



**February 2024**

# **Recreation Needs Assessment**

**What We Heard Report**



The *impact* Group.  
SOLUTIONS & STRATEGY

**RGAL**  
RAY GOSSELIN ARCHITECT LIMITED

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# Introduction

In 2021, the Town of Pilot Butte spearheaded the development of the Community Recreation Plan (CRP) in response to the growing needs of residents and business owners in the community. In 2016, Pilot Butte was documented as the fastest growing community in Saskatchewan, and it continues to grow year after year, welcoming many young families as the largest demographic group. With a forward-looking approach of recreation and place-making, Pilot Butte is now exploring the development of a new multi-purpose recreational facility for residents to enjoy and for community groups to deliver their programs.

Currently, Pilot Butte is undertaking a study to explore the feasibility of this potential facility, and to assess the recreational challenges and opportunities that exist in the community today.

Gathering community input through a variety of engagement opportunities is an important part of planning for this potential project. A public survey was launched in December of 2023, both online and in paper-copies, to kick off a series of engagement opportunities to residents that lasted until mid-February, 2024. Group questionnaires, one on one telephone conversations, digital and in-person focus groups, and three public open-house sessions all contributed to the information provided in this report.

## Project Timeline

The public and stakeholder group engagement will inform and confirm the Recreation Needs Assessment for the Town of Pilot Butte, and help to guide the next phases of recreation planning work.

- **Phase 1:** Recreation Needs Assessment
- **Phase 2:** Steering Committee, Operational, Technical & Partnership Assessments
- **Phase 3:** Pre-Design, Planning & Conceptual Development
- **Phase 4:** Design & Construction

# Message From Council

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This section is an opportunity to demonstrate how top management is taking the lead and giving direction to your NFP's sustainability efforts.

An authentic, sincere and mission-driven statement from the chair, CEO or president signals commitment and sets the tone for the rest of the report. It can include an overview of the vision, direction and strategy the organization is committed to take, to help move the needle on the SDGs to meet the global 2030 deadline.

This message demonstrates the organization's understanding of its impact and responsibility to people and the planet. Importantly, it also builds the audience's trust and confidence in the organization.



**Catch your  
reader's eye by  
highlighting  
one of your  
main points in  
this space.**

# Engagement Approach



## Why We Engaged

The primary goal of this phase of the project of public engagement, was to understand how the residents and community stakeholders in Pilot Butte prioritize recreation in their community, and what amenities are desired to help run existing and future and potential programming in the years to come. Through the community engagement methods listed below, it was an important opportunity to build community awareness of a potential multipurpose recreational facility development, and to develop partnerships or collaborations are possible.

## Who We Engaged

The engagement methods for this project included a variety of opportunities for; the **general public, internal/external stakeholders, organizations & groups and surrounding Indigenous communities**, to have their say, and be heard in the collection of feedback. The focus groups and open house sessions were conducted in a non-formal way, to really understand how recreational facilities and programs were being accessed today - and to determine what **challenges and/or opportunities** exist, to drive change through a future development. See appendix for a full list of stakeholders and participant demographics.

The list below includes the types of participants that were actively engaged in this phase of the project.







- General Public - Residents and individuals using the existing recreational amenities in Pilot Butte.
- Stakeholders - Community organizations, groups or clubs that provide recreational programming or facilities in Pilot Butte.
- Internal Stakeholders - Town of Pilot Butte Council, Staff & School Board Representation.
- Indigenous Communities - Representatives from local Indigenous communities, residents and/or urban members of those communities.



# Engagement Approach

## How We Engaged

A variety of methods and opportunities were used to reach a wide, diverse audience. To reduce barriers to participation it was important to provide accessible and user friendly opportunities, both in-person and online.

Engagement Opportunities				
RESOURCES		DESCRIPTION	STATS	AUDIENCE
	Public Survey	A public survey was launched in December 2024. 297 responses were gathered online, and 12 paper booklet surveys were remitted.	309	Public
	Questionnaire	A questionnaire was developed and distributed to community clubs, groups organizations and/or stakeholder groups to collect information regarding their current and future recreational needs.	8	School Boards, Regional Partners and Community Organizations
	Virtual Focus Group	to community clubs, groups organizations and/or stakeholder groups to collect information regarding their current and future recreational needs.	1 (22 Invitations sent)	Individual Residents, Regional Partners and Community Organizations
	In-Person Focus Group	An in-person focus group took place on Friday, December 15th, 2023. Individuals and members of 7 different organizations attended.	1	Individual Residents, Regional Partners and Community Organizations
	Public Open House Sessions	Three separate Public Open House Sessions were hosted on January 23, 25 & 27th, 2024. During the sessions, members of Town Council were present to share information, answer questions and participate in conversation with residents and business owners of Pilot Butte. All attendees were appreciative of the opportunity to learn more about the project and all were interested in providing further feedback by completing the Public Survey.  18 Individuals attended the open house sessions.	3	Individual Residents, Regional Partners and Community Organizations
	Indigenous Engagement	Individual discussions (1:1 and via telephone) and a public survey were conducted to engage Indigenous communities in and around the Treaty 4 area were sent communications to participate in the conversation of recreational programs and amenities in Pilot Butte, and to discuss opportunities for partnerships and collaborations.	12	Indigenous Nations in Treaty 4

# Key Themes & Takeaways: Overview

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A public survey was developed to capture the voices from the community in Pilot Butte. Surveys were anonymous and were available online and in booklet form from December 2023 - February 2024. The insights shared by all participants through this survey are invaluable inputs into the future stages of planning and development of the Multipurpose Recreational Facility Project. Key recurring themes and ideas include the following.

## **Inclusive Facility**

Participants highlighted the importance of creating spaces that are welcoming to all ages and abilities. Inclusivity and accessibility are core principles of all recreational developments, and they were reiterated by residents and community groups.

## **Maximize Amenities & Enhance Collaboration**

There was a clear desire from most participants to maximize the amenities based on current and future community needs, and for collaborative to lead the development. Our **In-person engagements** prioritized the following amenities, indoor ice, indoor fitness & courts amenities, indoor gathering and cultural/arts programming and event space. Overall, outdoor amenities prioritized enhancing community pathways and to provide welcoming shared spaces for community gathering and connecting people/organizations together. Regardless of the future design, participants want to see efficient and effective use of the development that maximizes the benefit for residents.

## **Seek Minimal Cost Option**

Based on the engagements with residents of Pilot Butte, there was a desire to see a minimal-cost option that requested all required amenities, but with a minimal cost impact and tax burden on residents. Affordability of living costs are a key reason for attracting new residents, and we heard suggestions and support for Pilot Butte Council to pursue a variety of financing options, operating models, partnerships, and grants to support the projects development.

## **Build it all at Once VS. Phasing**

Initially, there was a clear preference for the Multipurpose Recreation Facility to be built all at once rather than phased over time. However, most in-person participants agreed that a phased approach reduced the individual cost burden on residents and prefer to maintain the affordable cost of living attribute in Pilot Butte.

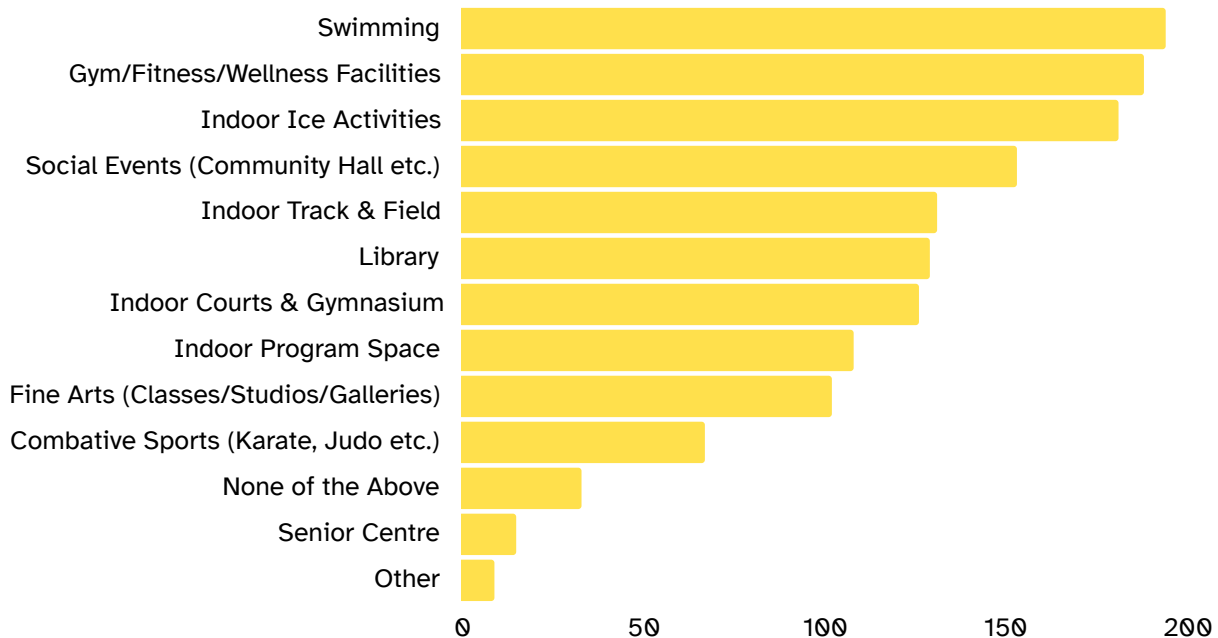
# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

The information and feedback shared by all participants through this public and stakeholder engagement are invaluable inputs into the future stages of the development of the new Multipurpose Recreational Facility. A summary of survey results include the following.

## Recreation Participation

To begin the survey, respondents were asked to identify indoor recreational activities that members of their household participate in. Other recreational activities identified were; bowling, ping pong, and cribbage.

### Indoor Recreation



The top 3 reasons to participate in recreation are;



Fun & Entertainment



Physical Health & Exercise



To Spend Time with  
Friends & Family



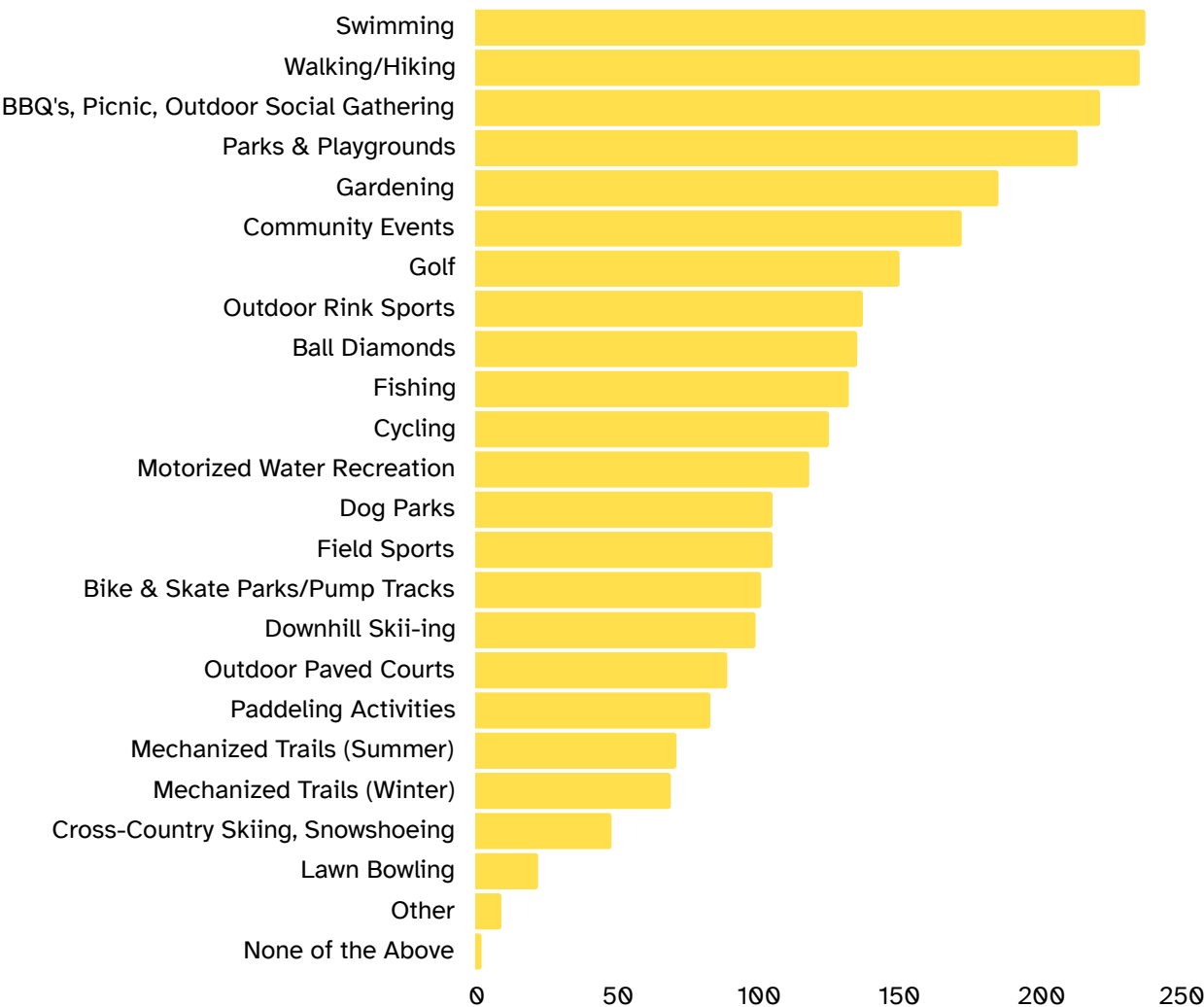
# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

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## Recreation Participation

To begin the survey, respondents were asked to identify what outdoor recreational activities that members of their household participate in. Other activities identified include; birdwatching, photography, and auto-racing.

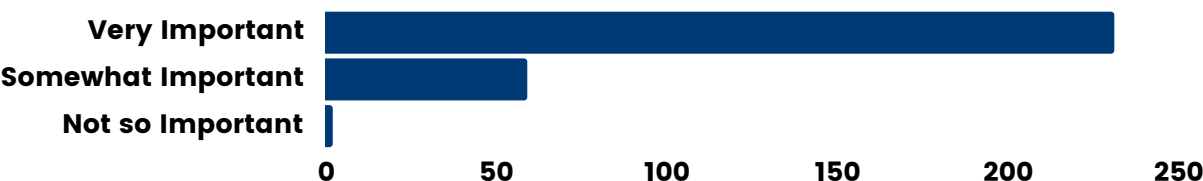
## Outdoor Recreation



# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

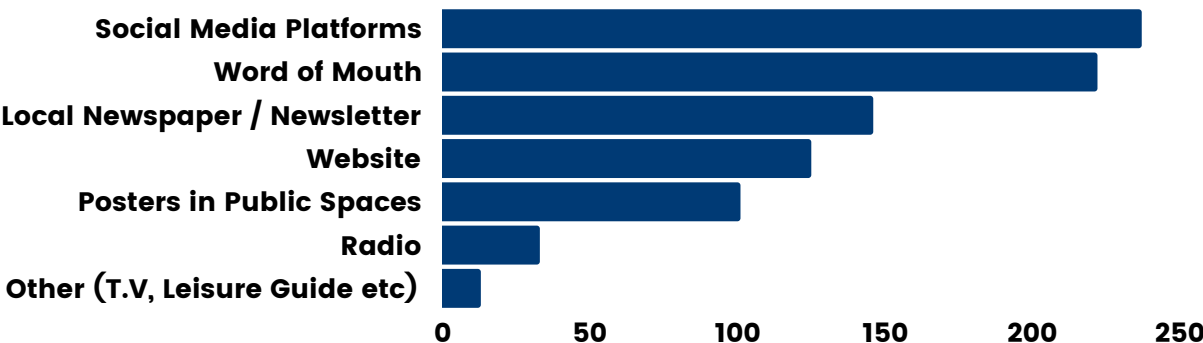
## Importance of Recreation

Respondents were asked to provide their perspective on the overall importance of recreation. As reflected in the following chart, residents place a high value on recreation and appear to recognize the benefits that are provided by recreation across the broader community and region.



## Awareness of Recreational Opportunities

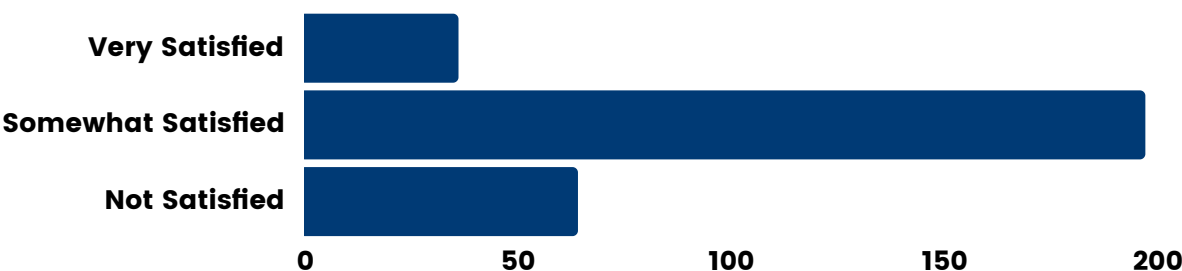
Respondents were asked to indicate how members of their household find out about recreation programs and activities. As illustrated by the graph, social media, word of mouth and printed newspapers or newsletters were identified by a high proportion of respondents as ways that they learn about opportunities that are available in Pilot Butte.



# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

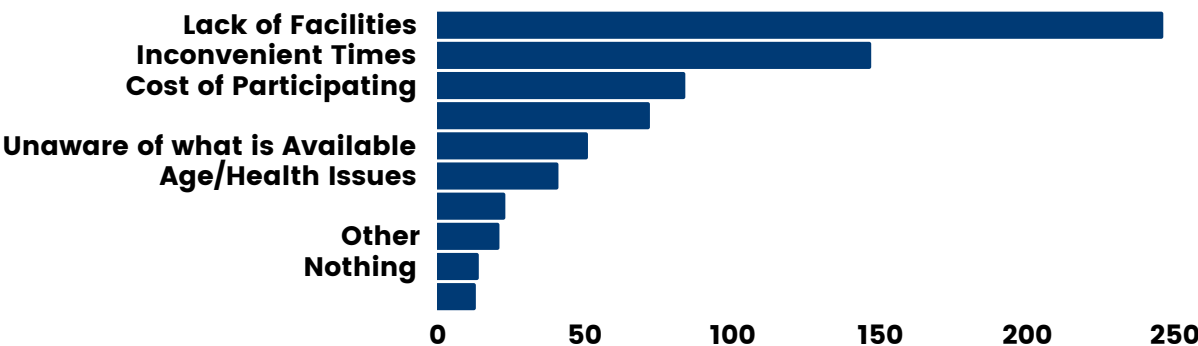
## Levels of Satisfaction

Respondents were asked to indicate their household's current level of satisfaction with facilities, programming and the overall state of recreation in the area. As reflected in the following chart, levels of satisfaction demonstrate room for improvement (the majority of respondents were "somewhat satisfied")



## Barriers to Participation

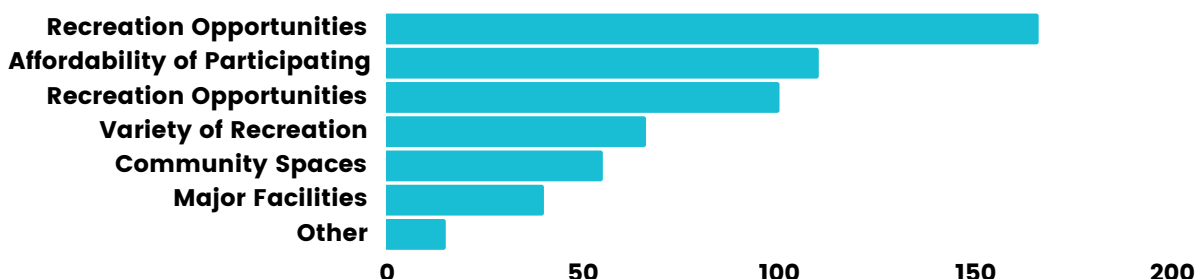
To get a sense of factors that limit or prevent residents from participating in recreation, respondents were next provided with a list of potential barriers and asked to identify any that apply to their household. The leading barriers identified by resident households were: lack of facilities, Inconvenient times available, cost of participating (affordability). Of note, transportation barriers and lack of interest were not identified as prevalent barriers by respondents.



# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

## Pilot Butte Assets & Attribute

Residents were next asked what they liked best about recreation in the Pilot Butte Area. The top three responses note that the natural beauty and accessibility of outdoor spaces and recreation, the Affordability of participating in recreation and recreational opportunities provided by volunteers and organizations in the community were leading attributes for Pilot Butte.



## Accessibilty of Recreation & Facilities

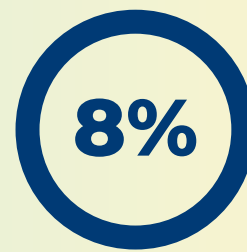
Residents were asked if members of their household had to travel out of Pilot Butte to access recreational activities and/or facilities that are not available in the Town of Pilot Butte. The majority of respondents confirmed that 92% need to travel out of their community to access recreation and/or programming. In an additional question, respondents were asked how many times they needed to travel out of their community to access recreational activities and/or facilities. 46% of respondents had to travel more than 10 times per month, while 54% traveled between 1-10 times per month.

**Do members of your household have to travel out of your community to access recreational activities and/or facilities that are not available in the Town of Pilot Butte?**

**YES**



**NO**

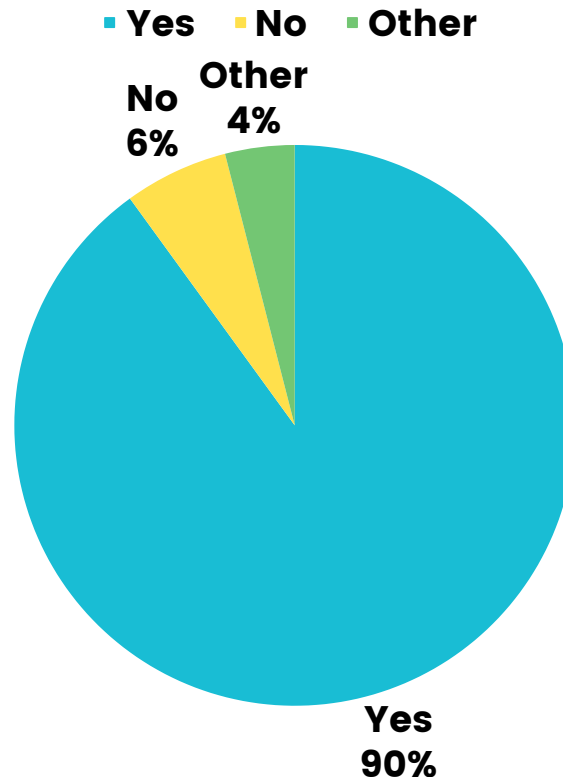


# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

## Perspectives on New & Enhanced Recreation

Residents were next asked if they believe there is a need for new and/or enhanced facilities to be developed in Pilot Butte. As illustrated by the graph, the majority of residents believe that new development is needed. 90% of respondents agree that additional development is needed, while 6% disagreed and 4% identified other priorities, such as focusing on renovating the existing facilities.

**Is there a need for new and/or enhanced recreation facilities to be developed in the Pilot Butte area?**

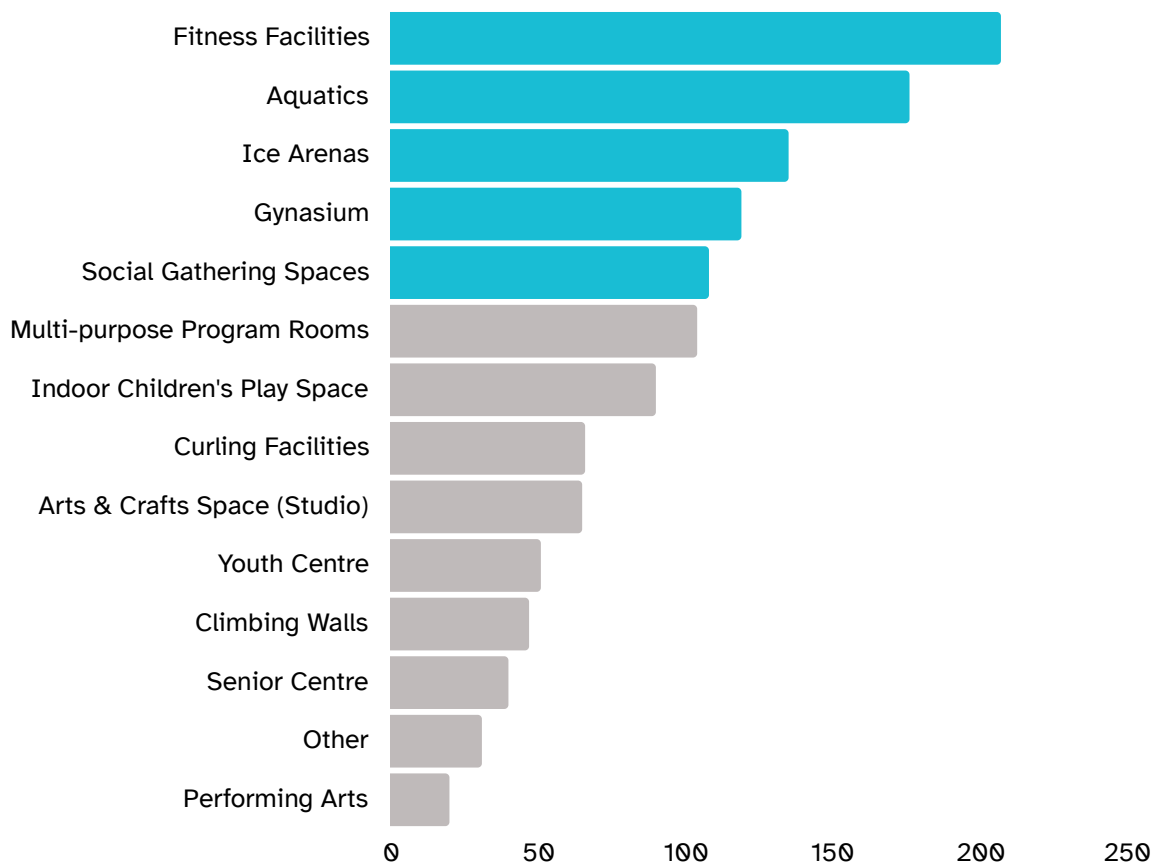


# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

## Priority Setting

To get a further sense of specific resident needs and demands for Pilot Butte, respondents were next provided with lists of indoor and outdoor facility and space types. Using a provided list of amenities, respondents were asked to identify up to five indoor and five outdoor facilities and spaces that should be considered for investment through development and/or enhancement in Pilot Butte. As reflected in the following graphs, the top three indoor priorities are aquatics facilities, youth centres, and performing arts facilities. The top three outdoor priorities are boat launches/water access areas, outdoor aquatics spaces, and natural surfaces trails.

## Indoor Recreation

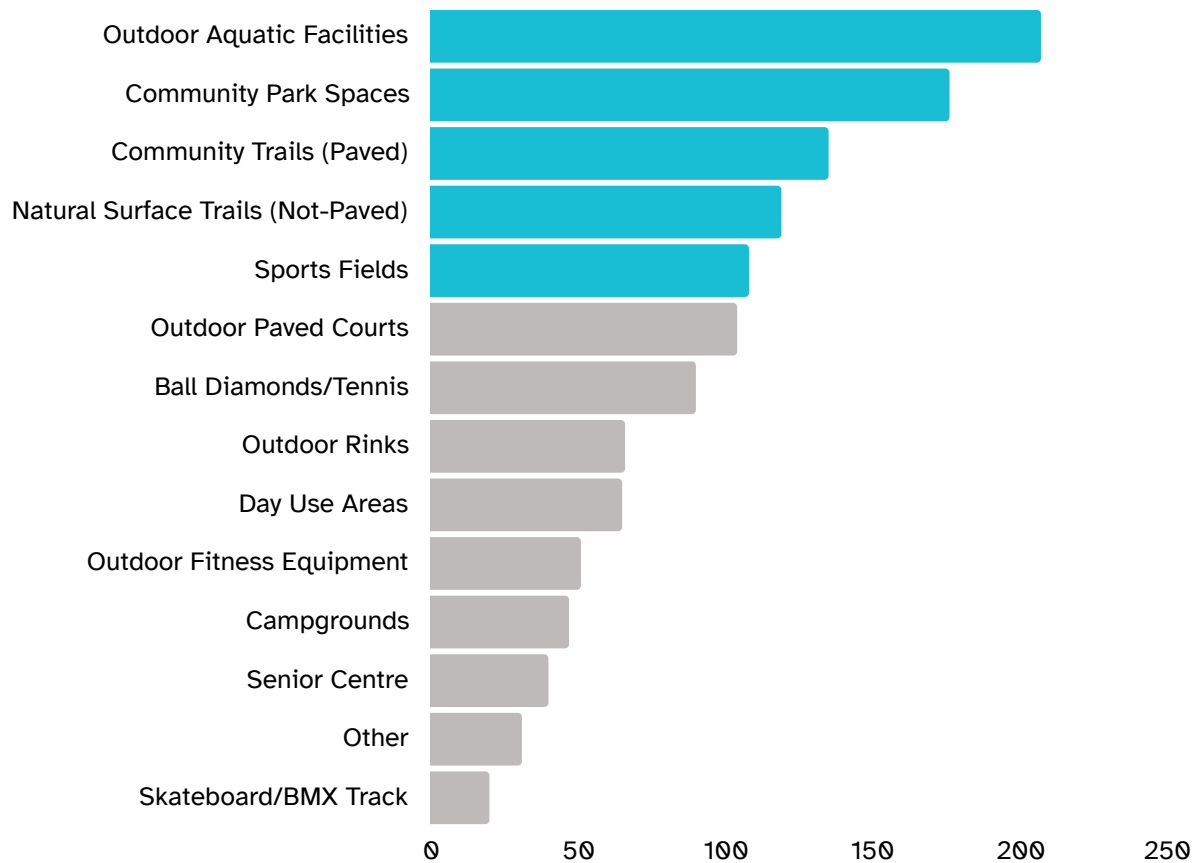


# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

## Priority Setting

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## Outdoor Recreation

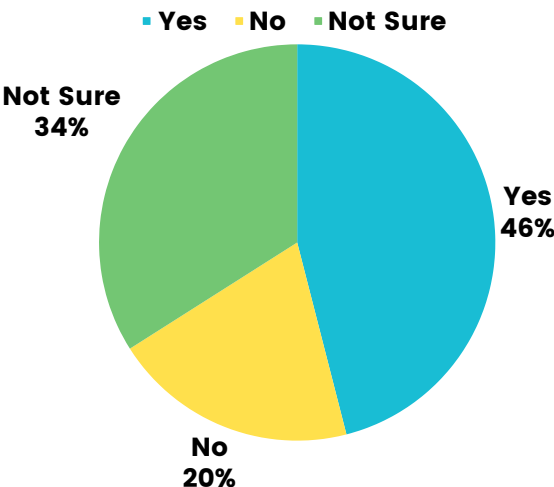


# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

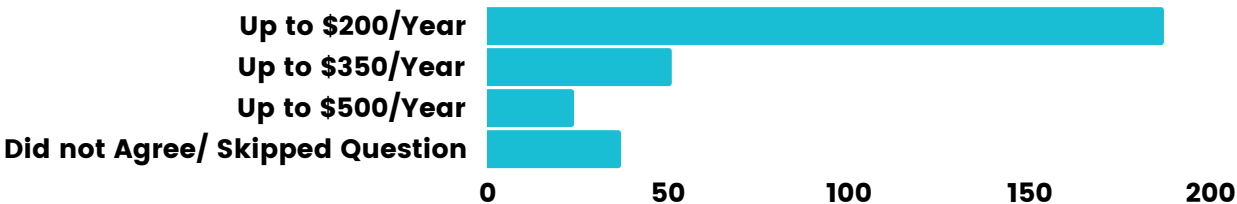
## Perspectives on Cost & Affordability

Residents were next asked if they were willing to pay increased taxes to enhance recreation opportunities (including and not limited to facilities and programs). 46% of respondents agreed to the increase, while 20% disagreed and 34% identified that they were unsure if they would support an increase. Overall, through the public survey, the In-Person Focus Groups and Open House Sessions, the majority of respondents agreed to a slight increase in their personal taxes for the enhancement and benefit of the community.

**Would your household be willing to pay increased taxes to enhance recreation opportunities (facilities and programs) in the Pilot Butte area?**



**How much of an annual property tax increase would your household be willing to support to enhance recreational opportunities?**





# Key Themes & Takeaways: Indigenous Engagement

Engagement with Indigenous Communities in the surrounding Treaty 4 area provided the opportunity to explore in collaborative conversations with respect to the enhancement of recreational opportunities for Indigenous peoples to access in Pilot Butte.

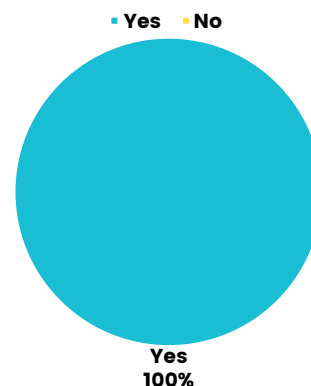
A clear message with this engagement and general engagement with Indigenous peoples in Canada now, is that beyond consulting there are opportunities for meaningful relationship-building. Several First Nation communities in proximity to Pilot Butte indicated an interest in exploring further discussion of the project and the possibility of potential partnerships. Indigenous representation should be present for all of the decision-making stages for the duration of the project and beyond.

A survey was developed and distributed to multiple Indigenous communities to determine if members (both on and off reserve) would benefit from access to recreational facilities in Pilot Butte. Eleven (11) completed surveys identified that %100 percent of respondents indicated that if Pilot Butte were to proceed with the development of a new multi-purpose recreational facility, they would access it.

**If Pilot Butte were to build a new multipurpose recreational facility, would you access it?**



Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada



*Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada:*  
**Sport & Reconciliation,  
Calls to Action #88-#90.**

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**TOWN OF PILOT BUTTE - WHAT WE**  
**HEARD REPORT 2024**

# Key Themes & Takeaways: Public Survey

## Verbatim Responses & Feedback from the Public Survey

### **What is most important for the Town of Pilot Butte to consider when deciding how to provide recreational opportunities for all residents?**

"The growth and thoughtful expansion of our town. I think having a space for a gym and a place to take some classes would be great. As much as an indoor pool would be helpful, as our kids can never get I to the City of Regina classes, I'm afraid that the cost to running a pool facility would be too great for our town."

"Our community is growing. Our growth should be reflected by extra recreational services."

"Consult public. Make information more widely available."

"I think it is very important to listen to residents. I would also MUCH rather see intensive fundraising for this project rather than be saddled with huge taxes. I manage a business in Regina and the city has become increasingly limited in managing city services due to continued stadium debt. One of the best things about being out here is the lower cost of living and affordable properly taxes."

"Hold more community involvement meetings to get an idea of what residents are wanting."

"Inclusive facilities that allow multi sport and programming. In doors gyms and walking tracks. The residents that participate in sports will also use the facilities every day. Put pilot butte on the map. A healthy minded community with facilities to help ensure we can keep the business right here in our community"

"Long term plans that allow for multiple areas of rec, and ability to continue to add on"

"Cost. We cannot increase our taxes more than we've already experienced. Organized & enthusiastic fundraising can go a LONG way. Please do not raise our taxes."

"It's important for the town to consider how fast the population is growing and the ages of the majority of the residents. Pilot butte's demographic has shifted and has become a town where people want to raise their kids."

# Next Steps

The public and stakeholder group engagement completed to date will inform and confirm the Recreation Needs Assessment for the Town of Pilot Butte, and help to guide the next phases of recreation planning work. The following phases have been provided to guide the project forward.

1. Recreation Needs Assessment
2. Steering Committee, Operational, Technical & Partnership Assessments
3. Pre-Design, Planning & Conceptual Development
4. Design & Construction



# Acknowledgements

On behalf of the The Town of Pilot Butte Council, we extend our gratitude to all participating individuals and groups that carved out the time to provide invaluable feedback towards this potential development.

Participants of our Virtual Focus Group were:

- Traveland Junior B Storm (Hockey)

Participants of our In-Person Focus Group were:

- Pilot Butte Library
- Golden Sunset Club
- Pilot Butte Beautification Committee
- Pilot Butte Arts & Culture Committee
- Pilot Butte Economic Development Committee
- Pilot Butte Old-timers Hockey Club

Participants of our Online Questionnaire were:

- Pilot Butte Library
- Golden Sunset Club
- Pilot Butte Arts & Culture Committee
- Pilot Butte District Lions Club
- Pilot Butte Barons (Hockey)
- Pilot Butte Minor Baseball Association

**We thank you for your participation and efforts to contribute to the future planning and development of Pilot Butte.**



