of increasing participation and representation in recreation, activities, and events across communities.

Oliver and District Recreation remains dedicated to fostering connections with the OIB and strives to enhance inclusive recreational facilities and activities through this Plan and future recreation planning initiatives.



Figure 2 - Photos and Quotes from Belonging Matters Youth sessions held in 2018

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND



2.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Oliver, located in the South Okanagan, is a thriving community with a population of approximately 5,000 residents. Oliver, Electoral Area “C”, and surrounding areas are situated within the unceded and ancestral territory of the Osoyoos Indian Band and sukʷnaʔqin (Okanagan) people of the Syilx Nation. Renowned as Canada’s Wine Capital, Oliver’s economic landscape is significantly shaped by wine production and tourism.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Determining Oliver and District’s present and future need for recreation and parks requires an understanding of its population. The Town of Oliver’s 5,094 residents account for approximately 5.6% of the population of the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS). As of the 2021 census, the population of the RDOS’s Electoral Area “C” (Oliver Rural) was 3,986. Since 2016, Oliver’s population has grown by 3% and Electoral Area “C” has grown by 12%. According to BC Stats, the Town of Oliver is expected to grow to 6,627 residents by 2034.

The average age in Oliver and Electoral Area “C” is 52 and 51, respectively. Both are significantly higher than the provincial average age of 43. Notably, 37.5% of the Town’s population and 34% of Electoral Area “C”’s population are over 65.

The populations of both Oliver and Electoral Area “C” are predominantly of European descent. Approximately 17% of the population are visible minorities, with the most common backgrounds being South Asian and Chinese. According to the 2021 census, 4.5% of the population identify as First Nations.

The health indicators of the Okanagan-Similkameen region’s population, which includes Oliver and Electoral Area “C”, are generally in line with the rest of BC, with 58% of people describing their health as very good or excellent, and 61% describing their mental health as very good or excellent.

The unemployment rate in Oliver is 8.4% and 7.5% in Electoral Area “C”, which is higher than the provincial rate of 5.2%. The labour force participation rate is 50.3%, corresponding with the high proportion of the population below working age and past the age of retirement.

The median household income in both Oliver and Electoral Area “C” is \$68,500. This is a bit lower than the RDOS median income of \$71,000 and much lower than the provincial median household income of \$107,000. This is likely influenced by the high proportion of older adults, many of whom are retired and are on fixed incomes.

2.3 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This Recreation Plan has been developed in alignment with the priorities identified in the Town of Oliver’s *Strategic Plan 2023-2027* related to recreation, such as the transformation of downtown into a bustling community hub, enhancing the town's walkability, promoting economic development, fostering strong relationships, and investing in social development. The Plan is also aligned with the RDOS Parks, Trails, and Recreation 10-year Master Plan (2023) which identifies priorities for recreation in Oliver and Electoral Area “C”.

2.3.1 GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Several plans contributed valuable background insights, guiding the creation and primary focus of this Plan. The following table is a summary of the guiding documents that helped shape this Plan.

DOCUMENT	CONTENT	IMPLICATIONS
RDOS Parks, Trails and Recreation 10-year Master Plan (2023)	This Plan contains an inventory of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities within Town boundaries and infrastructure strategies for recreation facilities. It also includes a description of Oliver and District’s recreation service delivery approach, utilization data for recreation facilities, and projected infrastructure needs.	The plan suggests that there are opportunities to partner with the RDOS on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter-based outdoor recreation; • Expanding art and play features in parks; • Increasing accessibility at parks and trails; • Interpretive elements along the KVR Trail; • Fee assistance programs; • Arts and cultural programs; and, • Updating existing recreation facilities.
Town of Oliver Active Transportation Downtown Beautification & Wayfinding Plan (2022)	This Plan outlines the approaches and priority projects related to enhancing the downtown area, including beautification, wayfinding, and active transportation. It is an extension of the Grow Oliver Economic Development Strategy 2-E, incorporating suggestions from Oliver’s Downtown Action Plan, Age-Friendly Plan, and Official Community Plan.	The plan identifies active transportation improvement projects that have an impact on recreation. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding wayfinding signage on trails; • Adding lighting at parks Community Park and Lion’s Park; • The Station Street Revitalization and Plaza Area; • The Ditch Trail; • Improvements to the Hike and Bike Trail; and, • A bike safety education program.
Age-Friendly Oliver: Assessment & Action Plan (2021)	This Plan provides a detailed demographic profile for Oliver and highlights the importance of providing recreation options for an aging population. Age-friendly Oliver identifies special recreation needs for Oliver and a plan for implementing recommended actions.	Several of the initiatives identified in the Age-Friendly Oliver: Assessment & Action Plan have implications for recreation such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving lighting in parks and trails; • Improving wayfinding in parks and trails; • Improving the accessibility of Oliver and District Recreation facilities; • Senior-specific social inclusion efforts; • Digital literacy programming; and, • The Harvest Hut.
Food Secure Oliver (2018)	This Plan aims to enhance food security in Oliver and Area “C”. The recommendations provided will impact food-related recreation programs, the community kitchen at the Oliver	Several of the initiatives identified in Food Secure Oliver have implications for recreation such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens in Oliver and Area “C”; • Multicultural food programming and events, and

	and District Community Hall, and the potential development of community gardens in parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on existing programs and assets, develop a Food Skills Initiative.
Park Improvement Plan (2015)	The Park Improvement Plan outlines key issues and opportunities related to parks and outdoor recreation in the Town of Oliver. The plan includes an inventory of parks, an assessment of their condition, and recommendations for improvements.	The findings in this Plan provide insight into outdoor recreation opportunities for parks in Oliver and inform recommendations related to outdoor recreation facilities in this Plan. The recommendations that have not been completed since the 2015 plan have been carried forward in this Recreation Plan.

Table 1- Relevant Plans and Policies

2.4 RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY

The Oliver Parks and Recreation Society (OPRS) managed recreation services from 2005 to 2023, in collaboration with the RDOS and the Town of Oliver.

In 2024, the OPRS was dissolved, and staff became employees of the Town under a new department - Oliver and District Recreation. The Town assumed responsibility for managing staff and maintaining the mission of fostering a vibrant and inclusive community through recreation. The service delivery model encompasses direct provision of services, enabling services, and funding/contract management.

Oliver and District Recreation directly manage recreation facilities, including the Oliver and District Arena, Oliver and District Community Pool, and the Oliver and District Community Hall. Oliver and District Recreation staff plan and deliver recreation programs directly, but also work with community organizations who deliver programs.

Recreation services are provided to residents of the Town, RDOS Electoral Area “C”, and surrounding areas through a service agreement with the RDOS. Property owners in the Town and Area “C” contribute to the service through property taxes. The Osoyoos Indian Band also contributes funding through a separate agreement with the Town.

In addition to funding through property taxes, residents who participate pay fees for program registration, facility admissions, and facility rentals. Community organizations also provide financial and in-kind contributions toward facilities and programs. For example, the Lions Club hosts free public skate sessions and the Oliver Pickleball Club helped to fundraise for dedicated courts.

The Oliver and District Recreation department consists of ten full time staff as well as several seasonal positions and program instructors. Additionally, the Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee was formed to facilitate input to Town of Oliver Council from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Electoral Area “C”, the Osoyoos Indian Band, and the public regarding Oliver and District Recreation initiatives, planning, and budgeting.

2.4.1 PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

Oliver and District Recreation has a joint-use agreement with School District No#53. School facilities accommodate adult drop-in sports programs.

Recreation staff coordinate with the Osoyoos Indian Band on activities and special events. Additionally, recreation staff works with local businesses, governments, recreation/community organizations, and service groups to develop programming, organize events, and increase the number of spaces available for recreation activities in the community.

2.5 INVESTMENT IN RECREATION

Support from the Town, RDOS, and Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) are crucial for ensuring the provision of high-quality recreational services in Oliver. Additionally, financial contributions from service groups and community fundraising efforts are also essential in ensuring the sustainability and expansion of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

The Town, RDOS, and OIB invest an average of \$2,292,577 annually (2019-2023) towards the operation of essential community facilities such as the community hall, pool, arena, parks, and playing fields. This budget also supports the delivery of recreation programs and community events. Revenue sources remained relatively stable from 2018 to 2020, apart from 2020. On average, the annual cost recovery is around 30%. Oliver and District has a relatively low overall revenue from taxes, reflecting the community's commitment to fiscal responsibility with expenditures.

2.5.1 RECENT AND ON-GOING INITIATIVES

- Lion's Park Public Washroom Upgrades (Completed Spring 2024)
- Oliver and District Arena Rehabilitation Program (Construction started Spring 2024)
- Kinsmen Playground Upgrades (Completion target Fall 2024)
- Outdoor Basketball Court Development (Completion target fall 2024)
- Oliver and District Community Hall Kitchen Upgrades (Construction starts spring 2025)



RECREATION IN OLIVER

Indoor Recreation Facilities

- A** Oliver & District Community Hall
- B** Oliver & District Arena
- C** Oliver Curling Centre
- D** Park Drive Church (Yoga Studio)
- E** Oliver Elementary School
- F** Southern Okanagan Secondary School
- G** Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School

Yellow facilities managed by Oliver and District Recreation
 Red facilities managed by others

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- 1** Oliver & District Outdoor Pool
- 2** Oliver Community Park
- 3** Lion's Park & Small Wheels Playground
- 4** Rotary Park & Beach
- 5** Kinsmen Spray Park
- 6** Kiwanis Park
- 7** Bridge Park
- 8** Triangle Park
- 9** Gala Street Walkway
- 10** Fairview Park
- 11** Ditch Trail
- 12** Hike and Bike Trail

Green facilities managed by Oliver and District Recreation
 Blue facilities managed by others



3.1 RECREATION FACILITIES

This section includes descriptions of the indoor recreation facilities and the parks that Oliver and District Recreation maintain, manage, and program. It also provides a summary of the key findings from the facility review conducted by Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects and insights gained from conversations with staff.

3.1.1 OLIVER AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY HALL

The Oliver and District Community Hall, a hub for community events, is an excellent venue for hosting community programming and private rentals. The facility was built in 1976 and is a single-story structure with a central courtyard/breezeway that separates the building into two parts: one part containing the main hall, stage, and community kitchen, and the other part containing the reception and staff workstations, two multipurpose rooms, and the community weight room. While well used, the current configuration of Oliver and District's Community Hall presents operational and programming challenges due to the disconnected nature of the spaces.

Key Findings

Reception Area and Staff Workstations

- The administrative area of the facility has several organizational challenges, including limited space for staff use, little natural light in certain areas, and insufficient workstations. The lack of dedicated amenities, such as staff washrooms or lunchrooms, and the small reception area disconnected from program spaces contribute to operational inefficiencies.
- Additionally, the configuration of the workstations underscores the need for renovation to boost functionality so that staff can conduct their work, meetings, and communications without disruption.

Multipurpose and Community Weight Room

- Two multipurpose rooms cater to various activities but are hindered by low ceiling clearance. The rooms have been updated with new vinyl flooring which is durable and easy to clean. One of the rooms has a sink and counter that allows for serving snacks or hosting arts and crafts programs. Despite being well-maintained, the rooms lack sufficient storage and the entrances are awkwardly located in the hallway behind the staff workstations or directly from the courtyard.
- Visits to the community weight room increased 27% from 2022-2023, boasting 700 visits annually. It is the only weight room in the town and surrounding area. The weight room is well-used, yet faces operational hurdles including:
 - There are no showers or change rooms, and users must use washrooms shared with staff. There are no universal washrooms in the building.

- The current layout requires staff supervision within the gym area because it is separated from the reception area. Staff must leave the reception area to let people in. Adding an automated admission system on the external door partially solved this issue.

Courtyard

- The courtyard serves as a transitional space within the facility and offers the potential for additional programming. Although frequently used in the summer for events, markets, and children’s programming, the lack of shade can be uncomfortable for participants on a sunny day.



Community Hall with Stage

- The multipurpose hall accommodates diverse activities, from pickleball to weaving to weddings.
- Despite the popularity of the hall for programming, it can be noisy due to a lack of acoustic controls. The space divider does not provide adequate acoustic control between programs.
- Another challenge with the Community Hall is cooling and heating spaces within the same building for different users (quilters versus fitness class etc.).
- The community kitchen requires renovation to align with community programming goals.

3.1.2 OLIVER AND DISTRICT ARENA

The Oliver and District Arena, built in 1969, represents a longstanding fixture in the community, dedicated to meeting various recreational needs. An expansion in the 1990s introduced additional change rooms to accommodate evolving demands. Since then, renovations have been infrequent. Significant improvements to the arena are underway, including enhancing energy efficiency and accessibility in the original change rooms and repairing the failing refrigerated slab.



Key Findings

- Originally constructed as a pre-engineered steel building, the facility's structural limitations have led to some compromises in space utilization. Despite this, it remains a central hub for figure skaters, hockey players, and recreational skaters.
- Although a detailed review of the building envelope has not been conducted, given the age of the building, there may be opportunities for improvement in energy efficiency and structural integrity.
- There are ancillary spaces on the upper level above the rink, but they aren't easily accessed and don't provide flexible programming opportunities. A considerable amount of the upper level is taken up by user group storage.
- Between 2022-2023 there was an average of 900 visitors annually.

3.1.3 INDOOR FACILITY BENCH MARKING

Oliver and District’s indoor facility supply was benchmarked against similar communities (Table 2) to assess its comparative standing. The amenities, including a weight room, arena, and curling rink, and community kitchen are on par with those of comparable communities. Like Oliver and District, none of the comparative communities currently have an indoor pool, although there is one planned in Golden. The analysis also highlights the opportunity for a gymnasium. Although Oliver and District Recreation has a joint use agreement for use of school gymnasiums, the hours available is limited and the location away from the main recreation hub can make staffing a challenge. A gymnasium would help address the gap in winter programming and gymnastics options identified during community engagement.

Key Indoor Facilities	Oliver and Area C	Comparable Communities				Total average including comparable communities and Oliver	Oliver Supply Compared to Other Communities
		Peachland	Osoyoos	Golden	Armstrong		
Weight Room	1	1	1	0	1	0.8	On par
Gymnasium	0	1	1	1	0	0.6	Below
Indoor Pool	0	0	0	0*	0	0	On par
Arena	1	0	1	1	2	1	On par
Curling Rinks	1	0	1	1	1	0.8	On par
Indoor Walking Track	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	On par
Commercial Kitchen	1	1	1	1	0	0.8	On par

*A referendum (2022) passed for the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) to construct an indoor aquatic centre.

Table 2 - Indoor Facility Benchmarking

3.1.4 OLIVER AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY POOL

The Oliver and District Community Pool is an outdoor pool and hot tub with an enclosed lobby, reception, change facilities, and mechanical service rooms. The pool tank has both a 5-lane lap pool and a leisure area with a beach entry. Individual and group swim lessons and fitness programs, like Aquafit, are very popular and offered at the pool from May to September. The pool is also very popular for swimming, especially as the local lake has excessive algae growth by mid-summer. The facility is well-used by the community with usage increasing by 133% from 2022 to 2023, and 3,000 drop-in swim visits annually.



Key Findings

- As the pool basin nears the end of its operational lifespan, water levels decline notably during the summer months. A leaking tank is suspected, along with high evaporation levels in the heat.
- The change rooms still adhere to traditional gendered group norms established during the facility's construction era.
- While the lobby functions adequately, there are opportunities for improvement, especially in implementing better admission control to the pool area.
- The finishes and materials throughout the facility show signs of wear and have exceeded their expected durability.
- User and staff comfort issues, like the absence of shading on the pool deck, present a challenge for visitors who seek relief from the sun.
- Additionally, upgrades may be necessary to enhance accessibility for visitors with mobility issues.

3.1.5 OLIVER COMMUNITY PARK

Oliver Community Park is a vibrant destination offering a centralized cluster of active recreation amenities and an event space. It is adjacent to the Oliver and District Community Hall and part of the complex with the arena and curling rink. The park has five multi-use fields catering to various sports like slo-pitch, softball, baseball, and soccer, and is a hub for athletic pursuits. The sports fields support athletic tournaments, and the ball diamonds serve as the venue for the Big League Experience baseball camp in the summer months.

Other recreation amenities within the park include the outdoor pool (described above), three tennis courts, four pickleball courts, a beach volleyball court, and a 9-hole disc golf course. The park has 1 km of pathways and connects to the Oliver Hike and Bike Trail. The pathways within the park are wheelchair accessible. An open-air stage and shade structure provide a dynamic venue for live performances and community events. For families with young children, the Tots and Tykes Playground provides a safe and enjoyable space for play and exploration, ensuring fun for our smallest visitors.



Key Findings

- Nearly 80% of respondents in the public survey use Oliver Community Park frequently.
- Planned upgrades include installing lighting throughout the park and constructing a basketball court at the former lawn bowling facility, adjacent to the hall.
- The community has shown interest in integrating a cricket pitch between the existing playing fields, but there isn't adequate space to meet official dimensions which has been a barrier to moving forward.
- There is enthusiasm for expanding disc golf course within the park or elsewhere in the Town.
- Staff highlighted the challenge of insufficient shade during summer community events in the park, as the stage faces west and gets afternoon and evening sun directly on performers and audience.

3.1.6 LION'S PARK AND SMALL WHEELS SKATE PARK

Situated on Station Street, Lion's Park is centrally located and supports a diverse range of activities and amenities for everyone to enjoy. The park features a dedicated playground area designed for younger children, providing a safe and engaging space for play and exploration. For small wheel enthusiasts, the Small Wheels Skate Park offers an exciting venue to showcase their skills. Additionally, visitors can stay active with exercise stations along a scenic path. A covered structure serves as a versatile gathering place throughout the year. The presence of a seasonal vendor selling food items adds to the park's appeal, providing convenience for visitors. Picnic tables scattered throughout the park invite relaxation and outdoor dining experiences, while convenient public washrooms ensure comfort for all park-goers.



Key Findings

- This park has undergone recent upgrades following the 2015 Park Improvement Plans such as the expansion of the skate park and the addition of an off-leash dog area.
- The former Centennial RV Park property next to the park remains largely unused but holds significant potential to offer additional green space for the community.
- The park lacks wayfinding and interpretive signage which would enhance the visitor experience and navigation.
- The recent expansion and retrofit of the washroom building in the style of the old KVR train station reflects ongoing efforts to improve amenities for park-goers.

3.1.7 ROTARY PARK AND BEACH

Nestled in the southwest corner of Tuc-el-nuit Lake, Rotary Park and Beach stands as Oliver's primary public swimming area. The beach hosts a range of lake activities suitable for athletes and casual swimmers alike. Rotary Park includes picnic tables, public washrooms, and a playground for children. Rotary Beach has undergone numerous upgrades over the years, reflecting the community's dedication to maintaining and enhancing this cherished space.



Key Findings

- The park furniture is aging, and upgrades would improve comfort and aesthetics for visitors.
- The parking lot layout does not efficiently utilize space and poses challenges for visitors with mobility impairments.
- The presence of geese on the beach negatively impacts visitor comfort and poses a health risk for swimmers. Additionally, the removal of goose droppings presents an ongoing challenge for parks maintenance staff.
- The absence of storage or a dock for launching non-motorized boats limits recreational opportunities. There are canoeing programs including lessons and clinics that take place at Rotary Beach, but non-motorized boating activities could be expanded with improved facilities.

3.1.8 KINSMEN SPRAY PARK

Centrally located on Park Drive, the centerpiece of the park are the water play features, inviting children of all ages to cool off and play in the water and providing families with a refreshing escape from the summer heat. Complementing the spray park is a fully equipped playground tailored for young children, offering opportunities for exploration, climbing, and play. This ensures an engaging and entertaining experience for the entire family. The park has public washrooms, parking, picnic tables, and benches. Opportunities to cool off will be increasingly important considering climate change, and spray parks are an affordable (free!) option for all ages and abilities that has much lower resource demands compared to swimming or wading pools.



Figure 3 - Kinsmen Spray Park (Source: Okanagan Family Fun)

Key Findings

- Park infrastructure and furniture is aging, however \$150,000 of capital reserve funding has been allocated for playground upgrades, which may include replacing pea gravel with fall-friendly surfacing, adding shade structures, incorporating accessible paths, upgrading play features, installing accessible swings, and providing additional seating. These upgrades aim to improve accessibility, safety, and overall enjoyment for visitors of all ages and abilities.

3.1.9 HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL

The Hike and Bike Trail is a section of the Kettle Valley Trail that runs through the Town of Oliver and Electoral Area “C”. The trail meanders along the Okanagan River channel and connects key areas of the Town. The trail is mostly paved, but the section south of Oliver towards Osoyoos is gravel.

Key Findings

- The municipal section of the Hike and Bike Trail sees significant usage for exercise, dog walking, and commuting.
- The Town of Oliver and the RDOS share responsibility for maintaining the municipal section of the Trail.
- Upgrades to the Hike and Bike Trail, such as adding lighting and trail maintenance, were included in the 2022 Downtown Beautification Strategy.
- Oliver and District Recreation is considering clearing the secondary trail along the river for recreational use.

3.1.10 OTHER PARKS AND GREENSPACES

Several parks and greenspaces in Oliver maintained by Public Works may serve as future recreation sites. Kiwanis Park offers numerous picnic tables, benches, and large shade trees, making it an ideal spot for passive recreation. Triangle Park, located at the southern end of Downtown Oliver, features a rose garden and benches. Bridge Park, a recently established space, showcases Syilx/Okanagan culture through a metal statue of the Salmon Chief. Fairview Park provides picnic tables and serves as a vital link between the Gala Street Walkway and the Ditch Trail. The Gala Street Walkway is a 600-meter accessible path that showcases Oliver’s native grass landscaping and offers stunning views. The Ditch Trail (Canal) from Similkameen to Road #2 is the site of a proposed recreational trail network area. Converting the existing maintenance access road to a multi-use path creates an accessible off-street path for walking and cycling on the west side of town.

3.1.11 OUTDOOR FACILITY BENCH MARKING

Oliver's outdoor facility supply was benchmarked against similar communities (Table 3) to assess its comparative standing. The analysis revealed that Oliver has an above-average provision of playgrounds, playing fields, ball diamonds, and tennis and pickleball courts. The proposed addition of a new basketball court in Oliver Community Park brings Oliver in line with comparable communities in terms of basketball courts.

Key Outdoor Park Amenities	Oliver and Area C	Comparable Communities				The average for Comparable Communities	Oliver Supply Compared to Other Communities
		Peachland	Osoyoos	Golden	Armstrong		
Playgrounds	5	4	2	6	3	4	Above
Playing Fields	3	0	3	3	0	1.5	Above
Ball Diamonds	5	1	6	1	2	2.5	Above
Basketball Courts	1**	0	2	2	1	1	On Par
Tennis Courts	3	4	2	1	1	2	Above
Pickleball Courts	4	2	0*	3	4	2.6	Above
Small Wheels/ Skate Parks	1	1	1	2	1	1	On Par
Beach Volleyball Courts	1	0	5	0	0	1	On Par

Table 3 - Outdoor Facility Benchmarking

*Osoyoos has 3 temporary courts.

**A basketball court is planned for 2024/2025 at Community Park.

3.2 RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Oliver and District Recreation provides a wide array of programs designed for all age groups, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community atmosphere. Children's programs aim to inspire creativity and develop skills, while their youth programs offer exciting adventures and essential life skills, creating a supportive environment for personal growth. Oliver and District Recreation offers recreation programming at the Oliver and District Community Pool, the Oliver and District Arena, the Oliver and District Community Hall, Park Drive Church (Yoga Studio), parks, trails, and schools. Some of the programming offered in Oliver and District includes:



3.2.1 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Oliver and District Recreation offers programming for adults (years 16+), designed to cater to various interests and skill levels. Programming ranges from fitness classes such as Function Fit and Morning Mash Up, aimed at improving strength, flexibility, and overall well-being, to meditative practices such as Tai Chi or Yoga. Oliver and District Recreation offers drop-in Pickleball at the Community Hall. Oliver and District Recreation also offer educational programming such as Emergency First Aid courses and Small Steps for Big Changes (a lifestyle program focused on diabetes prevention through physical activity and dietary changes).

3.2.2 PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Oliver and District Recreation invites and promotes seniors' involvement in its adult programs and events like the circuit during Seniors' Week and those organized by the Oliver Seniors Center. Programs like tai chi, gentle yoga, and functional fit are well attended by seniors, though they are open to all ages. Additionally, Oliver and District Recreation offers discounted rates for seniors on fitness classes and memberships.

3.2.3 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Oliver and District Recreation provides a range of engaging activities tailored to children's interests and developmental stages from Parent & Tot Gym for toddlers to Crafty Creations and Active Start fostering

creativity and physical literacy. Children can participate in Learn to Skate lessons or explore hands-on activities through Loose Parts Play. Specialized offerings like Tyke-Nastics, Ninja-Nastics, and Boxing cater to diverse interests for ages 6-14. Popular camps such as Pro D Day Camp and Spring Break Camp offer exciting days filled with games, sports, and enjoyable experiences.

3.2.4 PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Oliver and District Recreation offers a range of activities tailored for youth aged 9-17, from Ninja Warriors (Ages 9-14), integrating JuJutsu principles with values like discipline and teamwork, to community-focused Boxing classes for ages 14 and above. Outdoor recreation programming for youth includes Disc Golf and a Spring Small Wheels Camp (Ages 7-12) for skateboarding and scooting skills led by experienced riders. Educational offerings include a Babysitter's Course (Ages 11-17), and basic first aid, while Improv 101 (Ages 13-18) enhances storytelling skills in a supportive environment.



3.2.5 LOW/NO-COST PROGRAMS

Oliver and District Recreation strives to ensure that everyone can participate in recreational activities by offering low/no-cost programs. The JumpStart program provides funding for children aged 4 to 18 who want to engage in physical activities, learn new sports, or continue with their current interests but require financial support. Funding is available for registration fees, equipment, and transportation. Supported by local organizations such as Oliver Fire Department (OFD), Women of Oliver (WOW), Kiwanis, No Frills, Buy Low Foods, and the Oliver Elks, Anyone Can Join is a sponsorship program aimed at providing financial aid to children, youth, and adults in Oliver and Electoral Area "C". Eligible individuals can receive up to \$150 per person per calendar year towards registration in recreation programs of their choice.

3.2.6 JOINT OIB AND OLIVER AND DISTRICT RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Oliver and District Recreation collaborates with Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) on activities and events such as the Warriors of Truth hockey tournament, archery, lacrosse, canoeing, and dancing and drumming at community events.

3.2.7 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Oliver and District Recreation hosts twelve community events throughout the year ranging from fun runs and hockey tournaments to movie nights and holiday celebrations. These events are well attended and enjoyed by the community but require significant planning and time from Oliver and District Recreation.

3.2.8 PROGRAMMING KEY FINDINGS

- Survey respondents' express satisfaction with Oliver's recreation programs, yet they suggest that increasing the number of evening fitness classes would enable individuals with day jobs to participate more readily.
- Survey participants also express interest in additional outdoor recreation choices, such as guided hiking, snowshoeing, and kayaking/canoeing.
- Analysis of participation rates from 2022-2023 indicates that volleyball and Pickleball are the most favored adult sports (Appendix B).
- Enrolment in child/youth camps, sports, and martial arts is very high.
- The Winter Learn to Skate program has more applicants than available spaces.
- Boot Camps are the most popular adult fitness class and strength training saw low levels of participation.
- Seniors-specific activities are a gap in recreation programming.
- Fewer arts and cultural programs were offered for children and youth in 2023 than in previous years

WHAT WE HEARD



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

ROUND 1 PURPOSE

To collect information on how people participate in recreation, what they value, and what they want to see for recreation facilities, programs, parks, and trails in the future. This input helped shape the project's overarching vision and principles, as well as the initial draft recommendations in this Plan.

ROUND 2 PURPOSE

The aim of Round 2 of engagement, held in June 2024, was to gather community feedback on the draft vision, principles, and recommendations to identify any remaining gaps and set priorities before finalizing the plan.

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

LEES+Associates supported Oliver and District Recreation in meeting with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) on January 25, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Chief Louie and Council to the project, invite input and participation, and continue to foster this important relationship. The OIB agreed to share the online survey with community members and appointed a representative to be the point of contact for the Recreation Plan and to sit on the newly formed Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee.

Refer to Appendix C for a full summary of engagement activities and findings.



WHAT WE DID

ROUND 1

- 502 participants in the online survey
- 50 participants in a student survey
- 3 user group workshops
- 20 participants in Open House

ROUND 2

- 74 participants in the online survey
- 2 pop-ups at events
- 1 online presentation

OUTREACH

The Town of Oliver website was used as a primary information-sharing tool. It was updated with information about the project objectives, planning process, and how to get involved with engagement. The open house and survey were also advertised through:

- Social media posts on Town of Oliver and Oliver & District Recreation social media
- Direct emails from Oliver and District Recreation
- Posters
- The Times Chronicle
- Local radio



ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY VALUES

We heard that the community values:



Affordable and accessible recreation options



Diverse and inclusive programs



Programs for families and seniors



Excellence in service



Year-round recreation

WHAT IS WORKING WELL

Popular activities include:

- walking/hiking, community events and swimming/beach activities

Popular facilities include:

- **The most utilized facilities are the Hike & Bike Trail, Oliver Community Park, Oliver and District Community Hall.**

Oliver and District Recreation Staff

- There were many comments with positive feedback about the current Parks and Recreation staff, acknowledging their efforts and commitment to quality services.

Recreation Programs

- When asked about their satisfaction with recreation programs, 68% are **very satisfied or somewhat satisfied.**

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

OPPORTUNITIES

Facility Upgrades

- Priorities include adding shade at the pool, expanding the weight room, and community kitchen.

Community Events

- High participation rates, with demand for more opportunities.

Expanded Programming

- Strong support for more outdoor, food-related, and arts programming.

Partnerships

- Strong support for partnerships to enhance diverse and inclusive programming.

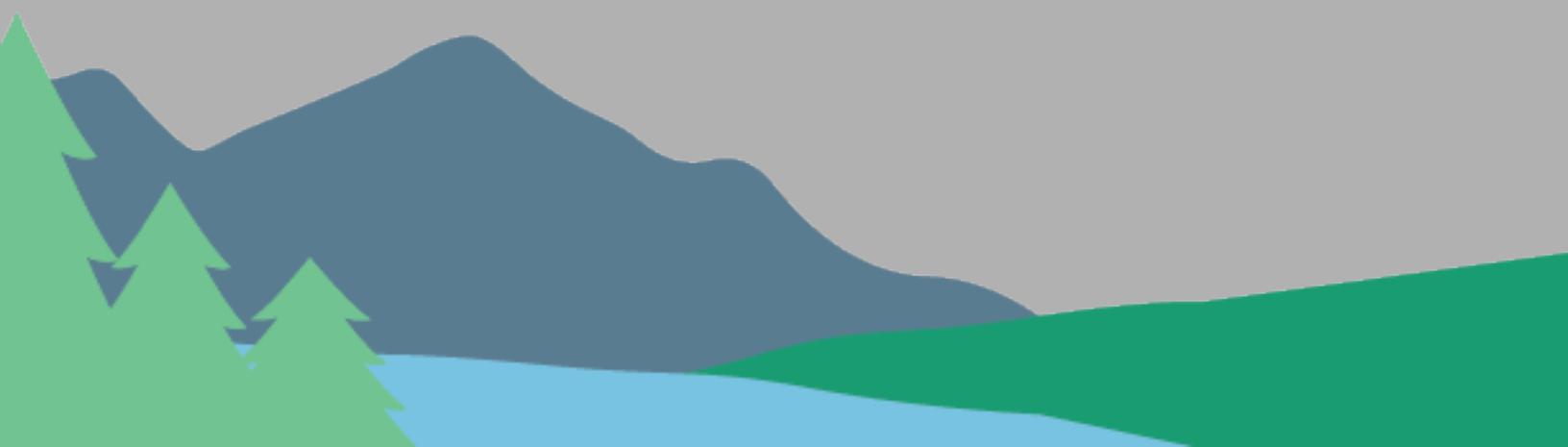
CHALLENGES

Indoor Pool

- Many participants express desire for an indoor pool, but a [recent feasibility study](#) shows several challenges related to developing an indoor pool.

Year-Round Activities

- High demand for more indoor and outdoor programming during evenings and weekends, but limited facility spaces and instructors are challenges.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The following is a discussion of the key challenges and opportunities related to recreation in Oliver and the surrounding area.

5.1 STRENGTHS

Committed Staff

Oliver and District Recreation has a dedicated staff team that is well-known and appreciated by the community. Community feedback reveals high levels of satisfaction with recreation programs and maintenance of recreation facilities.

Partnerships

Oliver and District Recreation has strong partnerships with the School District, Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), and many community organizations. These partnerships empower Oliver and District Recreation to diversify its recreation programming offerings and secure access to facilities managed by external entities.

Volunteers

The dedicated volunteers and community sport and recreation organizations within the Town and Area “C” are crucial to the success of Oliver and District Recreation’s events and provide a great diversity of recreation options for the community.

Facilities

There is an excellent range and quality of centrally located recreation facilities for the size of the community.

Affordability

There is a strong provision of affordable options for recreation. Initiatives like the Oliver and District Recreation’s Anyone Can Join Program, which provides financial assistance to children, youth, and adults towards program registration, can help address disparities in access to leisure activities. Parks and trails also offer low-cost recreation opportunities, such as biking, walking, and casual use of playgrounds or park fields.

5.2 TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Facilities

Oliver’s aging recreation facilities present an opportunity to reimagine and modernize these spaces to meet present-day standards and the evolving needs of the community. Today’s recreation centers are no longer just venues for physical activities; they are becoming multifunctional hubs that serve broader community purposes. By integrating diverse amenities such as weight rooms, art studios, community libraries, childcare services, and spaces that can double as emergency shelters or cooling centers during

extreme weather events, these facilities can significantly enhance community resilience and participation in recreation.

While securing funding for these new and upgraded facilities is a challenge due to the Town's limited tax base, this situation opens avenues for innovative solutions and partnerships. The financial burden of developing essential infrastructure, such as a new indoor pool, need not be shouldered by the Town alone. Strategic partnerships and external financial contributions are crucial.

Moreover, community engagement feedback indicates strong support for upgrading and maintaining existing facilities. By focusing on these upgrades while exploring opportunities for external funding and partnerships, Oliver can transform its current challenges into a pathway for sustainable growth and enhanced community services.

Capacity

Like many communities across Canada, Oliver faces challenges in recreation service delivery due to limited internal and external capacity. However, these challenges also present unique opportunities for growth and innovation. Oliver and District Recreation can take proactive steps to build internal capacity and attract and retain volunteers, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality recreation programs and services.

Currently, Oliver and District Recreation staff are operating at or beyond their capacity, and the department struggles to recruit program instructors and fill programs, especially given its smaller population. The strength of local volunteerism in Oliver and Electoral Area “C”, along with the critical impact that service clubs and sports organizations have had on recreation services, has been pivotal in building a strong and resilient community. However, a national decline in community volunteerism puts Oliver and District Recreation at risk of losing valuable programs and services if volunteers discontinue their involvement.

Addressing these challenges offers the chance to forge strategic partnerships and secure external financial contributions. By focusing on building a robust support network and enhancing staff and volunteer engagement, Oliver can transform these obstacles into opportunities for sustainable growth. This approach not only maintains existing facilities but also paves the way for future upgrades, ultimately fostering a thriving recreational community.

Balancing Cost Recovery and Affordability

While Oliver and District Recreation are doing a great job of providing affordable recreation options, there is a growing need to balance affordability with cost recovery as facility and programming costs continue to rise. Many Canadian municipalities face the challenge of providing affordable access to high-quality facilities and programs. It is crucial to pursue diverse funding methods for delivering recreation services, including partnerships, grants, and community fundraising.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The aging population and influx of retirees in Oliver presents both a challenge and opportunity. This demographic has a range of recreation needs which is challenging for a small municipality, however, this also presents an opportunity for partnerships with organizations already offering programs and services aimed at seniors.

Oliver's growing diversity, marked by a range of ethnocultural groups, not only enriches recreational experiences but also underscores the imperative to address their unique needs. This presents an opportunity to reassess communication strategies and program offerings to better serve newcomers. Initiatives such as translating signage and event posters and developing welcoming programs specifically tailored to new Canadians are essential steps towards fostering inclusivity and ensuring that Oliver remains a vibrant and welcoming community for all.

By focusing on barrier-free access and universally accessible designs in parks and facilities, Oliver can empower people of all ages and abilities to participate in recreation. This inclusive approach will ensure that Oliver's recreation services are equitable, responsive, and strengthen community well-being.

Climate Change

Responding to climate change presents an opportunity to adapt parks and facilities to mitigate its impacts effectively. With the increasing risks of wildfires and extreme heat events in the Okanagan, it is essential to consider climate change's effects on community health and infrastructure when planning future recreation facilities. By proactively adapting facilities to withstand these challenges, Oliver and District Recreation can ensure uninterrupted recreation services and program delivery, even during emergencies.

Outdoor Recreation

Increasing outdoor recreation in the Town of Oliver not only fosters personal connections to nature but also promotes environmental stewardship and community engagement. Parks and trails in Oliver safeguard ecosystems, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance air and water quality.

Given Oliver's favorable location near outdoor recreation areas like Baldy Mountain and McKinney Nordic Ski area, there is great potential to enhance activities such as hiking, skiing/snowshoeing, and mountain biking. By expanding outdoor recreation opportunities, the Oliver and District Recreation can promote physical and mental well-being, as well as strengthening community ties and foster a greater sense of environmental responsibility.

VISION AND PRINCIPLES



The background review, inventory, assessments of programs and facilities, and community engagement process findings have all contributed to the development of the vision and direction for Oliver and District Recreation Department that is described in the remainder of this report. The vision and principles capture the foundation for decision-making and will guide priorities for recreation service over the next 10-20 years. Along with guiding documents, such as the Foundation for Recreation in Canada and strategic planning by the Town and RDOS, these statements are grounded in the community's values and will be a touchstone for staff, Council, partners, and the community to come back to as a reminder of the purpose and direction for recreation in Oliver. They will also be a guide for decision-making as new opportunities arise.

6.1 VISION

Oliver and District Recreation works collaboratively to provide a variety of high-quality, accessible recreation opportunities that support community health and well-being, foster a sense of belonging, and are economically and ecologically sustainable.

6.2 PRINCIPLES

The following five principles will help shape decision-making for recreation in Oliver and District:

Excellence in Service: We deliver excellent recreation services and programs that are cost-effective and align with the evolving needs of the community.

Partnerships: We build community capacity, encourage volunteerism and stewardship, and recognize that partnerships and collaboration are essential for providing high-quality recreation.

Fostering Connections: We value and respect the relationship with the Osoyoos Indian Band and create opportunities for inclusion, collaboration, representation, and reconciliation between communities.

Inclusive and Accessible: We actively create inclusive, affordable, and welcoming recreation opportunities to meet the diverse needs of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.

Four-Season Recreation: We are committed to offering year-round recreation opportunities, actively seeking and creating diverse programs for all seasons.

By leveraging these principles and addressing challenges through innovative solutions and strategic partnerships, Oliver and District Recreation will continue to provide exceptional services and foster community well-being.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: Build internal capacity

Recommendation 1.1: Enhance staff expertise by offering training on topics such as community development, Syilx/Okanagan culture, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Recommendation 1.2: Work to find efficiencies and synergies in facility maintenance and operations and consider a dedicated facility manager position. This will allow the Director of Recreation to focus on strategic priorities, capital works/infrastructure, community resilience, and maintaining a healthy work culture for the department.

Recommendation 1.3: Consider offering local training or providing incentives for community members to become certified lifeguards, instructors, coaches, or referees.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada goals*:



Recreation Capacity

Goal 2: Strengthen regional and community partnerships

Recommendation 2.1: Clarify and streamline roles and responsibilities for parks and recreation service delivery to ensure efficient coordination between Oliver and District Recreation, Town of Oliver, Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS).

Recommendation 2.2: Collaborate with Town of Oliver Public Works and Development Services to ensure future parks (such as Gala Linear Park and Station Street) align with Oliver and District Recreation principles and goals.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada goals*:



Recreation Capacity



Supportive Environments

Goal 3: Retain and enhance volunteerism

Recommendation 3.1: Continue to support volunteer groups by providing meeting room space, promoting resource sharing, and avoiding duplication in services.

Recommendation 3.2: Continue to advertise volunteer opportunities to members of the community, such as high-school students or retirees.

Recommendation 3.3: Continue to recognize volunteers for their contributions through the volunteer benefits program and Spirit of Oliver award.

Recommendation 3.4: Continue to work with local recreation organizations to promote their programs and services. Consider advertising outdoor recreation clubs in the recreation program guide, hosting an annual recreation fair where organizations can promote their programs and services, and sharing external recreation initiatives on Oliver and District Recreation’s social media.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada* goals:



Recreation Capacity



Supportive Environments



Inclusion and Access

Goal 4: Take an inclusive and welcoming approach to recreation.

Recommendation 4.1: Partner with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to explore opportunities for sharing knowledge about suk^wnaʔqin (Okanagan) culture at recreation facilities, parks, activities, and events. For example, collaborate with the OIB to highlight the stories of OIB athletes at new and future recreation facilities.

Recommendation 4.2: Collaborate with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to develop interpretive signage along the river to enrich and acknowledge cultural significance in parks and trails. Signage along the river within Lions Park is an example of a good opportunity.

Recommendation 4.3: Work with the Oliver Accessibility and Age-Friendly Committee to ensure that Oliver and District Recreation facilities, programs, and events are welcoming for community members of all abilities.

Recommendation 4.4: Investigate opportunities to broaden programming aimed at encouraging participation from newcomers to Canada.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada* goals:



Supportive Environments



Inclusion and Access

Goal 5: Balance affordability and cost recovery.

Recommendation 5.1: Develop a Fees and Charges Bylaw for recreation.

Recommendation 5.2: Review the current practices of offering subsidized rates for individuals to ensure that the program maximizes benefits for those in need and maintains financial viability.

Recommendation 5.3: Develop and implement a Facility Allocation Policy that prioritizes community programming needs.

Recommendation 5.4: Consider implementing fee assistance from Oliver and District Recreation as part of an integrated system for accessing social services within the Town to reduce the administrative burden for individuals in need.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada* goals:



Recreation Capacity



Inclusion and Access

Goal 6: Take an age-friendly approach to recreation

Recommendation 6.1: Continue to encourage seniors to join recreation programming and explore opportunities to expand seniors programming with a focus on arts and culture, digital literacy, integrating new technologies (such as e-bikes), and mental health/wellness.

Recommendation 6.2: Engage with the Oliver Accessibility and Age-Friendly Committee to explore opportunities and partnerships for senior-specific recreation and a more age-friendly built environment.

Recommendation 6.3: Explore partnership opportunities including, but not limited to, Oliver Senior’s Center and the South Okanagan General Hospital to expand recreation, health, and wellness programming for seniors as outlined in the Age-Friendly Oliver: Assessment & Action Plan (2021).

Recommendation 6.4: Continue working with the School District and consider establishing a youth steering committee to advise on youth-focused recreation needs.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada* goals:



Active Living



Inclusion and Access

Goal 7: Provide flexible recreation programming for the community year-round.

Recommendation 7.1: Prioritize recreation programming that accommodates diverse schedules and preferences by refining evening and weekend fitness class options for working adults and prioritizing well-subscribed drop-in programs.

Recommendation 7.2: Increase opportunities for connecting to nature by offering more outdoor recreation programs. Program options could include hiking excursions, bird watching, snowshoeing, and kayaking/canoeing to encourage community engagement with nature.

Recommendation 7.3: Prioritize expanding indoor recreation options during the winter months to ensure continuous engagement and enjoyment for community members.

Recommendation 7.4: Consider ‘Virtual Fitness’ and ‘Virtual Learn-To’ programs to help address the challenge of instructor shortages. Since the pandemic, there has been an increase in the options and acceptance of virtual instruction as a viable alternative.

Recommendation 7.5: Look for opportunities to activate underutilized indoor and outdoor spaces with recreation programming and special events. While preserving the need for flexible spaces, consider the development of portable parklets (e.g., railway containers) to provide cost-effective places of belonging, tying into the railway theme of the Kettle Valley. These spaces can feature community garden boxes, artwork, shading, and benches, making them viable gathering spots. They can be further enlivened with activities like art classes, meeting spaces, buskers/performers, and community gatherings.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada* goals:



Recreation Capacity



Active Living



Connecting People and Nature

Goal 8: Expand arts and cultural programming.

Recommendation 8.1: Continue to collaborate with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to support recreational programming that promotes intercultural sharing between communities.

Recommendation 8.2: Explore options to expand arts programming, including the option of contracting an external organization to enhance recreation offerings or collaborating with local businesses and arts organizations.

Recommendation 8.3: Implement food-related programming aligned with the objectives of the Food Action Plan, such as emphasizing the celebration of the community’s cultural diversity through food in recreation programs.

Recommendation 8.4: Explore partnership opportunities with arts organizations including, but not limited to, the Venables Theatre and Oliver Community Arts Council to offer cultural programming. Cultural programming refers to activities that convey cultural expressions such as music, dance, theatre, and fine arts.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada goals*:



Recreation Capacity



Inclusion and Access



Supportive Environments

Goal 9: Maintain and upgrade recreation facilities, parks, and trails.

Recommendation 9.1: Provide input on the RDOS Asset Management Plan and other plans and strategies related to recreation.

Recommendations 9.2: Schedule regular Facility Condition Assessments every ten years to ensure continuous maintenance and optimize the building's efficiency.

Recommendation 9.3: Plan to upgrade the **Oliver and District Community Hall** to better support community use and programming.

- Conduct a comprehensive review of staff needs to be considered in future renovations of the Oliver and District Recreation staff workstations including considerations for privacy and accessibility.
- Continue to pursue potential renovations for the community kitchen to better support community programming, particularly programs that encourage food security and cultural exchanges.
- Explore options for expanding the fitness/weight room to improve accessibility and incorporate stretching and non-machine exercise.
- Incorporate additional unprogrammed casual spaces throughout the community center for social programming, community meetings, and areas for the community to congregate.
- Repair and address parking lot issues related to stormwater, aging asphalt, and circulation.

Recommendation 9.4: Plan for upgrades to the **Oliver and District Arena** to better support community use and programming.

- Enhance the original change facilities and washrooms by integrating accessibility upgrades and installing compliant shower facilities.
- Review and formalize space use agreements with user groups to align with Oliver and District Recreation's present and future requirements.
- Improve the use of auxiliary spaces.
- Consider expanding and enhancing the concession and kitchen to maximize use and provide Wi-Fi access for cashless payment.

Recommendation 9.5: Plan for upgrades to the **Oliver and District Pool** to better support community use and programming.

- Conduct a technical and mechanical review of the pool, including a 'bucket test' in the summer of 2024, to identify the cause of water level fluctuations, whether from evaporation or structural issues.
 - Based on the findings of the pool basin review, explore options for repair or reconfiguration of the pool.
- Upgrade the change facilities and lobby in two phases:
 - First, renovate the lobby entry sequence to improve access control and add a new universal change facility;

- o Then renovate existing change facilities to align with contemporary modesty, gender norms, and family-style changing preferences.
- Consider shading options for the pool deck, prioritizing perimeter shade structures, trees, and umbrellas (rather than large tent structures) to maintain the outdoor pool experience.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada goals*:



Recreation Capacity



Active Living

Goal 10: Strategically expand recreation facilities and parks to meet evolving community needs.

Recommendation 10.1: Continue to explore opportunities for facility replacement and renewal. Prioritize the development of flexible and multi-functional facilities that can adapt to evolving community needs and support a range of recreational activities.

Recommendation 10.2: Assess the potential of current facilities to function as emergency or resilience hubs during extreme weather events or other emergencies.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada goals*:



Supportive Environments



Active Living

Goal 11: Enhance the user experience at parks and trails

Recommendation 11.1: Develop an integrated Parks Plan that encompasses system-wide recommendations for parks and greenspaces in the Town and area, while also addressing park-specific design considerations.

Recommendation 11.2: Consider the impact of climate change when designing new or upgraded parks. Climate-resilient design considerations can include installing shade structures, increasing tree planting, misting stations, water bottle filling stations, and utilizing drought-tolerant plant species and irrigation strategically. Creating naturalized areas with native vegetation can also enhance climate resilience for native ecosystems.

Recommendation 11.3: Follow universal design standards when establishing or upgrading parks, trails, and playgrounds. Accessibility upgrades can include increased seating options, accessible pathway surfacing, adding lighting at parks and trails, and installing accessible play features.

Recommendation 11.4: Improve the consistency of park signage and wayfinding in parks and trails to enhance the sense of place and ease of navigation.

Recommendation 11.5: Consider developing a pump track to encourage children and youth to develop mountain biking and BMX skills.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada goals*:



Supportive Environments



Inclusion and Access



Connecting People and Nature

Goal 12: Support active transportation and a connected community.

Recommendation 12.1: Collaborate with the Town of Oliver, RDOS, and Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to ensure active transportation networks and sidewalks connect to recreation amenities and that park paths and trails are cleared of snow throughout the winter.

Recommendation 12.2: Install distance markers, lighting, and benches along high-use trails, particularly loop paths.

Links to *Framework for Recreation in Canada* goals:



Recreation Capacity



Active Living



Connecting People and Nature



IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING



7.1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Implementation of the recommendations is intended to cover the period from 2025 to 2035 and will be pursued based on available resources. Financial decisions are made by the Town and RDOS during the operating and capital financial planning process. Any increase in funding from the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) is also critical for implementation but is at the discretion of the OIB Council.

The implementation table on the following pages details recommendations, their priority levels, and resource requirements. Operational tasks will be included in staff work plans and departmental resources, while capital projects will be evaluated and integrated into the capital budget for Oliver and District Recreation. All capital expenditures require Council/RDOS Board approval.

In some cases, Oliver and District Recreation will collaborate with partners, as it is not always the direct service provider. These partnerships are highlighted in the implementation table. By aligning regional partners with Oliver and District Recreation objectives and priorities, their efforts can better meet community needs.

Time frames are defined as:

- Short-term (0-5 years)
- Medium term (5-10 years)
- Long term (10+ years)

It's important to note that longer-term actions might be completed ahead of short-term ones due to funding opportunities, partnerships, or other factors. The sequence of actions will be determined through Oliver and District Recreation's annual work plans and funding availability, ensuring the timeline remains adaptable to changing community needs and opportunities.

Most actions in the implementation plan involve costs, including staff time, operational expenses, or capital investments. Resource requirements are categorized as:

- Low: Less than \$50,000
- Medium: \$50,000 to \$100,000
- High: More than \$100,000

7.2 FUNDING STRATEGIES

The Recreation Plan highlights the necessity for substantial capital and operational investments, presenting a financial hurdle for Oliver and District Recreation. To address the recreation facility renewal requirements and fulfill the needs of the Town's population, a blend of conventional and innovative strategies will be needed. The funding strategies detailed below will play crucial roles in implementing this Plan.

Life Cycle Planning

Many municipalities struggle to adequately plan for and fund asset renewal, resulting in a growing infrastructure deficit. However, with proper investment, municipalities can sustain their facilities and infrastructure over the long term. As a rule of thumb, dedicating approximately 2% of the replacement value of buildings annually, considering their expected 50-year lifespan, can help to ensure their longevity. However, where maintenance has been deferred, a larger annual contribution to facility upgrades and replacements is needed.

For the recreation facilities in the Town of Oliver, there will be a compressed timeline with significant facility upgrades needed over the next 10-20 years. Oliver and District Recreation needs to balance quality and cost-effectiveness in new and upgraded recreation facilities. Ongoing maintenance of aging facilities can be a burden and may not lead to significant improvements to recreation opportunities for the community. On the other hand, the capital cost of replacing the existing facilities with facilities that better meet community needs would likely require funding through a referendum for funding from both Town and RDOS residents. Using the strategies below, Oliver and District Recreation can ensure the sustainability and quality of its facilities and make sure they can be opportunistic when funding opportunities arise.

Traditional Funding Strategies

Tax Funding

Traditionally, funding for creating, maintaining, and rejuvenating civic assets comes primarily from the local property tax base, allocated within annual budgets or through capital plans for significant investments. Property tax funding from Town and RDOS residents, along with the financial contributions from the Osoyoos Indian Band supports the operation of all recreation facilities and service delivery.

User Fees

User fees are charged for participation in programs and facility rentals and contribute to reducing the tax burden. User fees must strike a balance between the need to recover costs and offset the tax burden on the community and keeping recreation affordable and accessible, especially to those who need it most. User fees generally go toward covering program instructors and other operating costs. Recreation services are not currently included in a Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Grants and Donations

Where taxes, user fees, and other tools are insufficient, external funding opportunities may arise from senior government infrastructure renewal and economic stimulus programs, although such funding tends to be sporadic and unpredictable. Current trends show that recent funding is often related to climate change, sustainability, economic development, and health priorities. For this purpose, there are opportunities to tie into funding for facility energy efficiency upgrades, accessibility, community emergency/resilience hubs, fire/flood protection, and active transportation, as examples.

Development Cost Charges

Development Cost Charges (DCCs) can provide funding for municipal service additions and improvements that result from residential developments that bring population growth. These charges can be collected and utilized for various park-related projects, including acquiring land and enhancing recreational facilities such as washrooms, accessibility upgrades, and sports fields. The Town of Oliver and RDOS do not currently collect DCCs for recreation purposes, and this is not likely to occur in the short term.

Alternative Funding Strategies

Below are potential alternative funding strategies involving partnerships and sponsorships.

Corporate Sponsorships/Advertising: This approach involves securing corporate sponsorships for park features or facilities, granting companies exclusive advertising rights, and branding opportunities for events. For instance, the Little Tykes area demonstrates a successful ongoing brand presence. This multi-season sponsorship model enhances brand visibility and provides financial support for park and facility maintenance and development.

User/Community Groups: Often, groups passionate about specific initiatives or causes are willing to materially support their realization. For instance, sports clubs may contribute to sports facility initiatives (i.e. Pickleball courts) and tourism stakeholders to civic beautification, events, or waterfront access improvements. Individuals may also donate for smaller enhancements, such as park benches, memorials, murals, community gardens, or general charitable giving.

Public Agency Joint-Ventures: Oliver and District Recreation's mandate aligns with other institutions, nonprofits, and public agencies like Oliver Senior Centre, School District 53, Interior Health, and Oliver Community Arts Council. Collaborative efforts, such as facility co-location and program co-sponsorship, can significantly reduce both capital and operating costs.

Revenue Generating Initiatives: Opportunities exist to establish contracts or partnerships with private enterprises, although caution is needed to make sure access and affordability are maintained and that benefits are realized both for the businesses and for the community. During facility upgrades or developments, new spaces could be added to rent out to health and wellness businesses or other compatible services like restaurants or retail outlets. Another example is creating spaces for food trucks or other temporary businesses to pop-up at indoor and outdoor recreation facilities to enhance the visitor experience and enable longer park and recreation facility visits.

	Recommendation	Priority Low Medium High	Timeframe Short-term (0-5 years) Medium-term (5-10 years) Long-term (10+ years)	Resources Low: Less than \$50,000 Medium: \$50,000 to \$100,000 High: More than \$100,000	Potential Partners/Collaborators
Goal 1: Build Internal Capacity					
1.1	Enhance staff expertise by offering training on topics such as community development, Syilx/Okanagan culture, diversity, equity, and inclusion.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)
1.2	Work to find efficiencies and synergies in facility maintenance and operations and consider a dedicated facility manager position.	High	Short-term	High	
1.3	Consider offering local training or providing incentives to have members of the community become certified lifeguards, instructors, coaches, or referees.	Medium	Short-term	Staff time/Low	
Goal 2: Strengthen regional and community partnerships					
2.1	Clarify and streamline roles and responsibilities for parks and recreation service delivery to ensure efficient coordination between Oliver and District Recreation, Town of Oliver, Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), and the Regional District of Okanagan- Similkameen (RDOS).	High	Short-term	Staff time	
2.2	Collaborate with Oliver Public Works and Development Services to ensure future parks align with Oliver and District Recreation principles and goals.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time	
Goal 3: Retain and enhance volunteerism					
3.1	Continue to support volunteer groups by providing meeting room space, promoting resource sharing, and avoiding duplication in services.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Community groups
3.2	Continue to advertise volunteer opportunities to members of the community such as high-school students or retirees.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Community groups
3.3	Continue to recognize volunteers for their contributions through the volunteer benefits program and Spirit of Oliver award.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Community groups
3.4	Continue to work with local recreation organizations to promote their programs and services.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Community groups
Goal 4: Take an inclusive and welcoming approach to recreation					
4.1	Partner with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to explore opportunities for sharing knowledge about suk*na?qin (Okanagan) culture at recreation facilities, parks, activities, and events.	High	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)
4.2	Collaborate with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to develop interpretive signage along the river to enrich and acknowledge cultural significance in parks and trails.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)

4.3	Work with the Oliver Accessibility and Age-Friendly Committee to ensure that Oliver and District Recreation facilities, programs, and events are welcoming for community members of all abilities.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Oliver Accessibility and Age-friendly Committee
4.4	Investigate opportunities to broaden programming aimed at encouraging participation from newcomers to Canada.	Medium	Short-term	Staff time/Low	
Goal 5: Balance affordability and cost recovery					
5.1	Develop a Fees and Charges Bylaw for recreation.	High	Short-term	Staff time	
5.2	Review the current practices of offering subsidized rates for individuals to ensure that the program maximizes benefits for those in need and maintains financial viability.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time	
5.3	Develop and implement a Facility Allocation Policy that prioritizes community programming needs.	High	Short-term	Staff time	
5.4	Consider implementing fee assistance from Oliver and District Recreation as part of an integrated system for accessing social services within the Town to reduce the administrative burden for individuals in need.	Low	Medium-term	Staff time	
Goal 6: Take an age-friendly approach to recreation					
6.1	Continue to encourage seniors to join recreation programming and explore opportunities to expand seniors programming with a focus on arts and culture, digital literacy, integrating new technologies (such as e-bikes), and mental health/wellness.	High	Short-term	Staff time	
6.2	Engage with the Oliver Accessibility and Age-Friendly Committee to explore opportunities for partnerships for senior-specific recreation and a more age-friendly built environment.	High	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Oliver Accessibility and Age-friendly Committee
6.3	Explore partnership opportunities including, but not limited to, Oliver Senior’s Center and the South Okanagan General Hospital to expand recreation, health, and wellness programming for seniors.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Oliver Senior’s Center and the South Okanagan General Hospital
6.4	Continue working with the School District and consider establishing a youth steering committee to advise on youth-focused needs.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	School District 53
Goal 7: Provide flexible recreation programming for the community year-round					
7.1	Prioritize recreation programming that accommodates diverse schedules and preferences by refining evening and weekend fitness class options for working adults and well-subscribed drop-in programs.	Medium	Short-term	Staff time	
7.2	Increase opportunities for connecting to nature by offering more outdoor recreation programs.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Community groups
7.3	Prioritize expanding indoor recreation options during the winter months to ensure continuous engagement and enjoyment for community members.	Medium	Short-term	Staff time/Low	

7.4	Consider 'Virtual Fitness' and 'Virtual learn to' programs to help address the challenge of instructor shortages.	Low	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	
7.5	Look for opportunities to use underutilized indoor and outdoor spaces for recreation programming and events.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Medium	
Goal 8: Expand arts and cultural programming					
8.1	Continue to collaborate with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to support recreational programming that promotes intercultural sharing between communities.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)
8.2	Explore options to expand arts programming, including the option of contracting an external organization to enhance recreation offerings or collaborating with local businesses and arts organizations.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	Local businesses and arts organizations
8.3	Implement food-related programming aligned with the objectives of the Food Action Plan, such as emphasizing the celebration of the community's cultural diversity through food.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	
8.4	Explore partnership opportunities with arts organizations including, but not limited to, the Venables Theatre and Oliver Community Arts Council to offer cultural programming	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Low	Venables Theatre
Goal 9: Maintain and upgrade recreation facilities, parks, and trails					
9.1	Provide input on the RDOS Asset Management Plan and other plans and strategies related to recreation.	High	Medium-term	Staff time	
9.2	Schedule regular Facility Condition Assessments every ten years to guarantee continuous maintenance and optimize the building's efficiency.	High	Medium-term	Staff time	
9.3	Plan for upgrades to the Oliver and District Community Hall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct a comprehensive review of staff needs to be considered in future renovations of the staff workstations. ▪ Investigate potential renovations for the community kitchen. ▪ Explore options for expanding the community weight room. ▪ Repair and address parking lot issues related to stormwater, aging asphalt, and circulation. 	High	Medium-term	High	
9.4	Plan for upgrades to the Oliver and District Arena. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance the original change facilities and washrooms. ▪ Improve the use of auxiliary spaces. ▪ Review and formalize space use agreements with user groups. ▪ Consider expanding and enhancing the concession. 	High	Medium-term	High	

9.5	<p>Plan for upgrades to the Oliver and District Pool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct a technical review of the pool basin. ▪ Upgrade the change facilities and lobby. ▪ Consider shading options for the pool deck. 	High	Medium-term	High	
Goal 10: Strategically expand recreation facilities and parks to meet evolving community needs					
10.1	Continue to explore opportunities for facility replacement and renewal. Prioritize the development of flexible and multi-functional facilities that can adapt to evolving community needs and support a range of recreational activities.	Medium	Long-term	High	
10.2	Assess the potential of current facilities to function as emergency or resilience hubs during extreme weather or other emergencies.	Medium	Long-term	Staff time	
Goal 11: Enhance the user experience at parks and trails					
11.1	Develop an integrated Parks Plan that encompasses system-wide recommendations for parks and greenspaces while also addressing park-specific design considerations.	High	Short-term	Staff time/Low	
11.2	Consider the impact of climate change when designing new or upgraded parks.	Medium	Medium-term		
11.3	Follow universal design standards when establishing or upgrading parks, trails, and playgrounds.	Medium	Medium-term		
11.4	Improve the consistency of park signage and wayfinding in parks and trails.	Medium	Medium-term	Medium	
11.5	Consider developing a pump track to encourage children and youth to develop mountain biking and BMX skills.	Medium	Medium-term	Low-Medium	
Goal 12: Support active transportation and a connected community					
12.1	Collaborate with the Town of Oliver, RDOS, and Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) to ensure active transportation networks and sidewalks connect to recreation amenities and that park paths and trails are cleared of snow throughout the winter.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Medium-high	Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)
12.2	Install distance markers, lighting, and benches along high-use trails.	Medium	Medium-term	Staff time/Medium-high	Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB)

APPENDIX A FACILITY INVENTORY



APPENDIX A – FACILITY INVENTORY

The table below is a summary of the **indoor recreation facilities** in Oliver and District.

FACILITY TYPE	NAME	#	OPERATION
Indoor Ice Arena	Oliver and District Arena	1	The building is owned by the RDOS and managed by Oliver and District Recreation.
Weight room	Oliver and District Community Hall	1	The building is owned by the RDOS and managed by Oliver and District Recreation.
Community Kitchen	Oliver and District Community Hall	1	The building is owned by the RDOS and managed by Oliver and District Recreation.
Large Multipurpose Hall with Stage and Room Divider	Oliver and District Community Hall	1	The building is owned by the RDOS and managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Meeting Rooms	Oliver and District Community Hall	2	The building is owned by the RDOS and managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Indoor Yoga Studio	Plass Studio	1	The building is owned by Park Drive Church and programming ran by Oliver and District Recreation.
Curling Rinks	Oliver Curling Centre	1 (4 sheets)	Managed by Oliver Curling Club Society.
Indoor Gymnasiums	Southern Okanagan Secondary School	1	Owned and managed by School District No.53.
	Oliver Elementary School	1	
	Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School	1	

The table below is a summary of the **outdoor recreation facilities** managed by the Town.

FACILITY TYPE	NAME	#	OPERATION
Outdoor Aquatics Facility	Oliver and District Outdoor Pool	1	The building is owned by the RDOS and managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Playgrounds	Various parks	5	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Ball Diamonds	Oliver Community Park	5	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Playing Fields	Oliver Community Park	1	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Basketball Court (in-progress)	Oliver Community Park	1	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Tennis Courts	Oliver Community Park	3	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Pickleball Courts	Oliver Community Park	4	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Beach Volleyball Courts	Oliver Community Park	1	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Disc Golf	Oliver Community Park	1	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Skate/Small Wheels Park	Lion’s Park and Small Wheels Skate Park	1	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Lion’s Park and Small Wheels Skate Park	1	Managed by Oliver and District Recreation

APPENDIX B

PROGRAM INVENTORY



APPENDIX B – PROGRAM INVENTORY

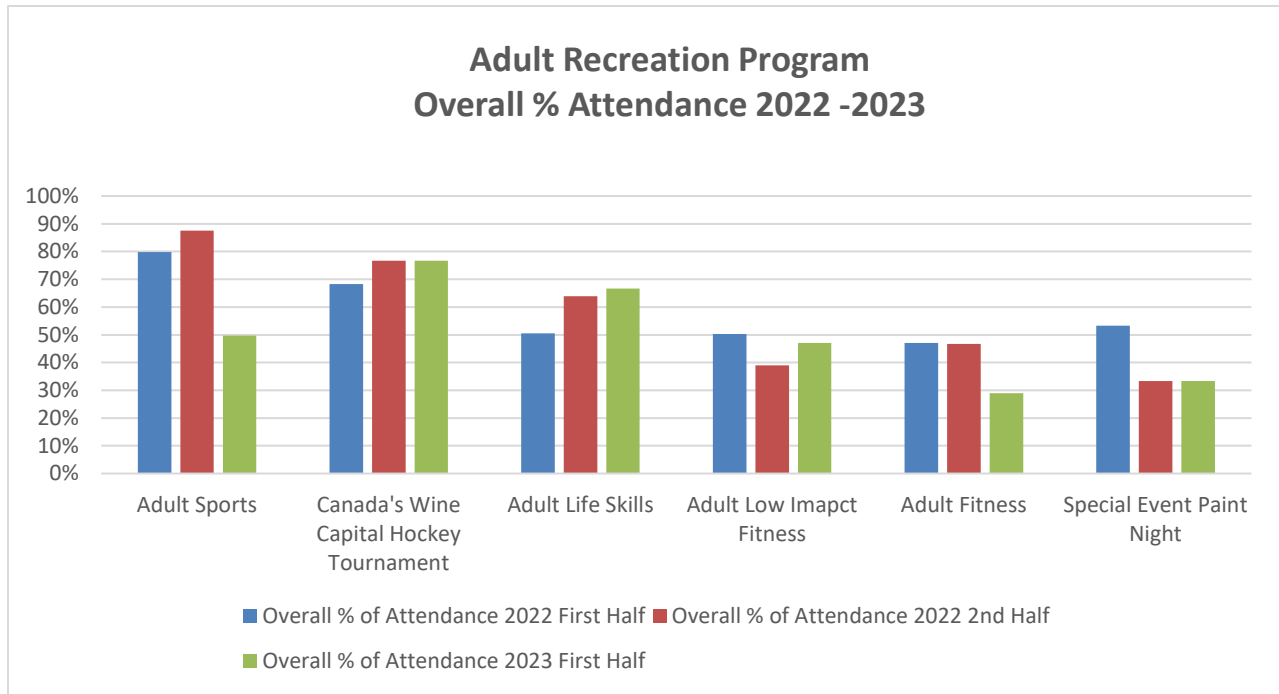
Table 2 - 2023 Adult Program Inventory

Recreation Programs and seats available during 2022/23 Calendar Year; sorted by Category

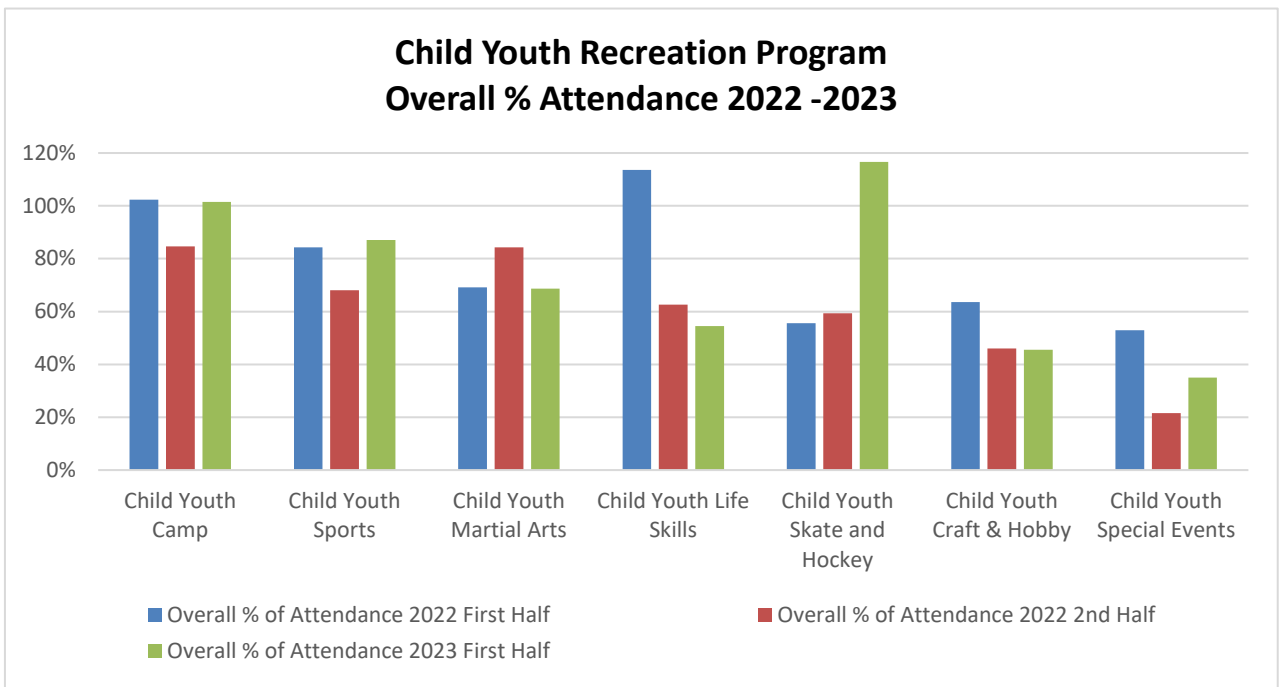
All programs offered are subject to meeting a minimum enrolment or face cancellation.

Adult Life Skills – Total Spaces 54	
Emergency First Aid – CPR C	54
Adult Sports – Total Spaces 353	
Volleyball	9
Beginner Pickleball Clinic	8
Pickleball Skills and Drills	8
Learn to Play Pickleball	8
Mixed Slo Pitch	100
Badminton	16
Roller Skating Lessons	60
Wine Capital Hockey Tournament	120
Adult Low Impact Fitness – Total Spaces: 253	
Gentle Yoga	44
Hatha Yoga	56
Tai Chi	50
Flow Yoga	18
Functional Fitness	85
Adult Fitness – Total Spaces 310	
Boot camps	60
Ninjutsu	25
Strength Training	120
Strength and Stability	45
Fab Fit Fun	30
Hike – Sandy Mountain	30
Other Adult Classes – Total Spaces 34	

Paint Night	30
Private Skating Lessons	4
Youth Camps – Total Spaces 536	
Spring Break Camps	42
Pro D Camp	14
Sun Fun Summer Camps	480
Youth Sports – Total Spaces 242	
Soccer Skills and Drills	32
T Ball Skills and Drills	16
Tykes Soccer	15
Introduction to Archery	20
Junior Triathlon	70
Youth Recreational Baseball	21
Power Hour Outdoor Playtime	20
Ninja Nastics (Parkour)	36
Tyke Nastics (Parkour)	12
Child/Youth Martial Arts - Total Spaces 72	
Ninja Warriors (Jiu Jitsu)	72
Child/Youth Life Skills- Total Spaces 66	
Babysitter’s Course	66
Youth Craft and Hobby – Total Spaces 78	
Junior Robotics Engineering	28
Crafting for Pre Schoolers	30
Let’s Go!	20



Adult Program Summary 2022-2023



Child and Youth Program Summary 2022-2023

APPENDIX C

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT



Oliver & District Recreation

Recreation Plan

What We Heard Report

Prepared for:



Status: FINAL

Prepared by:

August 2024



Contact Information:

509-318 Homer St, **Vancouver** BC Canada, V6B 2V2 | p: 604.899.3806

51 Wolseley St, **Toronto** ON Canada, M5T 1A4 | p: 416 645 7033 | f: 415.645.7046

8 Boswell Crescent, **Whitehorse** YT Canada, Y1A 4T3 | p: 867.332.3806

info@elac.ca | www.elac.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	1
1.2	FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT	2
1.3	OVERALL PLANNING PROCESS	2
2	ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT	3
2.1	PURPOSE	3
2.2	HOW WE REACHED OUT	3
2.3	ENGAGEMENT TOOLS	4
2.3.1	<i>Online Public Survey</i>	4
2.3.2	<i>Community Open House</i>	4
2.3.3	<i>Youth</i>	5
2.3.4	<i>Community Organizations and Partners</i>	5
2.3.5	<i>Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee</i>	5
2.3.6	<i>Town of Oliver Staff Interviews</i>	5
3	ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT	6
3.1	PURPOSE	6
3.2	HOW WE REACHED OUT	6
3.3	ENGAGEMENT TOOLS	6
3.3.1	<i>Online Public Survey</i>	6
3.3.2	<i>Public Presentation</i>	6
4	PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES	7
4.1	COMMUNITY VALUES	7
4.2	OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES	7
5	ROUND 1 ONLINE SURVEY	9
5.1	HIGHLIGHTS	9
5.2	DETAILED RESULTS	11
6	COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE – RESULTS	24
7	USER GROUP WORKSHOP – RESULTS	27
8	ROUND 2 ONLINE SURVEY	33
8.1	HIGHLIGHTS	33
8.2	DETAILED RESULTS	35

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Oliver and District Recreation Plan sets out the vision and priorities for recreation services and capital investments over the next 10-20 years. The Plan was developed in collaboration with the Town of Oliver, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and the Osoyoos Indian Band. The Plan focuses on recreation programs and facilities in the Town, which serve residents of the Town, Electoral Area C, and the surrounding region. The Plan includes an evaluation of current facilities and programs, a review of past and ongoing planning efforts, community engagement to identify recreation needs and gaps, a vision and guiding principles, and recommendations for decision-making and recreation planning.



1.2 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

LEES+Associates supported Oliver and District Recreation in meeting with the Osoyoos Indian Band on January 25, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) Council to the project, invite input and participation, and continue to foster this important relationship. The OIB agreed to share the online survey with community members and appointed a representative to be the point of contact for the Recreation Plan and to sit on the newly formed Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee.

1.3 OVERALL PLANNING PROCESS

The Recreation Plan process includes the following five phases. This “What We Heard” Report summarizes the feedback received during Round 1 of engagement (Phase 2 of the overall project).



2 ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT

2.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of Round 1 engagement was to gather information about how people currently recreate in Oliver; what facilities, programs, and trails they use; gaps and opportunities for recreation facilities and programming; what’s working and not working; and what the community values. The input was used to inform the overall vision and goals for the project, as well as in the development of draft recommendations.

2.2 HOW WE REACHED OUT

The Town of Oliver website was used as a primary information-sharing tool. It was updated with information about the project objectives, planning process, and how to get involved with engagement. The open house and survey were also advertised through:

- Social media posts on the Town and Oliver and District Recreation’s Facebook pages
- Direct emails from Oliver and District Recreation
- Posters
- The Times Chronicle
- Local radio

Engagement by the Numbers

- 502 participants in the online survey
- 3 user group workshops
- 20 participants in the community open house
- 50 participants in a written survey for students



2.3 ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

Round 1 engagement included user group meetings, interviews, a public online survey, a public open house, an Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee meeting, and a meeting with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) Council. The details of these activities are described below, and the results are summarized in this report.

2.3.1 ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY

Input from the public was gathered through an online survey posted on the Town’s website. Survey responses were collected from January 15-31, 2024, using the online platform Survey Monkey. There were 502 responses, and the results are summarized in Section 4.0 of this report.

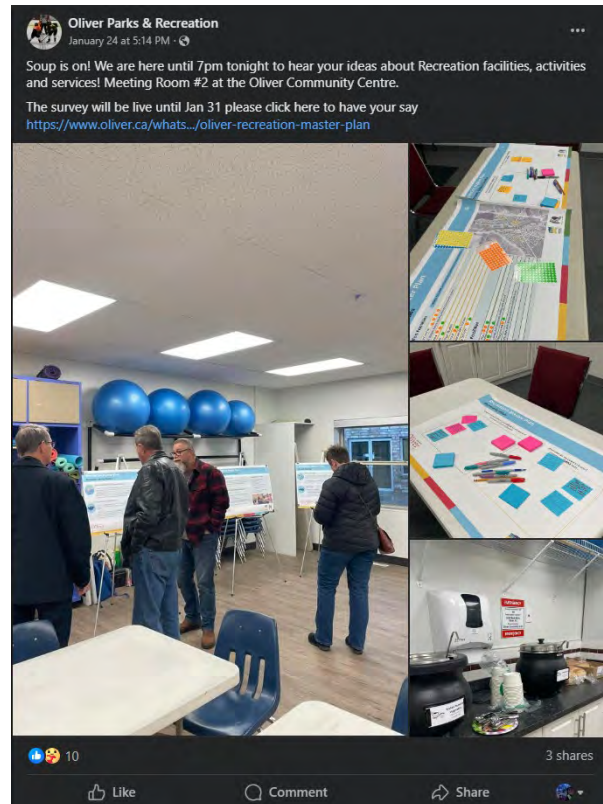
2.3.2 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

The in-person open house was held on January 24, 2024, at the Oliver Community Hall from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

During the open house, the project was introduced, and community members were asked for their comments and experiences related to recreation facilities and programs within the Town of Oliver.

Open house boards were presented with questions for participants to record their comments. Participants were also able to ask questions and share input directly with the consulting team and staff from the Town. The following questions were asked on the open house boards:

- Place a dot next to the recreation facilities that you use regularly.
- What do you love and value most about recreation in Oliver & District?
- How can existing recreation facilities be improved? Is anything missing?
- How can existing recreation programs be improved? Is anything missing?
- What words best reflect your vision for the future of recreation in Oliver & District?
- What else do we need to know? Share your ideas here...



2.3.3 YOUTH

Students aged 8-11 from Oliver Elementary School and Tuc-El-Nuit Elementary School completed a survey asking what recreation activities they like, which recreation facilities they use, and if there are any activities they would like to participate in but are unable to in Oliver. There were 50 responses, and the results are summarized in Section 4.0 of this report.

2.3.4 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

Three meetings were conducted to gather input from recreation user groups. Two of these meetings were held in person on January 24 and 25, 2024, while the third meeting took place virtually on February 7, 2024. Representatives from various groups, including recreation organizations, School Board No.53, service groups, and health organizations, participated. The focus was on understanding their current use of recreation facilities, identifying opportunities for both existing and potential future facilities and programs, and capturing their vision for the future of recreation in Oliver.

2.3.5 OLIVER AND DISTRICT RECREATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee is a Town Council committee with representatives from Town Council, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen's Area "C", School Board No.53, Osoyoos Indian Band, and community members from the Town of Oliver and RDOS Area "C".

Scheduled meetings with the Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee will take place consistently throughout the planning process. These sessions will address topics such as community engagement strategies, demographic and recreation trends in the Town, potential collaborative efforts, opportunities for recreation facilities and programs, and the vision, goals, and recommendations outlined in the recreation plan. These meetings play a crucial role in comprehending how to leverage past successes for future advancements.

2.3.6 TOWN OF OLIVER STAFF INTERVIEWS

Interviews with Town staff were also conducted in early February to explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration between Oliver and District Recreation staff and other departments and ensure alignment between the Recreation Plan and ongoing planning, accessibility, and social development initiatives.

3 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT

3.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the second round of engagement was to gather feedback from the community on the draft vision, goals, principles, and recommendations, and to discuss priorities. Additionally, it served as an opportunity to assess the community's willingness to pay for new or improved services or facilities, as well as to explore various options and trade-offs.

3.2 HOW WE REACHED OUT

The Town of Oliver website was used as a primary information-sharing tool. The survey and presentation were also advertised through:

- Social media posts on the Town and Oliver and District Recreation’s Facebook pages
- Direct emails from Oliver and District Recreation
- Posters
- QR codes at the Roots and Fruits Expo and Canada Day Festivals

Engagement by the Numbers

- 74 participants in the online survey
- An online presentation



3.3 ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

Round 2 engagement included a public online survey, a presentation of the draft master plan posted on the Town’s website, and an Oliver and District Recreational Advisory Committee meeting. The details of these activities are described below, and the results are summarized in this report.

3.3.1 ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY

Input from the public was gathered through an online survey posted on the Town’s website. Survey responses were collected from June 19 to July 7, 2024, using the online platform Survey Monkey. There were 74 responses, and the results are summarized in Section 8.0 of this report.

3.3.2 PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A presentation of key findings and recommendations from the Draft Recreation Plan was posted on the Town’s website alongside the link to the round 2 survey.

4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

4.1 COMMUNITY VALUES

The following were the top community values from the first round of engagement.

- Affordable and accessible recreation
- Diverse and inclusive recreation opportunities
- Recreation programs and facilities for families and seniors
- Continued excellence in service
- Year-round recreation

4.2 OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES

The following are the key issues and opportunities that emerged from the first round of engagement:

Desire for an Indoor Swimming Pool/Facility

- Many survey respondents and open house attendees expressed a desire for an indoor swimming pool and sauna. Previous studies and referenda have not indicated this is feasible for the Town on its own, so additional information about the capital and operating costs, staffing, and potential paths for this type of facility is needed in the Recreation Plan.
- Calls for an indoor pool were tied to the desire for year-round opportunities. There could be an opportunity to explore other ways the Town could support recreation in the winter that are more affordable and feasible for the community. One of the key features of a pool is the drop-in flexibility and accommodation of a wide range of ages.

Facility Upgrades

- There was strong support for continued maintenance and upgrades to existing facilities, particularly an expanded and improved fitness gym. Upgrades to the arena were also requested. With the Town's aging facilities, a thorough evaluation of the options for upgrades and expansions of existing facilities, as well as a cost/benefit analysis of renovation vs. replacement, will help ensure the facilities continue to meet community needs.
- Specific upgrades such as adding shade at the Oliver & District Pool, expanding the weight/fitness room, and expanding the community kitchen were highlighted as priorities during the second round of engagement.

Community Events/Arts and Culture

- Community events have high participation rates and there is a demand for more opportunities. This is consistent with current trends toward affordable, accessible, and all-

ages activities. Events can also bring economic benefits and bolster community spirit. Arts and culture programming was highlighted as a gap. While recreation is often seen as focused on physical activities, offering more arts and culture opportunities can help reach a wider segment of the population and support mental health, creativity, and social connections.

- Establishing partnerships with the arts council and other entities can enhance recreation programming and opportunities.

Outdoor Facilities

- Additional facilities like a pump track, more disc golf, and upgrades to existing parks (such as shade) were requested. There are very high levels of use of walking/hiking amenities such as the Hike & Bike Trail. Community sentiments indicate that there is potential to build on the success of trails and parks to ensure affordable and accessible recreation is available for all ages and abilities.
- Enhancing safety and security features in public spaces, including adding lighting and clearing paths of snow, were identified as important improvements during the second round of community engagement.

Expanded Recreation Programming

- Engagement findings indicate that there is strong support for expanding outdoor recreation programming, food-related programming, and arts and cultural programming. Offering more recreation options outside of working hours was also highlighted as a priority.

Partnerships and Community Involvement

- Forming partnerships that enhance community involvement and funding opportunities was seen as beneficial. Partnerships with various entities can support more diverse and inclusive programming.

Funding Preferences

- Out of 74 respondents, 36 preferred to fund improvements to existing facilities through increased program fees, 34 preferred raising rental rates at facilities, and 23 supported raising taxes. Respondents were able to choose more than one option, indicating a willingness to explore multiple funding avenues for facility improvements. Note that respondents could select more than one option.

5 ROUND 1 ONLINE SURVEY

5.1 HIGHLIGHTS

Who answered the survey?

Over 1/3 of respondents have lived in Oliver for 5 years or less. This may be the result of retirees moving to the community along with new residents attracted by new job opportunities. Some may be relocating for affordability with the increase in remote work opportunities.

Of survey respondents, 20% said they are a member of a local recreation club or organization and 32% said they have children under the age of 18 living at home.

Most respondents use the existing recreation programs and facilities. As is common with open online surveys, there may be gaps in understanding the perspective of people who don't currently participate.

Top activities for survey respondents

The top activities survey respondents participate in regularly are walking/hiking for exercise (72%) and community events and festivals (64%). Other top responses were swimming (50%), working out at a gym (46%), and biking outdoors (44%).

Top activities for kids

The top activities for children include swimming/going to the beach was by far the top activity at 86%. Other top responses were ice skating, biking outdoors, arts and crafts, and walking/hiking.

Why do people recreate?

Most people participate in recreation for physical health and exercise (90%). Other frequent answers included mental health and well-being (65%), socializing (63%), and relaxation/stress relief (60%).

Barriers to participation

The most frequently cited barriers to participation were the lack of facilities/amenities (33%), program schedules (29%), and being too busy (20%).

Recreation programs and services

Most survey respondents are somewhat or very satisfied with the programs available (68%). Suggestions for improvements to programs included arts and music classes (especially for children), community events, fitness classes (specifically at times convenient for working individuals), martial arts, gymnastics, basketball, soccer, and more seniors-specific programs. There were also requests for guided hiking, snowshoeing, and kayaking/canoeing.

Recreation facilities

The top facilities used by survey respondents were the Hike & Bike Trail (80%), Oliver Community Park (77%), and Oliver Community Centre (76%). The Community Stage had the highest percent of “very satisfied” responses, while Oliver Community Centre had high levels of very and somewhat satisfied combined. While relatively small in percentage in comparison, the Oliver Community Centre and the Oliver & District Arena had the most somewhat or very dissatisfied responses (8% and 6% respectively).

Use of other facilities and programs

Close to 40% of respondents indicated that they visit recreation facilities or participate in recreation programming outside of the Town of Oliver. Top facilities and programs included the Penticton Pool; recreation/Community Halls in Penticton, Osoyoos, and Kelowna; and parks and lakes in nearby communities. Reasons for using these facilities included additional/different programs; year-round access to a pool; better fitness gyms/equipment; and opportunities for events, theatre, and social activities. There were also comments about the variety of options for families.

Vision for the future

When asked to describe their vision for the future of recreation facilities and programs in the Town of Oliver, **key themes for programs** included a desire for greater diversity/variety (youth, toddlers, seniors), year-round activities, inclusive programs, affordability, accessibility, community events, arts, and learning programs, sports leagues. There were also several mentions of meaningful collaboration with the Osoyoos Indian Band.

Key themes for facilities included an indoor pool and expanded gym facilities; regular maintenance and upgrades to keep existing facilities in good condition; inclusive spaces (such as gender-neutral washrooms, spaces for all community members); and keeping up with the growth of the community and reflecting it's evolving needs.

Overall highlights

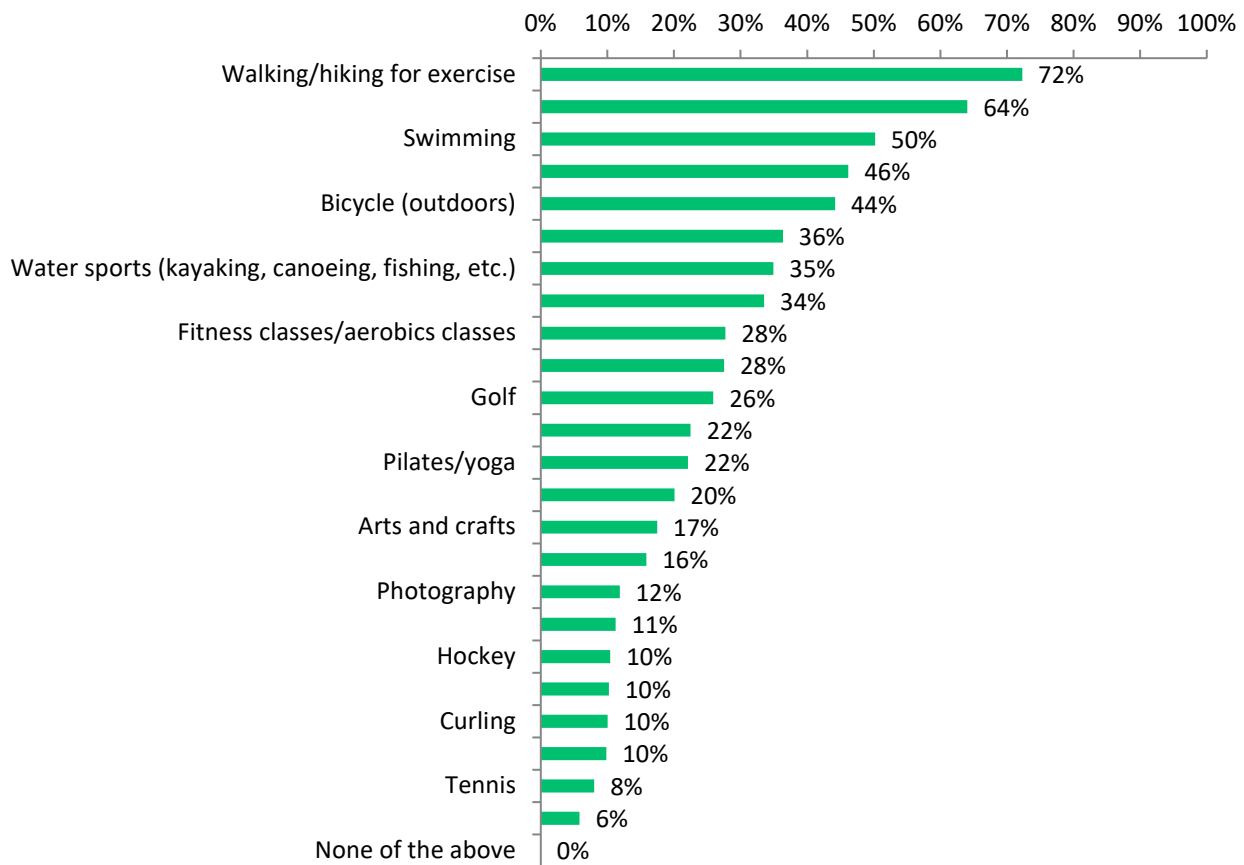
There were many comments with positive feedback about the current Oliver and District Recreation staff, acknowledging their efforts and commitment to quality services. This is also reflected in the high percentage of respondents who are somewhat or very satisfied with programs and services (68%). The facilities and parks are a sense of pride for the community.

While many requested an indoor pool and other facility upgrades, some highlighted the importance of affordability and the Town's size as limiting factors. The feedback in the survey will need to be balanced with the community's demographics, growth projections, and financial constraints.

5.2 DETAILED RESULTS

Question 1 - *What recreational activities do you participate in on a regular basis? Please think of all seasons of the year and select all that apply.*

The top activities survey respondents participate in on a regular basis are walking/hiking for exercise, community events and festivals, and swimming.

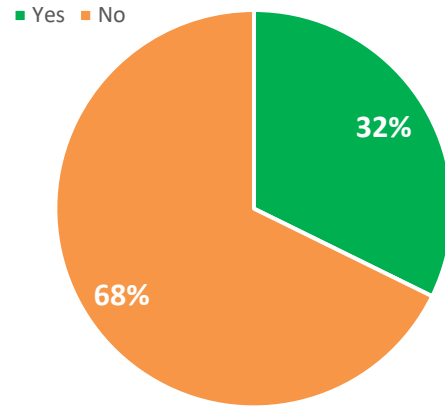


Top responses to the “other” option include:

- Skiing/snowshoeing
- Sauna/steam room
- Hunting/archery
- Disc golf

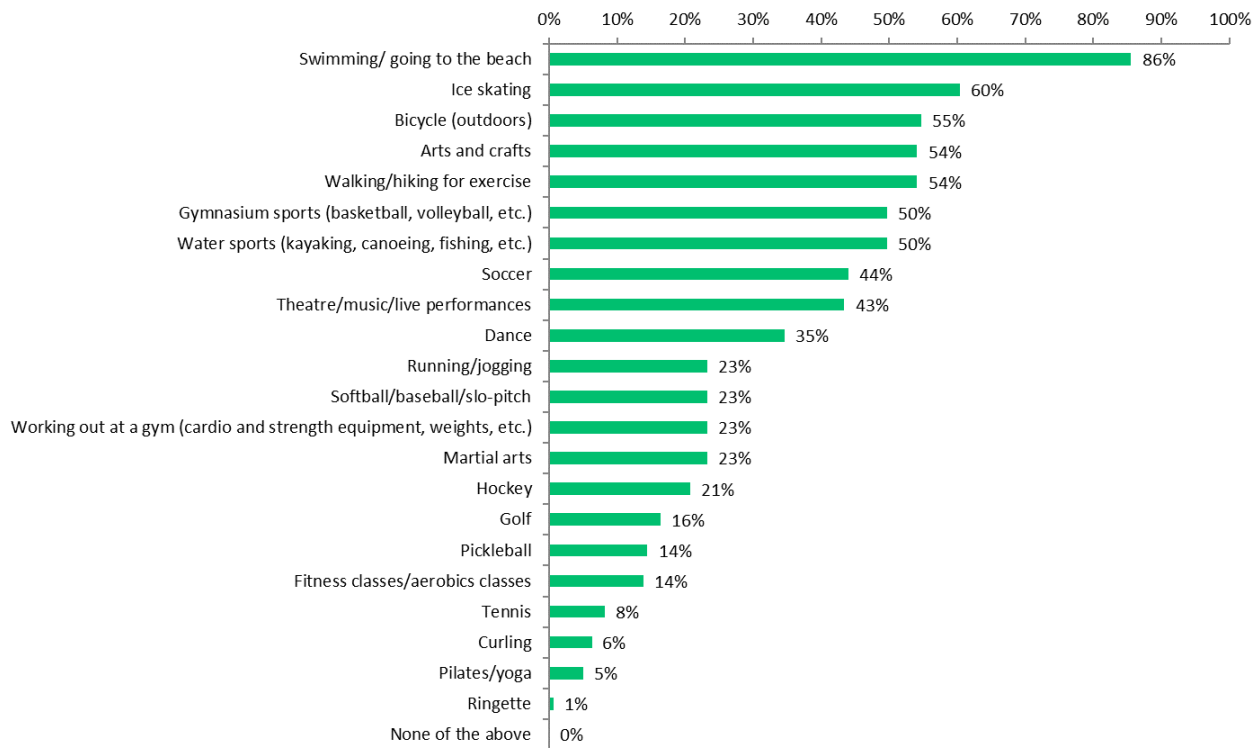
Question 2 - Do you have children under the age of 18 years of age living at home?

Of survey respondents, 32% have children under the age of 18 living at home.



Question 3 - If you answered yes to question 3, What type of recreational activities does your child or children enjoy? Please select all that apply.

The top activities for children include swimming/going to the beach was by far the top activity at 86%. Other top responses were ice skating, biking outdoors, arts and crafts, and walking/hiking.

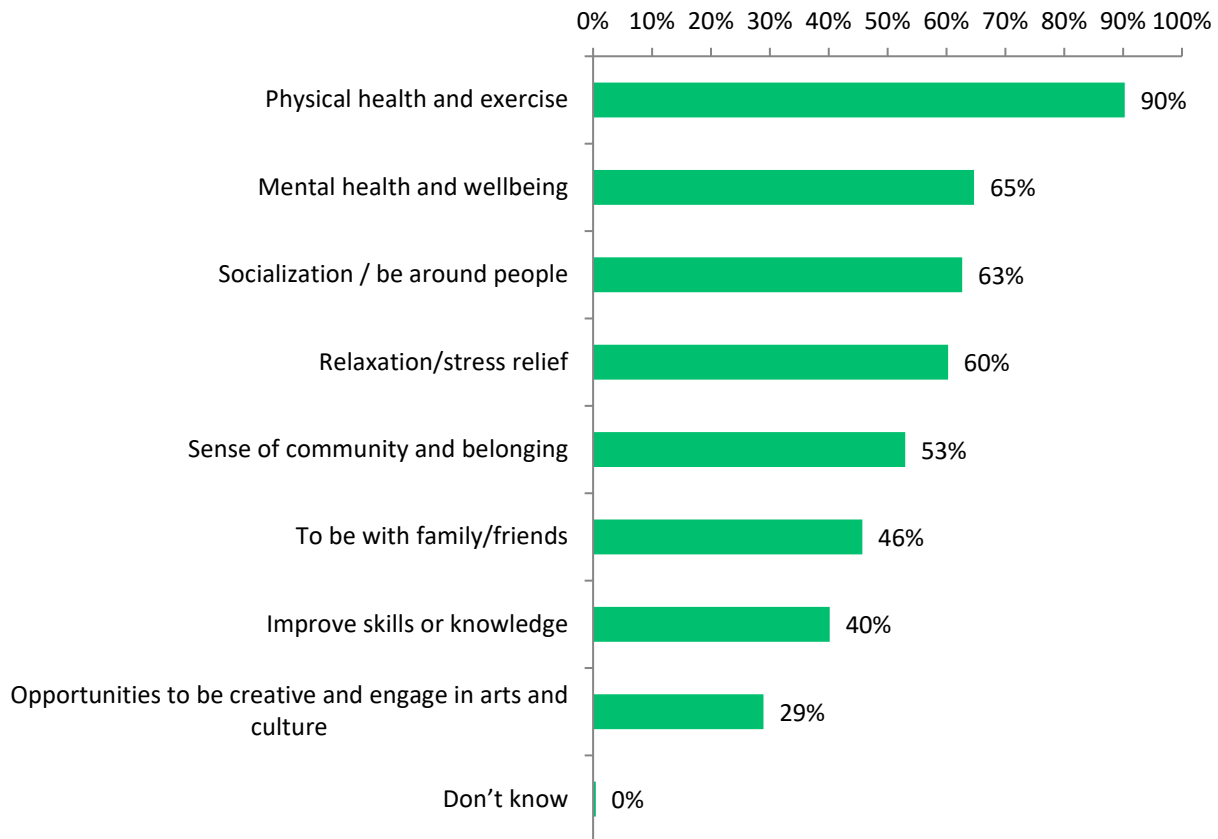


Top responses to the “other” option include:

- Skiing/snowshoeing
- Gymnastics
- Small wheels/skate Park

Question 4 - *What are the main reasons (motivations) for you to visit recreation facilities or participate in recreation programs? Please select all that apply.*

The main reasons respondents visit recreation facilities or participate in programming include physical health and exercise, mental health and wellbeing, and socialization/to be around people.

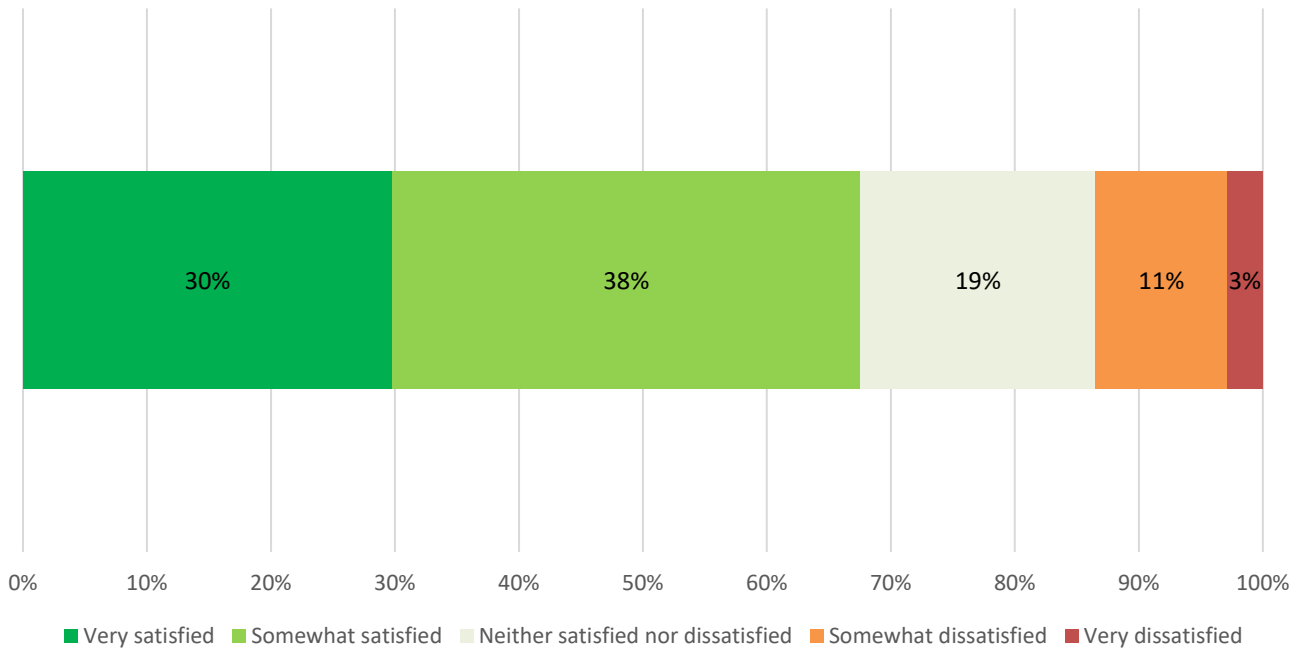


Other responses include:

- To try something new
- To attend events
- To get outside
- To help kids learn and burn energy

Question 5 - How satisfied are you with the type and frequency of recreation programs offered by Oliver and District Recreation?

Of survey respondents, **68% are either somewhat or very satisfied** with the programs by Oliver and District Recreation.



Question 6 - What new, expanded, or improved recreation programs or facilities are needed in the Town of Oliver?

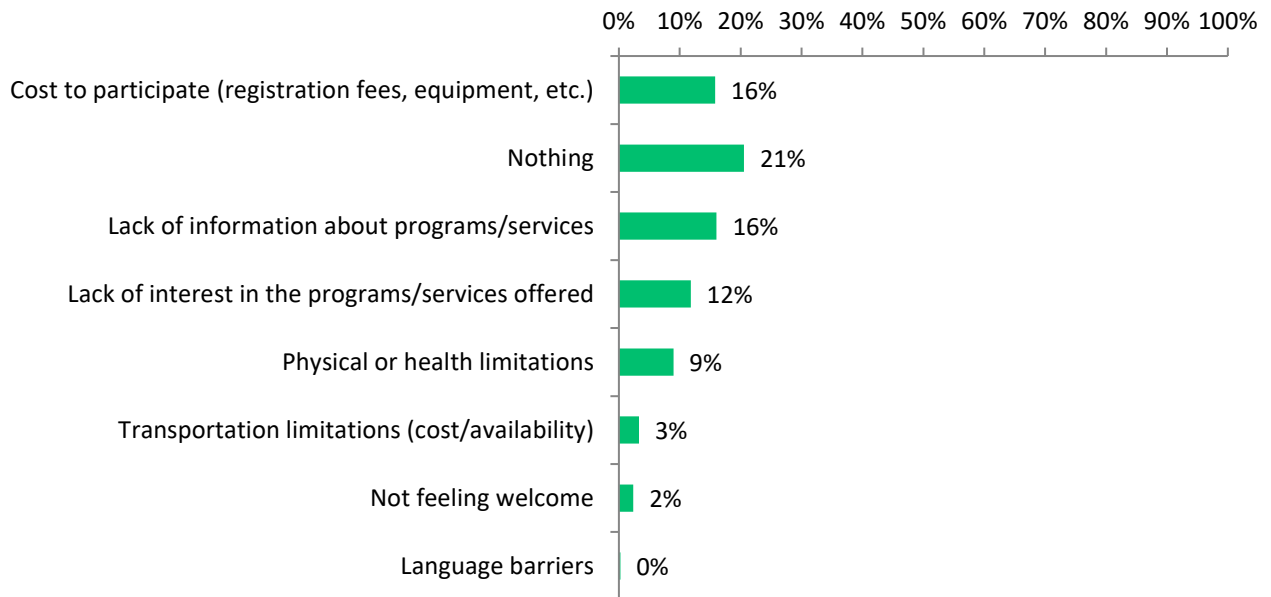
Top responses to “What new, expanded, or improved recreation programs or facilities are needed in the Town of Oliver” include:

- **Indoor Pool:** Many respondents mentioned the need for an indoor pool, emphasizing year-round availability and potential benefits for various age groups.
- **Sauna/Steam Room:** Many respondents mentioned the desire for sauna and steam room facilities.
- **Bigger Gym:** Several people expressed the desire for a larger gym facility with more equipment and space.
- **Arts and Music Classes:** Several respondents expressed the need for more arts and music classes, especially for children.
- **Pickleball:** A recurring request was for more pickleball courts, both indoor and outdoor, to accommodate the growing interest in the sport.

- **Improved Ice Rink:** Some respondents suggested improvements to the existing ice rink, including an elevated walking path inside.
- **Year-Round Walking/Biking Trails:** There was a call for improved and extended walking/biking trails, including the creation of a complete loop.
- **Climbing Wall:** A climbing wall facility was suggested by some as a desirable addition.
- **Community Events:** A desire for more community events and festivals to encourage collaboration and social interaction.
- **Extended Fitness Class Hours:** Some respondents requested more fitness classes at times convenient for working individuals.
- **Accessible Programs for All Ages:** Requests for programs catering to a wide range of ages, from toddlers to seniors.
- **Improved Outdoor Facilities:** Suggestions included an improved Small wheels/skate park, improved lighting for paths and baseball diamonds, and a dedicated space for small dogs in the dog park.
- **Program Gaps:** Respondents mentioned program gaps such as martial arts, gymnastics, basketball, soccer, and more senior-specific programs.
- **Additional Facilities:** Requests for a covered pool, year-round aquatic center, expanded weight room, and more indoor facilities.
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Requests for guided hiking, snowshoeing, and kayaking/canoeing.

Question 7 - What, if anything, prevents you from participating in recreational activities more often? Please check all that apply.

Of respondents, over 20% responded that nothing prevents them from participating in recreational activities. The cost to participate and lack of information about programs are barriers to participating in recreational activities.

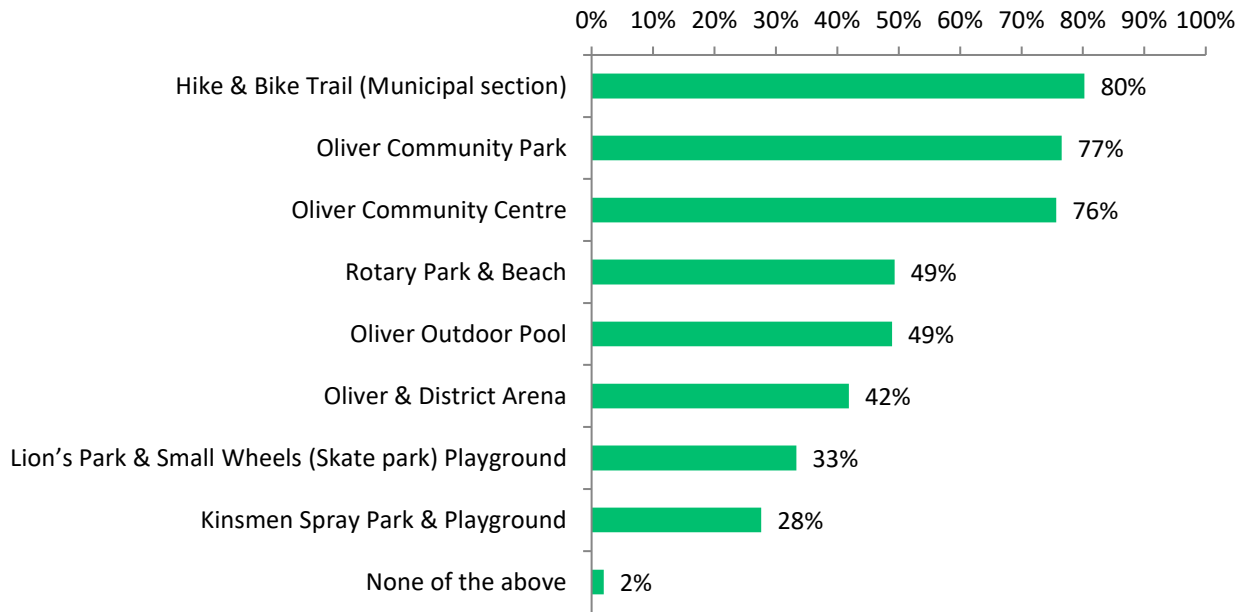


“Other” reasons survey respondents said they do not participate included:

- Scheduling challenges
- Program cancellations
- Facility limitations/maintenance concerns
- Facilities are too far away
- Lack of program variety
- Communication challenges

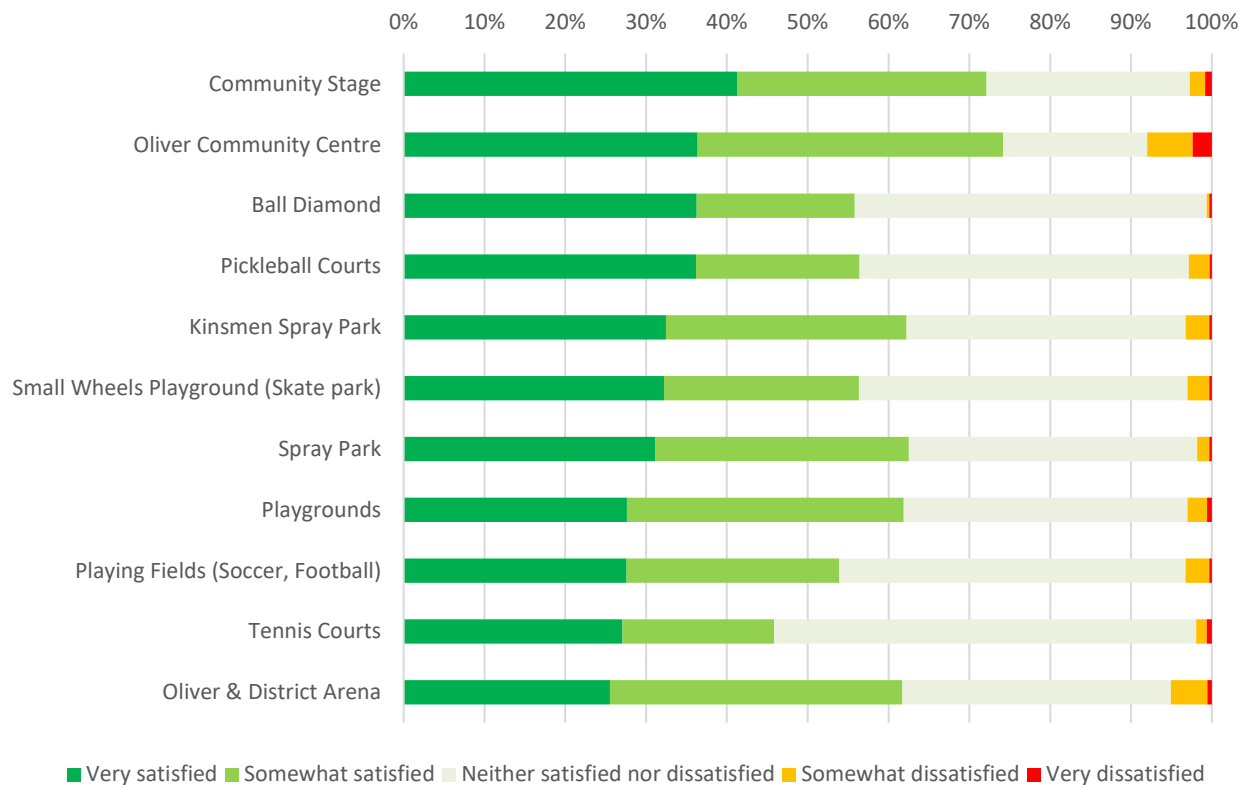
Question 8 - Have you used any of the following recreation facilities or parks in the Town of Oliver in the past twelve months? Please check all that apply.

The top recreation facilities used by respondents include the Hike and Bike Trail, Oliver Community Park, and Oliver Community Centre.



Question 9 - How satisfied are you with each of the following facilities and park amenities?

Recreation facilities with the highest levels of satisfaction include the community stage, Oliver Community Centre, ball diamonds, and pickleball courts. Although a small proportion, the facilities with the lowest levels of satisfaction include the Oliver Community Centre and Oliver and District Arena (8% and 6% respectively).



Question 10 - Do you visit any recreation facilities or participate in recreation programming outside of the Town of Oliver?

Close to 40% of respondents indicated that they visit recreation facilities or participate in recreation programming **outside of the Town of Oliver**.

Question 11 - If you answered yes to question 10, why do you use facilities outside the Town of Oliver?

Top facilities and programs used outside of Oliver include:

- Penticton Pool
- Osoyoos Beach and Arena
- Recreation Facilities in Kelowna
- Community Halls in Penticton and Osoyoos
- Parks and Lakes in Various Locations such as OK Falls Beach Park
- Indoor Soccer Program
- Fitness Centers with more equipment and showers
- Mountain biking trails throughout the Okanagan

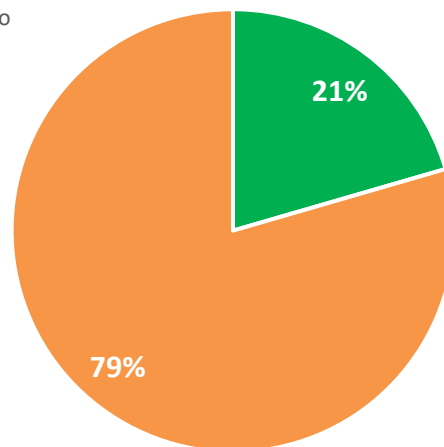
The top reasons for traveling outside of Town for recreation include:

- Additional programs and a variety of programs
- Year-round access including indoor pools and gyms
- Lack of facilities in Oliver
- Better equipment and options
- Seasonal activities such as snowshoeing in Baldy and McKinney
- Participation in community events, live theater, and social activities
- Variety of options for families

Question 12 - Are you a member/volunteer of a local recreation club or organization (ex. PACA, OBC, Mckinney Nordic, Outdoor Club, Hiking Club, DVRC)?

Close to 20% of survey respondents are a member of a local recreation club or organization.

■ Yes ■ No



Question 13 - *In a few words, describe your vision for the future of recreation facilities and programs in the Town of Oliver.*

When asked to describe their vision for the future of recreation facilities and programs in the Town of Oliver, the following themes emerged:

- **Indoor Pool:** Many respondents express a desire for an indoor pool that can be used year-round.
- **Updated Facilities:** Calls for updated and improved facilities, an indoor track, and more diverse fitness options.
- **Affordability and Accessibility:** Repeated mentions of the importance of making recreational activities affordable and accessible to all age groups.
- **Youth and Family Programs:** Emphasis on creating programs and facilities for children, teenagers, and families to promote health and wellness and provide constructive activities.
- **Expanded Gym Facilities:** Requests for a larger, better-equipped gym, extended hours, and possibly 24/7 access.
- **Community Growth and Development:** A recurring theme is the need for facilities to keep up with the growth of the community and reflect its evolving needs.
- **Diversity in Programs:** Suggestions for a variety of programs and facilities catering to different interests and age groups.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** A few respondents highlight the importance of environmental stewardship and connection to the land in recreational planning.
- **Year-Round Activities:** Consistent calls for more year-round activities and facilities, especially an all-season indoor pool.
- **Maintenance and Upkeep:** Many individuals stress the significance of regular maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to ensure existing facilities remain in good condition.
- **Inclusivity:** The importance of inclusive facilities and programs, including gender-neutral washrooms and spaces suitable for all community members.
- **Community Events:** Several respondents mention the need for more community events, festivals, and opportunities to bring people together.
- **Sporting Leagues:** Calls for the development of more team sports and leagues, with a specific mention of soccer.
- **Connection to Indigenous Communities:** A need for meaningful collaboration with the Osoyoos Indian Band.
- **Arts and Learning Programs:** Some individuals express interest in creative classes, arts, and learning programs for various age groups.

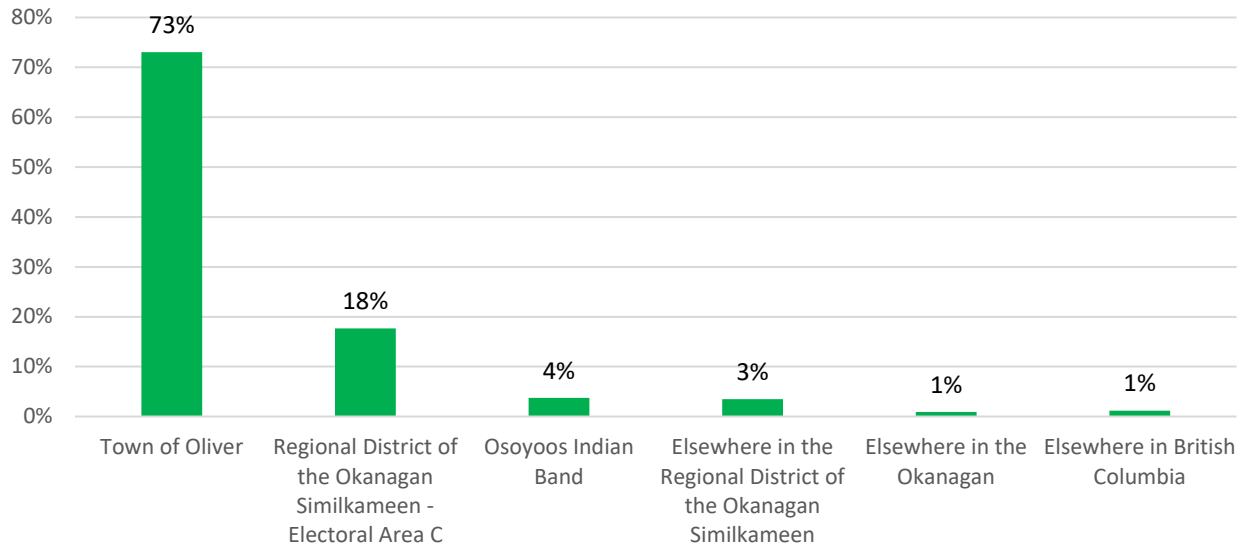
Question 14 - Please use the following space to provide additional comments on the current state of recreation programs and facilities in the Town of Oliver.

The top responses include:

- **Community Park Appreciation:** Positive feedback about the community park, especially the walking path, beautiful trees, and the sense of community among fellow walkers.
- **Excellent Programs:** Many express satisfaction and appreciation for the excellent programs offered in Oliver.
- **Diversity in Programs:** Requests for more diverse programs, especially for specific age groups like kids aged 13-15, and suggestions for specialized programs for seniors and toddlers.
- **Desire for More Activities for Children:** Several respondents mention the need for more activities for children, especially during the summer.
- **Concerns about Aging Facilities:** Concerns about the age and upkeep of some facilities, including the arena, playgrounds, hike and bike trail, and a call for an indoor pool.
- **Facilities Suitability:** Mixed opinions about the current facilities; some find them suitable for the Town's size, while others express the need for upgrades and improvements.
- **Indoor Pool Demand:** Strong demand for an indoor pool, with several respondents expressing the need for year-round swimming facilities.
- **Satisfaction with Staff:** Positive feedback about the current Oliver and District Recreation staff, acknowledging their efforts and commitment to providing quality services.
- **Community Events:** Calls for more community events, suggestions for a town square-like area, and appreciation for well-run community events.
- **Program Cancellations and Promotion:** Challenges mentioned include program cancellations.
- **Pickleball Facility and Other Specific Requests:** Requests for improvements in pickleball facilities, creation of specific facilities like a yoga studio, gymnastics program, dance program, and requests for an expanded disc golf course.
- **Concerns about Dog Control:** Concerns about animal control at Rotary Beach, with suggestions for closer monitoring and enforcement regarding dogs on the beach.
- **Infrastructure for Biking:** Requests for more infrastructure for biking, including a pump track and mountain bike trails.
- **Community Identity and Pride:** Statements expressing pride in the Town's facilities and a desire to maintain a sense of community identity through well-maintained parks and recreational opportunities.
- **Need for Year-Round Access:** Requests for facilities that provide year-round access, especially an indoor pool and covered Pickleball courts.

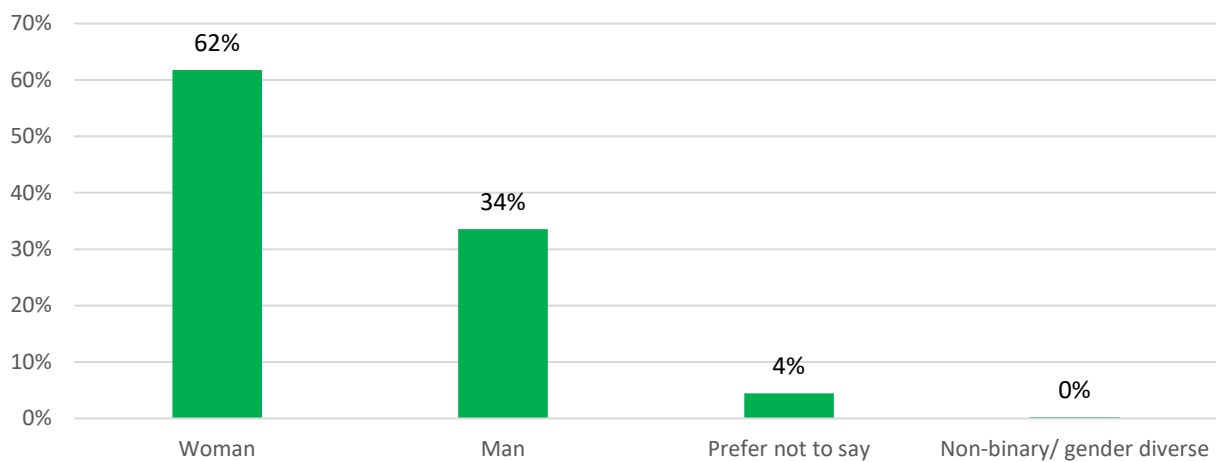
Question 15 - Where do you live?

Of survey respondents, 73% live in the Town of Oliver, 18% in Electoral Area “C” and 4% in Osoyoos Indian Band lands.



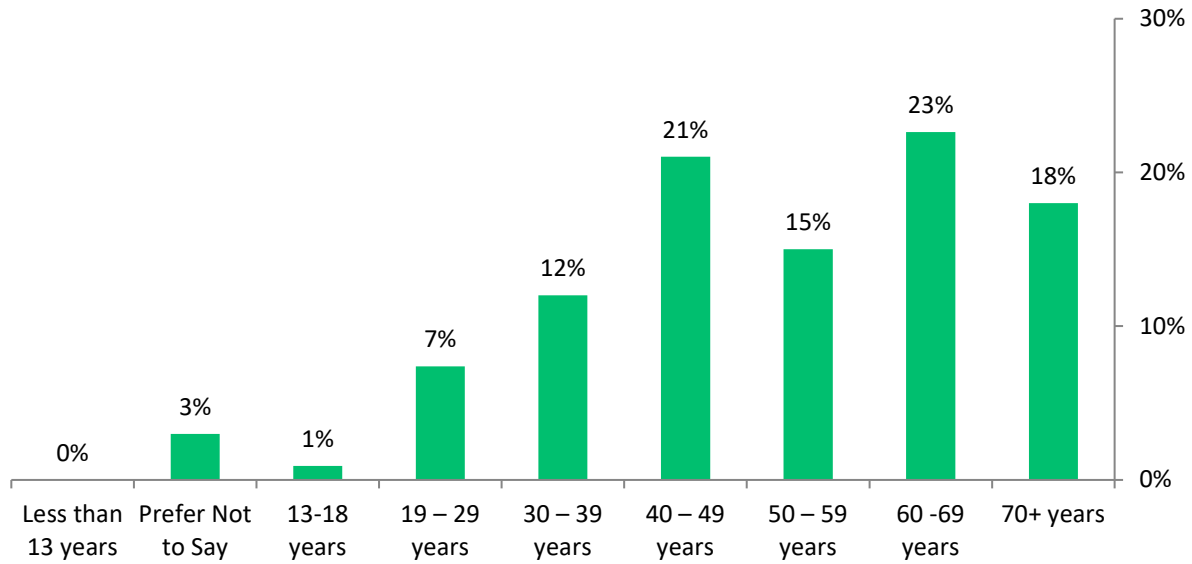
Question 16 - How do you describe your gender identity?

Over half of survey respondents identify as women.



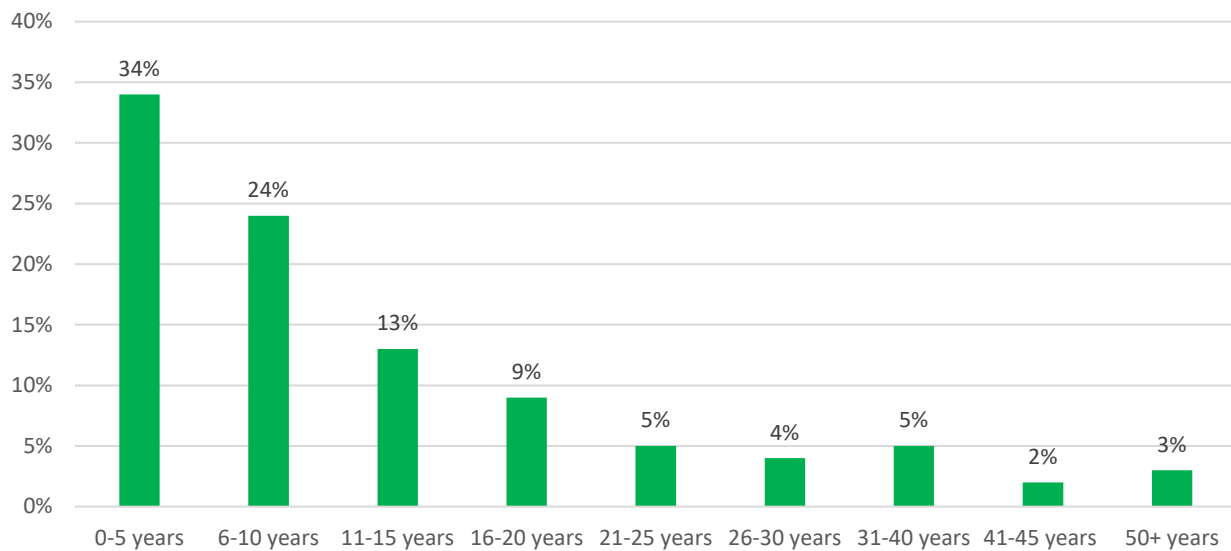
Question 17 - Which age group do you belong to?

Of survey respondents, 23% are between 60-69, 21% are 40-49, and 15% are 50-59.



Question 18 - How many years have you lived in the Town of Oliver?

Of survey respondents, 58% have lived in Oliver less than 10 years.



6 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE – RESULTS

During the open house, participants were asked to share their thoughts on recreation facilities and programs in the Town of Oliver as well as their vision for future recreation in the Town of Oliver, Electoral Area “C” and the surrounding area.

1. What do you love and value most about recreation in Oliver and district?

Responses included:

- Gym/fitness room (X3)
- Music in the park (x2)
- Ease of access
- High visibility of programs
- Great website
- Quality of instructors
- Parks
- Variety of programming
- The early fitness classes
- Splash park
- Light up
- Community connections
- Affordable and free options
- Diversity of programs (art, sports, culture)

2. How can existing recreation facilities be improved? Is anything missing?

Responses included:

- Indoor pool (X3)
- Full-length pool
- Sauna and hot tub
- Swim club
- Place to escape heat/smoke in the summer
- Programming outside of working hours

- Larger gym/fitness area
- Mental health for seniors
- More wellness activities
- Running track
- Shade/shelter at dog park and splash park

3. When asked which facilities participants visit frequently, the top responses were:

- Oliver Community Park (8 responses)
- Oliver Community Centre (8 responses)
- Oliver and District Community Pool (7 responses)
- Rotary Park and Beach (6 responses)
- Kinsmen Spray Park (6 responses)
- Oliver Elementary School (5 responses)

4. How can existing recreation programs be improved? Is anything missing?

Responses included:

- Improvements needed at the arena
- An upper-level walking track at the arena
- Kids fitness club
- 9 more disc golf holes to make 18
- Kayaking workshop
- Mindfulness/relaxation courses
- Cooking class (kids and adults)

5. What, if anything, prevents you from participating in recreation activities more often?

Responses included:

- Cost of fuel
- Live too far away
- Lack of public transportation

- Age

6. What words best reflect your vision for the future of recreation in Oliver and District?

Responses included:

- Accessible (X3)
- Continued excellence of service (X2)
- Physical
- Financial
- Ease of use
- Excellent communication
- Age-friendly
- Growing families with needs for older adults and younger folks

7. What else do we need to know?

Responses included:

- Would love not to have to leave town for other town/city facilities. Would like to keep money in Oliver.
- There are still folks in Oliver who don't know about rec - creative ideas to reach them?
- Fundraisers via lotteries etc. to raise additional funds instead of tax increases

7 USER GROUP WORKSHOP – RESULTS

Session: Playing Field and Court User Workshop

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Location: Oliver & District Arena

1. What do you love about recreation in Oliver?

- The new tennis courts
- Town courts and fields are well maintained and excellent for the size of the community
- Lots of opportunities and facilities
- Cross country and snowshoeing at McKinney Nordic Ski area
- The School District appreciates the coordination and willingness of the Town to partner on tournaments
- Centralized facilities make things very accessible
- Music playing at the pool in the summer is very welcoming
- Thursday nights in the summer are great for socializing
- Great employees at the Town!
- School fields are excellent

2. What are your organization's biggest challenges?

- Attracting new players to the Tennis Club
- Schools are hosting lots of tournaments (soccer, disc golf) and out-of-town teams
- The Town converts the ball diamond to a soccer pitch to accommodate tournaments
 - Soccer needs portable nets to run tournaments
- The pool is too short for Special Olympics training needs
- Special Olympics lost its spot at the Penticton pool during COVID
- Lack of indoor playing space for pickleball

- Currently using the Cadet hanger for indoor pickleball
 - Need for more pickleball instructors (currently only 2)
 - Need for shade at pickleball courts
3. How could the Town assist in reducing challenges or roadblocks?
- Ball would benefit from a concession, portable fencing for tournaments, and lights would extend gameplay
 - Pick-up soccer has started and could be supported by the Town
 - Portable nets and flexibility on the ball diamonds
 - Another disc golf course (9 holes)
 - Tennis would like to offer lessons but does not currently have a certified instructor
 - Shade and bleachers needed for tennis and pickleball courts
 - Tents could be used for shade at ball diamonds
 - The Town could offer coach/referee training
 - Opportunity for a pickleball tournament in partnership with other communities
 - A covered pickleball court with lights to extend the season/hours of play
 - Basketball hoops at schools
4. Are you able to provide opportunities for everyone who wants to participate? Do you have the capacity to offer more?
- Tennis membership has slowed since Covid
 - Only 4-5 regular players
 - Pickleball is oversubscribed and may need to turn away new members
5. Is there anything else we should know about recreation in your community?
- Special Olympics:
 - Interested in skiing and snowshoeing if a partnership was possible and with volunteers
 - Participates in curling and bocce

- Physical Education class uses ball fields and disc golf
- Students play pickleball in the school gymnasium
- The fitness trail at Lion's Park is well used and would be great to add some outdoor fitness classes
- Ball players use tennis courts for skills and drills
- Pickleball is open and is coordinating with the School Board to encourage youth participation.

Session: Ice User Workshop

Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024

Location: Oliver & District Arena

1. What do you love about recreation in Oliver?

- The availability of greenspaces and opportunities for recreation.
- The joint use agreement with the Town allows the School District to offset their costs, make use of facilities that would otherwise sit empty, offer more programs, and expose students to a greater diversity of recreation opportunities.
- Service clubs donate time and money to ensure the success of programs in the arena (i.e. Lion's free skate night, concession staff, skate rental).
- The figure skating club appreciates their allotted ice time.
- Arena programming exposes the community to recreation options which is great for recreation organizations.

2. What are your organization's biggest challenges?

- Hockey players face barriers to entry if they do not start young (steep learning curve).
- Hockey Canada guidelines specify the need for gender-neutral change rooms. With limited dressing rooms for officials etc., this is a challenge.
- SOMH provides funding for players that cannot afford to play.
- Always looking for opportunities to include girls/women in hockey.
- Drop-in hockey is on the ice schedule; however, it is not well attended.

- Figure skating would like to attract more regional-level events; however, the current facility could not support out-of-town guests.
3. How could the Town assist in reducing challenges or roadblocks?
- More transparency with booking and ice time availability would help ice user groups plan and reduce friction between users.
 - Advertising drop-in hockey to increase the visibility of the sport.
 - Continue to offer Girls Jamboree and consider adding floor hockey to program offerings.
 - The arena concession would benefit from a debit machine.
 - Allow access to the phone in the arena skate shop for young players.
 - The washrooms in the arena need to be updated.
4. Are you able to provide opportunities for everyone who wants to participate? Do you have capacity to offer more?
- Figure skating is seeing growth in membership from last year.
 - CanSkate is a large percentage of skaters.
 - SOMH would like to attract more players to the sport.
5. Is there anything else we should know about recreation in your community?
- Service clubs need to be engaged as they are offsetting the costs of programming.
 - Oliver is a low economic area and thus programming and facilities need to be affordable.
 - Osoyoos player's benches are more comfortable.
 - Include a bigger concession kitchen in future upgrades to the arena.
 - An indoor pool would be well used by students and allow for lessons throughout the year.

Session: Outdoor Recreation Groups

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Location: Zoom

1. What do you love about recreation in Oliver?

- The pool is a great asset for kids and families
- The fields at Tuc-el-nuit for soccer
- The Town has great facilities – especially the dog park, Small wheels/skate park, spray park, and hike and bike
- Easy access to open spaces in the community
- Desert Valley Run Club (DVRC) uses the Hike and bike trail and appreciates the year-round washrooms/fountains in the Community park
- The Track at the park is well maintained, the safest place to run while there’s snow, hike and bike are well cleared too.
- Would like to see the outdoor fitness park better utilized and thinks people don’t know about it.
- Lots to do in Oliver – the Town has done a great job at creating places for people
- Amazing parks, loves the variety in facilities parks, and spaces, especially for kids
- Many affordable (and free) recreation options
- The recreation guide is great

2. What are your organization's biggest challenges?

- The Mt. Baldy Alpine Club would love to be able to build their athlete base up
- The Alpine club’s primary challenge is getting the word out about what they offer and are open to opportunities to partner with like organizations
- The Alpine club would like to expand “masters” offerings and promote existing programs.
- The DVRC also struggles to get the word out about their programming
- Hosting workshops and programs is key to getting more people to join

- The Osoyoos Bike Club (OBC) also struggles with getting enough exposure (especially non-avid outdoor people) and having a presence at community activities/events due to low membership.
 - The cost of insurance is a big challenge for the OBC
3. How could the Town assist in reducing challenges or roadblocks?
- Bring back the basketball courts!
 - Would like to see an indoor swimming pool
 - Would like to see the outdoor fitness park better utilized and promoted
 - All three groups would like assistance with outreach
 - Advertising club programming in Recreation Guide
 - A clubs day where clubs could advertise their programming/services and do demonstrations
 - More collaboration between clubs and with the Town
 - Examples include Fire and Ice festival, Light Up, ski swap, hip jam
 - Clubs to cross-promote each other's services/programming
 - More collaboration with the schools to expose kids to recreation amenities/sports like disc golf
 - There seems to be a disconnect between what the Town is doing and public awareness
 - Highlight "recreation wins" on social media and other channels
 - Information on renting equipment from the Town
 - OBC could use the Town's support in getting liability insurance
4. What is your vision for outdoor recreation in Oliver?
- Infrastructure for cycling such as bike lanes
 - Cycling infrastructure would encourage clubs/businesses to expand the sport
 - A pump track!
 - Gets kids started early and could encourage BMXing
 - Huge opportunity to also reach scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and strider bikes
 - Not having to travel to Penticton for the indoor pool

8 ROUND 2 ONLINE SURVEY

8.1 HIGHLIGHTS

Who answered the survey?

Close to 30% of survey respondents indicate that they have lived in Oliver between 11-20 years and close to 70% of respondents identify as women. Over 30% of survey respondents are between 40-49, 20% are between 60-69, and 16% are between 30-39.

Vision for the future

Close to 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the vision statement.

Suggestions for enhancing the vision statement include:

- A year-round aquatics facility
- More winter fitness options
- Increased safety at parks and trails
- Pet-friendly trails
- Recreation options for all income levels and abilities
- Culturally diverse and inclusive programming
- Family-oriented recreation
- Facilities supporting competitions and tournaments

Principles for recreation

Over 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the principles.

Suggestions for enhancing the principles of recreation include:

- Balancing fiscal responsibility with providing excellent recreation services and programs
- Improving safety in public areas
- Prioritizing affordable recreation options
- Expanding facilities and services, such as an indoor pool, to match community growth
- Supporting recreation that facilitates sports competitions

Goals for recreation

Over 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the goals.

Suggestions for enhancing the goals for recreation include:

- Emphasizing year-round recreation, including an indoor aquatics center
- Establishing partnerships with the Arts Council
- Offering more recreation options outside of working hours
- Enhancing safety and security features in public spaces
- Prioritizing local community use of facilities
- Goals for Recreation

Building community capacity

Nearly three-quarters of respondents support Oliver and District Recreation offering training for lifeguards, coaches, and fitness instructors.

Recreation programming priorities

Expanding outdoor recreation programming (73%), food-related programming (62%), and arts and cultural programming (60%), are the highest priorities for respondents.

Recreation facility upgrades

Adding shade at the Oliver & District Pool (72%), expanding the weight/fitness room at the Oliver Community Hall (52%), and expanding the community kitchen at the Oliver Community Hall (47%) are the top priorities for recreation facility upgrades.

Several respondents also mention the need for an indoor pool.

Park and trail upgrades

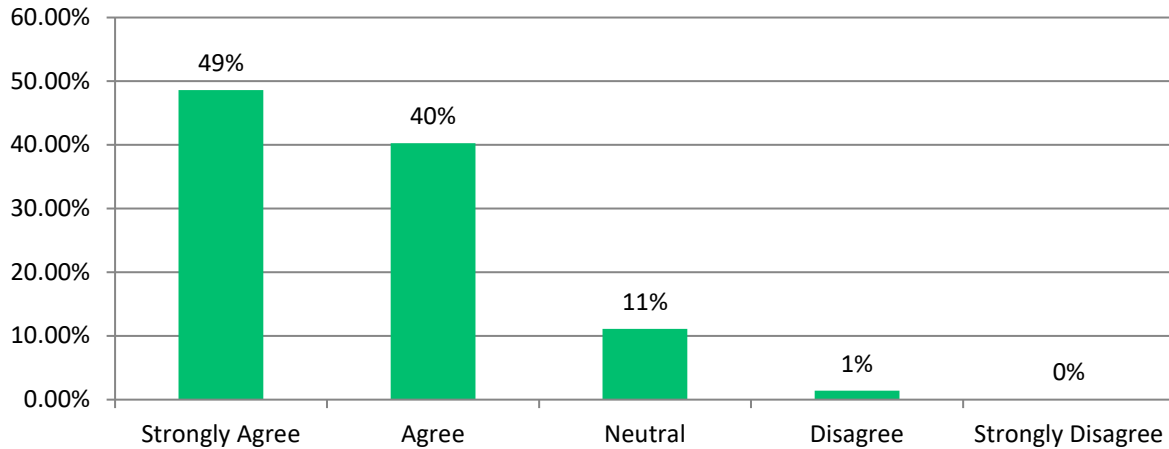
Adding shade at parks and trails, adding lighting and clearing paths and sidewalks of snow, and more accessible features at parks are the highest priorities for park and trail upgrades.

Paying for improvements to recreation facilities

Of the 74 respondents to this question, 36 prefer to fund improvements to existing facilities through increased program fees, 34 prefer raising rental rates at facilities, and 23 support raising taxes. Note that respondents could choose more than one option.

8.2 DETAILED RESULTS

Question 1 - *To what extent do you agree with the Vision Statement?*

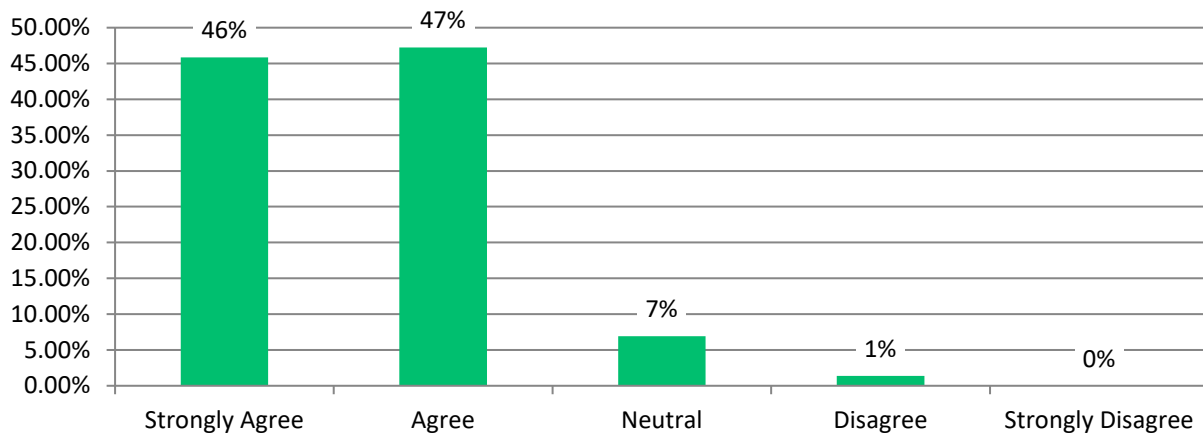


Question 2 - *Is there anything missing from the Vision Statement?*

- No (X3)
- A year-round swimming facility is missing and is so important for all ages in the community. Why drive icy roads to Penticton in the winter, when we need the facilities here. Also giving more office space to staff, when they are overstaffed and [underworked].
- Need to include more indoor fitness/all-ages activities for the winter months - indoor swimming, etc. rather than just fitness classes and stuff for kids.
- They should consider providing a safe and secure environment....security cameras at strategic points on trail and in parks, and parking areas.
- I didn't see anything making it pet-friendly for trails or hiking. Pooper bags and a few garbage cans are spaced out so that people don't drop the bags on the ground.
- "... for every level of income and ability, as we focus on holistic (whole) physical and mental health."
- Ages and development of details
- Fostering culture
- You've got it all.
- For all ages
- Something about families
- Not that I can see - it's general enough to allow for interpretation of meaning which can be beneficial in the long run.

- ...support community health, well-being AND FUN
- Providing culturally appropriate and diverse programming
- Build to include at least a few competition standards (dive tank etc) for club training

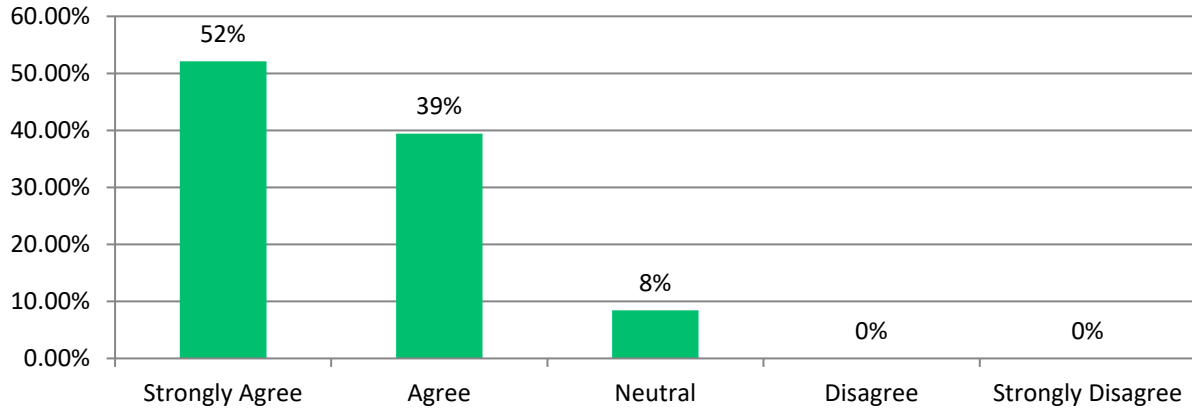
Question 3 - To what extent do you agree with the Principles?



Question 4 - Is there anything missing from the Principles?

- No (x2)
- Yes -deal with the waste of taxpayer dollars - and actually strive to provide excellent service to the community - rather than staff serving their own interests
- "Having a pool that is only open for 3-4 months of the year is not serving our town. We are growing and need to expand our services. "
- I think just putting working relationship with the OIB is fine. The other makes it political where it doesn't need to be.
- Safety for general public features. The town should consider it may be a liability if they don't address this issue.
- Affordability
- I'd say stating that things are affordable is lacking.
- The partnerships guarantee community involvement and funding opportunities!
- Don't think so
- Again - meet some competition standards

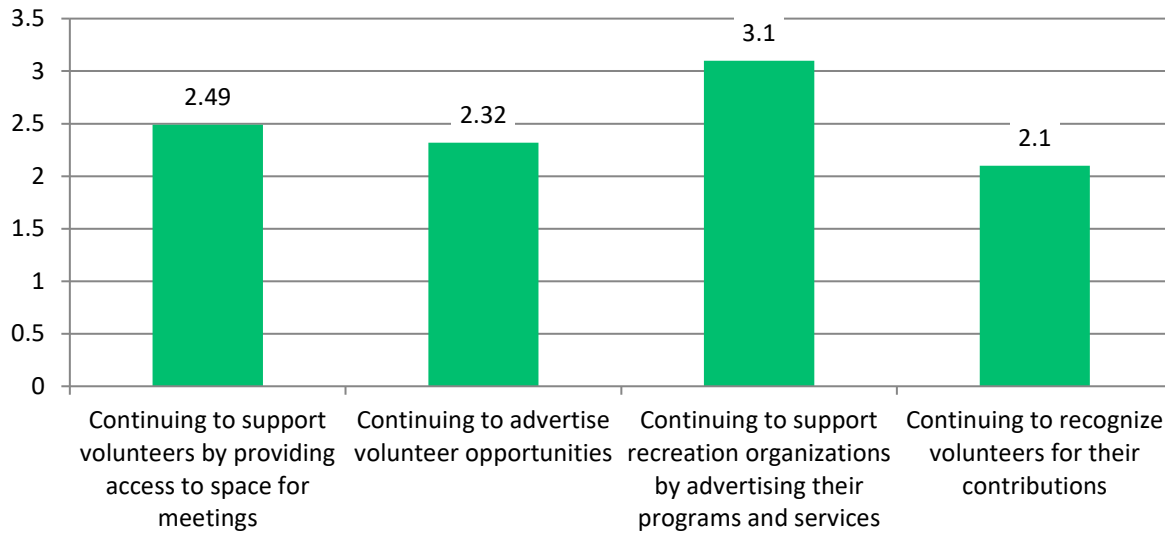
Question 5 - To what extent do you agree with the Goals?



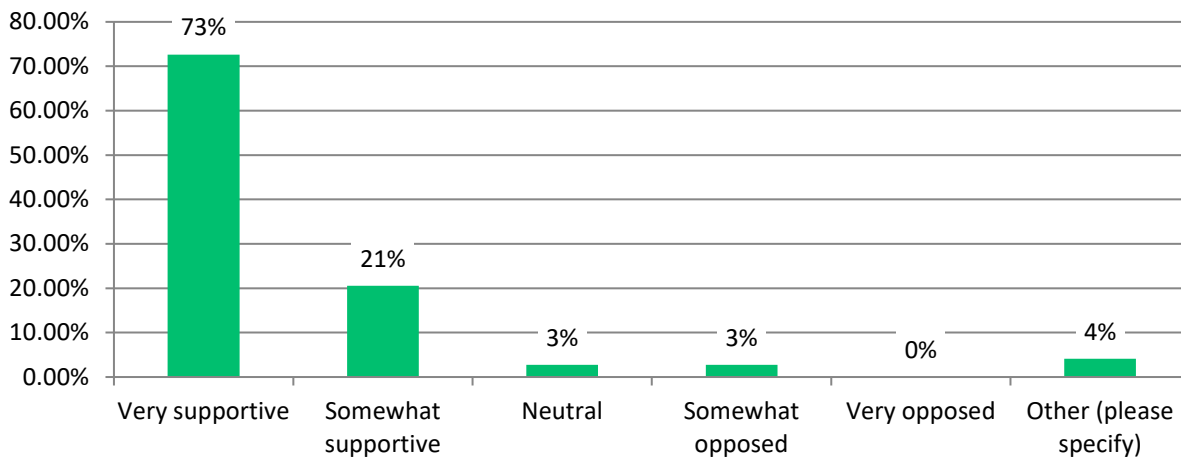
Question 6 - Is there anything missing from the Goals?

- Future challenges from outside community participation, namely citizens from larger urban centres using facilities where their (local) facilities are over capacity [ie. pickleball courts].
- No x2
- It should emphasize a year-round indoor swimming facility - even if it was only to enclose the existing pool.
- Need more year-round activities instead of just in the summer months
- Providing safety and security features.
- I just suggest with timely... that understand working people and day hours not being able to get to day activities in the regular year for older people.
- As long as the arts community - we have a very active and efficient arts council - is not engulfed by Recreation. Partnerships are, again, very important.
- What do you mean by "build internal capacity" explain more.
- Does Goal #10 include an indoor/year-round aquatic facility?
- An indoor pool.
- Attention to a few competition standards. There are fewer and fewer pools available for club training in BC

Question 7 – Which of the following actions should Oliver and District Recreation prioritize? Please rank the following actions with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.



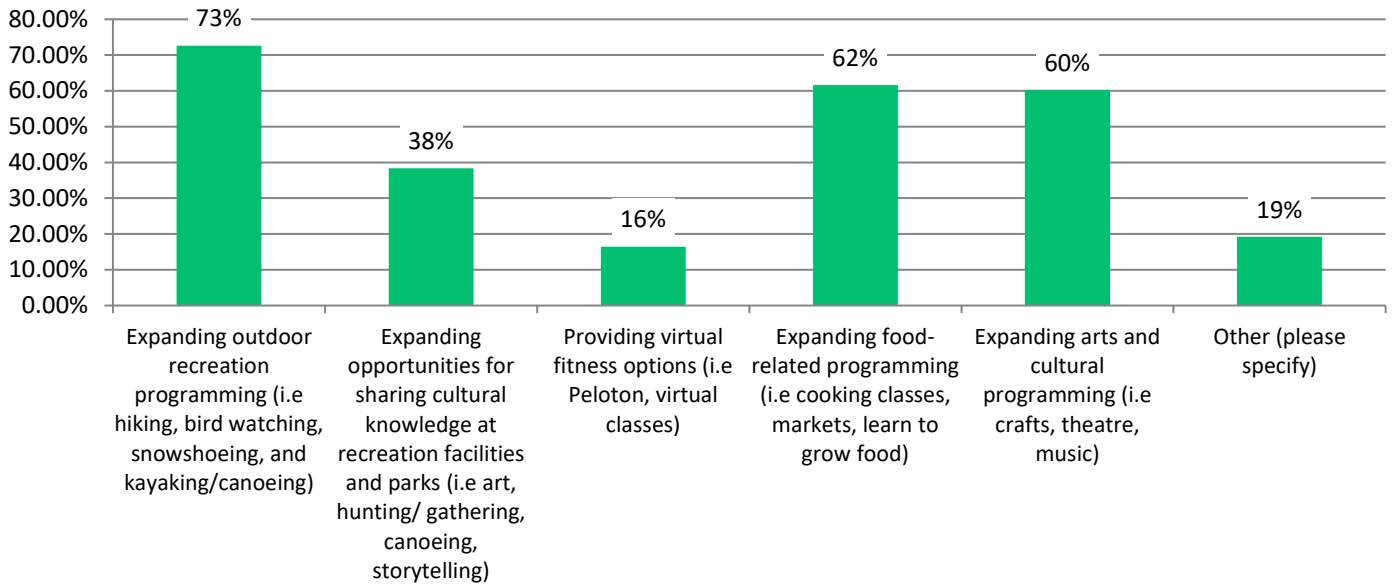
Question 8 - What is your level of support for Oliver and District Recreation supporting local training for community members to become a certified lifeguard, recreation instructor, coach, or referee?



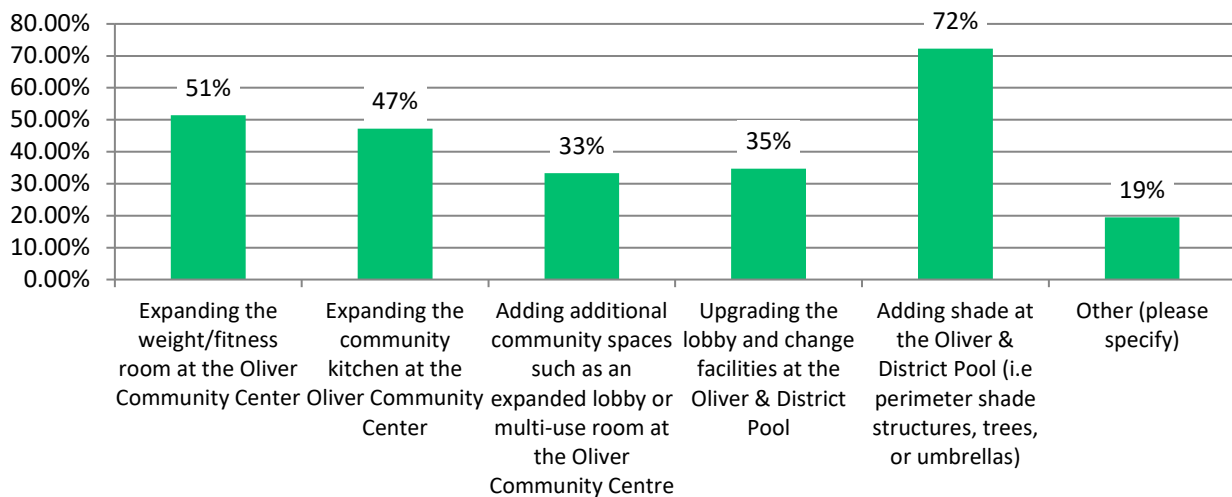
Responses to the other option include:

- Have lifeguards for Tuc El Nuit Lake etc. paid for by Regional or Town of Oliver like Peachland does.
- Include fine arts
- I'm all for locals being hired and supported but not on our tax dollar

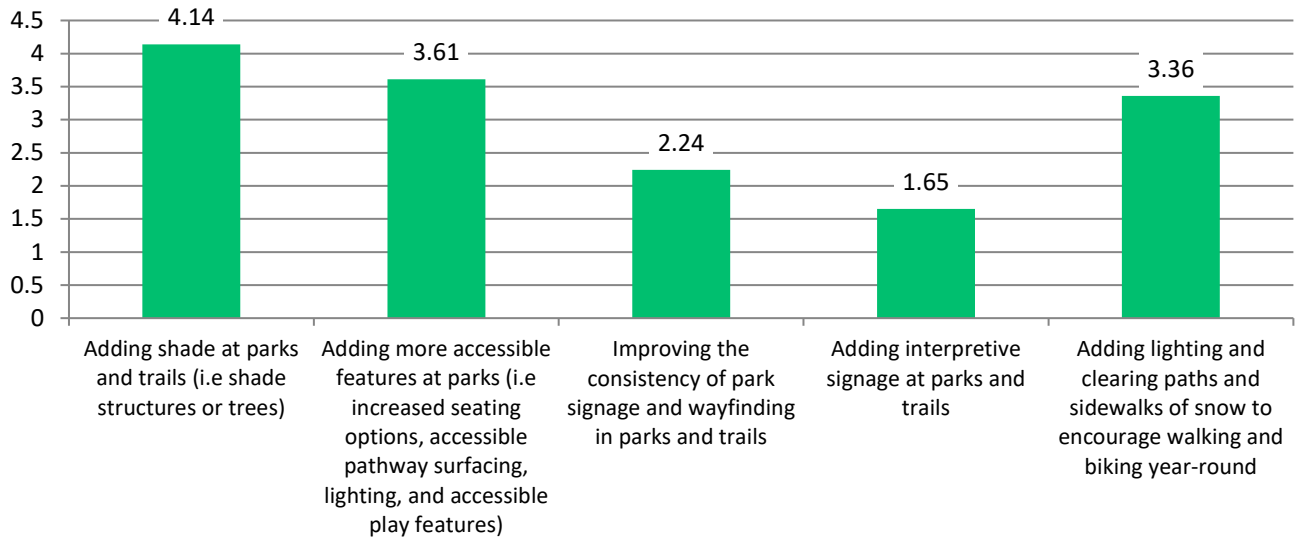
Question 9 - Which of the following actions should Oliver and District Recreation prioritize? Please select your top 3



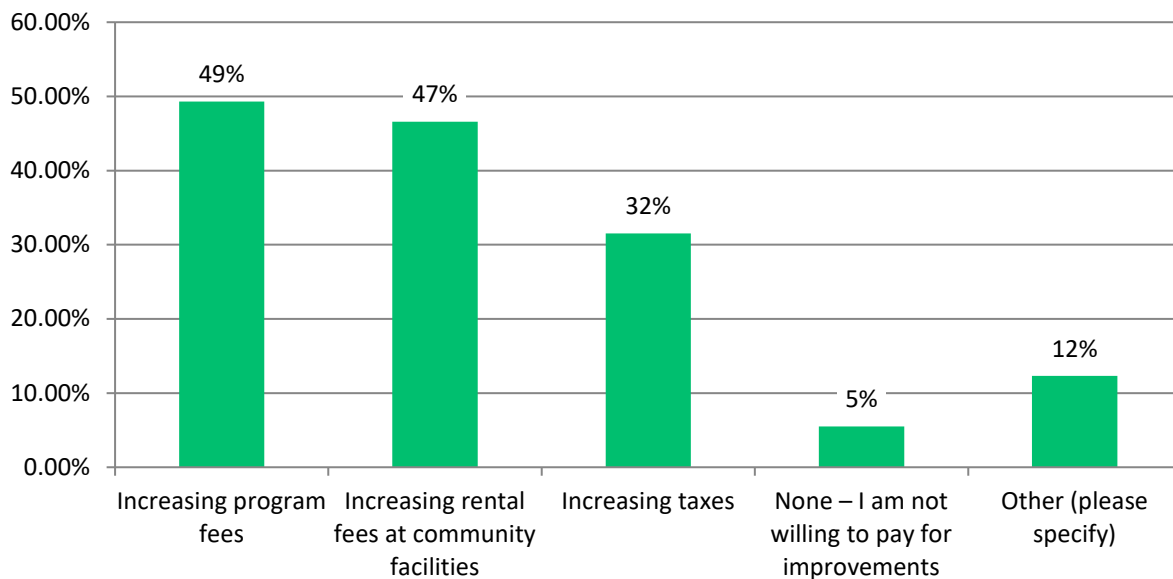
Question 10 - Which of the following actions should Oliver and District Recreation prioritize? Please rank the following actions with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.



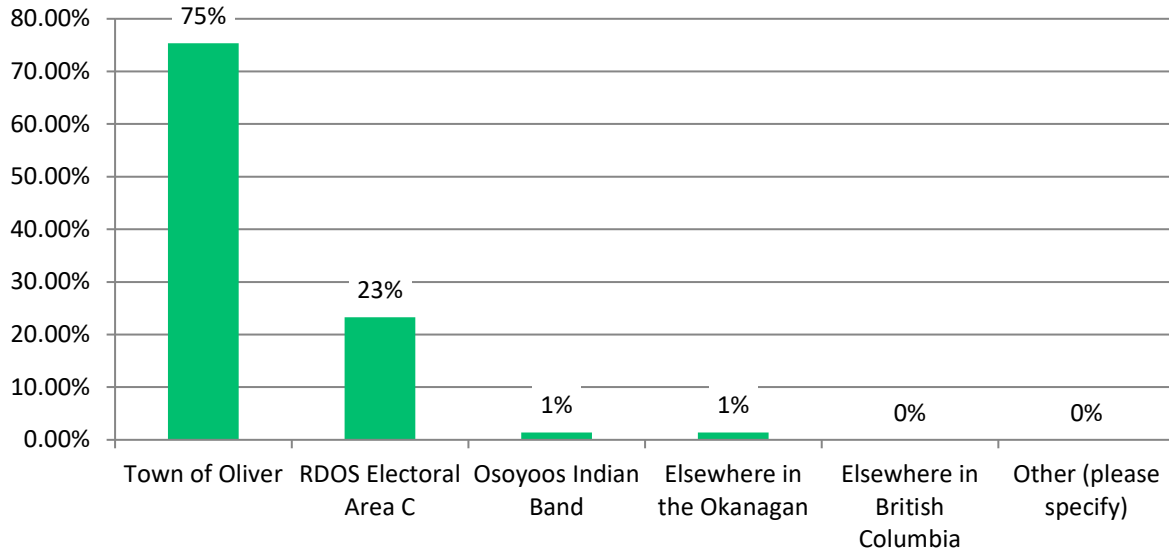
Question 11 - Which of the following actions should Oliver and District Recreation prioritize? Please rank the following actions with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.



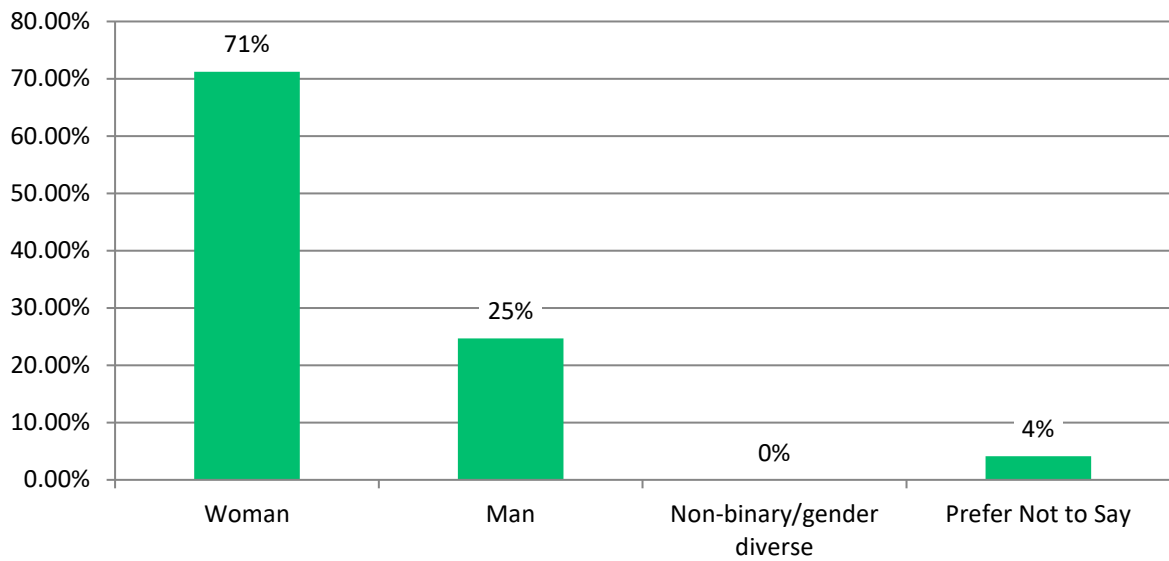
Question 12 - How would you prefer to pay for improvements to existing amenities and facilities or new amenities and facilities? Note that respondents could select more than one option.



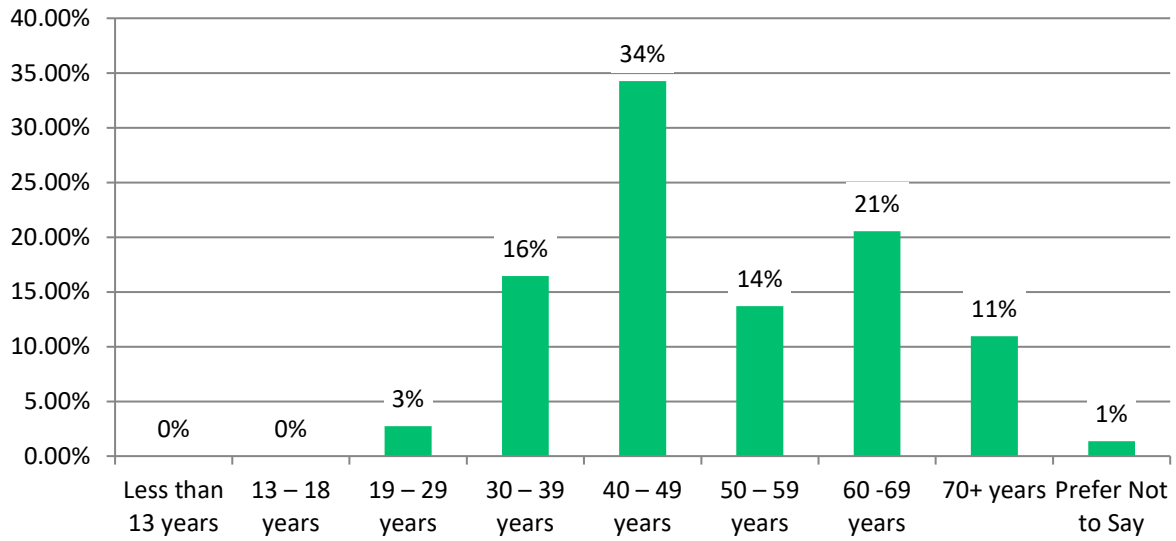
Question 13 - Where is your primary residence?



Question 14 - How do you describe your gender identity?



Question 15 - Which age group do you belong to?



Question 16 - How many years have you lived in the Town of Oliver?

