



# Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan

2023



<b>1.0</b>	<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	The Master Plan Vision	1
1.2	Population and Demographic Trends	1
1.3	Community Engagement	2
1.4	Current State of Recreation in Sylvan Lake	2
1.5	The Future of Recreation in Sylvan Lake	3
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1	The Master Plan	6
2.2	Vision for the Recreation, Parks and Open Space Network	6
2.3	Trends	7
2.4	Relevant Policy and Planning Documents	9
2.5	Trends Key Takeaways	10
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Community Needs Analysis .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1	Population and Demographics	11
3.2	Community Engagement	13
3.3	SWOT Analysis	15
3.4	Community Needs Key Takeaways	17
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Indoor Facilities Assessment .....</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1	NexSource Centre	18
4.2	The Town MultiCampus	28
4.3	Wellness and Community Connections Centre	29
4.4	Indoor Facilities Comparable Communities	30
4.5	Indoor Facility Assessment Key Takeaways	32
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Parks and Open Space Assessment.....</b>	<b>33</b>
5.1	Parks and Open Spaces Classification	33
5.2	Parks and Open Space Distribution	35
5.3	Outdoor Facility Assessments	37
5.4	Outdoor Facilities Comparable Communities	44
5.5	Parks Assessment Key Takeaways	48
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Trail Network Assessment .....</b>	<b>49</b>
6.1	Trails and Sidewalk Network	49
6.2	Current Trail Classification and Conditions	50
6.3	Trail Maintenance Standards	51
6.4	Trails Comparable Communities	52
6.5	Trails Assessment Key Takeaways	52
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Programming &amp; Service Delivery Assessment.....</b>	<b>53</b>
7.1	Recreation Service Delivery	53
7.2	Recreation Programming	53
7.3	Community Program Comparison for Non-Prime Time	55
7.4	Non-Prime Time Program Opportunities	58
7.5	Allocation Policies	59
7.6	Current Capital Reserve Funding	60
7.7	Current Operational Budgeting	61
7.8	Program & Service Delivery Key Takeaways	61



<b>8.0</b>	<b>Future of Indoor Recreation Facilities .....</b>	<b>62</b>
8.1	Accessibility Assessment for Parks and Recreation Facilities	62
8.2	Integrated Recreation Facility Assessment	62
8.3	Performing Arts Space	63
8.4	Prime Time vs Non-Prime Time Fees Enhancements	63
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Future of Parks and Open Spaces .....</b>	<b>64</b>
9.1	Parks and Open Spaces	64
9.2	Outdoor Recreation Amenities	72
9.3	Naturalization Strategy	75
9.4	Edible Landscapes	79
9.5	Low-Impact Development Facilities	80
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Future of Trails .....</b>	<b>81</b>
10.2	Updated Trails and Sidewalk Classifications	81
10.3	Trails Expansion	82
10.4	Trail Amenities	84
10.5	Trail Lighting Strategy	84
10.6	Wayfinding Strategy	87
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Future of Service Delivery .....</b>	<b>88</b>
11.1	Development of Miniature Business Plans	88
11.2	Improvements to Operation, Lifecycle Maintenance, and Capital Funding to Keep Pace with Population Growth	88
11.3	Development of a Recreation Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Strategy	88
11.4	Increase Opportunities for Communities and Neighbourhoods to Gather	89
11.5	Parks and Recreation Succession Planning	89
11.6	Creation of a Parks and Recreation Specific Volunteer Management Plan	89
11.7	Improved Consistency in Communication Plan with Stakeholders and Facility Users	90
11.8	Improved Resident Awareness of Recreation Programming Options	90
11.9	Periodic update of a State of Recreation and Parks Report	90
11.10	Creation of a Donation Policy	90
11.11	Attracting Private Recreation Partnership Opportunities	91
11.12	Junior Lifeguard Program	91
11.13	Future Partnership Agreements Opportunities Programming Shifts for Demographic Needs	91 92
11.14		92
11.15	Seasonal Meetings with User Groups	92
11.16	Update the Allocation Policy	92
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Implementation .....</b>	<b>94</b>

## APPENDICES

- Appendix A Summary of relevant Policies, Strategies and Plans
- Appendix B Public and Stakeholder Engagement Data
- Appendix C Maps of the Proposed Recreation, Parks and Open Space System
- Appendix D Existing Asset Valuation for the Existing Recreation, Parks, Open Space and Trails
- Appendix E Detailed Trail Connectivity Analysis Maps

Appendix F	Programming Primetime Schedules	
Appendix G	Four Season Park Concept Options	
Appendix H	Checklist of Potential Park Amenities Improvements for Neighbourhood Parks	

## TABLES

Table 4.1:	Comparable Communities: Ratio Between Indoor Facilities and Population .....	30
Table 5.1:	Size Classification for Named Park Sites .....	36
Table 5.2:	Summary of Inventory Numbers For Sportsfields.....	37
Table 5.3:	Summary of Publicly Owned Outdoor Courts In Sylvan Lake .....	40
Table 5.4:	Summary of Facilities and Their Adjacent Winter Recreation Activities .....	41
Table 5.5:	Summary of Available Lake-Based Recreation in Sylvan Lake .....	41
Table 5.6:	Summary of Existing Playground Conditions .....	43
Table 5.7:	Summary of Population Per Outdoor Facility .....	44
Table 6.1:	Population Per KM of Trail.....	52
Table 7.1:	Community Program Comparison .....	56
Table 7.2:	Potential Non-Prime Time Program Opportunities .....	58
Table 7.3:	Town of Sylvan Lake 10 Year Capital Plan .....	60
Table 7.4:	Current Operational Budgeting for the Recreation, Culture and Tourism department .....	61
Table 9.1:	Updated Parks Reclassification .....	64
Table 10.1:	Updated Trails and Sidewalk Classification.....	81
Table 11.1:	The Roles for the Municipal Community Developer and the User group/Stakeholder .....	92
Table 12.1:	Costing and Priority Phasing for the Recommendations in Sections 8 to 11 of the Master Plan.....	95

## FIGURES

Figure 3.1:	Population of School-aged Residents Between 2006 and 2021 .....	12
Figure 3.2:	Population of 15 to 19-year-olds Between 2006 and 2021 .....	12
Figure 3.3:	Population of Adults Between 2006 and 2021.....	12
Figure 3.4:	Population of Older Adults Between 2006 and 2021 .....	12
Figure 3.5:	Summary of engagement activities.....	13
Figure 3.6:	Summary of findings from community engagement activities .....	14
Figure 4.1:	Summary of NexSource Centre Facility Assessment Results.....	19



# Table of Contents

Figure 4.2: Arena #1 Ice and Dry Surface Allocation.....	20
Figure 4.3: Arena #2 Ice and Dry Surface Allocation.....	21
Figure 4.4: NexSource Arenas Prime versus Non-Prime Capacity .....	22
Figure 4.5: Comparable Community Prime Time Ice Pricing.....	23
Figure 4.6: Comparable Community Non-Prime Time Ice Pricing.....	23
Figure 4.7: Dry Surface Allocation .....	24
Figure 4.8: Curling Rink Bonspiel Allocation.....	25
Figure 4.9: Regular Season Curling Rink Allocation.....	25
Figure 4.10: Day Pass Price .....	26
Figure 4.11: 10x Punch Pass Price.....	27
Figure 4.12: Annual Pass Price .....	27
Figure 4.13: Summary of MultiCampus Centre Facility Assessment Results .....	28
Figure 4.14: Summary of Wellness and Community Connections Centre Assessment.....	29
Figure 4.15: Regional Indoor Facility Comparison.....	31
Figure 4.16: Regional Prime Time Prices .....	31
Figure 4.17: Regional Non-Prime Time Prices .....	32
Figure 5.1: Distribution of land-use classifications for recreation, parks and open space.....	35
Figure 5.2: Park Size Distribution .....	36
Figure 5.3: Summary of Sportsfield conditions ratings .....	38
Figure 5.4: Soccer Field Regular Capacities .....	39
Figure 5.5: Baseball and Softball Combined Capacities.....	39
Figure 5.6: Sand Volleyball Capacity Usage.....	40
Figure 5.7: Regional Outdoor Facility Comparison .....	45
Figure 5.8: Regional Prime Time Baseball Diamond Prices.....	46
Figure 5.9: Regional Non-Prime Time Baseball Diamond Prices .....	46
Figure 5.10: Regional Prime Time Soccer Prices .....	47
Figure 5.11: Regional Prime Time Soccer Prices .....	47
Figure 7.1: 2019 versus 2022 Program Numbers.....	54
Figure 7.2: Program Offerings in 2022.....	55
Figure 11.1: Partnership between Town and Schools for Lifeguarding Training.....	91

EXHIBITS	Following Page
Exhibit 5.1 Sportsfield and Outdoor Courts Distribution .....	37
Exhibit 5.2 Winter Recreation Distribution .....	41
Exhibit 5.3 Play Space Distribution .....	42
Exhibit 9.1 Parks and Open Space Reclassification .....	65
Exhibit 9.2 Sportsfields Rehabilitation Priorities .....	72
Exhibit 9.3 Play Space Replacement Priorities .....	73
Exhibit 9.4 Naturalization Strategy .....	76
Exhibit 9.5 Edible Landscape Strategy .....	79
Exhibit 10.1 Trail Network Expansion .....	81
Exhibit 10.2 Trail Development Priorities .....	83
Exhibit 10.3 Trail Lighting Priorities .....	86
Exhibit 10.4 Trail Signage Strategy .....	87



# 1.0 Executive Summary

## 1.1 The Master Plan Vision

The Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan (The Master Plan) is a strategic document that provides a rational and clear improvement, expansion and management of Sylvan Lake's recreation system. The plan is intended to guide Sylvan Lake as its population expands to approximately 25,000 over the next 10 years.

The Master Plan is founded on a clear and shared vision for recreation, parks, open space and trails in Sylvan Lake. The vision embodies a range of resident perspectives grounded in an understanding of place and community. It serves as a litmus test for future changes to the recreations and parks system and strives for continual betterment of the community the system serves. The vision is comprised of four interconnected commitments:

- **Commitment to Wellness:** We are a community of healthy minds, bodies and spirits. We support the wellness journeys of all our residents through our outdoor spaces, recreation facilities, and programs. We inspire self-discovery, self-improvement, active lifestyles, and engagement with the world around us.
- **Commitment to Nature:** The beauty of the lake and natural surroundings is an integral part of our recreational, social and cultural experience. It is a defining quality of where we live and what sets Sylvan Lake apart. We are invested in the protection and conservation of our beautiful natural surroundings and we encourage residents to have meaningful experiences in our natural spaces.
- **Commitment to Community:** We are a community with a spirit of caring and cooperation. Our recreation system fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion, as we share our open spaces, participate in recreational together, and celebrate as a community. We are committed to providing equitable recreation opportunities for our diverse population and breaking down recreational barriers through dialogue and change.
- **Commitment to Excellence:** Our recreational system is vital and warrants ongoing investment, now and into the future. We are realistic and pragmatic in how we design, operate and maintain our recreation facilities, parks, open space and trails. We have an unwavering commitment to fiscal and social sustainability through research, innovation and adaptation.

## 1.2 Population and Demographic Trends

Sylvan Lake had a population of 16,354 in 2021. The 10-year and 5-year growth rates were 26.7% and 6.9%, respectively. However, the annual growth from 2020 to 2021 was only 0.88%, suggesting that the growth rate is slowing for the Town. However, COVID-19 was present during the 2020 to 2021 period and could have had a negative impact on that growth rate.

Sylvan Lake's demographic is aging and the programming needs should reflect that change. There are less children in the 0-4 year-old category and more children in the 5-9 and 10-14 year-old categories. In addition, the seniors (65 to 84 years-old) population is increasing dramatically.

### 1.3 Community Engagement

The community and recreation organizations were engaged during the project to understand their needs and perspective. The findings from engagement activities have been used to develop the recommendations in this report.

The following summarizes engagement activities:



#### Online Survey and Mapping

266 Respondents  
(92% Full-time Residents)



#### Visioning Session @ Funfest

> 500 Funfest Attendees



#### Stakeholder Workbook

Sent to 45 Organizations



#### Stakeholder Workshops

2 Workshops Hosted

### 1.4 Current State of Recreation in Sylvan Lake

The following provides a summary of the indoor facilities, parks / open spaces, trails, and programming / service delivery assessments:

#### Indoor Facilities

- The Town has a well-utilized and diverse range of indoor facilities for their population with very few deficits
- After COVID-19, there has been a return to regular rates for prime time indoor facility use; however, non-prime time indoor facility use has dropped.
- The current indoor recreation pass pricing model fits with the comparable communities other than the annual pass pricing price.
- Both prime time and non-prime time ice fees are consistent with the region.
- Some indoor facilities require universal accessibility review to ensure that facility is accessible to everyone.

#### Parks and Open Space

- There is a lack of alignment between the different classifications based on land-use zoning, the previous Master Plan and development requirements.
- Residents have good walkable access to outdoor facilities, parks and open space
- The provides for a wide range of activities, such as sportsfields, playgrounds, courts, toboggan hills, skating areas and passive parks.
- Sportsfield and courts are range from very good to fair condition and several of the facilities will require improvements over time.
- There is a large provision of playgrounds in the communities with a wide range of conditions. Ongoing replacements will be required over time and diverse types of play, including accessible playgrounds, would be beneficial



- In general, Sylvan is well provisioned with outdoor facilities compared to other similar communities. There are minor deficits in tennis courts and off-leash areas, but these are minor issues.
- Both baseball and soccer fees for prime-time and non-prime time are some of the lowest in the region, however a greater focus should be placed on increasing rental times or programming than increasing fees

#### Trails

- Minor changes to the trails classification system will help the planning, design and maintenance of the trail network.
- The CN Rail line creates a challenging barrier, as rail crossings agreements are complicated to acquire. There are existing safety risks because people are currently shortcutting across the tracks.
- The total length of trails in the community is good for the population based on community comparables.
- There are trail system gaps throughout the network that should be addressed to improve connectivity.
- Trail network is well developed with mostly asphalt and concrete surfaced trails, so the focus of improvements is on expansion of network to correct connection gaps rather than major upgrades to existing trails

#### Program and Service Delivery

- The current service delivery model can put stress on the staff as there are continual external partnerships that need attention.
- Recreation program numbers are strong because there were few cancellations.
- A balance must be struck between prime-time bookings and drop-in activities for the arena, and the creation of more drop-in activities for youth and seniors should be considered
- There may be an opportunity for allowing other providers (privates, community groups) to utilize non-prime time to create new program opportunities.
- Partnering with schools and reviewing the needs of seniors will allow for more non-prime rentals and activities to ensure they can reach pre-pandemic fill rates.
- The current allocation policy could be updated to allow for online submission and form creation.
- The current reserve and funding amounts are inadequate due to inflation, and limited supply has increased many products and repair costs.
- The cost recovery for the recreation, culture and tourism department is only 39%.

## 1.5 The Future of Recreation in Sylvan Lake

The following provides a brief summary of recommendations outlined in the Master Plan:

#### Indoor Facilities

- Undertake an Accessibility Assessment for Parks and Recreation Facilities to increase access by all people. (Section 8.1)
- Undertake an Integrated Recreation Facility Assessment to assess the community's need and desire for a community and recreation facility that could expand existing activities and offer a broader range of new programs. (Section 8.2)
- Undertake a Feasibility assessment for a Performing Arts Space to allow for community events, performing art rehearsals and performances. (Section 8.3)
- Enhancements Prime Time vs Non-Prime Time Fees by conducting a market review of pricing every three years to remain competitive and fiscally responsible. (Section 8.4)

## Parks and Open Spaces

- Modify Sylvan Lake's Development Standards to fit new parks/open space classification to align land developer requirements with the needs of the recreation system. (Section 9.1.1)
- Continue implementation of Pogadl Park Master Plan and Reimagine Sylvan: Sustainable Waterfront Area Redevelopment Plan (Section 9.1.2)
- Undertake a Four Seasons Park Functional Study and redevelop Four Seasons Park into a hub for community gatherings and intergenerational play opportunities. (Section 9.1.3)
- Undertake Functional Studies for three community parks to ensure that their design is cohesive and provides destination-level amenities for residents. (Section 9.1.3)
- Slowly rehabilitate Neighbourhood Parks, Parkettes, Linear Parks, Ecological Parks and Open Space over time to provide enhancements and new amenities. (Section 9.1.4 to 9.1.8)
- Conduct phased rehabilitation of key existing ball diamonds and sportsfields. (Section 9.2.1)
- Undertake an Accessible Play Initiative to develop accessible play spaces in the community. (Section 9.2.3)
- Implement Naturalization Strategy Implementation to reduce maintenance and enhance ecology. (Section 9.3)
- Enhance Sylvan Lake's edible landscape by relocating community gardens to Health and Wellness Healing Hub. (Section 9.4)
- Consider integrating Low-Impact Development Facilities (LID) in to parks and open space to manage roadway runoff and stormwater in the community. (Section 9.5)

## Trails

- Modify Sylvan Lake's Development Standards to fit new trails classification system to ensure land developer trails tie into the trail system properly. (Section 10.1)
- Continue the ongoing existing Trails Rehabilitation / Repair Program (Section 10.1) and continue to improve existing amenities, such as benches and garbages. (10.3)
- Undertake phased expansion of the existing trail network to improve connectivity (Section 10.2)
- Undertake phased expansion of trails lighting to increase safe and enjoyable all season use of key trails (Section 10.4)
- Undertake phased expansion of trail signage improvements to improve user experience and wayfinding. (Section 10.5)

## Service Delivery

- Encourage staff to create miniature business plan that allow front-line staff to contribute to their success. (Section 11.1)
- Increase the capital funding to the reserves by 3% to meet the current needs of the system and 3% annual increase to keep pace with anticipated population growth. (Section 11.2)
- Create a strategy to incorporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) to ensure that people are treated as equals and get the dignity and respect they deserve (Section 11.3)
- Increase opportunities for communities and neighbourhoods to gather by inventorying vacant areas that could be activated through partner organizations (Section 11.4)
- Anticipate succession planning and creating shared knowledge between younger operators and managers within the Recreation, Culture and Tourism Department and Department of Parks & Protective Services (Section 11.5)
- Create a Parks and Recreation Specific Volunteer Management Plan to address user needs and simplify the volunteer process. (Section 11.6)
- Improve consistency in communication with stakeholders and facility users. (Section 11.7)
- Improve resident awareness of recreation programming options through marketing. (Section 11.8)



- Conduct a create a State of Recreation and Parks report every five years to reassess community needs. (Section 11.9)
- Create a donation policy to provide guidance on managing bequests or donation of lands and money. (Section 11.10)
- Promote partnerships with external recreation providers to increase recreation offerings (Section 11.11)
- Create a junior lifeguard program to ensure the success of the lifeguard profession (Section 11.2)
- Assess the current formal or informal partnerships and all future partnerships to ensure that they are beneficial for both the Town and the partners. (Section 11.13)
- Make slow measured changes to recreation programming to reflect changing demographics (Section 11.14)
- Meet seasonally with User groups to understand issues and concerns (Section 11.15)
- Update the current allocation policy and allocation request process. (Section 11.16)

## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 The Master Plan

The Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan (The Master Plan) is a strategic document that provides a rational and clear improvement, expansion and management of Sylvan Lake's recreation system. The plan is intended to guide Sylvan Lake as its population expands to approximately 25,000 over the next 10 years. This document will be used by Town administrators, developers and community partners as a reference to guide decision-making, ensuring that recreation, parks, open spaces and trails are valued as essential services and continue to be relevant and well-used in years to come.

This Master Plan is founded on two previous iterations that were approved by council in 2004 and in 2010. This master plan is an important milestone opportunity to re-evaluate the current recreation system against the previous recommendations and to chart a new path forward.

The recreation, parks and open space system is important to residents. This master plan is founded in the perspectives of residents, visitors, volunteers and community organizations. It is also grounded in an understanding of Sylvan Lake in respect to its location within the regions and its similarities to other Alberta communities.

### 2.2 Vision for the Recreation, Parks and Open Space Network

The Master Plan is founded on a clear and shared vision for recreation, parks, open space and trails in Sylvan Lake. The vision embodies a range of resident perspectives grounded in an understanding of place and community. It serves as a litmus test for future changes to the recreations and parks system and strives for continual betterment of the community the system serves. The vision is comprised of four interconnected commitments:

#### Commitment to Wellness

We are a community of healthy minds, bodies and spirits. We support the wellness journeys of all our residents through our outdoor spaces, recreation facilities, and programs. We inspire self-discovery, self-improvement, active lifestyles, and engagement with the world around us.

#### Commitment to Nature

The beauty of the lake and natural surroundings is an integral part of our recreational, social and cultural experience. It is a defining quality of where we live and what sets Sylvan Lake apart. We are invested in the protection and conservation of our beautiful natural surroundings and we encourage residents to have meaningful experiences in our natural spaces.

### **Commitment to Community**

We are a community with a spirit of caring and cooperation. Our recreation system fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion, as we share our open spaces, participate in recreational together, and celebrate as a community. We are committed to providing equitable recreation opportunities for our diverse population and breaking down recreational barriers through dialogue and change.

### **Commitment to Excellence**

Our recreational system is vital and warrants ongoing investment, now and into the future. We are realistic and pragmatic in how we design, operate and maintain our recreation facilities, parks, open space and trails. We have an unwavering commitment to fiscal and social sustainability through research, innovation and adaptation.

## **2.3 Trends**

Trends identified in this report span a variety of scales, from those emerging across North America to the local context. However, ensuring that regional and national trends are aligned with the needs of Sylvan Lake is essential. The stakeholder and public engagement program of this Plan tested these trends against local perspectives.

### **2.3.1 National Trends**

#### **Spontaneous and Unstructured Recreation**

Demand for unorganized and drop-in activities is on the rise, at the expense of most organized and structured programs which are inflexible to people with limited free time. Trails (both natural and paved) continue to be one of the most in-demand outdoor facilities, as walking, cycling, and wheeling are all popular forms of leisure and active transportation activities.

#### **Physical Literacy**

Physical literacy is one of the most prominent trends nation-wide. As people's abilities and interests change, taking on new skills, sports and ways of recreating can often be challenging and a barrier to continue with physical activity. Physical literacy is a means of giving people confidence to try new activities, learn new skills and adapt to different types of recreation. Canadian Sport for Life describes physical literacy as, "the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life."

#### **Decreased Physical Activity**

High levels of physical inactivity and obesity are being observed across the country, largely due to a lack of time and due to sedentary forms of leisure (i.e., watching television, online activities, etc.). To facilitate healthy lifestyles, all levels of government are examining ways to increase physical activity and participation levels through the introduction of programs, funding and other initiatives.

#### **Stronger Human-Nature Connection**

The health benefits of routine contact with nature has been well researched and documented over the past number of years. Nature provides a range of restorative powers over people and over the past decade there has been a prominent shift toward nature-based recreation. Oftentimes natural areas in urban environments are perceived to be unsafe, unkept and places of questionable activity. A fine balance is needed to ensure ecosystems are kept intact, while offering people ability to participate in these natural areas in a safe manner.

### Youth Sport Participation

Fewer children and youth are participating in most organized sports in favor of casual activities that fit into their schedule (though soccer and female hockey are notable exceptions). Arena sports (i.e., hockey, ringette, figure skating, etc.) continue to be in demand, particularly for prime time hours, although forecasted declines in child/youth age groups may result in additional ice time becoming available particularly for adults and older adults.

### Physical Activity in Older Adults

Adults and older adults are embracing the "active living" or "wellness" philosophy. Thus, municipalities are orienting their programming to respond to these demands. In addition, some senior are seeking outdoor fitness equipment and other spontaneous fitness opportunities.

### Lack of Leisure Time

The "multi-use" facility and park concept is being increasingly viewed as the preferred development model since it consolidates several leisure activities at a single location, thereby providing a "one-stop shopping" venue for time-pressed individuals, offering cross-programming opportunities for a wide range of ages, and reducing municipal operational costs.

### Declining Volunteerism

Volunteerism is declining across the country, therefore, supporting local volunteers is critical to ensuring that these dedicated individuals continue to participate in civic life and that new volunteers can be recruited.

## 2.3.2 Provincial/Local Trends

### Regional Partnerships

Municipalities are often entering partnerships with community and private-sector organizations to maximize efficiencies associated with capital and operational costs, so long as the municipality and the community benefit. Facilities and programs are more commonly supported by more than one municipality, such as a local government coordinating efforts with the surrounding regional municipality for funding, resourcing and operating activities.

## 2.3.3 Recreation Sector Advancement

### Performance Measurement

Higher levels of achievement and more competitive sport environments is a prominent trend in recreation. Elite leagues and higher caliber sport options for all ages has become commonplace, offering people the ability to compete at higher and higher levels of competition. Oftentimes this leads to greater distances travelled, whereby competitive sport will require a team or individual to travel far outside their community to compete against comparable elite teams from other population centers.

### Climate Change Resiliency

As the world's climate changes, there are very notable modifications in how parks and recreation are planned, maintained and operated. The outdoor environment has seen the most prominent change, such as higher prominence of vegetation disease, insect infestations and a change in the types of plant material that will thrive. Water quality continues to decrease in many of Canada's watersheds, with higher mean temperatures having effects such as increased algae growth in fresh water. Increased temperatures also put higher demands on mechanical systems for indoor amenities for air handling and cooling. As mean temperatures rise and water

quality decreases, we must change the way in which facilities and amenities are designed, operated and maintained to mitigate for this change.

### Digital Transformation and Technology

The use of technology has exploded in the past generation, particularly with smart phones and devices becoming much more commonplace amongst people of all ages. The use of technology has made many aspects of daily living more efficient, and in the realm of recreation including examples such as online bookings, sharing information, advertising events and having online resources at our fingertips. The use of technology has also become more prominent in recreation, such as wrist devices that track physical activity and measure heart rate, QR codes that users can scan and immediately be connected to an interpretive story about a park, and the use of devices for geocaching or identifying trail locations. In maintaining parks and open space, the use of autonomous lawn mowers, automated irrigation and lighting systems, and software used to track park maintenance and asset management has increased dramatically.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Income can be a significant barrier to participation in leisure pursuits if costs to participate are high – as such, a person's ability to pay needs to be considered by municipalities and community organizations alike when delivering leisure services.

### Wellness through Recreation

It is essential to provide high-quality recreation opportunities for residents' physical and psychological well-being. Residents' physical and mental well-being are a significant component in people's perception of the quality of life in a community. The facilities, services, and programs foster social interaction and promote relationship building within the community.

The benefits of participating in parks and recreation activities cannot be understated. On an individual level, involvement in leisure programs and services:

- improves personal health and reduction of healthcare costs.
- promotes community social cohesion.
- increases community spirit and pride.
- improves quality of life.
- reduces anti-social behaviours.
- strengthens families and neighbourhoods.
- improves work performance and productivity.
- prolongs independent living.
- reduces stress and achieves balance in life.

When designing new parks and recreation services, it is important to focus on a wide range of relevant trends at the regional, provincial, and national levels. The Town can better position itself by gaining insight into patterns in involvement of specific activities, construction of facilities, and delivery programs and services.

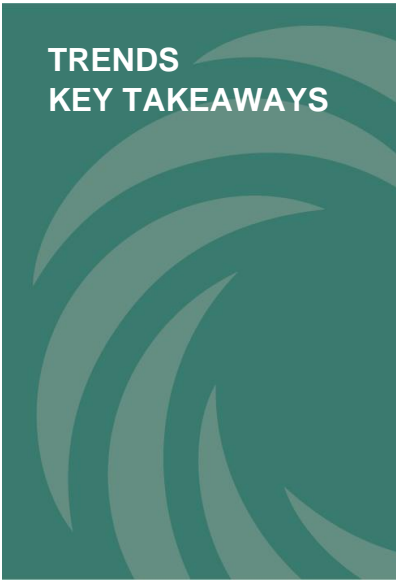
## 2.4 Relevant Policy and Planning Documents

Sylvan Lake planning and policy documents create a framework to understand how recreation is best integrated into the lives of its residents and visitors. The documents form the basis for development within the community and how the Town manages and maintains its recreational facilities, parks and open spaces. In addition, there are



regional, provincial and federal documents that outline a shared approach to recreation planning, to ensure that all Canadians are healthy and active throughout all stages of their lives.

A list of policies, strategies and plans related to Sylvan Lake recreation is included in **Appendix A**. The table includes a brief description of relevance so that Town administrators and recreation planning consultants can begin subsequent projects and decisions on a strong understanding of Sylvan Lake's recreation policy framework.



- Consider Federal, Provincial, and regional policy and legislation within Sylvan Lake's goals for parks, and recreation.
- Trends in recreation reveal numerous barriers such as over-scheduled children, over-worked adults with less time for programmed and structured activities, limited disposable income, amongst others. Continue to monitor barriers to recreation that impact people's participation in recreation and the use of parks.
- Providing of more programs that allow for more drop-in and spontaneous activities.
- Cultivating accessible, inclusive opportunities to Parks and Recreation services that encourage physical literacy.
- Pursuing park management practices that enhance ecosystem services.
- Parks and Recreation services to ensure equitable representation and reductions in barriers to access.
- Shared delivery of Parks and Recreation services through partnership building with stakeholders and multiple levels of government involvement.

## 3.0 Community Needs Analysis

### 3.1 Population and Demographics

Sylvan Lake is in Central Alberta, approximately 20-minute drive west of Red Deer. The Town is one of the province's most popular tourist destinations. The sand and grass beach, rentals for water activities, and numerous other town attractions bring more than 900,000 visitors yearly. The Town hosts winter activities, community celebrations, and sporting tournaments throughout the year making it a year-round destination. Being a tourist destination creates unique challenges, such as providing consistent year-round recreational services when the population essentially doubles during the summer months. This Master Plan identifies shifts in current and projected population demography and anticipates how they might impact recreation and park services.

Sylvan Lake had a population of 16,354 in 2021. The 10-year and 5-year growth rates were 26.7% and 6.9%, respectively. However, the annual growth from 2020 to 2021 was only 0.88%, suggesting that the growth rate is slowing for the Town. However, COVID-19 was present during the 2020 to 2021 period and could have had a negative impact on that growth rate.

The following text and Figures 3.1 to 3.4 outlines the changes to Sylvan Lake's demographics:

#### Children and Youth

The population of school-aged children has been increasing since 2006. The 0- to 4-year-old group was the only one to experience a decrease in population size (2016-2021).

The population of 15-to-19-year-olds has seen constant increases year-over-year.

#### Adults

The adult population has steadily increased since 2006. However, the growth rate has slowed from 22.6% from 2006 to 2011 and 18.8% from 2011 to 2016 to 5.7% in the last five years. The deceleration of growth can be attributed mainly to the decline in the population of 20 to 34-year-olds. 30 to 34-year-olds saw the most significant decrease at -13% during that period.

#### Older Adults

The population of older adults remained consistent between 2006 and 2011. However, beyond 2011, the number of older adults began to see more noticeable increases. For example, the 65 to 69-year-old and 70- to 74-year-old populations have dramatically increased at 54% and 82%, respectively.

As seen in the graphs on the following page, the people of Sylvan Lake are aging and the programming needs should reflect that change. There is less population in the age category 0-4 and more population in the age categories of 5-9 and 10-14, which means that if the Town is programming swimming lessons that there should be more options to register for those 5-14 than the 0-4 categories as the need is lower. This should be the case

for programming needs for those between the ages of 65 and 84. This could be increase in arts & culture directed to this group or other programming needs. Some other considerations are how the population uses the facilities and what facilities they are using. The increase in population of people over 65 will not utilize the skate park but would look at social dancing or chair exercise programs at the senior centre.

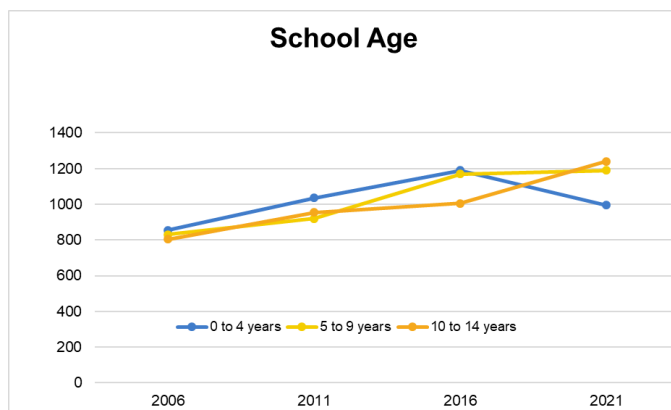


Figure 3.1: Population of School-aged Residents Between 2006 and 2021

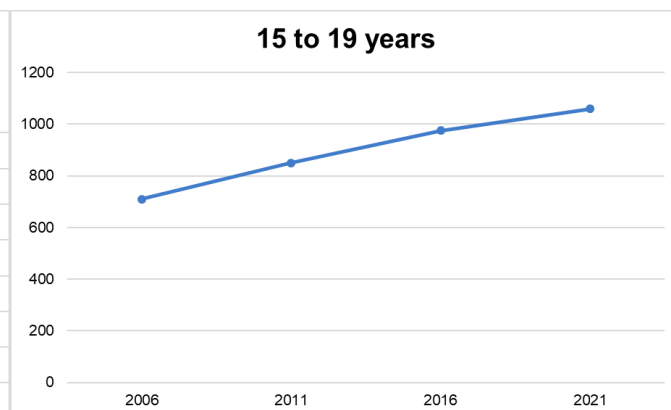


Figure 3.2: Population of 15 to 19-year-olds Between 2006 and 2021

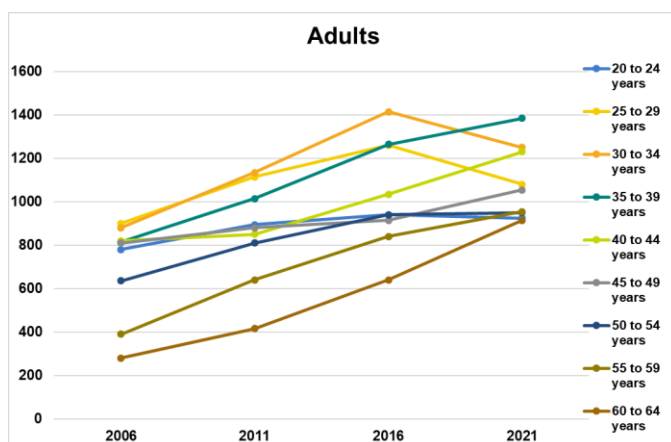


Figure 3.3: Population of Adults Between 2006 and 2021

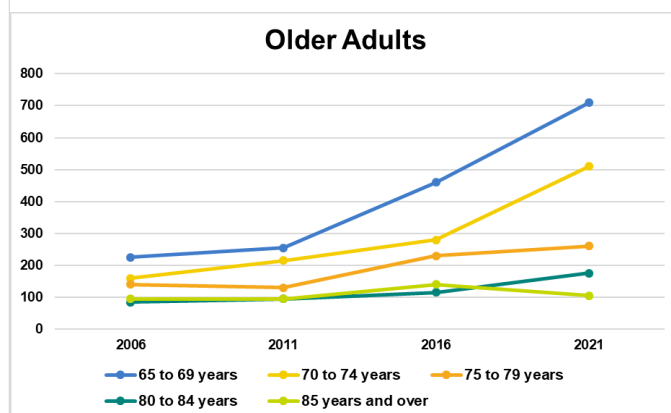


Figure 3.4: Population of Older Adults Between 2006 and 2021

### 3.2 Community Engagement

The following highlights community engagement conducted for the Master Plan and key engagement findings. Detailed data from all engagement activities is available in **Appendix B**.



#### Online Survey and Mapping

266 Respondents  
(92% Full-time Residents)



#### Visioning Session @ Funfest

> 500 Funfest Attendees



#### Stakeholder Workbook

Sent to 45 Organizations



#### Stakeholder Workshops

2 Workshops Hosted

Figure 3.5: Summary of engagement activities

Key findings from public engagement are highlighted on Figure 3.6 on the following page.



**TOP CURRENT BARRIERS FOR RECREATION IN SYLVAN LAKE**

- 1 Lack of knowledge of what the recreation offerings are
- 2 Crowded facilities
- 3 Lack of time

**WHO IS USING THE TRAIL NETWORK?**

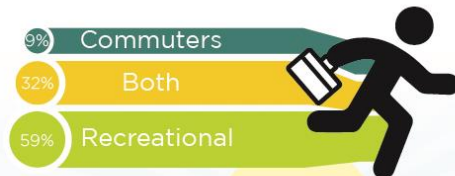


Figure 3.6: Summary of findings from community engagement activities



### 3.3 SWOT Analysis

SWOT analysis identifies areas of Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat; it is a framework used to evaluate service delivery models and develop strategic planning. This is a reflective analysis that states where the community is at. It is important to highlight these key components to give insight into future development and understand the internal and external factors that affect it. Highlighting the strengths and weaknesses is an opportunity to determine internally what the community is doing well and areas that need improvement. The opportunities and threats are external, where the community will look at ceasing new possibilities and minimizing possible issues.

#### Strength

- Large variety of facilities available within town
- Majority of facilities have gone through life cycle analysis and planning
- The Town has maintained a consistent administration for a number of years who are dedicated to maintaining and improving the network
- Overall public satisfaction of facilities is quite high
- Partnerships with legacy user groups such as hockey, soccer, football, baseball etc. are maintained and have an open dialogue
- The Town has the right mix of facilities from elite training facilities through recreation facilities
- You Can Play Too! Grant Policy and Winter Games Legacy Grant Policy
- Well-developed and planned waterfront
- The Trail System is well connected to Town amenities, is well maintained, well used/loved, highly developed and accessible
- There is well provisioned walking access between playgrounds
- Retained forested areas are standing along trails and various easements
- Park spaces are well maintained and in generally good, usable condition



#### Weakness

- More trail connections are needed to increase trail network usability and increase user safety by reducing desire lines to various destinations
- Undeveloped informal trail connections are currently being used on non-public land or on informal rail crossings - potential safety and liability issue
- Facilities are less robust or under provisioned on less popular sports such as tennis, pickle ball and basketball
- Deferred Life cycle maintenance on some facilities has lead to degradation in quality over time, notably on some playgrounds and sports fields
- Some maintenance issues in high-use areas (waterfront, healing hub)
- Lack of diversity of play space activities (playground options)



## Opportunity

- Variety of local sports teams
- Community understands allocation policy
- No real complaints from user groups pertaining to facility management
- Four Seasons Park redevelopment has great potential to add further value to recreation network
- Pogadl Park brings new, lively amenity to the network and has a world class baseball facility utilized by the Sylvan Lake Gulls
- Working with developers for better solutions to playground diversity and retaining natural vegetation
- Additional community gardens and other community supported amenities can garner involvement and support from community
- Red Deer County / Lacombe County Funding Opportunities
- Potential Opportunity to work with Province for trail along highway
- Potential Land Donations can assist with new nature trails and natural protection programs



## Threat

- Potential looming recession
- Covid-19 or other possible pandemics
- Reduction in volunteerism
- Participation reduction in programs and sports from the public and user groups
- Climate change resiliency
- Developers may have different goals than the Town in terms of public land development. Historically, this has surfaced as underutilized green spaces.
- Developers may want higher aesthetic for marketing but there is too high of maintenance expectation once the Town takes over.
- Urban sprawl and new developments can decentralize public open spaces
- Potential unanticipated changes to user needs and trends
- Potential threat of public dissatisfaction as facilities are removed or re-purposed I.e. baseball fields
- Under-utilized sports fields in off-season or off-peak times.
- Increased use of outdoor park spaces and facilities for tourism can lead to increased maintenance and reduced lifespan of amenities
- Proximity to Red Deer - users may abandon some of Sylvan Lake's program to use programs elsewhere.
- Lack of or changes to funding from Provincial/Federal government



## COMMUNITY NEEDS KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Town should plan to expand its services in accordance with the population growth expected for Sylvan Lake. This includes programming, facilities, maintenance, and municipal staff required to provide these services. Substantive changes to the delivery of Parks and Recreation services are likely not required to accommodate this growth.
- Provide Parks and Recreation services that reflect the current and projected demographics of Sylvan Lake. While Sylvan Lake's current population has a higher portion of youth, 40-49 and seniors, long term actions of this plan will need to account for this population.
- Engage with residents to ensure systemic barriers to accessing and utilizing Parks and Recreation services are addressed and residents' needs are equitably represented.
- The Town has many strengths compared to weaknesses, the weaknesses are based on outdoor facility maintenance and missing trail connections.
- Threats, which are outside the control of the Town, however can be mitigated by having meeting with user groups to discuss opportunities for maximization of both indoor and outdoor facilities. Ensuring there is not duplication of services with regional partners to ensure programming and fill rates stay high.

## 4.0 Indoor Facilities Assessment

### 4.1 NexSource Centre

The NexSource Centre is a multiplex facility encompassing arenas, an aquatic centre, curling sheets and multipurpose rooms. This centre also can host concerts, trade shows and other indoor sports. It is in the heart of Sylvan Lake and is accessible by walking from most major areas in Town. The centre was planned to accommodate all abilities and ages.

Multiplex building is home to:

- two full-size hockey arenas.
- aquatic centre with a wheelchair-accessible pool.
- full-sized curling rink.
- lounge/restaurant plus a canteen.
- seniors centre.
- multipurpose rooms.
- children's play space.
- Fitness centre.

#### 4.1.1 NexSource Centre Facility Assessment

The NexSource Centre is a multiplex building with several recreational facilities contained within it. The pool was built in 1999, followed by the first arena a few years later. In 2017 the multiplex was built, adding a lounge, curling rink, children's play area, seniors centre, and additional arena. See following page for a summary table of NexSource Centre's facility conditions.

NexSource Centre	
LEGEND	
Very Good	Good
Fair	Poor
Very Poor	
Feature	Assessment
Access	
Parking	
Accessibility	
Program Space	
Arena	
Pool	
Washrooms, Change Rooms, Dressing Rooms	
Fitness Area	
Outdoor Lighting	
Indoor Lighting	
Signage	
Gymnasium	N/A
Maintenance	
Other Programmable Space	

Figure 4.1: Summary of NexSource Centre Facility Assessment Results



#### 4.1.2 NexSource Arena Usage

NexSource Arenas are used primarily during the winter, and during the summer, the Town will rotate the maintenance yearly. Dry surface allocation is low during summer because of this maintenance closure.

##### Arena 1

In 2018, Arena #1 saw consistent use from January to March and September to December, while no use was recorded from April to August. In 2019 saw an increase in total hours due to a sharp rise in use during the April to August season. In 2020, April to August use dropped again, causing a drop in total use for Arena #1. The January to March season in 2021 saw a significant reduction in use while other seasons remained consistent, leading to a drop in overall use. In 2022, Arena 1 saw 121 bookings per season, an increase of over 47% from the previous year. For 2023, the bookings look to be the same amount if a rise from 2022.

##### Arena 2

In 2018, the January to March and September to December seasons had similar use, while no use was recorded for the April to August seasons. 2019 saw the highest total use of Arena #2 due to a significant increase in use during the April to August season. In 2020 January to March use grew slightly, while April to August and September to December dropped from the previous year. 2021 saw consistent service across all seasons. In 2022 the total use dropped somewhat due to no recorded use in the September to December season. In 2022, Arena 2 had 67 total bookings; however, in 2023, that figure rose to 75, with half of the year remaining. Notably, in the spring season for 2023, booking doubled from the previous year and was higher than in 2021.

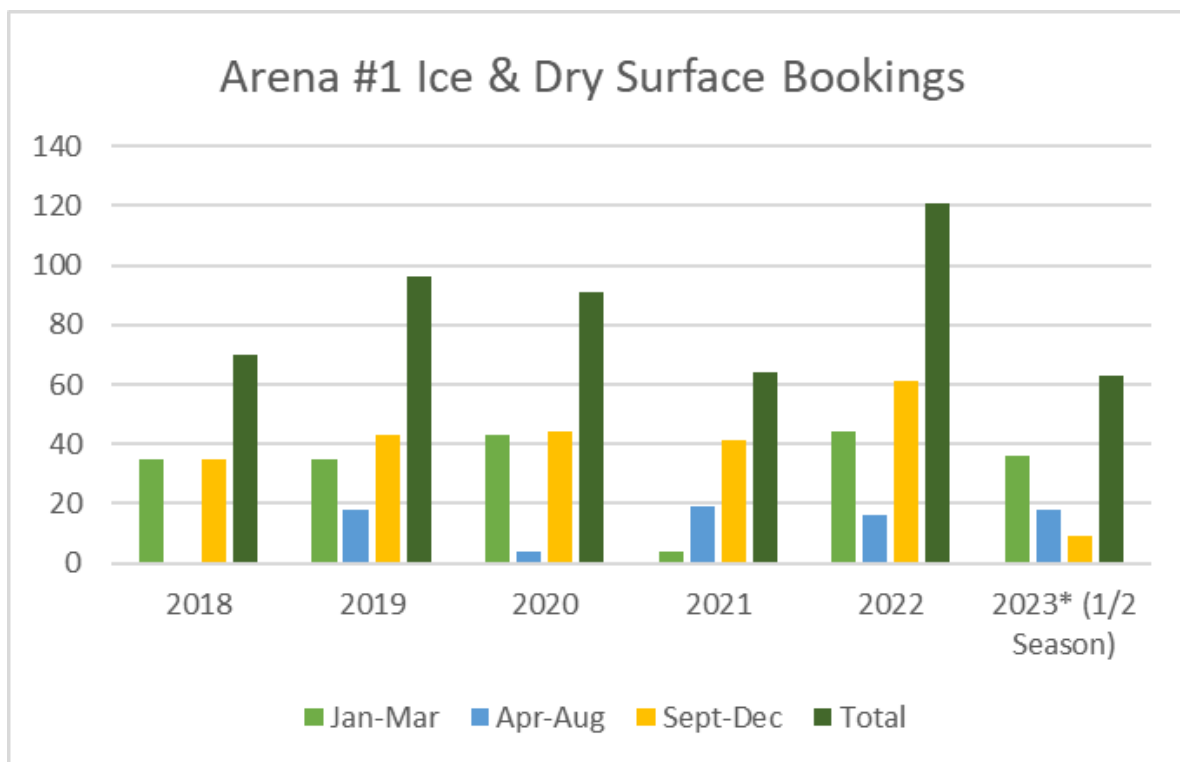


Figure 4.2: Arena #1 Ice and Dry Surface Allocation

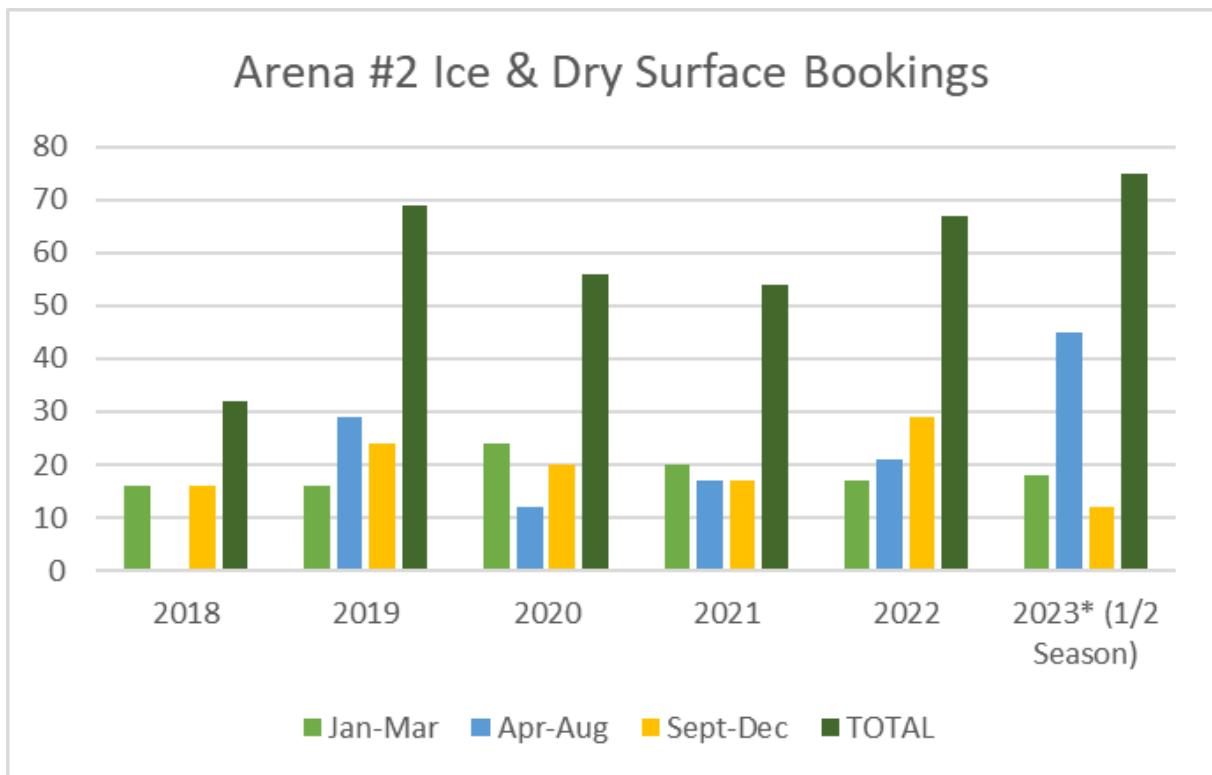


Figure 4.3: Arena #2 Ice and Dry Surface Allocation

#### Prime Time versus Non-Prime Time

In 2019 there was programming for parent & tot and increased programming in the drop-in activities such as public skating and stick & puck. In 2022, there were no parent & tot programs, and the drop-in activities were decreased.

In 2022 Arena 1 had a Non-Prime Time capacity of 46%, while the Prime Time capacity was 92% between January and March. During the same timeframe, Arena 2 had a Non-Prime Time capacity of 23% and a Prime-Time capacity of 67%.

In 2023, with only having some of the season recorded (January-September), Arena 1 had a Non-Prime time capacity of 74% while the Prime time capacity was 63%. During the same timeframe, Arena 2 had a non-prime time capacity of only 60%, while the prime-time capacity was 67%. The most significant gains in use have been summer seasons for both Arenas.

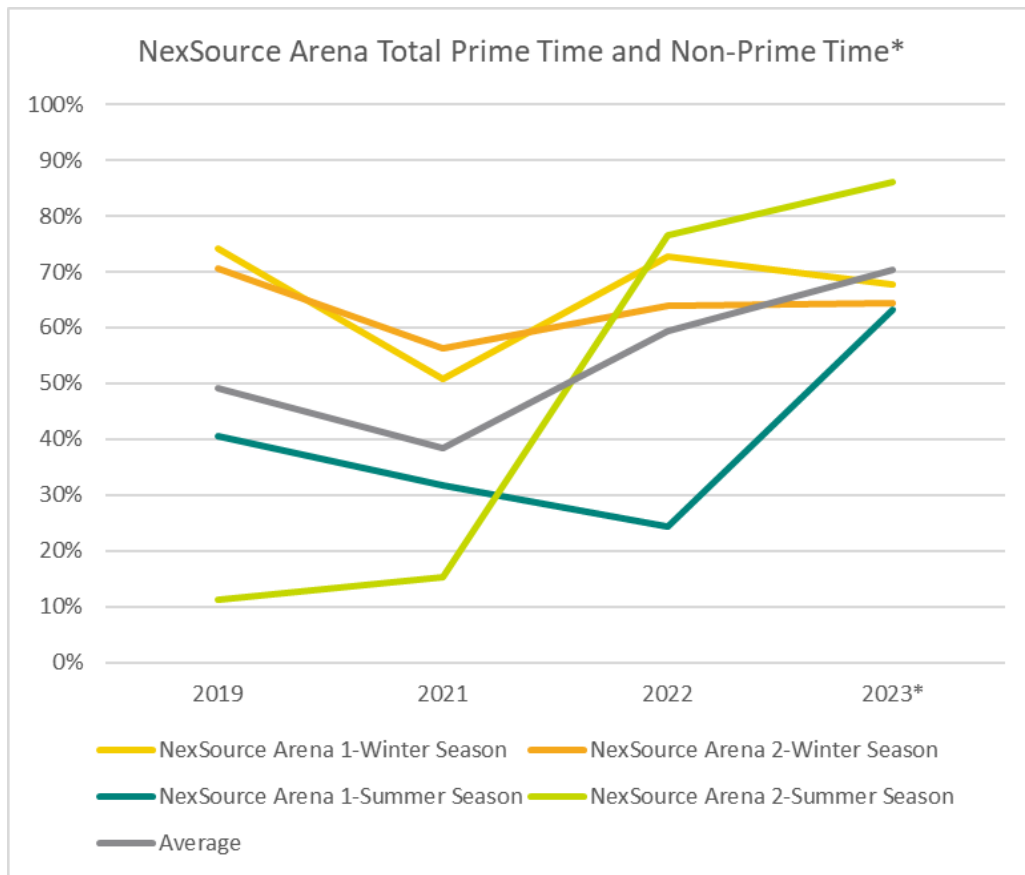


Figure 4.4: NexSource Arenas Prime versus Non-Prime Capacity

### 4.1.3 NexSource Arena Prices

Arena pricing is generally divided into Prime Time and Non-Prime Time pricing, based on the Town of Sylvan Lake's Sylvan Lake Fees and Charges Bylaw 1868-2022.

- **Fall/Winter Prime Time:** Weekdays from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm and weekends from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm.
- **Fall/Winter Non-Prime Time:** Weekdays from open until 4:00 pm and not offered during weekends.
- **Spring/Summer Prime Time:** Monday to Sunday open until close.

Sylvan Lake provides prime time ice at a price in the middle range of comparison community pricing for both adult and youth ice rates and provides non-prime time ice at a rate that is on the lower end of comparable communities for both adult and youth ice rates.

## Prime Time

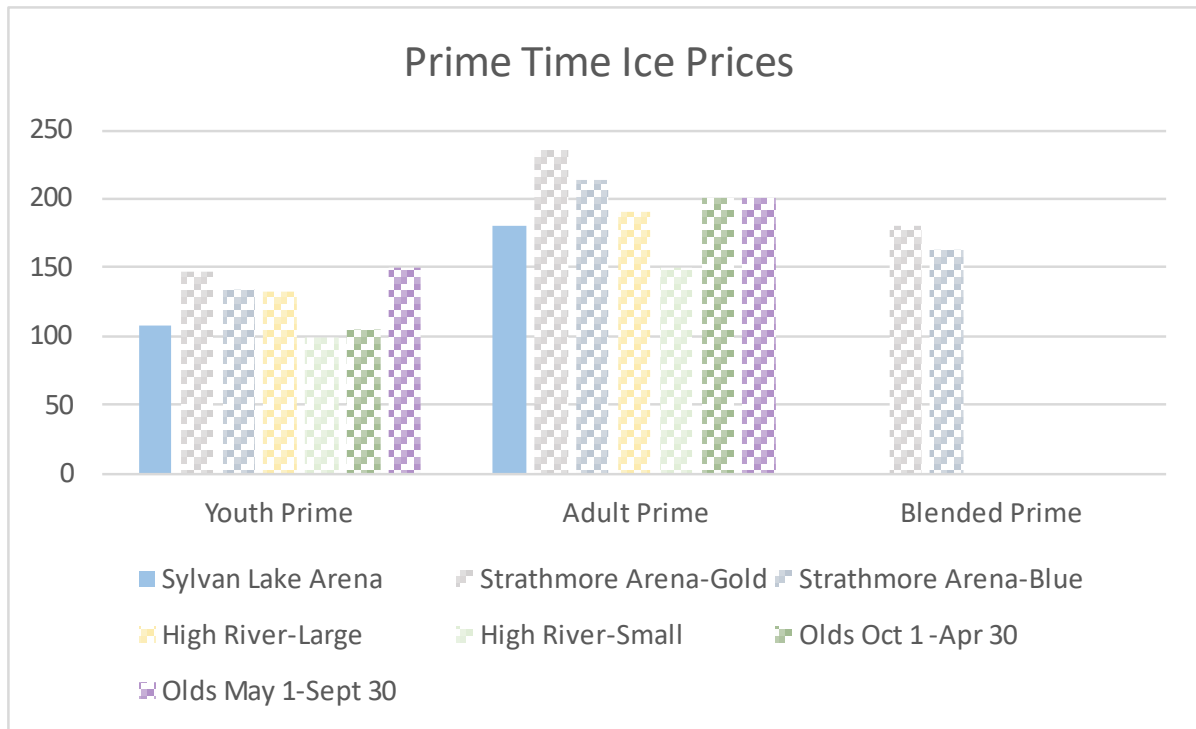


Figure 4.5: Comparable Community Prime Time Ice Pricing

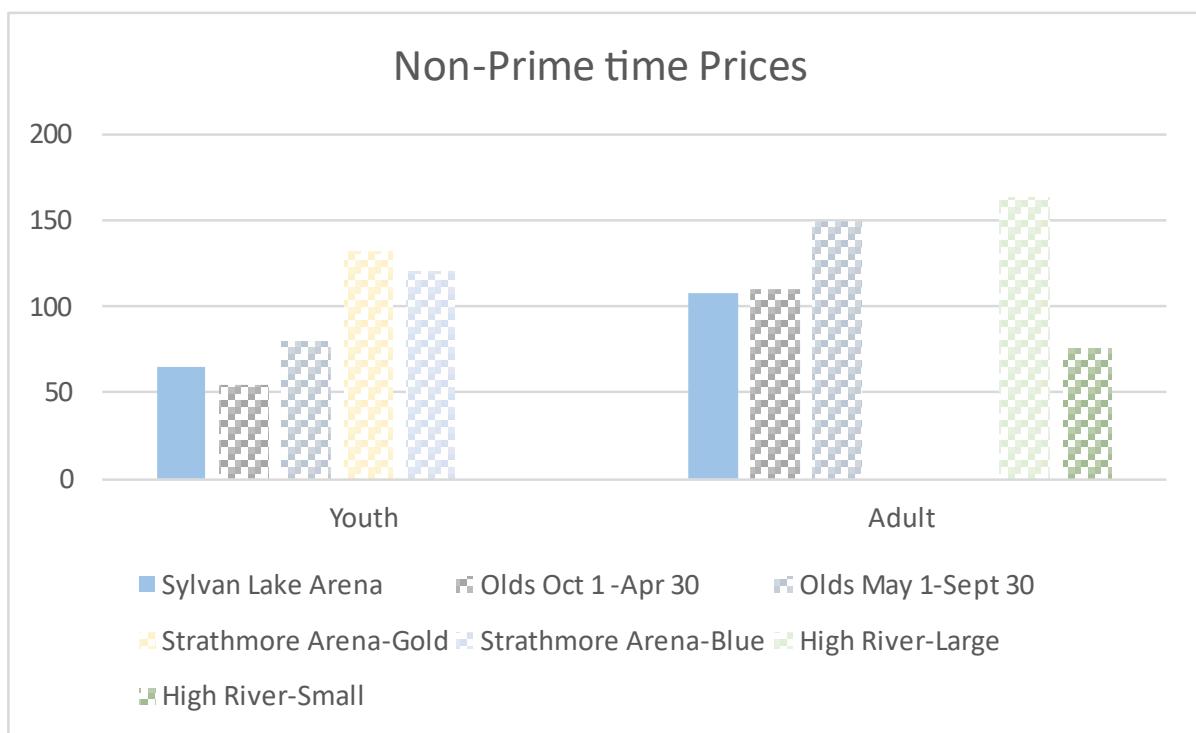


Figure 4.6: Comparable Community Non-Prime Time Ice Pricing

#### 4.1.4 NexSource Curling Rink Usage

##### Dry Surface Allocation

Sylvan Lake Minor Ball dry surface usage rose after 2019 and 2020 to a peak of 48 hours in 2021 before a slight decrease in 2022 to 30 hours. Summer Hockey usage has remained mostly constant from 2019-2022, with the highest use coming in 2021 at just under 60 hours. Summer hockey use surged to over 700 hours in 2022 and 2023, a 10-fold increase from 2019-2021. During the summer, the dry surface is also used by pickleball users and organized by the town. See Figure 4.7.

##### Bonspiel Allocation

Sylvan Lake curling clubs' bonspiel allocation remained the same in 2019 and 2022. The highest use came in 2020, nearly double the previous year. 2021 saw no usage from the club due to COVID-19 restrictions. Sylvan Lake curling club's bonspiel allocation steadily increased between 2019 and 2023 from 8 to 96 (no data for 2021). See Figure 4.8.

##### Regular Season Curling Allocation

The 2018 season saw the highest senior and adult leagues use. In 2019 the Senior's daytime league and the evening league saw increased usage over the previous season, while the Senior league dropped slightly and the adult league use remained consistent. 2020 saw a decline in use from all other leagues while use from the seniors, juniors and evening leagues increased. The 2022 season saw total allocation return to pre-pandemic levels. In 2023, the total allocation is at the same level as in 2022 in Juniors league, Ladies league, Mixed league, and Men's league, while Stick league and Intro to curling are eliminated. See Figure 4.9.

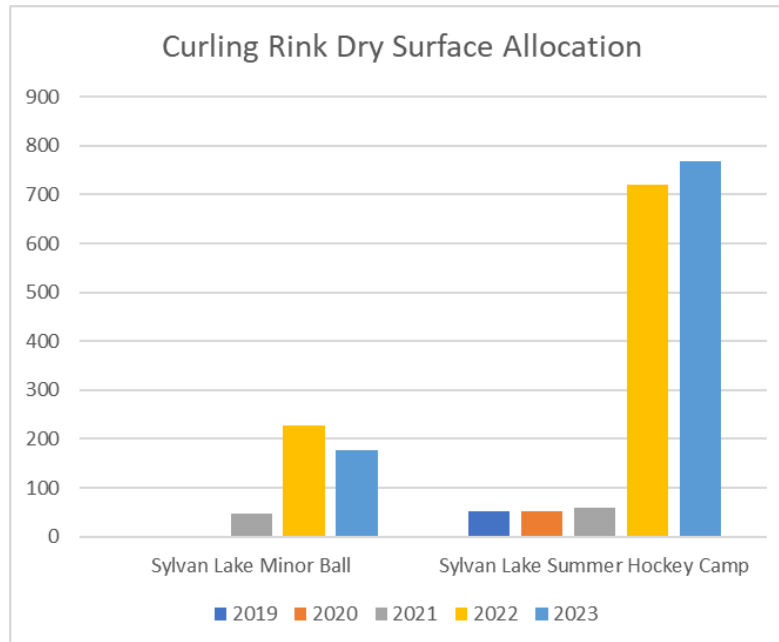


Figure 4.7: Dry Surface Allocation



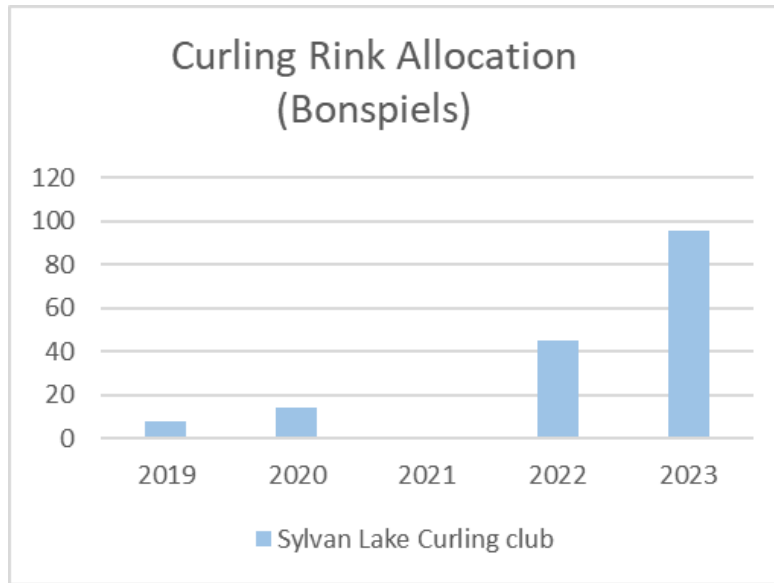


Figure 4.8: Curling Rink Bonspiel Allocation

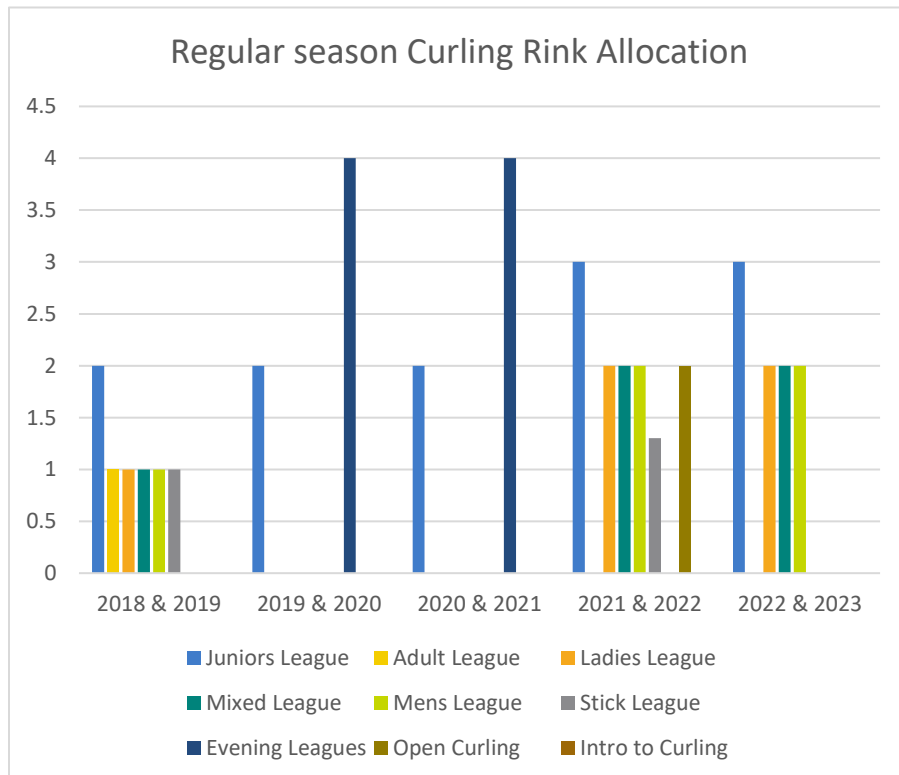


Figure 4.9: Regular Season Curling Rink Allocation

#### 4.1.5 NexSource Centre Prices

Sylvan Lake offers different ways for the public to purchase a pass for the NexSource Centre. Options include the following:

- Drop in
- 10x punch pass
- One month
- Three month
- Six month
- 1 Year

For all comparisons, Sylvan Lake charges in the middle for access to the NexSource Centre, except in the annual pass price, Sylvan Lake's price is the lowest. See following tables for comparison charts.

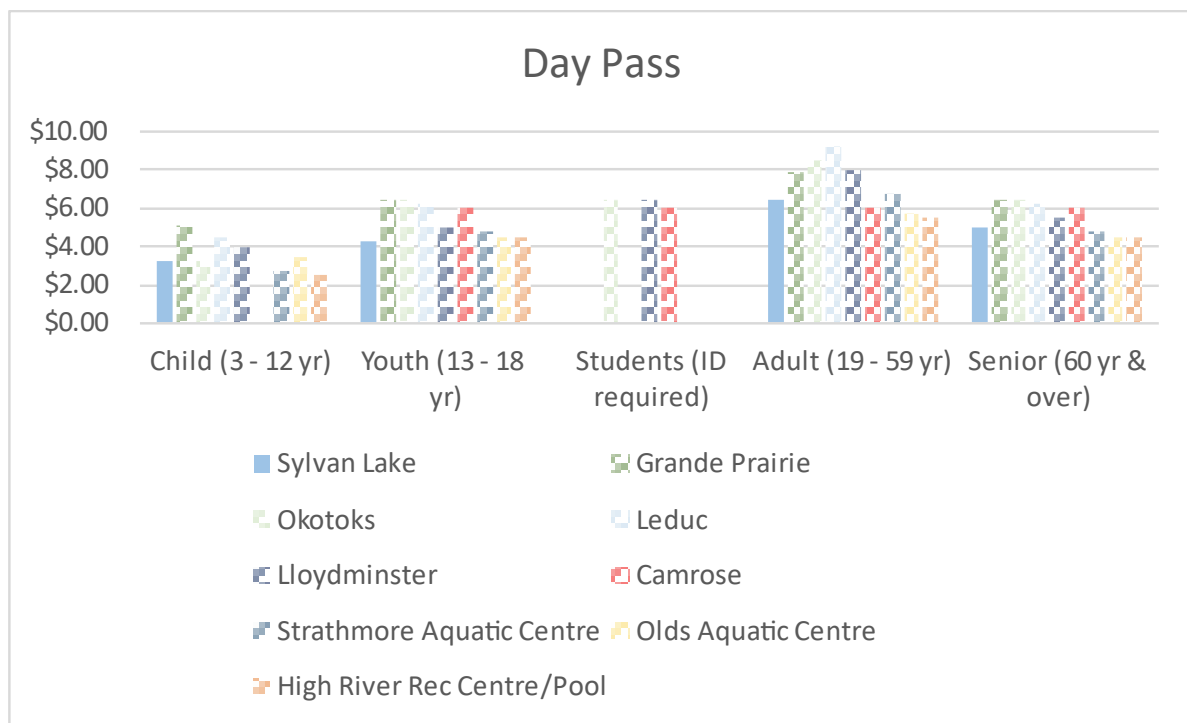


Figure 4.10: Day Pass Price

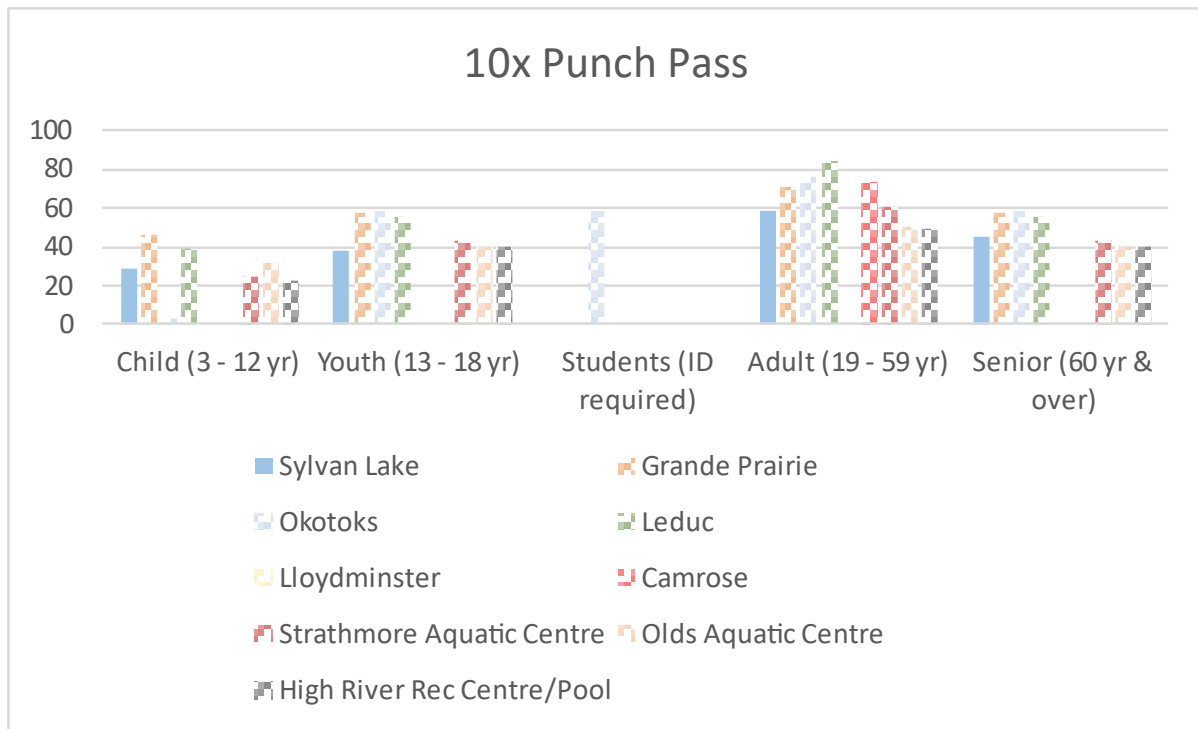


Figure 4.11: 10x Punch Pass Price

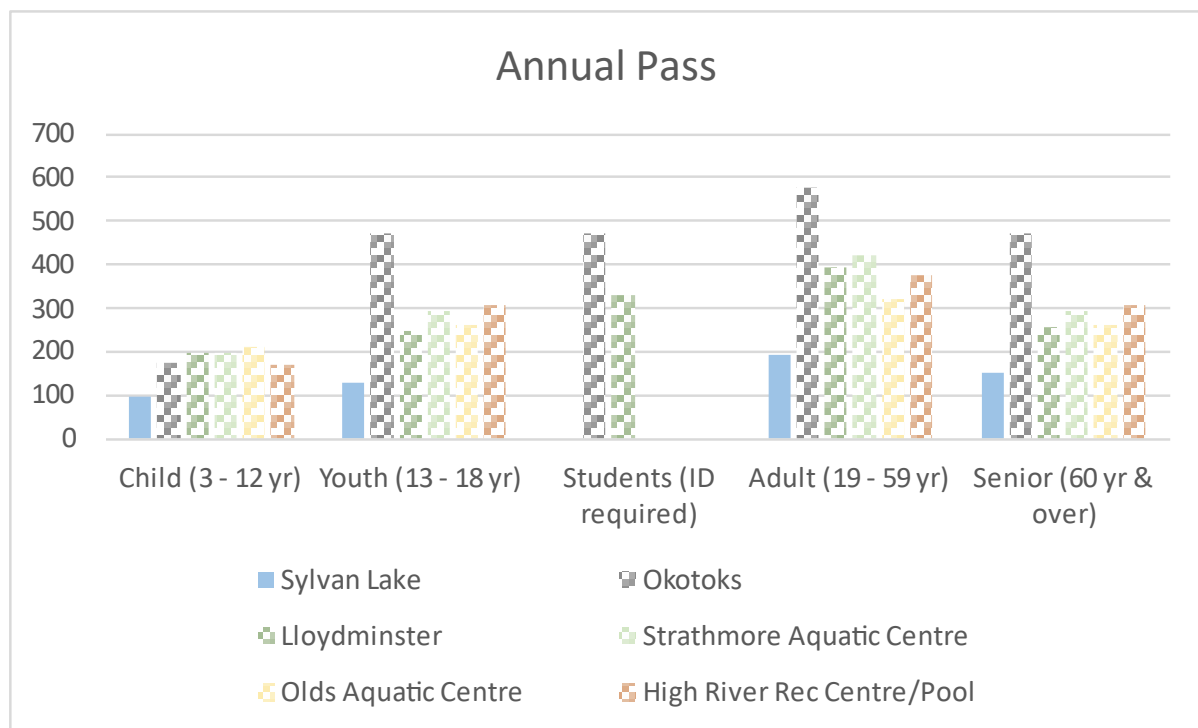


Figure 4.12: Annual Pass Price

## 4.2 The Town MultiCampus

The MultiCampus is a space shared between the Town of Sylvan Lake and Ecole Mother Teresa and Fox Run Public School. A joint agreement exists between all three entities to hold events and activities in the shared spaces. These spaces include:

- A gymnasium capable of being split into 3 standard-sized gyms, including bleachers
- A performing arts room equipped with lighting and sound systems, as well as built-in seating

MultiCampus	
<b>LEGEND</b>	
Very Good	Good
Fair	Poor
Very Poor	
Feature	Assessment
Access	Good
Parking	Fair
Accessibility	Poor
Program Space	Very Good
Arena	N/A
Pool	N/A
Washrooms, Change Rooms, Dressing Rooms	Good
Fitness Area	N/A
Outdoor Lighting	Fair
Indoor Lighting	Fair
Signage	Fair
Gymnasium	Good
Maintenance	N/A
Other Programmable Space	Very Good

Figure 4.13: Summary of MultiCampus Centre Facility Assessment Results

### 4.3 Wellness and Community Connections Centre

The Wellness and Community Connections Centre is the home of many Town services and includes:

- A standard-size gymnasium with a large commercial kitchen and stage
- A preschool/ kindergarten
- Social services such as counselling
- Sylvan Lake Youth Centre

It is also located beside a four-seasons park, allowing for several outdoor programming options.

Wellness and Community Connections Centre	
LEGEND	
Very Good	Good
Fair	Poor
Very Poor	
Feature	Assessment
Access	Very Good
Parking	Good
Accessibility	Poor
Program Space	Good
Arena	N/A
Pool	N/A
Washrooms, Change Rooms, Dressing Rooms	Fair
Fitness Area	N/A
Outdoor Lighting	N/A
Indoor Lighting	Good
Signage	Good
Gymnasium	Fair
Maintenance	Very Good
Other Programmable Space	Good

Figure 4.14: Summary of Wellness and Community Connections Centre Assessment

## 4.4 Indoor Facilities Comparable Communities

Community comparable or benchmarks are utilized to learn what other communities have depending on their population. Using standards on its own is not beneficial yet providing another lens to look at the service delivery of parks and recreation is significant. The benchmarks for the indoor facilities for the Town of Sylvan Lake were chosen based on policy and in the region. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA), from the USA has revised its national criteria for 2022. Using these helps us to assess how Sylvan Lake's recreation facilities rate on a national basis as well.

### 4.4.1 Population per Facility

The following table provides the ratio between facilities and population (number of people per 1 facility):

Table 4.1: Comparable Communities: Ratio Between Indoor Facilities and Population

Town	Population	Arena	Curling Sheet	Indoor track	Indoor Turf	Fitness Facility	Gymnasium	Indoor Pool
<b>Sylvan Lake</b>	<b>16,354</b>	<b>1:8177</b>	<b>1:3270</b>	<b>1:16354</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>1:16354</b>	<b>1:5451</b>	<b>1:16354</b>
NRPA	(>20,000)	1:6137	n/a	n/a	1:12962	1:9126	1:5400	1:11375
Olds	9,577	1:4788	1:2394	1:9577	1:9677	n/a	1:4788	1:9577
Strathmore	14,810	1:14180	1:3702	1:14810	1:14810	n/a	1:14810	1:14810
High River	14,324	1:7162	1:2387	1:14324	n/a	1:14324	1:4774	1:14324
<b>Average of Other communities</b>		<b>1:6833</b>	<b>1:2898</b>	<b>1:13766</b>	<b>1:13766</b>	<b>1:13766</b>	<b>1:6883</b>	<b>1:13766</b>

Within communities of similar size to Sylvan Lake, we can see that most of them have the same kind of indoor recreation spaces. Sylvan lake has an indoor pool, curling sheets, hockey arenas and a track. Sylvan Lake is missing an indoor Turf field compared to Strathmore or High River. The turf field is not recommended as it does not suit the needs of the community.

### 4.4.2 Regional Comparables

Sylvan Lake has many neighbouring communities which can provide recreation opportunities for their residents. In some cases, the facilities can be viewed as competition or an asset. Though these communities are not the same size as Sylvan Lake, they provide important regional data.

The regional communities that were considered for the Sylvan Lake region are:

- Red Deer
- Blackfalds
- Rocky Mountain House

#### Available Regional Facilities

This is a comparison of the indoor facilities in the region. Red Deer has the most indoor facilities compared to the other communities. Sylvan Lake is very similar to the other smaller communities matching in gymnasiums, pool, arena sheets and track. See Figure 4.15 on following page.

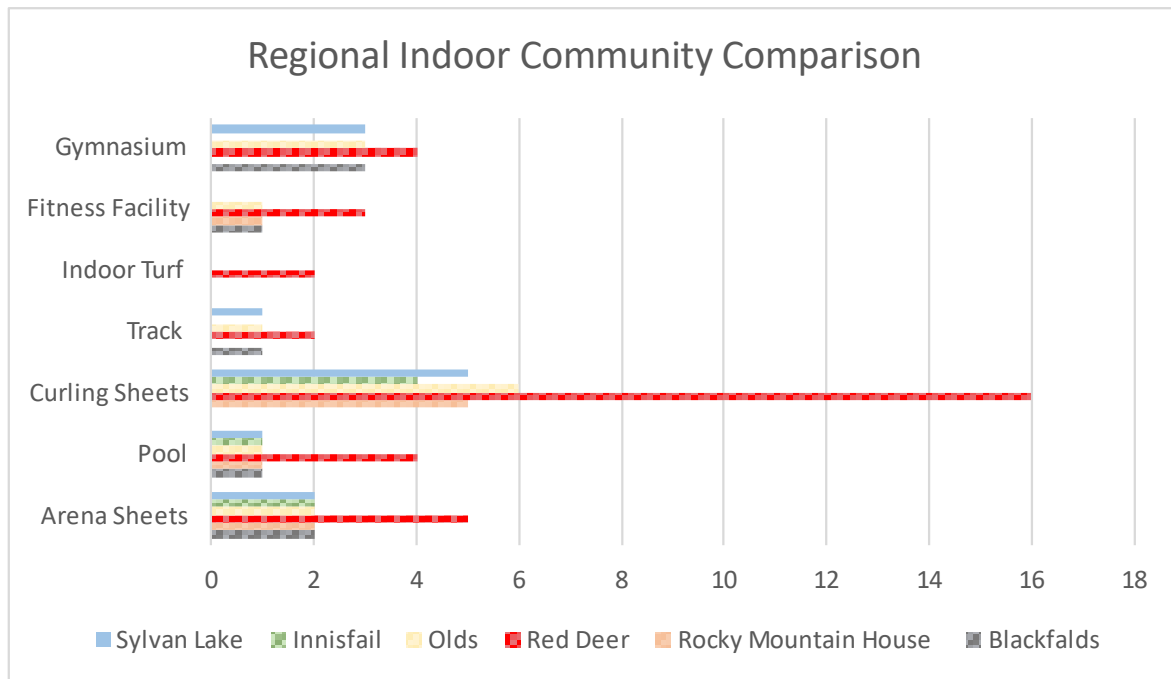


Figure 4.15: Regional Indoor Facility Comparison

### Regional Ice Pricing

Sylvan Lake in adults shows to be in the upper price range for prime time ice but is not the most expensive. Red Deer is the most expensive for adults and youth, and Sylvan Lake is second in the price for youth.

Sylvan Lake in non-prime time ice is the lowest compared to other regional communities for adults and youth. Red Deer was the only regional community to have a non-prime time ice being able to be purchased during the prime time of the hockey season.

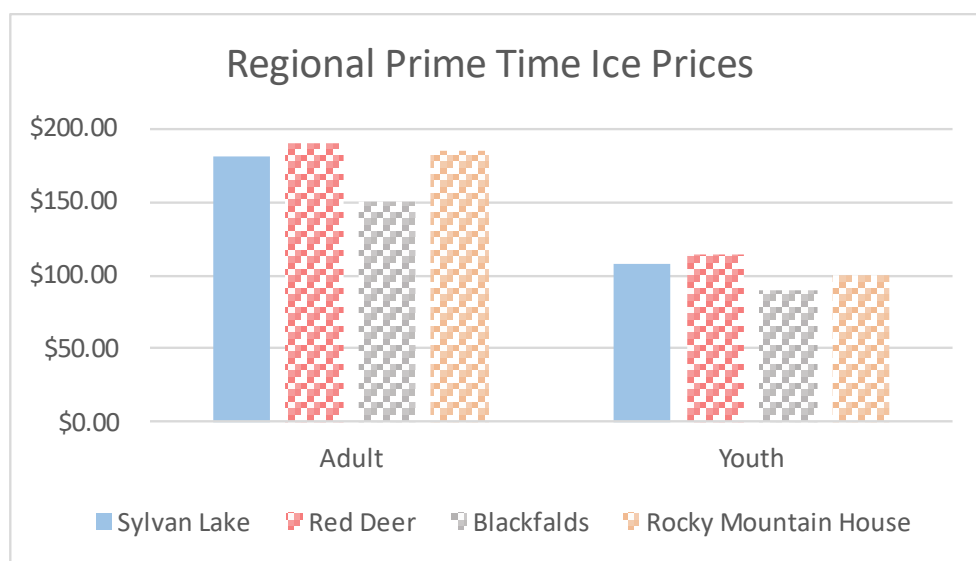


Figure 4.16: Regional Prime Time Prices



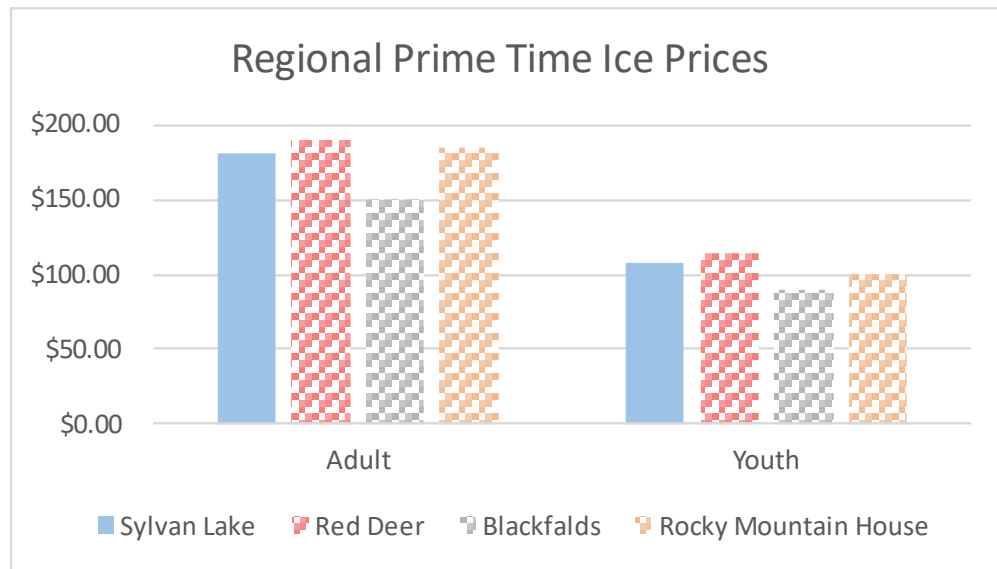


Figure 4.17: Regional Non-Prime Time Prices

## INDOOR FACILITIES KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Town has a well-utilized and diverse range of facilities for their population. The only facility that is lacking is indoor synthetic turf; however, based on the current regional supply and population size, this is unnecessary, unless it can be provided in the construction of a new joint-use or regional facility.
- After COVID-19, there is a return to regular rates for prime time use, however, non-prime time use has dropped, which is affecting the overall utilization of the facilities. Meeting with user groups to see how to increase utilization will be important, especially in the curling rink.
- The current pass pricing model fits with the comparable communities other than the annual pass pricing price; however, to meet equitable needs, it should remain competitive.
- Both prime time and non-prime time ice fees are consistent with the region and should not be raised other than by inflationary controls. A market review should be completed every three years.
- To ensure residents can access the buildings, an accessibility audit should be completed.
- With the over \$100 million worth of recreational facilities needs adequate maintenance funding to be maintained.

## 5.0 Parks and Open Space Assessment

### 5.1 Parks and Open Spaces Classification

Sylvan Lake residents have access to approximately 180 hectares (ha) of parks, open space and recreational lands. The following sections outline how these parcels of parkland are classified and managed within the current system.

Maps of the existing and proposed parks and open space system are provided in **Appendix C**.

#### 5.1.1 Current Parkland Typologies

In Sylvan Lake, these parks and open spaces are categorized according to their size and function. Neither the 2004 or 2010 Master Plans, provided a map classifying all parks and open spaces in the community according to the current classifications, nor have the spaces been classified in the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory system.

The classification system, developed in the 2004 Master Plan, is defined as follows:

##### Regional / Provincial Parks and Facilities

Regional Parks and Facilities are destination resources that serve markets that come from a broad region. They are typically designed to provide major day use recreational opportunities for a traveling market and are designed, developed, governed and operated through a partnership of stakeholders that go beyond the Municipality in which they exist.

##### Community-Wide Parks and Facilities

Community Parks & Facilities are designated sites that provide for the active recreational, social and cultural needs of all residents as well as for those living in the surrounding rural areas and Summer Villages. Community Parks are designed for more intense recreation activities such as structured sports, as well as unstructured sports, relaxation and community events. Because of this, their market of users is often comprised of organized minor sports participants who are primarily from the Town but often includes registrants from other municipalities and communities.

##### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks are generally passive in nature with the main activities including relaxation, socializing and children's play. Neighborhood parks should include a play structure designed to meet the activity requirements of preschool aged children. The Master Plan notes that neighbourhood Parks should be a minimum of 0.31ha.

### Linear Parks and Open Spaces

Linear Parks & Open Space includes all developed trails, right-of-way, buffers, boulevards and public utility lots (PUL). With the exception of trails, Linear Parks & Open Space lands will serve non-recreational related functions. This category is divided into three sub-categories each with specific minimum development standards: Trail Network, Boulevards & Buffers, and Utility Rights-of-way.

### Special Purpose Areas

Special purpose areas are those areas, open space parcels or facility zones that serve specialized purposes in meeting service needs. They are designed and operated with a specialized purpose in mind and need not conform to general standards. In Sylvan Lake's context, existing special purpose areas have included dog off leash areas, skateboard parks, stormwater management facilities, and natural areas.

## 5.1.2 Land-Use Classifications for Parkland

According to the Land-Use Bylaw (#1696/2015), parks are permitted in the following zoning classifications:

### Environmental Open Space District (EOS)

General purpose of this zone is to provide an area for either the preservation of public land in its natural state, or for its development as a park, there are only three small parcels of parkland with this designation: two are environmental setback areas near the existing marina and one a small drainage corridor near a residential neighbourhood.

### Public Facility District (PF)

General purpose of this zone is to provide an area for the development of public land for major multi-use recreational facilities, and other uses, intended for the general benefit and enjoyment of the public-at-large. The majority of parks and open spaces in Sylvan Lake are within this zoning classification. This land-use zone is also used for school sites with joint-use agreement.

### Lakeshore Direct Control District (L-DC)

This direct control zone refers to the lands near the public marina, which contains multiple type of use including existing waterfront parks and open space areas.

In addition to the permitted use zones above, the following land use zones allow parks as a discretionary use:

- Large Lot Residential (R1)
- Medium Lot Residential District (R1A)
- Marina Bay Residential District (RNB)
- Medium Density Residential District (R2)
- High Density Residential District (R3)
- Manufactured Home District (R4)
- Narrow Lot General Residential District (R5)
- Narrow Lot Duplex Residential District (R5A)

The distribution of land-use classifications for recreation, parks and open space is as follows:

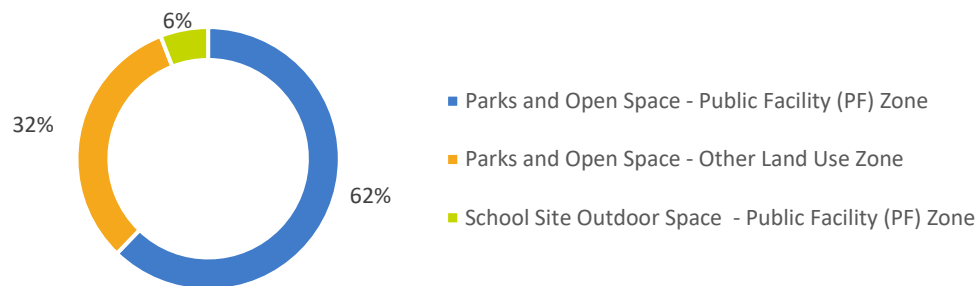


Figure 5.1: Distribution of Land-use Classifications for Recreation, Parks and Open Space

### 5.1.3 Development Guidelines Parkland Classifications

The Sylvan Lake Development Process and Design Guidelines (Development Guidelines) provide information regarding the Town of Sylvan Lake's standards governing new development design and servicing standards. The primary focus of the document is to aid land developers in achieving a community design that complies with the Town's requirements and expectations.

The Development Guidelines include land development requirements for park spaces depending on their classification. There are some discrepancies in the terminology for the different park classification compared to those defined in the previous master plans. The Guidelines provide development requirements for the following classifications:

- Community Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Linear Park
- Parkette
- Tot-lots

The Development Process and Design Guidelines define tot-lots as being "additional playground facilities designated by the developer and agreed to by the Town". No definition or description of Parkettes is provided in the Guidelines or previous Master Plan.

In the next revision of the Development Standards Guidelines, the classifications and definitions should be reviewed to reflect the updated parks and trails classification system in the Master Plan.

## 5.2 Parks and Open Space Distribution

Parks and open space areas range in size and distribution throughout the community. Most residents are within 5min (400m) walking radius of a named park site or school site and all residents are within 5min (400m) walking radius of open space (developed or undeveloped). The provision of walkable access to parks and open spaces in Sylvan Lake is higher than average with a high density of parks and open spaces servicing the community.

The system is made up of named park sites and un-named open space areas, but the functional or infrastructure differences between the two is not always apparent. As well, the boundaries between named park sites and adjacent open space are not clear within the Town's GIS inventory.

The named park sites can be classified by the following sizes:

Table 5.1: Size Classification for Named Park Sites

Size	Park Sites	
<b>Under 0.3 hectares</b>	Regatta Park James Berg Park Cenotaph Park Parkland Drive Park Fieldstone Park Wilkinson Circle Park	Lighthouse Park White Cap Park Vista Park Crooked Tree Park Sixty West Park
<b>0.3 to 1 hectare</b>	Woodland Park Action Sports Park Lakeway Heights Park Palo Park	Willow Springs Park Firdale Drive Park Ross Park
<b>1 to 5 hectares</b>	Railway Park Promenade Leader Field East Park	Meadowview Park Lakeway Landing Park
<b>Over 5 Hectares</b>	Disc Golf Course Four Seasons Park	Pogadl Park

### Park Size Distribution

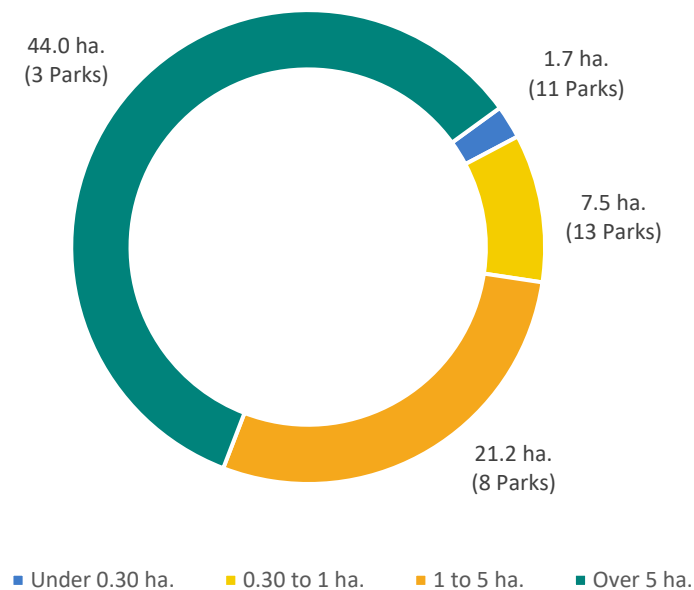


Figure 5.2: Park Size Distribution

## 5.3 Outdoor Facility Assessments

A comprehensive desktop and onsite assessment and inventory of all named park sites and associated amenities was conducted in 2022 as part of this Master Plan. The following sections provide a general summary of findings.

Existing asset values for Parks, Open Space and Trails is located in **Appendix D**.

### 5.3.1 Sportsfields

Sylvan Lake has 28 sportsfields, with 61% of the sportsfields located on parks/open space sites and 39% located on school sites. Eight of the eleven sportsfields on school sites are under joint-use agreements between the Town and the School Division. However, it is important to note that recent changes to the Municipal Government Act will have impacts on joint-use agreements between school and municipalities.

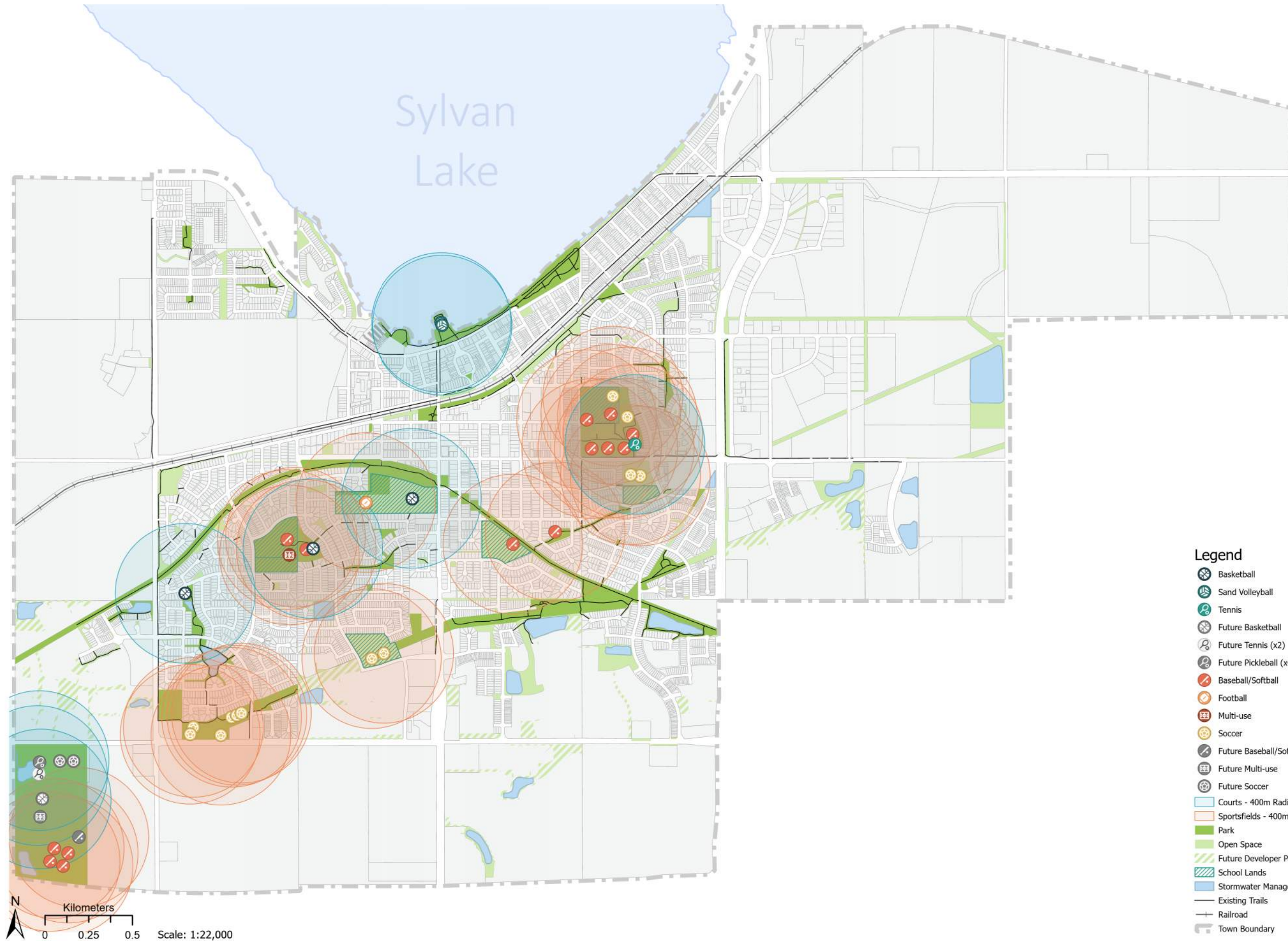
Sportsfields are well distributed through the community (See Exhibit 5.1); however, with the development of Pogadl Park, the premier fields have been shifted outside of the mature community. Because of this change, Four Seasons Park no longer supports the level of baseball/softball that it used to.

The following tables provide a summary of the inventory numbers:

Table 5.2: Summary of Inventory Numbers for Sportsfields

Parks/Open Space Sites	Type	Quantity
Four Seasons Park	Soccer	1
Four Seasons Park	Baseball/Softball	4
Leader Field West Park	Soccer	6
Meadowview Park	Baseball/Softball	1
Palo Park	Baseball/Softball	1
Pogadl Park	Baseball/Softball	4
School Sites	Type	Quantity
Beacon Hill Elementary School	Soccer	2
C P Blakely Elementary School	Soccer	1
C P Blakely Elementary School	Baseball/Softball	2
Fox Run School	Football / Multi-use	1
Fox Run School	Baseball/Softball	1
H J Cody High School	Football / Multi-use	1
Steffie Woima Elementary School	Baseball/Softball	1
École Our Lady of the Rosary (OLR)	Soccer	2
Summary	Type	Quantity
	Soccer	12
	Football / Multi-use	2
	Baseball/Softball	14





### Legend

- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis
- Future Basketball
- Future Tennis (x2)
- Future Pickleball (x4)
- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Future Baseball/Softball
- Future Multi-use
- Future Soccer
- Courts - 400m Radius (~5 Min Walk)
- Sportsfields - 400m Radius (~5 Min Walk)
- Park
- Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Existing Trails
- Railroad
- Town Boundary



Sportsfields were assessed onsite and through consultation with Town maintenance and operations staff. Most fields are in fair to good condition, except for newer sportsfield sites, such as Pogadl Park, which have excellent conditions ratings. The following provides an overview of sportsfield conditions ratings:









Sportsfield Conditions Ratings (AVG)				
LEGEND				
Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
				
Football / Multi-use				
Soccer				
Baseball / Softball				

Figure 5.3: Summary of Sportsfield conditions ratings

Common condition challenges for soccer and multi-use fields are grading and drainage, soil compaction and turf quality. Common condition challenges for baseball/softball field are drainage, shale compaction, turf quality, poor fencing and poor benches/bleachers.

### Sportsfield Usage

In soccer fields from 2019, there has been a slight increase in booking hours into 2023. The facilities were only booked from Monday to Thursday and would typically range from an hour or an hour and a half per booking. The fields with the most bookings were at Leader Field West and École Our Lady of the Rosary. The mini-field at Four Season Park and sportsfield at C. P. Blakely had no bookings in the three years.

On a days-in-a-week basis, Tuesdays and Thursdays are the most popular days for soccer bookings (averaging 11.24 hours), followed by Wednesdays (11.2 hours) over 2019-2023. On a year-to-year basis, average booking hours declined between 2019 and 2021 (10.63 hours to 9 hours per day) but increased between 2022 and 2023 at a level higher than 2019 (11 hours per day in 2022, 12.38 hours in 2023). For booked tournaments in June 2023, there was the same number of hours booked as in 2022, at 17 hours.

In comparing the different diamonds, baseball and softball were used together as they use the same facilities for both. The Four Seasons Diamonds were the only place to be booked by softball. In 2023 there is an increase in usage. There is also the impact of COVID-19 in use that can be shown in 2020.

See Figure 5.4 to 5.5 on the following page for booking data.

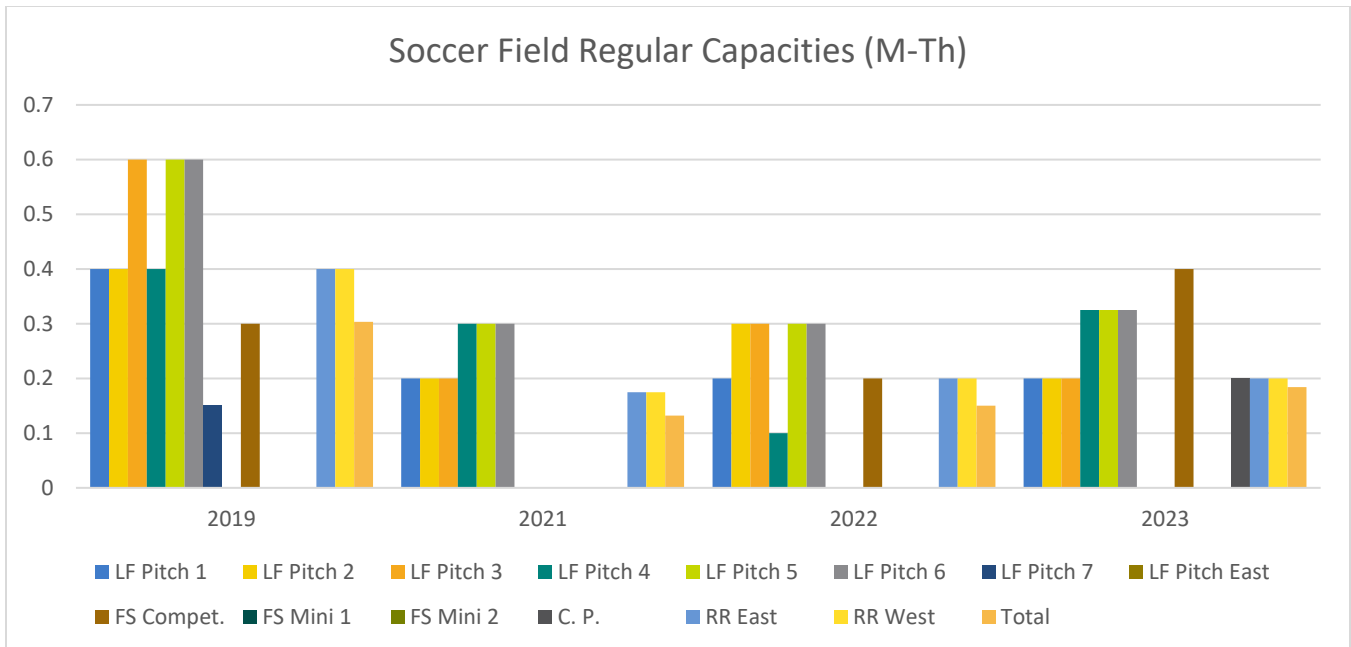


Figure 5.4: Soccer Field Regular Capacities

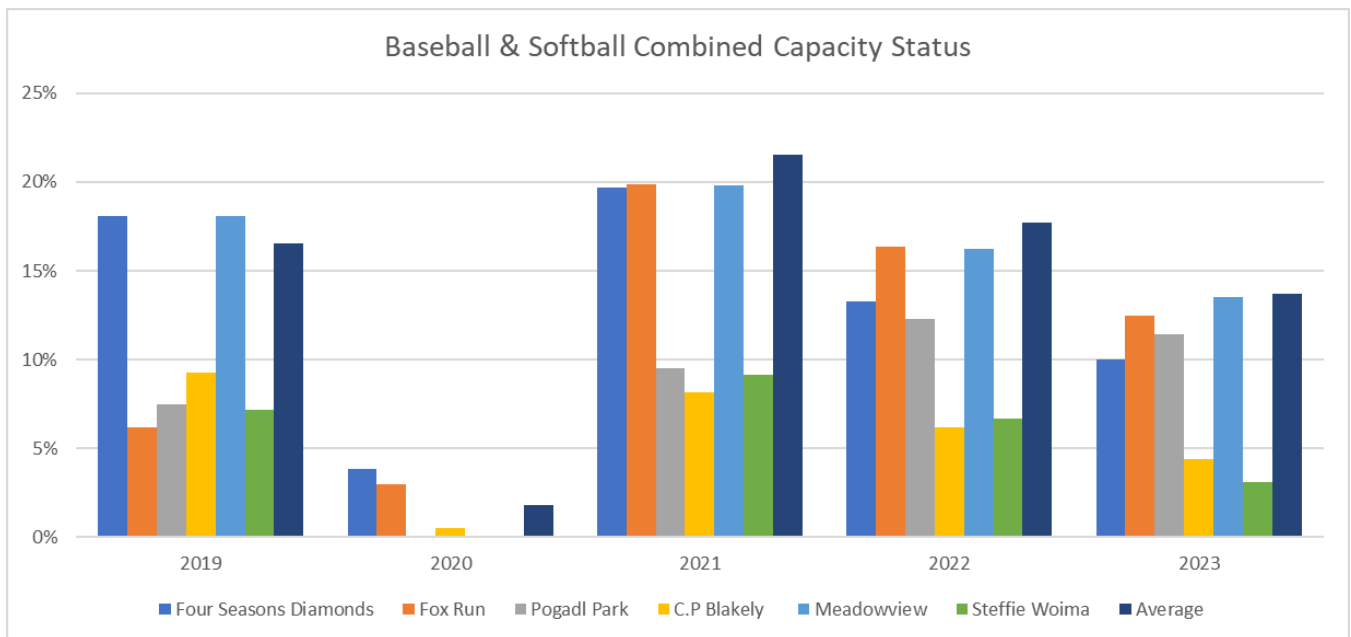


Figure 5.5: Baseball and Softball Combined Capacities

### 5.3.2 Outdoor Courts

There are only a small number of publicly owned outdoor courts in Sylvan Lake. The following table provides a summary:

Table 5.3: Summary of Publicly Owned Outdoor Courts in Sylvan Lake

Parks/Open Space Sites	Type	Quantity	Condition
<b>Four Seasons Park</b>	Tennis	1	Fair
<b>Firdale Drive Park</b>	Basketball (half)	1	Very Good
<b>Meadowview Park</b>	Basketball (half)	1	Fair
<b>H.J. Cody High School</b>	Basketball (full)		Very Good
<b>Sylvan Lake Park</b>	Sand Volleyball	2	Very Good

In the usage of the sand volleyball courts, there was a decrease due to COVID-19 in the year of 2020 and 2021. There are four different groups that have booked the space in the last four years. Many of the groups will book it on the weekend for a tournament spanning for a couple days. There are currently no programs or teams that book it regularly throughout the weekdays.

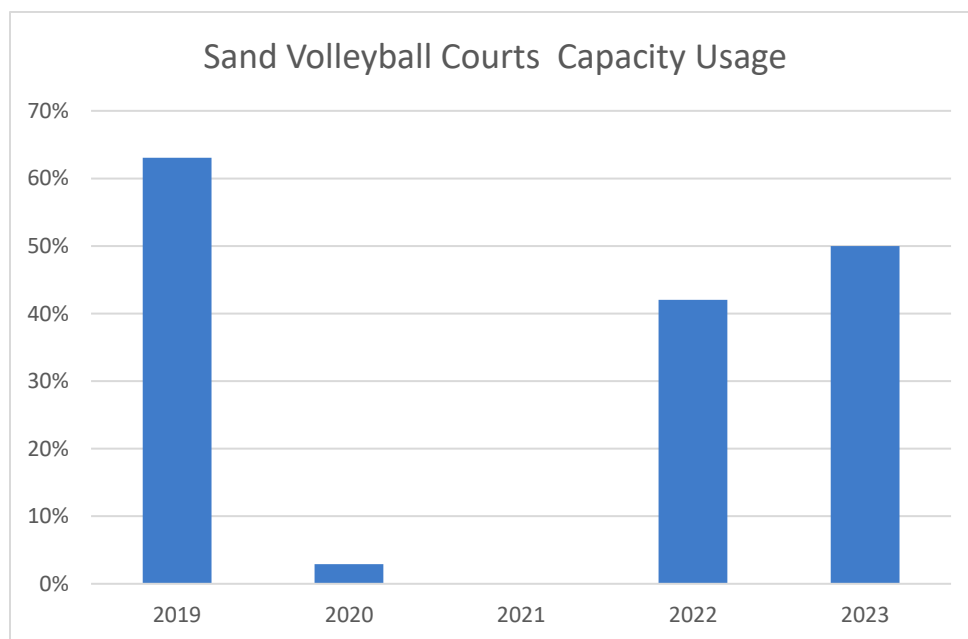


Figure 5.6: Sand Volleyball Capacity Usage

### 5.3.3 Winter Recreation

Sylvan Lake has a large provision of formal, informal, indoor, and outdoor winter recreation available throughout town. The majority of the community is within a 5 to 10 minute (400-800m) walking radius of an outdoor winter recreation opportunities (see Exhibit 5.2).

Outdoor winter activities in Sylvan Lake include skating, hockey, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, ice fishing and snowshoeing. The exceptional seasonal lake ice rinks are a draw for both residents and tourists.

The following table summarizes facilities and their adjacent winter recreation activities:

Table 5.4: Summary of Facilities and Their Adjacent Winter Recreation Activities

Parks/Open Space Sites	Recreation Type
Waterfront Parks / On Lake	Ice Fishing, Skating, Sledding, Hockey, Passive Recreation
Four Seasons Park	Permanent Boarded Rink
Sylvan Lake Golf Course	Passive Recreation / Informal Cross-country Skiing
Hewlett Park	Tobogganing Hill (small informal hill)
Palo Park	Tobogganing Hill (small informal hill)
Ryders Ridge Park	Casual Skating Rink
Leader Field West Park	Tobogganing Hill, Skating Rink
Leader Field East Park	Snowbank Skating Rink
Crestview Park	Snowbank Skating Rink
École Our Lady of the Rotary	Snowbank Skating Rink (2)
Fieldstone	Snowbank Skating Rink
Beacon Hill	Snowbank Skating Rink
<b>* Note that a new toboggan hill will is currently being developed in the Vista neighbourhood.</b>	

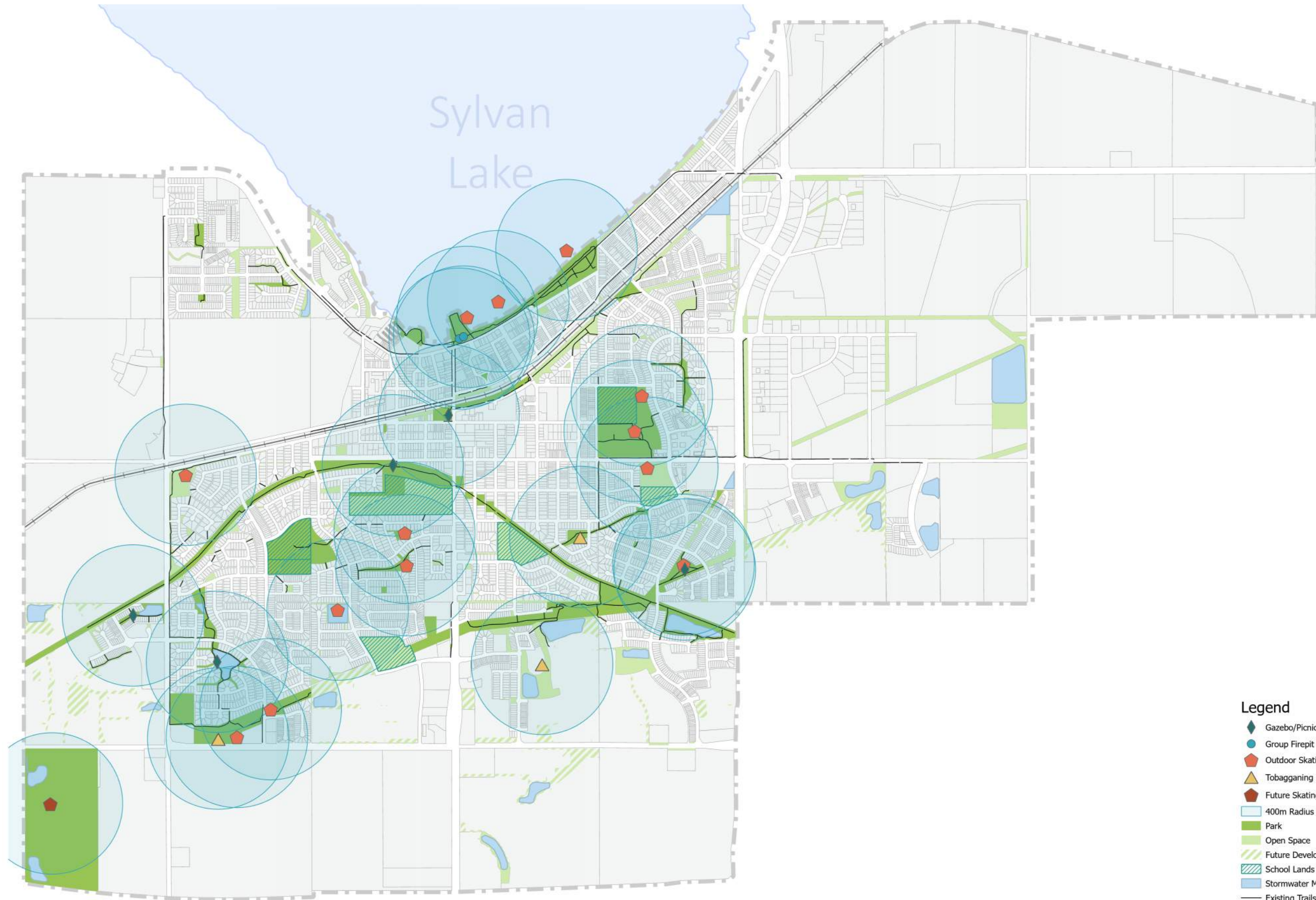
### 5.3.4 Lake-based Recreation

Seasonal lake-based recreation is vibrant and available across shoreline recreation areas. The following chart summarizes available lake-based recreation in Sylvan Lake:

Table 5.5: Summary of Available Lake-Based Recreation in Sylvan Lake

Parks/Open Space Sites	Season	Activity
Lakefront Park / Lighthouse Park	Summer	Swimming, Aqua Splash, wedding rentals, water sports
Sylvan Lake Park	Winter	Ice Fishing, Skating, Sledding, Hockey, Passive Recreation, Cross-Country Skiing
	Summer	Beach access, swimming, wedding rentals, water sports, volleyball, passive open space recreation
	Winter	Ice Fishing, Skating, Sledding, Hockey, Passive Recreation, Cross-Country Skiing





N  
Kilometers  
0 0.25 0.5  
Scale: 1:22,000

- Legend**
- ◆ Gazebo/Picnic Shelter
  - Group Firepit
  - ⬠ Outdoor Skating
  - ▲ Tobogganing Hill
  - ⬠ Future Skating Rink
  - 400m Radius (~5 Min Walk)
  - Park
  - Open Space
  - Future Developer Parks and Open Space
  - School Lands
  - Stormwater Management Pond
  - Existing Trails
  - Railroad
  - Town Boundary

### **5.3.5 Outdoor Event Spaces**

Sylvan Lake provides outdoor events year-round at a variety of facilities and to a wide range of users. As the parks network and population/tourism expands, a need for new and updated facilities will be needed to accommodate rising participation. Outdoor events promote community gathering and wellness by administering a sense of place among residents and reflect the municipalities dedication to creating family oriented and fun activities for residents. Ensuring outdoor spaces can facilitate gatherings of various sizes and allows Sylvan Lake to continually provide events to users. Four Seasons Park holds the most potential for large gatherings within the central area of Town and is a focal point for future development.

Some current outdoor events currently include The Pumpkin Trail, Light up the Lake, Culinart, Winterfest, 1913 Days, Downtown Trick-or-Treat, and Flannel & Feast.

### **5.3.6 Passive Recreation Amenities**

Sylvan Lake parks and open spaces provide ample opportunity for passive recreation year-round. Facilities such as the disc golf course, the Health and Wellness Healing Hub and provision of open space throughout the parks network provides residents and users with opportunity to congregate and participate in recreation. Passive recreation adds value to park spaces by giving users the opportunity to use spaces how they see fit and to enjoy amenities and open spaces in casual and spontaneous ways. Passive parks and open spaces need to be multi-faceted, accessible and versatile to add year-round value for users.

### **5.3.7 Vegetation and Landscaping**

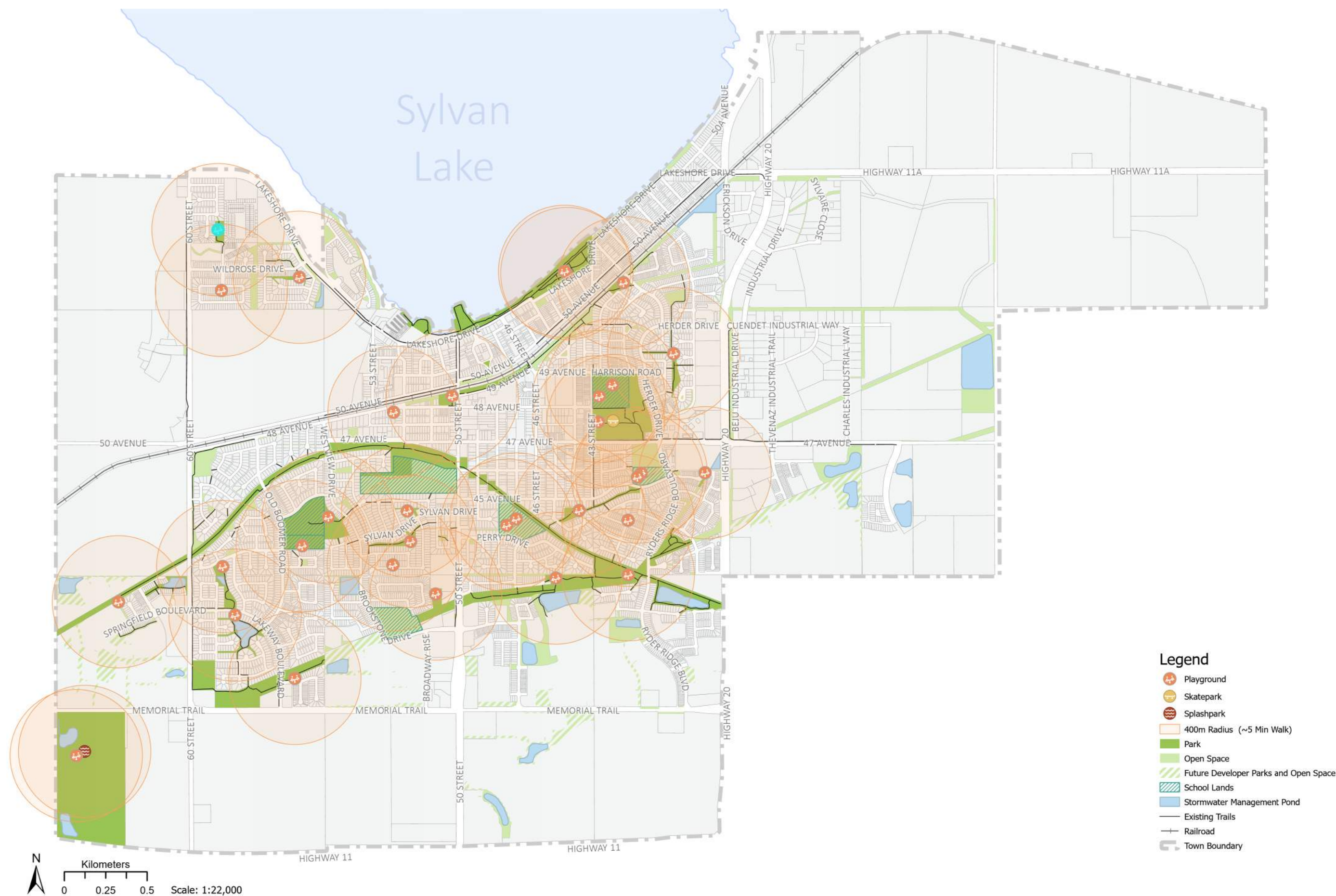
Sylvan Lake has a high provision of vegetation and plant life throughout the town and parks and open space network. Landscaped areas are maintained to a high standard and provide as much seasonal color as possible. An example of a high value landscaped park space is Firdale Drive Park. Firdale Drive Park is maintained to a high standard, provides ample tree cover and landscape elements that create a unique sense of place within the park space.

### **5.3.8 Play Spaces**

Sylvan Lake has a high provision of play spaces appealing to varying ages and in various conditions. Play spaces are mostly traditional play equipment and there is a lack of diversity in alternate type of plays or play opportunities for older children and teenagers. There the opportunity to increase playground variety in Sylvan Lake in the forms such as accessible playgrounds, nature play, adventure play. There are currently no dedicated accessible playgrounds in Sylvan Lake.

Sylvan lake has a good distribution of playgrounds throughout all neighbourhoods. Most residents are within a 400m (5min) walking radius of a playgrounds and very few residents would be required to walk more than 7-10 mins to reach a playground (See Exhibit 5.3).







The following table provide a summary of existing playground conditions:

Table 5.6: Summary of Existing Playground Conditions

Parks/Open Space Sites	Play Space Type	Condition
Pogadl Park	Splash Pad	Excellent
Pogadl Park	Playground	Excellent
Sylvan Drive Park	Playground	Excellent
Sixty West Park	Playground	Excellent
Hagerman Park	Playground	Excellent
Centennial Park	Playground	Excellent
Meadowview Park	Playground	Excellent
Action Sports Park	Skate Park	Very Good
Westwood Crescent Park	Playground	Very Good
Vista Park	Playground	Very Good
Beacon Hill Open Space	Playground	Good
Cole Way Park	Playground	Good
Regatta Park	Playground	Good
Lakeway Landing Park	Playground	Good
Firdale Drive Park (Lark Meadows)	Playground	Good
Lakeway Heights Park (Lakeview)	Playground	Good
James Berg Park	Playground	Good
Four Seasons Park (KCS Playground)	Playground	Fair
Leader Field Park East	Playground	Fair
Lions Park	Playground	Fair
Wilkinson Circle Park	Playground	Fair
Ross Close Park	Playground	Fair
Willow Springs Park	Playground	Poor
Parkland Drive Park	Playground	Poor
Palo Park	Playground	Poor
Hewlett Park	Playground	Poor

## 5.4 Outdoor Facilities Comparable Communities

Facility averages per resident is a great metric to compare provisions of parks and open space amenities within communities. It provides insight into see how Sylvan Lake compares to communities of similar size and structure. However, community needs can vary greatly depending on demographics and regional context. Though this data provides a valuable benchmark, it should not be used as a development goal for Sylvan Lake.

### 5.4.1 Population per Facility

The chart below demonstrates that Sylvan Lake has many facility offerings and is well provisioned. While trails provisions are average, the trails network in town is well maintained and well used by residents. This can be an area of improvement given the high level of interest and usage demonstrated by user groups.

There are limited public tennis courts, but the interest levels and user groups are currently low. However, this may be due to low quality tennis opportunities available. The new tennis courts at Pogadl Park would increase tennis opportunities.

Off-leash areas and bike parks are low but not problematic. It is currently not recommended to allocate other existing parks and open spaces to off-leash activities; however, this will be required at some point in the distant future since the current off-leash area is designated as future cemetery land. New off-leash areas could be requested within new developments to raise the provision of these amenities in town while not removing / redesignating other existing open space.

The bike park currently being developed provides a unique facility that not available in all communities.

Table 5.7: Summary of Population Per Outdoor Facility

Town	Population	Parkland (per ha)	Ice Surface	Tennis Courts	Sports Fields	Ball Diamond	Basketball Court
Sylvan Lake	16,354	1:14	1:1363	1:8177	1:1168	1:1168	1:8177
NRPA	(<20,000)	1:192	1:7997	n/a	1:3500	1:3100	1:5400
Olds	9,577	1:32	1:1197	1:3192	1:3192	1:684	1:9577
Strathmore	14,819	n/a	1:14819	1:7410	1:2964	1:7410	1:4940
High River	14,324	1:51	1:7162	1:2865	1:1592	1:1592	n/a
Hinton	9,882	1:27	1:2471	1:1412	1:1098	1:898	1:9882
Average of Other Communities		1:36	1:6412	1:3720	1:2211	1:2646	1:8133
Town	Population	Splash-Park	Skate Park	Disc Golf	Playgrounds	Bike Park	Off-leash
Sylvan Lake	16,354	1:16354	1:16354	1:16354	1:511	1:16354	1:16354
NRPA	(<20,000)	n/a	n/a	n/a	1:1986	n/a	1:11100
Olds	9,577	1:9577	1:9577	1:9577	1:599	n/a	1:9577
Strathmore	14,819	1:14819	1:14819	1:14819	1:780	n/a	1:14819
High River	14,324	1:14324	1:14324	n/a	1:796	n/a	1:7162
Hinton	9,882	1:9882	1:9882	1:9882	1:520	1:9882	1:9882
Average of Other Communities		1:12151	1:12151	1:11426	1:674	n/a	1:10360

## 5.4.2 Regional Comparables

Sylvan Lake has many neighbouring communities which can provide recreation opportunities for their residents. In some cases, the facilities can be viewed as competition or an asset. Though these communities are not the same size as Sylvan Lake, they provide important regional data.

The communities that were considered for the Sylvan Lake region are:

- Red Deer
- Blackfalds
- Rocky Mountain House

### Available Regional Facilities

In the regional comparison of outdoor facilities, Red Deer was significantly higher than the other communities. Sylvan Lake was above average in rectangular fields, baseball diamonds and outdoor ice surfaces. It is also important to note that Red Deer uses some of the rectangular fields and baseball diamonds as storm water retention areas.

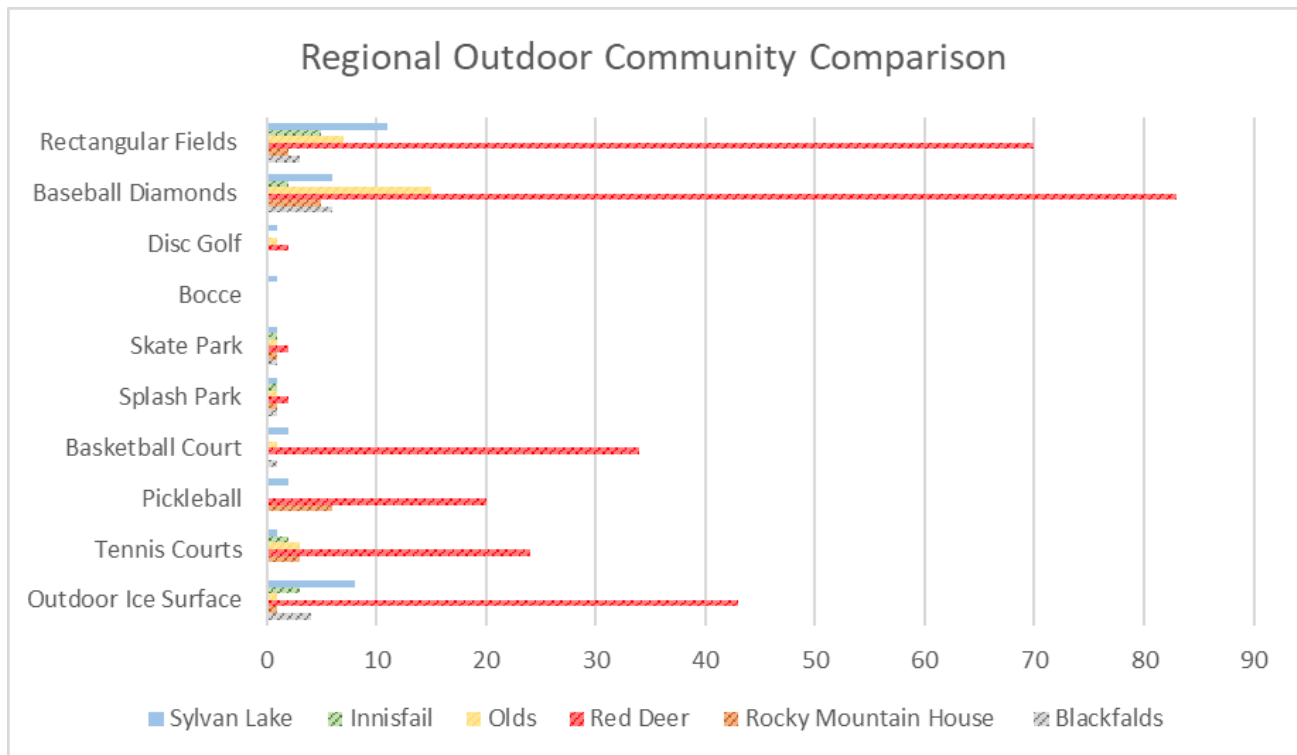


Figure 5.7: Regional Outdoor Facility Comparison

### Regional Sportsfield Pricing

Sylvan Lake compared to other regional baseball diamonds for prime time in adults and youth were significantly higher. The Red Deer Great Chief Park was the only baseball diamond that was more expensive. Sylvan Lake also had one price for their diamonds when other regional communities like Olds and Red Deer had multiple prices for their various size diamonds.

Sylvan Lake charges the same for non-prime time as prime time for baseball. Note that the agreement from Red Deer states that non-prime time will be a maximum cost of 75% of that for prime time.

Compared to other regional communities for soccer fields, Sylvan Lake had one of the lowest prices for adults and one of the highest for youth. The rental cost at Red Deer is significantly higher as this field is synthetic turf as the other communities state general usage and do not specify.

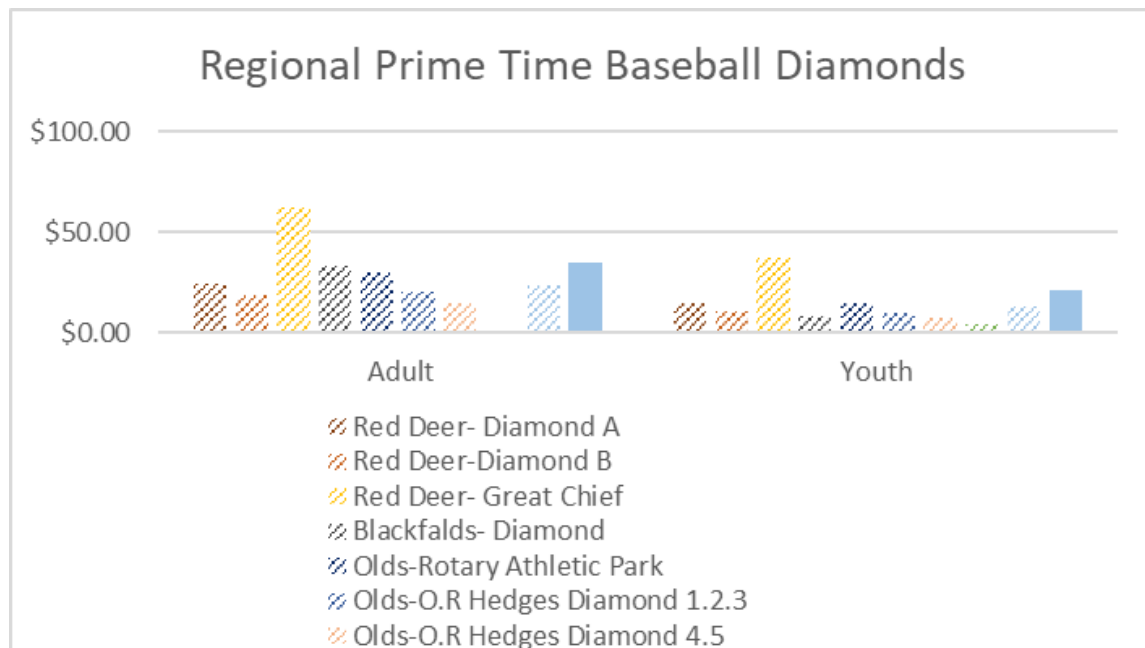


Figure 5.8: Regional Prime Time Baseball Diamond Prices

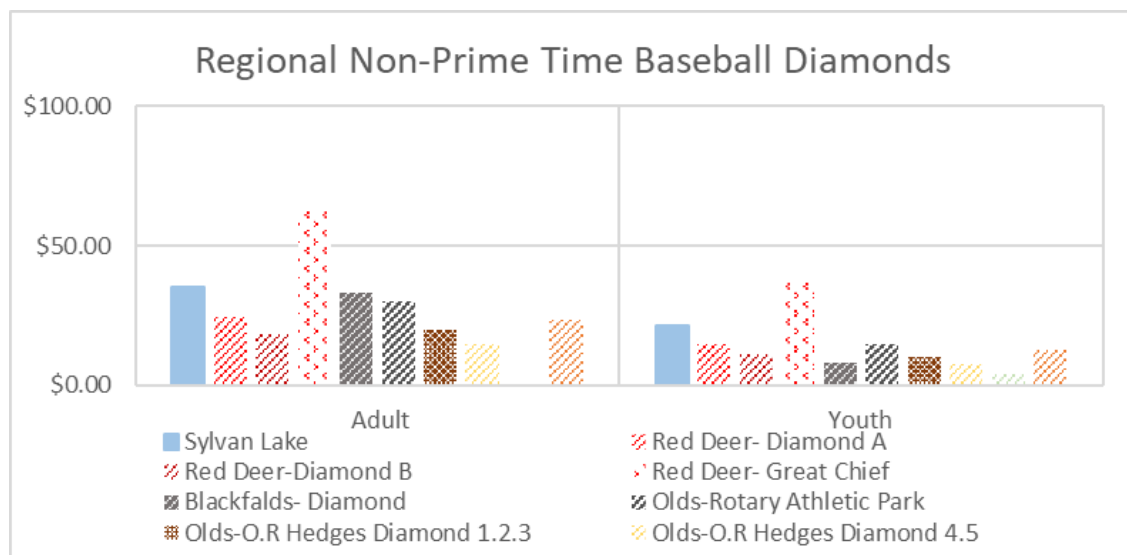


Figure 5.9: Regional Non-Prime Time Baseball Diamond Prices

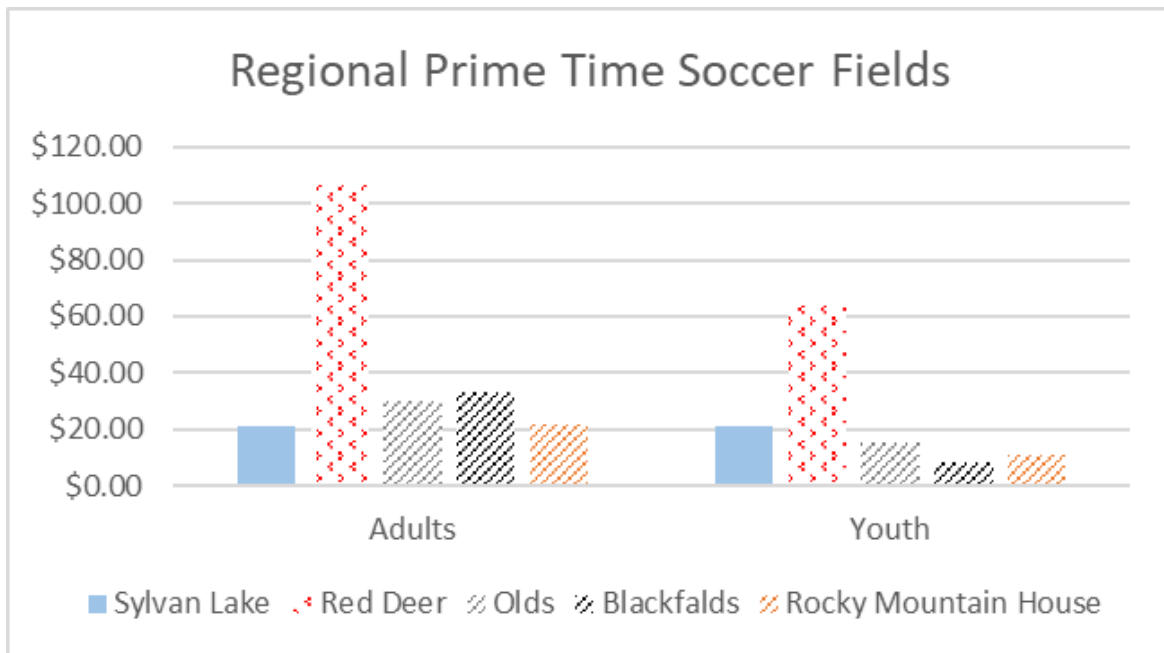


Figure 5.10: Regional Prime Time Soccer Prices

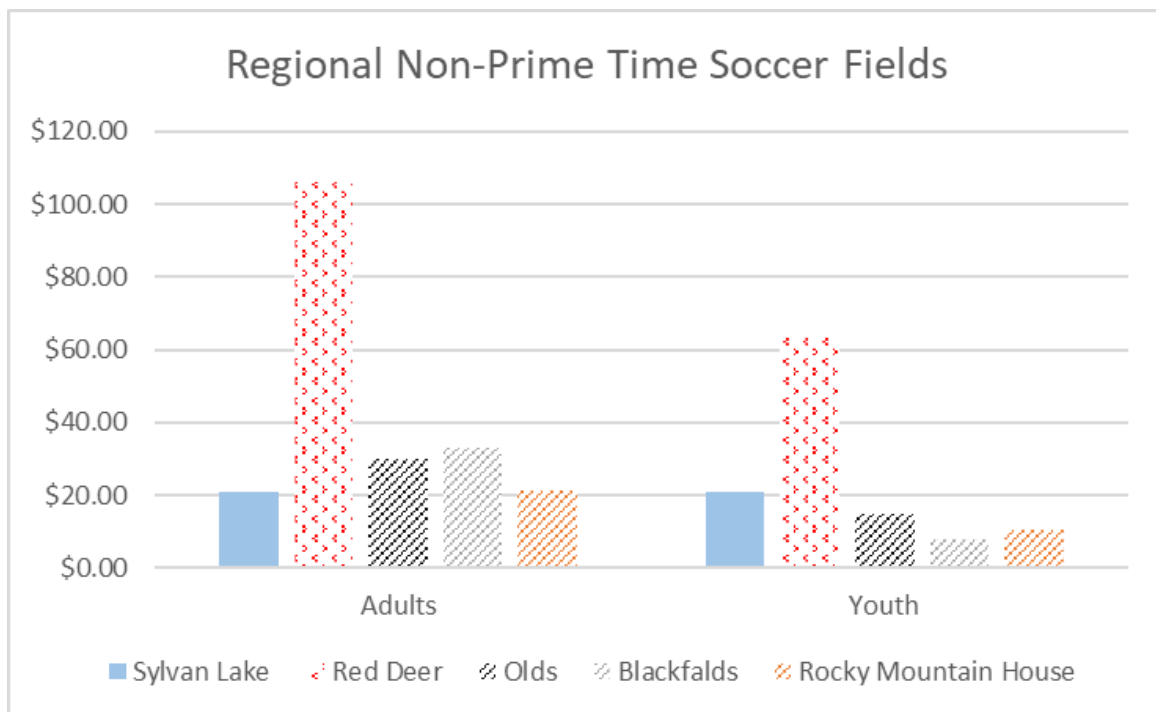


Figure 5.11: Regional Prime Time Soccer Prices

## **PARKS ASSESSMENT KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- There is a lack of alignment between the different classifications based on land-use zoning, the previous Master Plan and development requirements. Realignment of these categories would be beneficial for planning, developing and operating parks and open space sites.
- Residents have good walkable access to outdoor facilities, parks and open space
- The provides for a wide range of activities, such as sportsfields, playgrounds, courts, toboggan hills, skating areas and passive parks.
- Sportsfield and courts are range from very good to fair condition and several of the facilities will require improvements over time.
- There is a large provision of playgrounds in the communities with a wide range of conditions. Ongoing replacements will be required over time.
- In general, Sylvan is well provisioned with outdoor facilities compared to other similar communities. There are minor deficits in tennis courts and off-leash areas.
- Both baseball and Soccer fees for prime-time and non-prime time are some of the lowest in the region, however a greater focus should be placed on increasing rental times or programming than increasing fees.

## 6.0 Trail Network Assessment

### 6.1 Trails and Sidewalk Network

The Town of Sylvan Lake has approximately 30 kilometres of developed trails throughout the community. The system provides both recreation and active transportation functions. Most of this system is paved and at least 2.5m wide. Functionally, this allows for both pedestrians and cyclists to use the extensive off-street trail network.

The CP Lands trail corridor is one of the Town's key trail assets as it provides nearly 4 kilometres of asphalt multi-use trail within a wide, mostly forested corridor. The trail provides important east-west movement through the centre of the community and connects into different neighbourhoods. The trail is in excellent condition with minor challenges related to tree roots and grading, which is typical of similar forest trails.

The remainder of the trail network runs through parks and open space sites. There are also narrow trail connector corridors between residential properties to move people from one neighbourhood to the next. The trail network is typically in good condition. In some areas, predominantly older neighbourhoods, there are some areas of the trail system in need of rehabilitation.

In addition to trails, the town has a vast on-street sidewalk network ranging from 1m to 2.5m wide. The trail and sidewalk system work together, allowing residents to move through all areas of the community. In some areas, however, young or novice cyclists may have challenges in where multi-use trails or wide sidewalks are not provided. This is especially true for north-south connections. Currently, there is only one continuous north-south trail connection (60<sup>th</sup> Street) that is wide enough for cyclists.

A desktop network connectivity analysis was conducted to determine the walkability of the community using the trail and sidewalk network. Maps were created to determine real walking distances (routes) to playgrounds and sportsfields as a method not only to review amenity distribution, but to determine ease of access using the sidewalk and trail network. These maps are located in **Appendix E**.

Maps of the existing and proposed trail system is provided in **Appendix C**.

#### 6.1.1 CN Rail Crossings

The CN Rail runs east-west through the town and limits the locations that vehicles and pedestrians can cross. Currently there are only five rail crossings. The distance between the crossings range from 400m (5min walking radius) to 1700 (~22 walking radius), which greatly reduced pedestrian and cyclist movement from the north (downtown/waterfront) and south areas (residential communities) of the community. In the area with greatest crossing distance, this is posing significant safety risks due to informal crossings being created by users. There are at least five locations where trails are worn through the turf in places where people informally cross the tracks. Some of these rail crossing locations have makeshift "bridges" over adjacent ditches.



### 6.1.2 Trail Amenities

There is a large quantity of trail furnishings, such as benches, picnic tables, garbage/recycling receptacles, provided throughout the parks, open space and trails network. Impressively, there are seating options available within 400m (5-minute walking radius) of all areas of the network. This is important to ensuring that the trail system is not only enjoyable but accessible to a wide range of abilities. Most of the site furnishings are in good condition, requiring modest ongoing lifecycle maintenance improvements over time.

Currently, the only lit trail is located in Lakeway Landing Park. A desire for additional trail lighting was noted by the public during community engagement and previous resident requests to council. Pedestrians who prefer lit walking routes likely use sidewalks that have streetlighting.

## 6.2 Current Trail Classification and Conditions

In Sylvan Lake, trails are categorized according to their size and function. The classification in the 2004 Master Plan and the Development Guidelines use the same classification system with slight differences in the proposed trail widths.

The trails classification system, according to the Development Guidelines, are defined as follows:

### Multi-Use Trails

Multi-use trails are vital to the Town's trail system. The trail network facilitates non-motorized movements for recreational and transportation purposes. Multi-use trails are hard surface paths 2.5 m to 3.0 m in width designed to connect residents and visitors throughout the Town to various Town parks and amenities.

The condition of multi-use trails are as follows:

- Multiuse trails run through parks and other open spaces, separate from roadways.
- Multiuse trails throughout the Town are generally range from excellent to good serviceable condition
- There are small segments of trails that are in fair condition, typically in older neighbourhood where trails and other park facilities are aging.
- Trail areas in forested areas or locations near poplar/aspen trees have greater challenges with heaving and cracking from tree routes.
- Wayfinding signage is very limited on trails.
- The only lit multiuse trails are in Lakeview Park.

### Side Path Trails

Side path trails provide links between residential areas and community destinations. These trails are typically concrete sidewalks or asphalt trails 2.0 m to 2.5 m in width. They are physically separated from the road by a landscaped boulevard.

Current development standards require some sidewalks to be developed as side path trails:

- Arterial roadways are currently being designed to include side path trails (sidewalks) on both sides of the roadway.
- Residential collector roadways are currently being designed to include a side path trail (sidewalk) on one side of the roadway. More specifically, at a minimum, land developers are required to construct a 2.5 m wide separate sidewalk along one side of the roadway and a 1.5 m separate sidewalk along the other side of the roadway; however, it is preferred that both sides of the roadway have a 2.5 m separate sidewalk for the intent of providing positive connection as part of the Town trail system.

- Industrial, commercial and institutional roadways are currently being designed to include a side path trail on one side of the roadway.

The conditions of side path trails are as follows:

- Since side path trails are located throughout the Town, there is a range of condition levels, depending on the age of the adjacent neighbourhood.
- It may be difficult for some trail users (i.e., cyclists) to understand the functional difference between sidewalks and concrete side path trails. This may cause real or perceived pedestrian/cyclist conflicts.
- Side path trails are illuminated by the adjacent street lighting.

### Connector Trails

Connector trails link neighbourhoods and parks to other destinations such as the downtown, the lakefront and major recreational facilities. This type of trail is typically concrete sidewalks or asphalt trails 2.0 m to 2.5 m in width and perform an auxiliary role to the multi-use and side path trails by directing users to the primary routes.

The condition of connector trails are as follows:

- The condition of connector trails range from fair to very good, mainly depending on the age of the adjacent neighbourhood.
- In some neighbourhood park locations, there are adjacent connector trail corridors that do not have trails developed in them.
- Connector Trails are unlit and do not have wayfinding signage.

### Nature Trails

Nature trails may be developed in and around natural areas within the Town as a low impact and low-cost trail. These trails are primarily used for walking and are 2.0 m to 2.5 m wide. These trails can be surfaced with wood chips, gravel or asphalt. Currently there are small number of gravel nature trails adjacent to HJ Cody School and the Disc Golf Course. The CP Lands Trail that extends beyond west of Sixty West Park for 1.6 km is informal and unsurfaced.

### Standard Sidewalks

All other sidewalks in the Town are currently being designed as 1.5m wide concrete walk (separated or monowalk). Existing sidewalks throughout the community range from 1.2 to 2.0m. Sidewalk conditions range throughout the community.

## 6.3 Trail Maintenance Standards

As part of Policy E-003-002D Snow and Ice Control, The Town undertakes snow clearing on trails per the following priorities:

- **Priority "A"**: These include walkways at and adjacent to town facilities, trails, and designated pedestrian corridors. Walkway plowing will be initiated after 3 cm. of accumulations and initiated within twenty-four (24) hours upon the end of snow accumulations and completed within ninety-six (96) hours, except when the target falls on a weekend or a statutory holiday. Plowing will be as near to the walkway surface as conditions or variables allow.
- **Priority "B"**: These include walkways adjacent parks and utility right-of-way easements. Walkway plowing will be initiated after 3 cm, of snow accumulations and within forty-eight (48) hours upon the end of the snow event and completed within one hundred twenty (120) hours, except on a weekend or a

statutory holiday, and after priority "A" walks have been maintained to an acceptable standard. Plowing will be as near to the walkway surface as conditions or variables allow.

## 6.4 Trails Comparable Communities

The following table provides a comparison of the kilometers of trail in Sylvan Lake versus other comparable communities. It is important to note that trail comparisons can be misleading since the classification difference between "sidewalk" and trail" can vary widely between municipalities. In addition, some communities include extensive rural or ATV/Snowmobile trails within their inventory.

In general, Sylvan Lake is on par with the other comparable communities in terms of population per kilometre of trail. Anecdotal, Sylvan Lake exceeds many similar communities its extensive system of paved (asphalt and concrete) trails. This improves barrier-free trail access and the allows the Town to better clear snow compared to other communities.

Since Sylvan Lake has a relatively high number of existing trails, focus of future trail development should be on missing connections in mature neighbourhoods, supplemented with land developer driven trail creation in new neighbourhoods. The pace of trail expansion proposed in this master will keep pace with community growth as population reaches 25,000 (anticipated ratio of 1km:454 people at full built-out).

Table 6.1: Population Per KM of Trail

Population per Kilometre of Trail		
Town	Population	Trails (km)
Sylvan Lake	16,354	1:545
NRPA	(<20,000)	1:207
Olds	9,577	1:479
Strathmore	14,819	1:741
High River	14,324	1:754
Hinton	9,882	1:260
Average of Other Communities		1:558

### TRAILS ASSESSMENT KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Minor changes to the trails classification system will help the planning, design and maintenance of the trail network.
- The CN Rail line creates a challenging barrier, as rail crossings agreements are complicated to acquire. There are existing safety risks because people are currently shortcutting across the tracks.
- The length of trails in the community is good for the population based on community comparables. It would be best to ensure all new trails or redevelopment of trails meets the current standards.
- Trail network is well developed with mostly asphalt and concrete surfaced trails, so the focus of improvements is on expansion of network to correct connection gaps and tie into future neighbourhoods.

## 7.0 Programming & Service Delivery Assessment

### 7.1 Recreation Service Delivery

There are three main ways Sylvan Lake provides parks, recreation and culture services: Direct Provider, Facilitator, and Supporter.

**Direct Provider:** Sylvan Lake is the direct provider of recreation and park services for the community. The municipality owns and operates facilities; and implements programs and services coordinated by municipal staff.

**Facilitator:** Sylvan Lake facilitates parks, recreation, and cultural services for the community by investing in and maintaining facilities such as recreation centres, community spaces, and parks. It uses partnership agreements with organizations, businesses, and institutions to deliver programs and services within those facilities.

**Supporter:** Sylvan Lake supports volunteers and community organizations to provide recreation and park services to enable various experiences and opportunities. The supporter approach works together to book facilities, cross-promoting recreation and sport opportunities by all recreation providers in the community (private, non-profit, or municipal). The municipality may also provide administrative support to coordinate grant programs and communication. Recreation possibilities are made available through a community development model. In this model of service delivery, the Town adopts a hybrid model that incorporates several Direct Provider, Facilitator, and Supporter roles. This offers the Town with a great deal of flexibility, enabling community groups and agencies to deliver programs and services while retaining the option to provide them directly to the public.

The delivery approach is based on partnerships, grants, and service contracts with for-profit and non-profit organizations. This model enables the community to select, request, and execute programs for Sylvan Lake citizens.

The Recreation, Culture and Tourism Department is responsible for the coordination and/or delivery of recreational services in Sylvan Lake. The Department of Parks & Protective Services is responsible for maintaining parks, trails, and other outdoor recreational amenities. Depending on the facility, building maintenance and operations are either performed by Town workers or by contracted services.

While this strategy has served the community well for many years, the number of partnerships and the breadth of each have increased, which has led to more stress put in the on the current staffing levels.

### 7.2 Recreation Programming

The Town of Sylvan Lake provides programming for their residents and is promoted through its Community Program Guide. The recreation activities are given in different topic areas like recreation & sport programs, arts & culture programs, aquatics and safety. In addition, each program is promoted to a varied age range of participants. The overall number of programs being provided throughout 2022 attracted over 12,400 participants distributed across each area.

When comparing recreation programs from before COVID-19 and afterwards in 2022, the program number are almost what they were prior to COVID-19 (See Figure 7.1). Some significant differences are the swimming lessons between the three years. Please note that in 2022 the data was not taken for a full year and can equate to some of the difference. The Flipside programs are new that was brought in to provide programming for youth. In the arts and culture programs it sees a decrease in participation that can be related to the cancelling or discontinue of some of those programs.

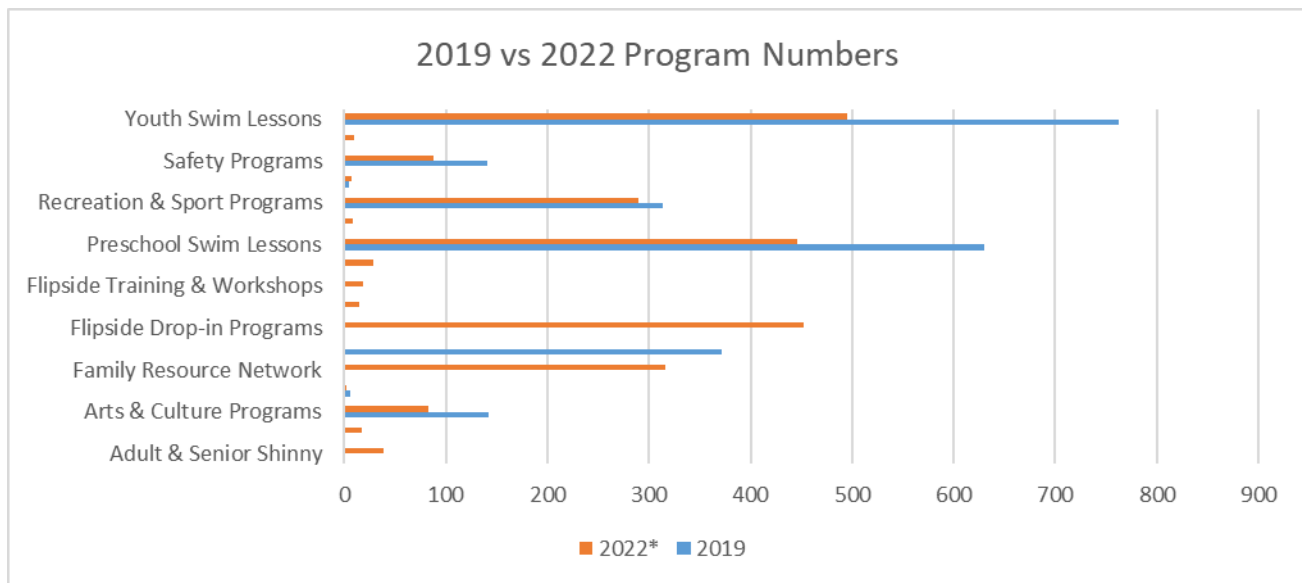


Figure 7.1: 2019 versus 2022 Program Numbers

Specially looking at drop-in swimming compared to program registration there is almost 10,000 people who used the swimming pool in 2022. Some of the highest rates for drop-in activities were lane swim, public swim and parent & tot. Other programs have seen comparable results having higher drop-in compared to registered classes.

The current program mix is heavily for the Sport and Recreation. This is due to the amount of swimming being offered, and the lack of available prime time bookings for the arena.

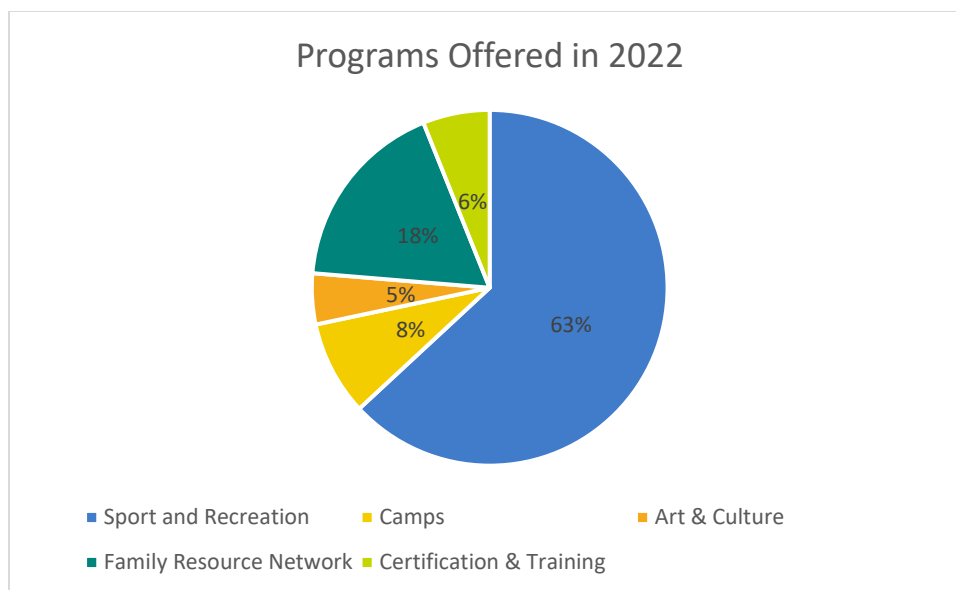


Figure 7.2: Program Offerings in 2022

### 7.3 Community Program Comparison for Non-Prime Time

Many communities have similar programs when reviewing the community comparison of non-prime time programming. In the arena space, the targeted population is tots, seniors, and schools than adults. The programming ranges from drop-in skating to drop-in shinny. There are rarely any weekly class programming unless a partner school arranges it. In the pool, like the arena, focuses on tots and seniors. Programming like the arena is predominantly drop-in base. Drop-in programs include lane swimming, water aerobics and public swim. However, the pool will have more class-based courses weekly because of preschool swimming lessons, adult lessons, and private lessons. School lessons are seen in a few of these communities. Not all communities have a fitness centre, but all communities typically host a range of cardio, stretching and weight component classes. The targeted age for these classes is seniors and adults. These classes would be both drop-in and multiple-week programs. In the fieldhouse or gymnasium, many communities chose pickleball and a variety of multisport for drop-in. There would also be a drop-in for playtime for tots. The programming for fieldhouse and gymnasium like the other facilities focused on seniors and tots. Some schools will partner with and use the facilities in some of the communities. The main difference in this community comparison is that Grande Prairie has a gymnastic centre, and the other communities do not. The programming targeted age was still similar to the other programs, looking at tots and younger children.

Table 7.1 on the following page provides a program comparison of other similar communities.

Table 7.1: Community Program Comparison

Community	Space	Non-Prime Time Program	Ages	Free or price
<b>Rocky Mountain House</b>	Ice Surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Shinny</li> <li>• Shinny</li> <li>• Public Skating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seniors</li> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family \$10.50</li> <li>• Adult \$3.50</li> <li>• Ages 8-17 \$2.50</li> <li>• Children 7 &amp; under Free</li> </ul>
	Fitness Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Body Blast</li> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Cardio &amp; Core</li> <li>• Foundation &amp; Form</li> <li>• Chair Yoga</li> <li>• General Fitness Seniors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• Seniors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10.25 per class</li> <li>• \$5 per class</li> </ul>
<b>Rimbey</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Lessons</li> <li>• Kayaking</li> <li>• Preschool Lessons</li> <li>• School Lessons</li> <li>• Private Lessons</li> <li>• Aquafit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult</li> <li>• Child</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$71 per 9 classes</li> <li>• \$100 per 2-3 classes</li> <li>• \$52 per 9 classes</li> </ul>
	Main Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Pickleball</li> <li>• Afternoon, Evening Drop-in sports</li> </ul>	All	Drop-in fee \$ 6
	Ice surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent &amp; Tot/ Senior Skating</li> <li>• Zen Hockey</li> <li>• Family/ Public Skating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent &amp; Tot/ Senior</li> <li>• Adults</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>	Free
	Main Auditorium	Gym Class	Elementary to High School	Partnership with school
	Ice surface	Gym Class	Elementary to High School	Partnership with school
<b>Grande Prairie</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lane Swim</li> <li>• Public Swim</li> </ul>	All	Drop-in fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child \$3</li> <li>• Youth \$4</li> <li>• Student \$4.50</li> <li>• Senior \$4.50</li> <li>• Adult \$5.50</li> </ul>
	Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lane Swim</li> <li>• Public Swim</li> <li>• Aquafit</li> <li>• River Walk</li> </ul>	All	Drop-in fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult \$11</li> <li>• Senior \$8.50</li> <li>• Youth \$8</li> <li>• Child (Ages 3-12) \$6</li> </ul>
	Fieldhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Badminton</li> </ul>	All	Drop-in fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult \$11</li> <li>• Senior \$8.50</li> <li>• Youth \$8</li> <li>• Child (Ages 3-12) \$6</li> </ul>



Community	Space	Non-Prime Time Program	Ages	Free or price
Camrose	Fitness Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIIT</li> <li>• Cycle</li> <li>• Baby &amp; Me</li> <li>• Yoga</li> </ul>	13+	Drop-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult \$11</li> <li>• Senior \$8.50</li> <li>• Youth \$8</li> <li>• Child (Ages 3-12) \$6</li> </ul>
	Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Skating</li> <li>• Figure Skating</li> <li>• Stick &amp; Puck</li> <li>• Shinny</li> </ul>	All 16+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult \$7.90</li> <li>• Student/Senior \$6.40</li> <li>• Child (Ages 3-12) \$5.10</li> <li>• Figure Skating \$20</li> </ul>
	Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shinny</li> <li>• Public Skate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16+</li> <li>• All</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$ 7.90</li> <li>• Free</li> </ul>
	Fieldhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball</li> <li>• Skateboarding</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Disc Golf</li> <li>• Rock Climbing</li> </ul>	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual \$5.25</li> <li>• Family \$15.25</li> </ul>
	Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lane Swim</li> <li>• Public Swim</li> <li>• Water Therapy</li> <li>• Mobility Therapy</li> <li>• Aquafit</li> <li>• Water Walking</li> <li>• Parent and Tot</li> </ul>	All	Drop-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult \$9</li> <li>• Youth (Ages 8-17) \$6.50</li> <li>• Child (Ages 3-7) \$4.50</li> <li>• Senior \$7.75</li> </ul>
	Fieldhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent and Tot drop in</li> <li>• Community Soccer Adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent and Tot</li> <li>• Adult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free</li> <li>• \$6</li> </ul>
	Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking/Running</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>	Drop-in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$ 4</li> </ul>
	Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent and Tot skating</li> <li>• Public Skating</li> <li>• Senior Skating</li> <li>• Kid &amp; Youth Shinny</li> <li>• Adult Shinny</li> <li>• Stick and Puck Skating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent and Tot</li> <li>• All</li> <li>• Seniors</li> <li>• Kid &amp; Youth</li> <li>• Adult</li> <li>• 12 and under</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• \$6</li> </ul>
	Multipurpose room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Therapeutic Fitness</li> </ul>	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$60 for 6 classes</li> <li>• \$75 for 12 classes</li> </ul>

## 7.4 Non-Prime Time Program Opportunities

Table 7.2, below, provides list of potential new for non-prime time program opportunities.

Table 7.2: Potential Non-Prime Time Program Opportunities

New Classes	Program Guide Description
<b>Learn to Skate</b>	Build those skating skills early! Your child will learn valuable skills while having fun in a safe, encouraging environment. Learn to improve balance, walk and march, fall down, and get right back up.
<b>Figure Skating</b>	Great for skaters of all ages to develop fundamental figure skating skills in the areas of ice dance, skating skills, free skate and interpretive skating.
<b>Balance and Coordination Class</b>	This class focuses on strengthening key balance muscles and every day use muscles. Feel unsafe walking outside on the ice? This class helps you activate muscle and coordinate body to feel safe all year around.
<b>Sliding Fitness</b>	This class focuses on strengthening the core by activating it when sliding the arms or legs. This class can also help increase flexibility and cardiovascular health
<b>Adult learn to Skate</b>	Great for adults who want to learn a new skill, get a workout, or improve their skating abilities. The instructors and participants work together to progress in skill level, while also staying within that challenge zone.
<b>Learn to Play Hockey</b>	Calling all aspiring hockey players! This beginner program is for players who want to learn the fundamentals of this great sport. Work on skating skills, puck control, and shooting techniques with great instructors. No previous hockey experience needed.
<b>Power Skating</b>	Your child will work on improving their striding, edges, speed and overall skating skills.
<b>Social Dancing</b>	Learn the basics of partner, group and line dances.
<b>Bocce Ball</b>	Learn how to play the game of Bocce Ball! All levels are encouraged to drop-in for some friendly competition
<b>Spinning</b>	Join in a combination of fast-paced cycling and strategic lighter rest intervals to get you recovered for the next burst. This class is for all skill levels who want to get a good sweat on!
<b>Golf Driving Range</b>	Practice your swing and technique for the up and coming season.
<b>Water Therapy</b>	Light exercises to focus on health and well-being. This class also focuses on rehabbing and getting back to the normal you!
<b>Introduction to Water Sports</b>	Learn a wide variety of water sports from underwater hockey to paddle boarding. This class is for all levels who want to experience and gain new skills in water sports.
<b>Scrapbooking</b>	Turn your empty book or blank page into a fabulous creation in this Scrapbooking class. Learn how to add memorabilia, journaling and printed media into an artwork. This class is also time for feedback and support for those who are experienced.

New Classes	Program Guide Description
<b>Movement Therapy</b>	This class focuses on light exercises that will stretch and strength muscle groups that have been injured or of need of improvement for wellness and well-being
<b>Gross Motor and Fine Motor Classes</b>	This class focuses on the early years having them learn and understand their body through large and small movements
<b>Knitting and Quilting</b>	Learn how to knit or quilt. This class will go over the basics and provide you with guidance and support. This class is for all skill levels providing support for those who are advanced in knitting and quilting.
<b>Mixed Media</b>	For the person seeking new inspiration, we have classes that merge different art mediums and concepts. Experimenting with a wide variety of materials will pique your curiosity and have you thinking outside of the box.
<b>Wellness and Therapy</b>	This class focuses on the whole person using meditation, yoga and other light exercises to calm and balance. This class also helps reduce stress and improves focus.
<b>Fundamental Movement Class</b>	This class focuses on the early years and youth having them learn and understand their body through key movements such as hopping, skipping, crawling and running.
<b>Photography</b>	Learn the basics of photography and photoshop.
<b>Pottery &amp; Clay Sculpting</b>	Learn fundamental hand building techniques or take the potter's wheel for a spin in our pottery and clay classes. Explore finishing and glaze processes. Experience the versatility of clay. We have pottery classes for all ages and skill levels.

A complete non-prime time schedule can be found in **Appendix F**.

## 7.5 Allocation Policies

The Town of Sylvan Lake has three allocation policies: sports field, ice, and swimming pool. The allocation policies allow users to register an interest in these facilities to match their needs for their programs.

The sports field policy clearly defined the priority list and ensured that the users understood the submission timeline. The sports field policy for the submission and response from the community is close to the start-up date of the expected programs.

The ice and the swimming pool policy both lack the priority list that the sports field states in its policy. They both state that there is a priority but do not demonstrate it. The responsibilities section lacks clarity of what the usage should look like but is likely in the agreement terms. In the ice policy, under the cancellation section, unless the user cancels before the stated date, they are not allowed to resell the ice times, to an approved list of users, unless the Town of Sylvan Lake sells it. This puts a lot of responsibility onto the town, where the town could adapt the policy stating that they can allow it to be resold if approved by the town. The other important criteria of the ice and swimming pool policies are the user agreement that clearly states how the facility will be used. Lastly, in the submission process, all users must submit the policy in person, making it easier for the Town of Sylvan Lake and users to submit these online.

## 7.6 Current Capital Reserve Funding

Capital Reserve Funding is essential to ensure that if an emergency were to happen to a facility, ice plant for the arena or furnace for the community centre requires fixing prematurely, there is no large request for council. It is best to continually add to the capital reserve to ensure an emergency request will not occur. The current reserve and funding amount are inadequate for the facilities' age and the repairs' costs.

The current capital reserve funding is:

Table 7.3: Town of Sylvan Lake 10 Year Capital Plan

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Not Funded
Playground Replacement Program	\$75K		75K		75K		75K		75K
Trail Upgrades / Maintenance	200K		200K		200K		200K		200K
Clock Tower Renovation	12,000								
Beach Washroom Security Cameras	10,000								
Parking Security at RCMP detachment	25,000								
Pogadl Park – Campground Furnishings	45,000								
Pogadl Park – Development Phases	6,700,000								
Consolidated Vision for the Waterfront									1M
Arena Floor Covering		200K							
MGB Electronic Sign	70K								
Curling Rink Sign	35K								
Pocket Park Revitalization	15K								
Future Partnerships - Ph 1		2.5M	15M						
Future Partnerships - Ph 2			15M						
Future Partnerships - Ph 3			5M						
Culture and Art Projects				32K					
NexSource Lobby Renovation				50K					
Cultural Historical Preservation				110K					
Arena 2 East Wall Curtain					20K				
Visitors Centre					200K				
Cultural Hub					200K				
NexSource Centre Parking Upgrades						400K			
Historical Landmark							300K		
Cooperative Space								500K	
Community League Upgrades	350K	400K							10M
Community Centre Upgrades	150K	400K							10M
New Library									10M
New Recreation Centre Phase 1									40M
	7.337M	3.1M	35.775M	8.192M	695K	400K	575K	500K	61.275M

## 7.7 Current Operational Budgeting

The current operational budgeting for the Recreation, Culture and Tourism department is as follows:

Table 7.4: Current Operational Budgeting for the Recreation, Culture and Tourism department

	2023	2024
<b>Facilities</b>	254,970	258,805
<b>Recreation, Culture &amp; Tourism</b>	3,060,408	3,104,503
<b>Total Recreation, Culture and Tourism</b>	3,315,377	3,363,308
<b>Total Revenues</b>	3,315,378	3,363,308
	2023	2024
<b>Facilities</b>	1,544,858	1,514,735
<b>Recreation, Culture &amp; Tourism</b>	7,060,776	7,249,908
<b>Total Recreation, Culture and Tourism</b>	8,848,058	9,963,436
<b>Total Expenses</b>	8,605,634	8,764,643
<b>Cost Recovery</b>	39%	38%

The current cost recovery for the Recreation and Culture and Tourism Department is 38%.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The current service delivery model can put stress on the staff as there are always going to be more partnerships to be forged.
- Program numbers are strong because there were few cancellations.
- A balance must be struck between prime time bookings and drop-in activities for the arena, and the creation of more drop-in activities for youth and seniors must be researched.
- Allowing other providers (privates, community groups) to utilize non-prime time to create new program opportunities.
- Partnering with schools and reviewing the needs of seniors will allow for more non-prime rentals and activities to ensure they can reach pre-pandemic fill rates.
- The current allocation policy can be updated to allow for online submission and form creation. To make it easier, the Town shouldn't be responsible for reselling cancelled time.
- The current reserve and funding amounts are inadequate as inflation, and limited supply has increased many products and repair costs.
- The cost recovery for the recreation, culture and tourism department is only 39%.

## 8.0 Future of Indoor Recreation Facilities

### 8.1 Accessibility Assessment for Parks and Recreation Facilities

As the population grows and gets older, the Town of Sylvan Lake should complete an accessibility assessment of the parks and recreation facilities. This assessment will ensure their commitment to the community to allow all users to access and enjoy the parks and recreation facilities. As not all accessibility issues are physical, the assessment will focus on the diverse experience of users. The assessment should include:

- Review all access, parking and physical barriers to the parks and recreation facilities, which will provide an overview of the significant accessibility challenges, provide guidance on how to improve access to specific sites, identify deficiencies, and clarify legal obligations.
- Review the current costs and assess the requirements for not only willingness to pay, but how that will affect the current service delivery model.
- Enhance program audit to ensure that that programs are inclusive for all people.
- Review the intended visitor experience in the physical space and all the programs.
- Undertake a collaborative approach using various community groups for feedback.
- Determine how the residents of Sylvan Lake want to learn, experience and take with them as a memory of their experience.
- Review the existing policies, practices, and procedures and find ways to improve outcomes for all residents.

### 8.2 Integrated Recreation Facility Assessment

The Town of Sylvan Lake should be looking to increase its commitment to the community to ensure that it will be a healthy, diverse, and vibrant community that continues to grow. As the community thrives and changes, it is essential to evaluate the recreation needs of all our residents so the Town can grow with the community.

Sylvan Lake should complete an Integrated Recreation Facility Assessment to assess the community's need and desire for a community and recreation facility that could expand existing activities and offer a broader range of new programs. The study should include the following:

- Evaluate the current and future recreational and social programming needs/priorities within the Town.
- Identify and evaluate the community need for an integrated community, school, and recreation center development.
- Identify existing facilities within the Town that could accommodate the current recreational programs and administration.
- Assess partnership opportunities with non-profit organizations, private organizations, community groups, or other local governments, including school districts or counties.
- Several public engagement opportunities will provide vital information and insight regarding the Town's recreation needs.
- Evaluate potential locations where access is most cost-effective and allows for the most significant amount of use from the residents.



This integrated recreation facility should look at augmenting the current services and allow for being located in an area that provides access for future Town growth.

### 8.3 Performing Arts Space

Sylvan Lake will continue to grow, becoming a regional recreation and cultural hub. To ensure the Town stays committed to the community a performing arts space may be required. This space will allow for community events, performing art rehearsals and performances. The creation of a performing arts space will allow for more connection to the Arts and Culture of the Community.

The Town should complete a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study to assess the community's need for a performing arts space. The study should include the following:

- Evaluate the current and future Arts and Culture programming needs/priorities within the Town.
- Identify and evaluate the community need for an integrated community, school, and Arts and Culture development.
- Assess if a Performing Arts Centre is economically sustainable and viable.
- Review the tangible inputs and needs that will fuel a vibrant Performing Arts Centre.
- Assessment of the Performing Centre will attract creativity and jobs, a transformative cultural anchor for Sylvan Lake.
- Identify how the Performing Arts Centre will create a cultural legacy and an economic driver for growth.
- Investigate the synergies between partners in the community, like Makers or other cultural groups that may benefit from such a building.

### 8.4 Prime Time vs Non-Prime Time Fees Enhancements

Sylvan Lake will continue to grow and there will be additional demands placed on the Town to provide cost effective recreation opportunities for users and sport groups. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the country has seen increase of regional inflation of 3%. Recreation should not exceed 3% increase because of the barrier to recreation access and its already existing challenges. These additional funds should be placed into the parks and recreation reserves. And a yearly regional review of fees should be completed.

In addition, a market review should be completed every three years. This review should include:

- A direct and indirect cost analysis for each hour a facility is operated for both prime time and non-prime time.
- A review of the region to understand the current fee and charges for similar service delivery and facilities.
- A survey to user groups to understand their current financial situation and allow for the user groups help to reduce fees and increase non-prime time use.
- A presentation to the user groups to explain the current fees and charges and how they will be affected and timeframe for implementation.

## 9.0 Future of Parks and Open Spaces

### 9.1 Parks and Open Spaces

Sylvan Lake's parks and open space system is extensive and provides a wide range of amenities and activities. Improvements suggested in the section are focused on realigning the parks classification system and making strategic improvements and changes to the amenities offered at various sites.

Maps of the proposed parks, open space and trails network system, including site amenities, are in **Appendix C**.

#### 9.1.1 Parks Reclassification

Coordinate the park type terminology between the Master Plan and Development Guidelines to ensure that land developers and the Town administrator have a clear direction for parks development as part of new neighbourhood development. Furthermore, the updated classification provides better strategic alignment with park use, levels of services and operations. The updated classifications are:

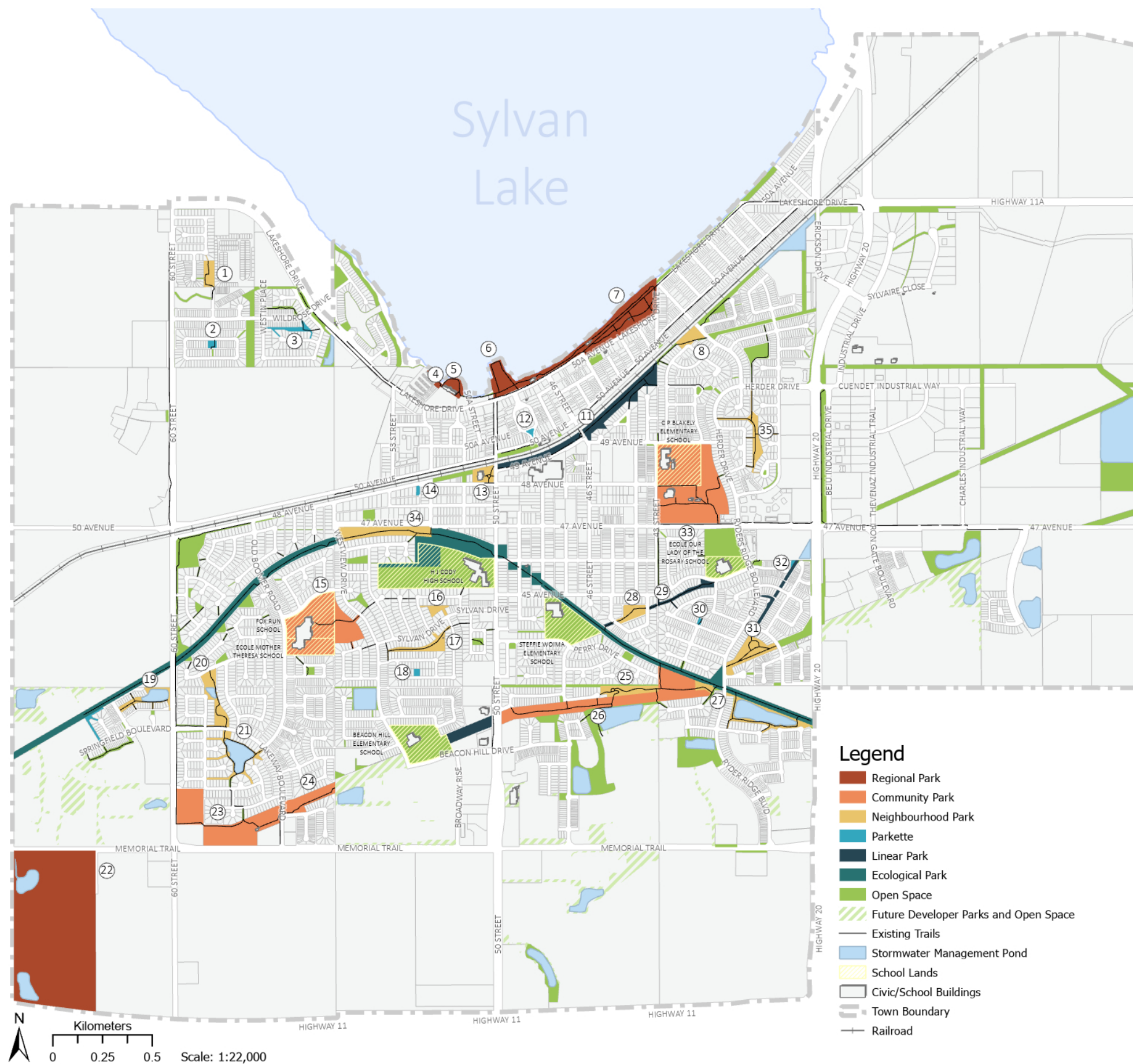
Table 9.1: Updated Parks Reclassification

Class	Definition	Sites
<b>Regional Park</b>	Regional Parks are large, one-of-a-kind park sites intended as recreational destinations for local and regional residents, and tourists. These unique sites have features and amenities not available elsewhere in Town and provide a high-level of service.  This classification does not have a minimum size.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pogadl Park</li><li>• Centennial Park</li><li>• Lighthouse Park</li><li>• Sylvan Lake Park</li><li>• Lakefront Park</li></ul>
<b>Community Park</b>	Community Parks provide active and passive recreation spaces that benefit the greater community and include more intensive recreation facilities, such as sportsfields and unique amenities, such off-leash areas.  Community Parks are a minimum of 5 hectares.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Four Seasons Park (including Action Sports Park)</li><li>• Meadowview Park &amp; Multicampus</li><li>• Leader Field East/West Park &amp; Dog Park (future combined planning)</li><li>• Disc Golf Park (future combined planning with Cole Way and Vista)</li></ul>

Class	Definition	Sites
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	<p>Neighbourhood parks are generally passive in nature with amenities that support relaxation, socializing and children's play. They are intended for the use of the local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Parks are a minimum of 0.31 hectares.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hewlett Park</li> <li>• Palo Park</li> <li>• Lions Park</li> <li>• Lakeway Heights Park</li> <li>• Sylvan Drive Park</li> <li>• Firdale Park</li> <li>• Lakeway Park</li> <li>• Westwood Crescent Park</li> <li>• Hagerman Park</li> <li>• 60 West Park</li> <li>• Cole Way Park (temporary class)</li> <li>• Vista Park (temporary class)</li> </ul>
<b>Linear Park</b>	<p>Linear Parks are long corridors of public open space that provide active transportation opportunities with minor support amenities (i.e. interpretive features, seating areas, picnic sites, etc.).</p> <p>Minimum width of linear park corridors is 10m. Trail corridors narrower than this are classified as open space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Railway Park Promenade</li> <li>• Wider open space</li> <li>• trail-corridor sites</li> <li>• (un-named)</li> </ul>
<b>Parkette</b>	<p>Parkettes provide limited recreational opportunities for the nearby neighbourhood and have at least one developed amenity (i.e. playground).</p> <p>Tot-lots (preschool play spaces) are included in this category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regatta Park</li> <li>• James Berg Park</li> <li>• Parkland Drive Park</li> <li>• Wilkinson Circle Park</li> <li>• Willow Springs Park</li> <li>• Cenotaph Park</li> <li>• Ryders Ridge Park</li> </ul>
<b>Ecological Park</b>	<p>Ecological Parks are areas of significant ecological value that balance the protection of wildlife corridors and habitat with low-key passive recreation activities (i.e. trails). These sites also provide the opportunity for nature interpretation and encourage environmental stewardship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New classification</li> <li>• CP lands trail corridor</li> <li>• Environmental Reserve</li> <li>• Key parcels with ecological value</li> </ul>
<b>Open Space</b>	<p>Open Space refers to relatively undeveloped parkland, which has very limited amenities and trails. These spaces, though limited in recreational function are important to the "green" network and well-being of residents and should be focused on stormwater management and naturalized vegetation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-park open space sites</li> <li>• Downgrade Woodland Park, Crooked Tree Park, Fieldstone Park and Whitecap Park to open space classification.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Note:</b> The "Special Purpose Areas" classification in the 2024 has been removed from the classification system. All sites that used to fall within this class have been reclassified according to the new system.</p>		

A map of the reclassified parks and open space system is located on Figure 9.1.





#	Park	New Classification
1	Westwood Crescent Park	Neighbourhood Park
2	Wilkinson Circle Park	Parkette
3	Willow Springs Park	Parkette
4	Lighthouse Park	Regional Park
5	Lakefront Park	Regional Park
6	Sylvan Lake Park	Regional Park
7	Centennial Park	Regional Park
8	Hagerman Park	Neighbourhood Park
11	Railway Park Promenade	Linear Park
12	Cenotaph Park	Parkette
13	Lions Park	Neighbourhood Park
14	James Berg Park	Parkette
15	Meadowview Park	Community Park
16	Lakeview Heights Park	Neighbourhood Park
17	Sylvan Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park
18	Parkland Drive Park	Parkette
19	Sixty West Park	Neighbourhood Park
20	Firdale Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park
21	Lakeway Landing Park	Neighbourhood Park
22	Pogadl Park	Regional Park
23	Leaderfield West Park / Dog Park	Community Park
24	Leaderfield East Park	Community Park
25	Cole Way Park	Neighbourhood Park
26	Disc Golf Park	Community Park
27	Vista Park	Neighbourhood Park
28	Palo Park	Neighbourhood Park
29	54 Avenue Linear Park	Linear Park
30	Regatta Park	Parkette
31	Ryders Ridge Park	Neighbourhood Park
32	Ross Park	Parkette
33	Four Seasons Park	Community Park
34	Health and Wellness Healing Hub	Neighbourhood Park
35	Hewlett Park	Neighbourhood Park



### 9.1.2 Recommendations for Regional Parks

Regional parks are the backbone of Sylvan Lake's tourism and town-wide community gathering. The following outlines recommendations for considerations and improvements to proposed Regional Parks:

#### Waterfront Parks

- All waterfront parks (Centennial Park, Lighthouse Park, Sylvan Lake Park and Lakefront Park) including boulevards and walkways along Lakeshore Drive, should be designed, developed and managed as one continuous park space.
- Improvements to waterfront parks and public spaces should follow the guidance in Reimagine Sylvan: Sustainable Waterfront Area Redevelopment Plan. There are no additional amenities suggested beyond what is listed in this plan.
- The level of service and types of amenities offered in waterfront parks areas should balance the needs of tourism, with the needs of residents. Currently, the waterfront parks provide a high-level of service for both residents and tourists. The Town should ensure that maintenance is well conducted, and assets replaced more frequently, since they will be heavily used and highly visible. However, it is important to understand that the investment into waterfront parks needs to be balanced within the greater parks and open space system.
- The level of investment in waterfront parks is high in order to make use of the Town's greatest natural resource – the Lake. However, it is important to ensure that investment into the waterfront does not jeopardize the Town's ability to support other less-visible areas of the parks, open space and trails system.
- Waterfront parks provide significant winter recreation value, especially the lake skating areas. It is important to anticipate that due to climate change the number of days that natural lake ice is available, could be reduced and alternate winter activities throughout the community may need to be considered in the long-term.
- Dog access to the water is noted as a potential opportunity in Reimagine Sylvan: Sustainable Waterfront Area Redevelopment Plan and has being noted by a few members of the public during engagement on this master plan. At this time, dog access to water via waterfront parks areas is not recommended due to considerable health and safety challenges.

#### Pogadl Park

- Development of Pogadl Park should continue as planned in the Pogadl Park Outline Plan. No additional amenities are recommended beyond what is in the plan.
- As additional facilities are constructed, especially sportsfields, other park sites with similar facilities should be reviewed and considered for redevelopment into a different amenity or downgrading of level of service.
- Trail connections to Pogadl park should be developed to promote active transportation to the facility.
- It is important to recognized that Pogadl Park will provide Sylvan Lake's first municipal campground. As this part of the plan is implemented, new operations and management practices will need to be developed for the site.

### 9.1.3 Recommendations for Community Parks

Community Parks are important recreational destinations for the community and require holistic site design and amenities that invite a wide range of user groups to participate in recreation. These spaces are important to Sylvan Lakes unique context, as they provide non-tourist options for recreation and gathering destinations. They are also likely be used by residents of neighbouring communities because they provide sportsfield and unique recreational activities. With the exception of school sites and Pogadl Park, all sportsfield are located on Community Parks.

Recommendations for Community Parks include:

- Consolidate nine existing park sites into four cohesively planned community parks servicing the four quadrants of the community:
  - Four Seasons Park/ Action Sports Park
  - Vista Park / Disc Golf Park / Coleway Park, including adjacent open space
  - Leader Field Park West / Leader Field Park East / Dog Park
  - Meadowview Park / Multicampus
- Conduct functional studies for each community park, including individual public engagement processes.
- Ensure that all community parks provide a range of active and passive recreation opportunities that engage a wide range of ages and abilities throughout all seasons.
- Rename or adjust the naming of the consolidated park sites to provide one clear identity.
- Consider consolidating the individual parcels of land into one parcel, to limit issue with cross-lot drainage and other land-use planning challenges.
- Continue to provide lifecycle maintenance improvements on all sportsfields, courts and ball diamonds. Limit the amount of sportsfield improvements on the Four Seasons Park diamonds until a redevelopment plan is completed for the site.

The following sections provide recommendations for individual Community Park sites:

#### Four Seasons Park / Action Sports Park

Now that Pogadl Park's ball diamonds have been developed, the need for the ball diamonds at Four Season Park is questionable. Though some minor teams may be concerned with their removal, sportsfield allocation data indicates that some of these diamonds could be redeveloped for other uses without significant impact to the Town's recreation system. Because of the site's location in context to the downtown and its existing public buildings, the park should be redeveloped as an outdoor community hub for intergenerational and four-seasons activities. The following outlines the proposed programming for the site, though it should be further developed and refined with input from the community, Council and Town administration:

- Consider the school site in the layout and programming of the space so that it is an extension of the public space.
- Ensure that the pedestrian and cyclist network within the Park and school site connects to the external multi-use trail system.
- Create welcoming entrances from the parking lot into the park site. Currently, visitors are met with a "wall" of buildings, the rink and the skatepark around the parking lot, which does not allow for views into the rest of the park. Consider relocating the rink or some of the support buildings as they near the end of their life cycle.
- Remove and redevelop the existing rink. The boarded rink is a desired amenity that would provide a functional, high quality amenity in the park. The boarded rink can also have year-round use by incorporating additional use such as basketball courts, roller hockey, etc. Consider finding a new space for it onsite, so that sightlines into the park can be improved.
- Reconstruct a new tennis facility onsite. The existing single-court facility has safety and maintenance issues due to age and roots from nearby trees. Consider the best location for this facility in relation to other activities onsite and proximity to adjacent residents. Consider whether a single or double court during public consultation.
- Remove 3-4 of the existing ball diamonds, and associated structures along the south side of the park for redevelopment into passive uses.
- Conduct major rehabilitation for the larger diamond at the centre of the site. Rehabilitation of the main baseball field can include replacement of fencing, shale, sod, dugouts, furnishings, grading, etc.
- Conduct a minor rehabilitation of the small school diamond (replace backstop, fixture and decompact) as part of lifecycle maintenance.
- Continue to maintain and operate the soccer fields unless redeveloped as part of the site functional study.



- Remove chain-link and decorative metal fencing around and within the site to create an open and welcoming park site.
- Provide outdoor spaces that expand and support the programming within the Sylvan Lake Wellness and Community Connections Centre, Food Bank. Be mindful of organization's needs for private outdoor spaces without completely making those areas inaccessible from the rest of the park.
- Repurpose the Stevenson Tournament House for non-sports programming that supports the passive four-seasons recreation. Potential repurposing could include:
  - Warm-up shelter for winter activities
  - Rental services for tennis, skateboarding and skating
  - Community group and event rental space (existing service)
  - Seasonal or pop-up food service by external vendor
  - Extension of food bank services (i.e. food prep for seniors' meals, etc.)
  - Life-skills or other youth/young adult-oriented programming
- Expand the passive recreational programming of the park to include new amenities that are youth oriented and build upon the momentum of the skatepark. Potential activities could include:
  - Parkour
  - Bouldering (low-wall rock climbing)
  - Graffiti walls or community-driven murals
  - Hang-out spaces with interesting and innovative types of seating (i.e. hammocks, lounging benches, etc.) with overhead sheltering structures for all-weather use
  - Expanded skate park area
- Expand senior focused amenities within the park, including:
  - Community gardens and potentially a greenhouse that tie-into food bank programming
  - Universally accessible (mobility, vision and hearing challenges, etc.) pathways and amenities
  - Gathering spaces near youth and children's activities to promote "intergenerational play"
  - Outdoor body-weight fitness equipment
- Expand children's passive recreational programming of the park which could include:
  - Alternative types of play, such as nature and adventure play. Consider play opportunities that do not duplicate the playgrounds of nearby school playgrounds.
  - Play opportunities that encourage a wide range of ages, including teens and adults, such as low-rope courses or adventure play.
  - Provide comfortable support amenities for caregivers, such as benches and picnic tables under trees or shelters
- Review and improve grading and drainage onsite, especially east of the school, which is currently prime habitat for mosquitos
- Provide event servicing hubs (water, lighting and 240V electrical service) in key locations to support community events.

Initial concept option plans have been created for Four Seasons Park are located in **Appendix G**, though they will require additional site investigation and community input during future functional study work.

### Disc Golf Park (including Vista Park and Coleway Park)

Currently the Disc Golf Park, Vista Park and Cole Way Park are managed and maintained as separate sites. A functional study should be completed to combine these sites into a cohesive community park. The site should remain separate until the future functional study process is started.

These sites provide important passive recreation opportunities in the southeast quadrant of the Town. They currently provide amenities, such as trails, disc golf and two small playgrounds. The amount of open space that surrounds Cole Way Park, Vista Park and Disc Golf park lends itself to a holistically designed site that provides a broader range of passive recreation opportunities for existing and future neighbouring communities. The disc golf course is a unique recreation opportunity for the Town and should be supported with other gathering spaces and amenities, such as a group picnic areas and shelters, that encourages its use and invite people to stay longer. The play space is separated from the disc golf, which is appropriately functional. However, providing common amenity spaces will integrate the two separate uses and encourage groups and families with wide age ranges.

Portions of these sites are located within a utility right-of-way (ROW). Development and improvement of this area will require coordination with the utility provider. Future development may have challenges due to the existing land use but potential remains to increase activities and amenities within the park while adhering to the utility ROW constraints.

### Leader Field Park West / Dog Park

Leader Field Park West and Dog Park are separated by the cemetery and parking lot and they are not currently programmatically linked. Leader Field East is separated by Lakeway Boulevard. However, the three spaces functionally work together and should be planned cohesively to make the best use of support facilities (i.e. parking, washrooms, etc.) and compatible activities.

The following recommendations provide continuity and connection between the three areas:

- Both parking lots should consider the user groups of all spaces since they are likely to be used for users of all sites.
- Washroom facilities may be used by dog-walkers. Consider designing them with leash tie-offs and outdoor dog watering taps.
- Improve the gathering area (picnic tables) near Dog Park parking area since they can easily be used by dog-walkers and sportsfield users.
- Leverage the additional space at Leader Field East to provide a wider range of casual recreation opportunities.
- Consider using the tournament house as a warm-up and washroom building for winter activities (i.e. tobogganing, skating, dog-walking, etc.).
- Consider future removal of the dog park when the existing cemetery eventually expands into this space. This is not anticipated to occur within the timeframe of this Master Plan.

## 9.1.4 Recommendations for Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood Parks provide simple amenities that are used by nearby residents. They seldom provide amenities or an intensity of activities that draw residents from elsewhere in the Town. The development potential for Neighbourhood Parks varies depending on the layout of the subdivision they were originally developed for. In older neighborhoods (1960's to 1980's) they were often a large leftover wedge space between residential parcels and their connections to roadways were only by narrow parcels of land or trail corridors. Sylvan Lake's Development Guidelines have improved the situation by requiring a minimum of 25% perimeter street frontage, which will allow better sightlines into the spaces and "passive surveillance" from passing vehicles.

New neighbourhood parks should follow the standards in the Development Guidelines and developers should make a concerted effort to create neighbourhood park parcels that are of a shape that is conducive to good park site design. It can be challenging to tackle this level of specificity in the Development Guideline (i.e. providing a guideline for area/perimeter ratio, etc.) without inadvertently creating other feasibility issues. The best way to tackle this is to ensure that Parks planning staff are included as early stakeholders in the land development and land planning process. Similarly, developers should have open discussions regarding the Town's ability to

maintain these spaces and amenities long term. When developers propose designs that exceed the minimum standards, the Town should consider the operational implications and reserve the right to reject high-maintenance designs that do not meet the Town's overall recreation goals (i.e. too much investment in a single neighbourhood).

For mature Neighbourhood Park sites, we recommend the following:

- If possible, site amenities, especially playgrounds, in a manner where they will be easily viewed from adjacent roadways.
- Consider permanent removal of a playground at the end of their current lifespan if it no longer provides sufficient value for adjacent residents or there are other similar nearby alternatives (see Exhibit 9.3 for potential playground removals). Consider removing or repurposing playgrounds where the park site:
  - Has poor visibility from roadways.
  - Provides limited ingress/egress points (potential entrapment).
  - Has ongoing complaints by residents for of inappropriate use (i.e. nighttime activities).
  - Experiences frequent vandalism or graffiti.
  - Has other playground opportunities nearby (target of 400-600m radius between playground).
  - Is in a neighbourhood where demographics changing (i.e. fewer young families).
- Consider other low-key passive recreation uses for Neighbourhood Parks, beyond playgrounds.
- Continue to promote the community-driven need of snowbank rinks and make minor park design adjustments (i.e. grading, additional hose-bib) to accommodate rinks in locations with high-levels of support. The Town will continue to create and maintain snowbank rinks.
- Rejuvenate mature Neighbourhood Parks with a lifecycle maintenance program of landscape improvements, additional trees. Focus on low-maintenance and naturalized plant material.
- Consider alternative low-key amenities other than playgrounds that support park use by a wider demographic. See **Appendix H** for a checklist of potential amenities to be considered each neighbourhood parks. Some options may include:
  - Nature play components in lieu of a traditional playground
  - Picnic and gathering spaces
  - Interesting seating opportunities (i.e. Adirondack chairs, loungers, etc.)
  - Public art
  - Outdoor library boxes or community-driven "maker" projects that bring uniqueness and identity to the community
  - Edible, educational, interpretive, or indigenous landscape features and planting
  - Fitness equipment / circuits
  - Bouldering / Parkour play

### 9.1.5 Recommendations for Parkettes

The creation and ongoing maintenance of parkettes should be limited to specific circumstances due to their typically poor cost-benefit relationship. Parkettes provide value in these limited circumstances:

- There is the need for a tot-lot within a new neighbourhood or because there aren't any nearby playgrounds (within 700m radius) in a mature neighbourhood.
- A unique amenity can be created within a highly design space that provides interest to a broader demographic.
- There are small remanent parcels of land in urban areas (i.e. downtown, waterfront) that can be transformed into recreational or social value to the community.

As noted elsewhere in the Master Plan, playgrounds and amenities in parkettes begin to reach the end of their lifespan, their context, level of use and value to the community should be evaluated. If they do not provide

sufficient value to warrant their cost and maintenance, they should be downgraded to the open space classification or potentially sold to private owner and the money be reinvested in other areas of the park system (improvements or other parkland acquisition). Key parkettes may be considered for inclusion in the Ecological Park classification if they provide important ecological function or contain important native vegetation.

Parkettes should not be named, except in rare circumstances where unique value is provided to the community (i.e., Cenotaph Park) or where the name of an existing parkette is important to the community (i.e., James Berg Park). Named parks become challenging to downgrade in the future and Parkettes have limited redevelopment potential.

### **9.1.6 Recommendations for Linear Parks**

The following provides recommendation for linear parks (See Section 10.0 for trail recommendations):

- Continue to require land developers to treat wide trails corridors as linear parks by requiring developers to include amenities such as trees, benches and garbage receptacles.
- Consider naturalization of some linear parks to reduce maintenance and improve site ecology. Favor linear parks that are wide, long and continuous, as these will have the most impact for wildlife habitat creation.
- Conduct periodic lifecycle maintenance reviews of all linear park furnishing to ensure that they are well-maintained and replaced as needed.

### **9.1.7 Recommendations for Ecological Parks**

The creation of a new class of parks, Ecological Parks, reflects the importance of the parks and open space systems to preserve habitat and maintain wildlife movement corridors. One of the main drivers in creating this classification was the former CPR Lands, which is one of the Town's most important trail corridors. In addition to this recreational function, this strip of mostly wooded land is identified in the Sylvan Lake Environmental Management Plan as having a High Environmental Significance Areas (ESA) score. There are other smaller, isolated areas of ESA that have also been included in the Ecological Park classification. This park classification will likely become increasingly important in the future because there are large parcels of ESA within the undeveloped areas of annexed lands. As well, there may be a potential private land donation of natural area in the northeast Sylvan Lake, which would be suitable in this classification.

The intent of the classification is as follows:

- To ensure that environmentally sensitive lands are preserves and balanced with the recreational needs of the community.
- To identify the lands as being important and requiring an additional level of consideration when developing them for recreational use.

The following outlines recommendation for Ecological Parks:

- Classify CP Lands trail corridor and other public open space with high ESA scores as Ecological Parks.
- Work with land developers to prioritize preservation of existing tree belts in new developments and to classify them as ecological parks, where appropriate.
- Update requirements in the Development Standards to establish clear guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate development in Ecological Parks
- Adjust the requirements for Nature Trails in the Development Standards. Currently, the width of trail class is 2.0 to 2.5m (gravel or wood chip). This may be too wide for low-key trails in some of the future Ecological Park sites. A typical minimum nature trail width is 1.5m and would provide more flexibility to add low-access trails into Ecological Parks.

- Conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) if major development, significant increases in access or intensity of use may occur on public land within 10m of an Ecological Park
- Conduct all construction and maintenance work according to, but not limited to, the Federal and Provincial Legislation, including the Alberta Water Act, Alberta Wildlife Act and Migratory Bird Convention Act of 1994.
- All development, improvement and maintenance activities should be compatible with the ecological function of the site. This includes items such as trail lighting, which will need significant consideration to balance the enjoyment and safety of trail users with the needs of wildlife. A qualified environmental consultant may be required depending on the nature of the infrastructure.
- Update Town park operations and maintenance manuals, documentation and processes to direct staff and contractor work on these sites. The maintenance procedures (i.e., chemicals, seed mixes, timing of operations) may need to be adjusted from typical park practices.
- Install interpretive trail signage to educate, inform and inspire residents in environmental stewardship and to set public expectation for the aesthetics of natural areas (i.e. they may not be mown as often as other trail corridors and park sites)
- Revisit the parks classification map whenever new environmental studies or management plans are completed to ensure that the recommendations for Ecological Parks is aligned with the current understanding of Sylvan Lake's environmental context and best practices.

### 9.1.8 Recommendations for Open Space

Open Space encompassed all parkland not designated within the other parks classifications. At times, this simply is because the land is earmarked for park spaces but underdeveloped with the intended recreation amenities. However, it is important to recognize that most open space is intentionally left undeveloped because it does not need to serve a recreational purpose or that its development potential is limited due to site and contextual constraints. Overdevelopment of a park system can be as negative as underdevelopment because of the strain it can cause for Town resources and funding.

To reduce the strain of open space maintenance, we recommend that the Town slowly implement a naturalization strategy for public open space (See Section 9.3).

## 9.2 Outdoor Recreation Amenities

The following sections provide recommendations for various types of amenities within the parks and open space system.

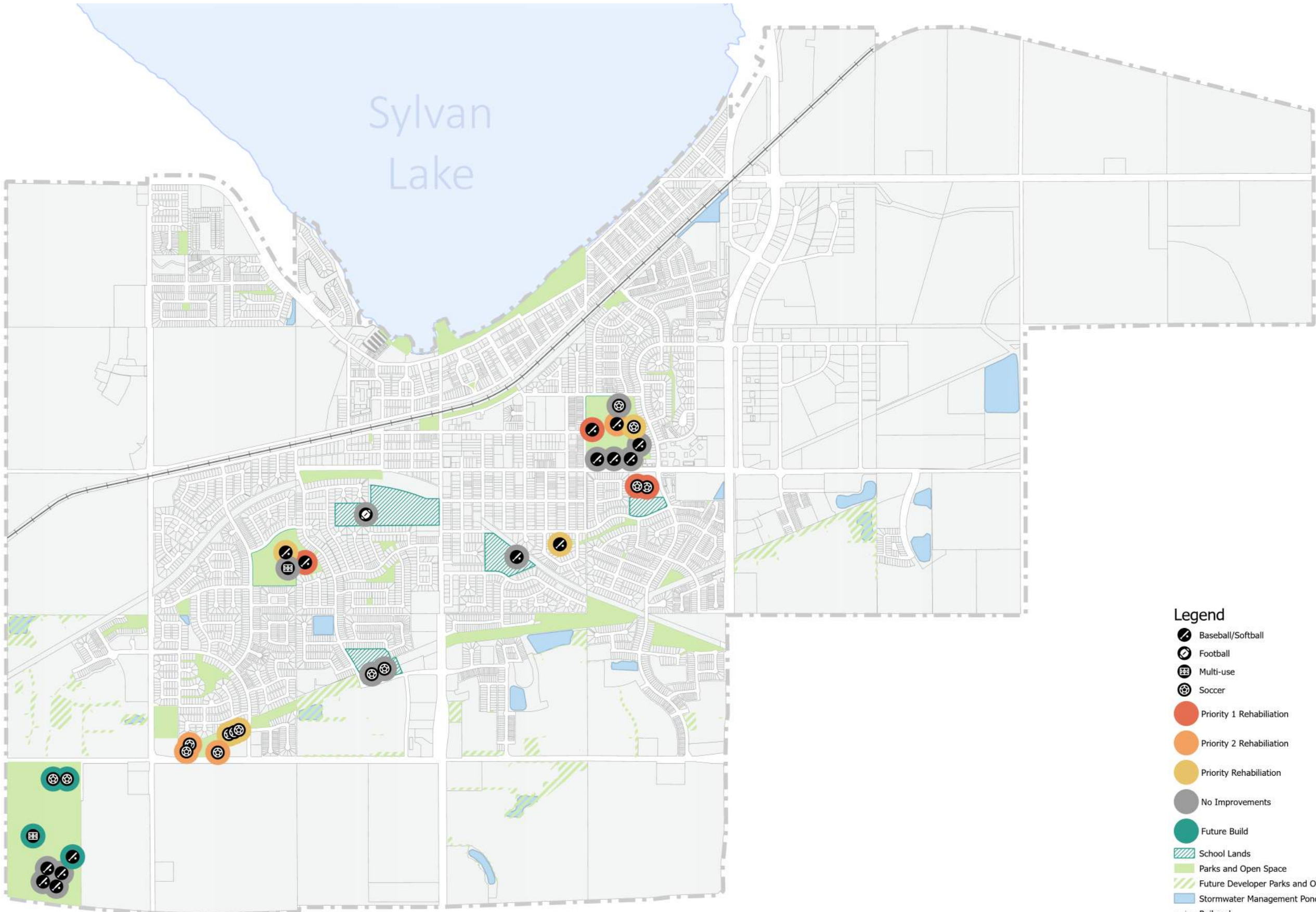
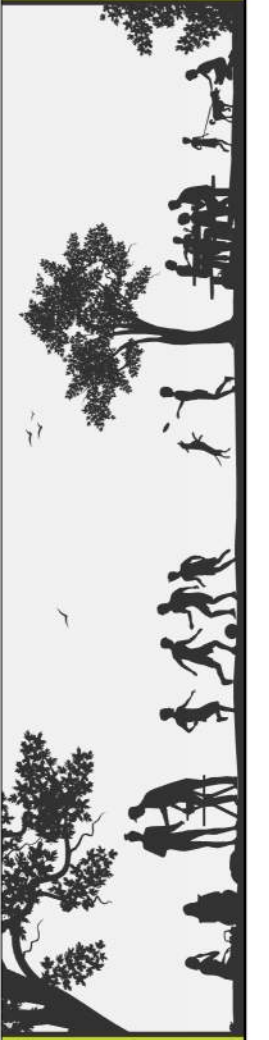
### 9.2.1 Sportsfields

The number of existing sportsfields, combined with those slated for Pogadl Park, will accommodate the Town's needs up to the population of 25,000. The number of baseball diamonds currently exceeds the Town's current needs, though several diamonds are nearing the end of their lifespan. Figure 9.2 provides a map for improvement priorities for ball diamonds and sportsfields.

These are improvements required for ball diamonds:

- Conduct a major rehabilitation of the central diamond at Four Seasons Park (Diamond #5) and Meadowview Park (east diamond). Rehabilitation of these two ball diamonds will include replacement of fencing, shale, sod, dugouts, furnishings, grading, etc.
- Replace the backstop directly south of C.P. Blakely School.
- Consider the redevelopment of most of the ball diamonds at Four Seasons Park into alternate passive recreation uses. They are nearing the end of their lifespan. Replacement cost of these fields is high, and the number of diamonds exceeds the Town's needs now that the ones at Pogadl are completed.





Legend

- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Priority 1 Rehabilitation
- Priority 2 Rehabilitation
- Priority Rehabilitation
- No Improvements
- Future Build
- School Lands
- Parks and Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Railroad
- Town Boundary

N  
Kilometers  
0 0.25 0.5  
Scale: 1:22,000



These are improvements required for rectangular sports fields:

- Conduct staged rehabilitation of key existing rectangular fields according to the priorities outlined in Figure 9.2. Rehabilitation will be conducted as per the following:
  - Conduct individual field assessment to outline current conditions (i.e. level of compaction, depth of topsoil, turf quality, fixtures, etc.) and topographic survey to review existing grades.
  - Rehabilitate field with new goal fixtures, minor regrading, additional topsoil where needed, deep tine aeration and top dressing with coarse sand (not sand/soil mix), dethatching, overseeding, rehabilitation of goal creases with sod or seed, and watering and weed maintenance until establishment.

It is important to note that not all of the sportsfields in Sylvan Lake's inventory are bookable. As field bookings increase over time, it may be beneficial for the Town to approach School Divisions regarding amended joint-use agreement for key school fields within neighbourhoods.

Develop a O&M manual outlining the frequency of maintenance activities on sportsfields according to the amount of field use (school use and booking) and the level of league play. Review current maintenance equipment and practices to ensure that they meet industry best practices.

### 9.2.2 Outdoor Courts

Sylvan Lake has fewer tennis courts compared to other Alberta communities of similar sizes and the existing single court at Four Seasons Park is in poor condition. According to public engagement data, tennis is not a very popular activity in the community. It may also be a product of poor conditions in the existing tennis court in Four Seasons Park. The existing single tennis court should be reconstructed as either a single or double court as part of an overall redevelopment plan for Four Seasons Park. It is not recommended that new tennis courts have pickle ball lines on them as the noise could be problematic for surrounding neighbors.

Pickleball continues to be a rising recreation trend that is likely to continue as Alberta's population ages. Currently, the indoor curling rink is converted to pickleball and four pickleball courts are planned for Pogadl Park, which should keep Sylvan Lake on track to meet current and future community needs and provide a level of service comparable to many similar communities. No additional outdoor pickleball courts, beyond the future Pogadl Park ones, are recommended until population exceeds 25,000.

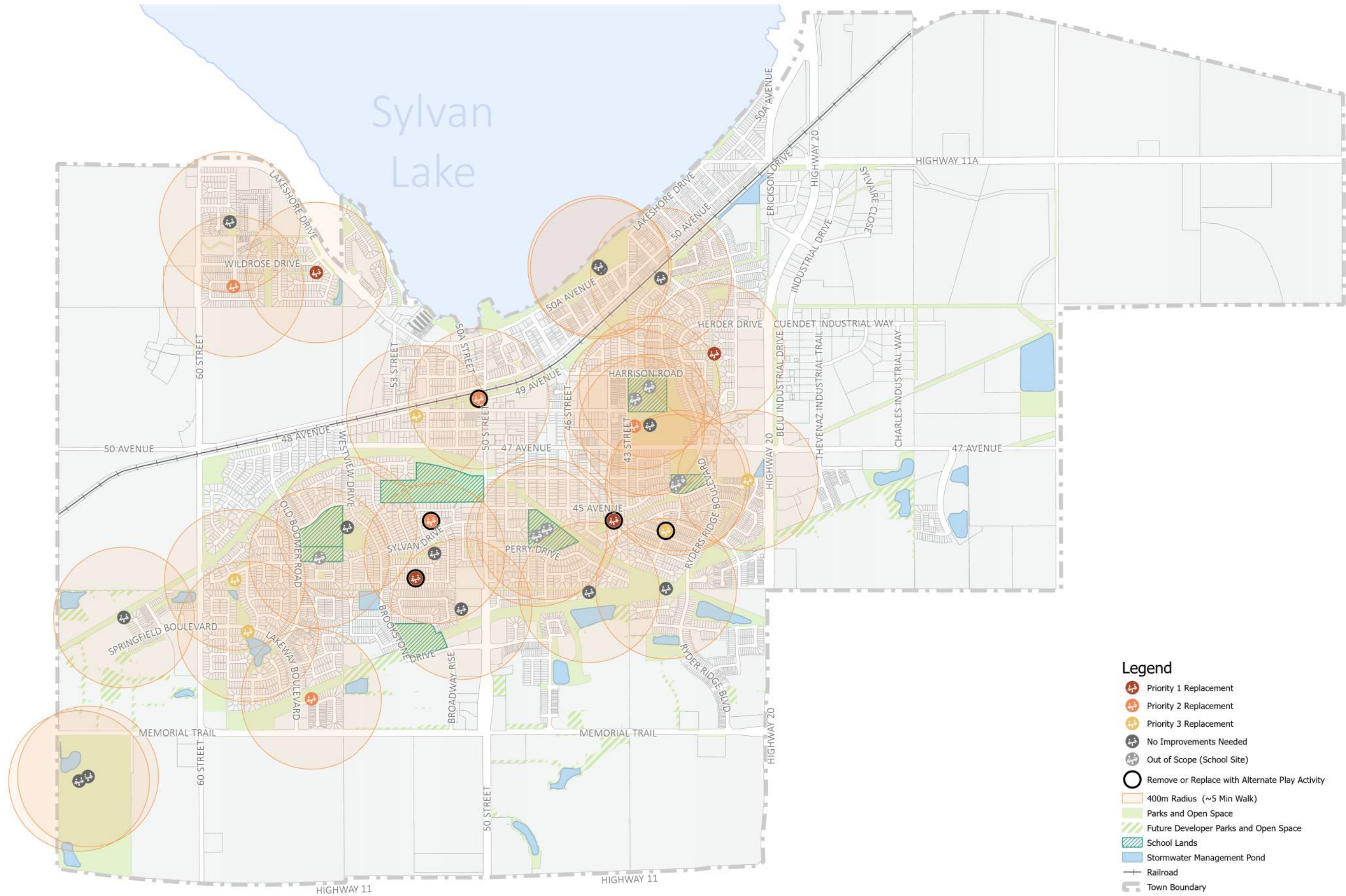
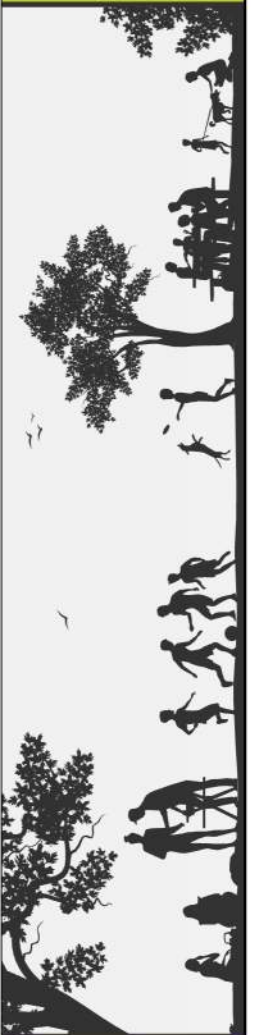
The basketball courts in Sylvan Lake require minor improvement such as new nets and line painting. No additional half basketball courts are required at this time. A full-sized outdoor basketball court could be considered as potential programming at Four Seasons Park, depending on noise impacts to adjacent residents. This could into the reconstruction of the outdoor boarded rink. A new basketball court is also planned for development at Pogadl Park.

The existing sand volleyball courts should continue to be supported and no expansion beyond the proposed courts at Pogadl Park is required.

### 9.2.3 Play Spaces

The Town undertakes ongoing lifecycle replacement of aging playgrounds. Currently, the Town has indicated six playgrounds that are scheduled for replacement over the next ten years.

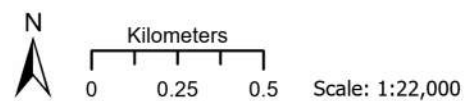
As part of the Master Plan assessment, the distribution of playgrounds was reviewed in tandem with the Town's current replacement schedule and playground condition. Exhibit 9.3 outlines a small number of playgrounds that should be considered for potential removal and replacement with alternate park amenities or alternate play



### Legend

- Priority 1 Replacement
- Priority 2 Replacement
- Priority 3 Replacement
- No Improvements Needed
- Out of Scope (School Site)
- Remove or Replace with Alternate Play Activity
- 400m Radius (~5 Min Walk)
- Parks and Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Stormwater Management Pond
- + Railroad
- Town Boundary

NOTE: Walking radius is adjusted to show removed playground impact.





options (i.e. outdoor fitness equipment, nature play, etc.). As additional playgrounds age-out in the future, the Town should evaluate if the playground should be removed or replaced with something different.

Criteria for removal may include:

- other playground options are available within a 5-10min walking radius (400-800m)
- the site is quite small (parkette) and limited in alternative activities
- ongoing vandalism, maintenance or CPTED issues at the site
- the community demographic has shifted away from young children and older youth or adult amenities may be better used

Play spaces should also provide a diverse range of play experiences across the parks system. In addition to traditional playgrounds, the Town should consider alternative play options that may reach a wider demographic and that provide more diverse play opportunities. These might include:

- **Nature Play** – play space using natural materials, such as logs and boulders, to encourage open-ended, imaginative play and engagement with the natural world.
- **Adventure Play** – play space that is designed to encourage safe, risky-play activities, such as a low-ropes course, that allow children to grow their understanding of their abilities and to gain physical literacy.
- **Parkour** – space designed for both adults and older kids to enjoy parkour activities (moving rapidly through an area using jumping, running and climbing) in a safe and predictable environment.
- **Low-Ropes Course** – a play space with a series of tight-rope, slack lines and other obstacles challenges that are low to the ground and promote coordination, balance and problem solving.
- **Outdoor Fitness** – space designed with fitness equipment designed for body-weight strength training. Some outdoor fitness areas are developed in pods along trails to encourage cross-fit and circuit training.

These play opportunities should engage a wide demographic of ages and abilities and attention should be given to providing universally accessible play experiences throughout different locations in the community. Currently, accessible play experiences are limited in Sylvan Lake. Most of playgrounds in Sylvan Lake are not wheelchair accessible due to the use of sand playground surfacing, and there are few pieces of equipment that provide meaningful play opportunities for children with mobility challenges. Children with other disabilities, ranging from visual, auditory, sensory, mental and neurological challenges, may be able to access play equipment but the design and play elements in the space may not reflect their current needs.

To better accommodate a wide range of abilities, playground design has evolved to focus less on the equipment itself and more on creating spaces for children to play together in different ways, whether it be active, solitary, cooperative, sensory, or imaginative play. In addition to promoting barrier-free play, this updated approach to design allows for children not only improve gross motor skills, as they would with traditional equipment, but to develop better social skills and intellectual abilities.

Some recommendation for improving accessible play include the following recommendations:

- Engage with families and caregivers of disabled children to understand their unique challenges and perspectives to improve play space design in all future projects.
- Ensure that there are accessible multiple play options available throughout the entire play space so that children are not isolated or limited to only observing other children playing.
- Remember that not all disabilities are mobility-related and accessible play spaces require careful research, planning and design to engage “invisible disabilities”. Meaningful and interactive play experiences for children with different abilities should include the physically disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, wheelchair users, developmentally impaired and persons with neurological disabilities.

- Play spaces do not need traditional playground equipment. Broadening the concept of play to include open-end play elements, landscape forms, quiet spaces, sensory journeys, landscaping, and nature provides endless opportunities to encourage all children to play together without barriers.
- Design the entire park site to include places for children to play. Encourage children to explore other areas of the landscape by creating interesting things for them to find (i.e. a bird house may encourage children to explore the fringe of a natural area, random boulders near a picnic area provide something for children to climb on while parents relax).
- Remember to include support amenities, such as seating for caregivers, scooter parking, washrooms and nearby parking. A lack of appropriate support amenities can be a barrier to access.

It is unrealistic that all playgrounds or all play equipment 100% accessible to all abilities. This approach is not realistic and may preclude non-accessible play opportunities that are still important for childhood skill development. A combined approach of retrofitted into smaller existing playground sites and developed as a destination-level accessible play space may be most appropriate for Sylvan Lake. Both approaches provide different benefits and play value:

- A destination-level site with a large capital budget will allow for better support facilities such as washrooms and parking and provide more space for wheelchair access and larger play elements. Four Seasons Park redevelopment should be considered for this space since it is well located in the community and already has many of the required support amenities (i.e. washrooms and parking). It is likely that a larger playground site will attract a diverse range of users and the site will be busy and active.
- Smaller accessible play opportunities should be integrated throughout neighbourhood and community parks to provide easier access to adjacent residents. The recommended approach is replacing aging playground with new play spaces designed with accessibility in mind. Shift from low-bid procurement to evaluation-based procurement of playgrounds. In the procurement documents require playground designers and suppliers to provide a narrative on how they are encouraging diverse play experiences and achieving barrier-free and inclusive play access.

## 9.2.4 Winter Recreation

There are a large number of outdoor ice surfaces throughout the community. However, there are only two permanent outdoor ice locations (one casual skating area in Ryders Ridge Park and one boarded rink in Four Seasons Park). The rest are snowbank, parking lot or lake rinks. The permanent boarded rink at Four Seasons Park is in poor condition and at the end of its lifespan. A new boarded rink is slated for development at Pogadl Park and the replacement of the old existing boarded rink at Four Seasons Park is recommended.

Remove and redevelop the rink as part of the overall redevelopment plan at Four Seasons Park. Consider relocating it on site since its current location blocks sightlines into the rest of the park. Elsewhere in the Town, continue to support temporary snowbank and lake rinks.

In addition to skating, the Town has one existing major tobogganing hill (Leader Field West) and a two smaller informal ones (Hewlett Park and Palo Park). An additional hill is just opening in the Vistas neighbourhood. No other tobogganing hills are recommended, though coordination with land developers for additional hills in the future could be beneficial. A safety review of all existing toboggan hills should be conducted to determine if the run-out areas (bottom of hill) are sufficient for the speeds generated by tobogganers, that slopes are appropriate for their anticipated user ages, and that the adjacent area is clear of obstacles.

## 9.3 Naturalization Strategy

Many municipalities, including large urban centres, are implementing naturalization strategies to lower maintenance, improve ecological connectivity and adapt to climate change. Naturalization is an alternative

landscape approach replacing higher maintenance ornamental landscape plantings with lower maintenance natural plantings. Naturalized sites are typically unmown or infrequently mowed, focus on native plant communities and restore the natural ecological processes that existed pre-development.

Some of the benefits of naturalized landscape include:

- Capturing and reducing stormwater runoff, reducing strain on municipal system and lowering flood risks
- Stabilization of slopes and reducing erosion
- Reduced landscape maintenance, especially mowing
- Resilient vegetation, compatible with our climate, non-invasive, and adaptable
- Creation of habitat and food for local wildlife species
- Pollinator insect's food sources
- Reduction of greenhouse gasses and air-borne particulates (a form of air pollution)
- Windbreaks and snow capture
- Landscape aesthetics similar to Sylvan Lake's natural setting
- Improves biodiversity
- Visible commitment to climate change resiliency

It is important to recognize that naturalization programs can be a bit of a culture shock to some residents and visitors. Manicured public landscape have been the norm for decades. Some people may feel that these spaces look messy and unkempt, or that the Town is just penny pinching or not caring about their outdoor spaces. Successful naturalization programs require investment into ongoing conversations with the public and educating them on the benefits of the approach. It is equally important that the Town be candid in what residents can expect – at times, there will be long grasses, dead plants and weeds. Naturalized spaces establish and evolve over time.

### 9.3.1 Naturalization Site Selection

The following section provide some initial selecting naturalization project sites. Exhibit 9.4 provide a map of appropriate locations for consideration and prioritization. Consideration for site selection include:

#### Proximity to Existing Native Vegetation

Select areas near existing native vegetation, especially forested areas. Seeds and root suckers from existing areas will help naturalization adjacent areas quicker. As well these areas are likely to be aesthetically easier for the public to understand and accept.

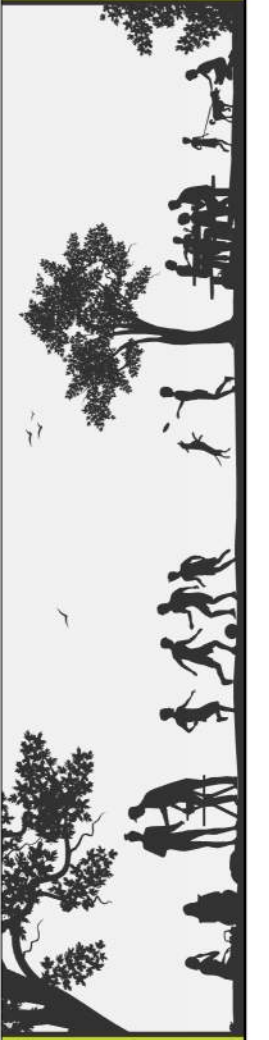
#### Size of Area

There are no size restrictions for naturalization areas. However, all sites should be selected in accordance with the capital budget available to the naturalization project. It is better to have intensive naturalization program on fewer sites than spreading the budget too thinly throughout the Town. Small sites should consider the plant materials being used, so that they do not overwhelm or encroach on nearby properties. Over time, as naturalization areas establish and stabilize, they will require less maintenance, which will free up funding for new additional naturalization areas.

#### Private Properties and High-Profile Areas

At least in the initial phase of Town-wide naturalization, select sites are not directly backing residential properties or located in high-profile areas. This will allow for better acceptance of the program in its early days and will allow the Town to work through implementation and maintenance issues over time.







### Current Maintenance Issues

Identify sites, where ongoing landscape maintenance is challenging for staff or requires extensive resources. Naturalization may reduce risk to staff (i.e. mowing steep slopes), reduce the travel distances for maintenance crews, or the frequency of maintenance visits.

### Level of Site Use

Naturalization is not compatible with all site uses. Maintained turf open spaces can be a valuable recreational amenity, including sportsfields and informal recreation. Recognize where turf is an important part of the recreational experience and where it isn't. Focus naturalization efforts on low-use areas and carefully consider the potential long term implications of naturalization in maintained spaces (i.e. poplar root impacts on sportsfields).

### Existing Environmental Challenges

Naturalization is an important technique for restoring damaged landscapes. The careful selection of plant material and soils can be used as a bioremediation tool. Consider site where former land uses may have damaged the land and retain professionals experienced in ecological restoration to develop plans for these sites.

### Current Weed Conditions

Weed control is one of the greatest challenges for new naturalization areas. To get ahead of this issue, select sites where weed infestation are not a significant concern. Alternatively, naturalization can be a great way to restore weedy sites if a weed eradication program is implemented a year or so in advance of naturalization planting.

## 9.3.2 Naturalization Implementation Recommendations

The following provides recommendations for how to implement the naturalization program:

### Annual Naturalization Funding and Grants

Section 12.0 of this Master Plan provides an annual funding for the naturalization program. The intent of this budget is to provide seed funding for tree planting, naturalization and ecological improvement matching grants, if possible. The list of available Provincial, Federal and Private Partnership grants for type of work varies from year-to-year. The following provides recommendations for leveraging this grant funding:

- Annually, review the matching grants available for this type of work and select potential naturalization projects that best fit the grant's evaluation criteria.
- Form relationships with volunteer organizations, such as Scouts Canada (Scoutrees program), who provide labour to undertake tree planting or restoration planting work.
- Consider creation of a citizen led tree planting or restoration program similar to the City of Edmonton Root for Trees program, to enlist volunteer labour.
- Form relationships with local landscaper or nursery businesses for in-kind donations, especially near the end of summer when leftover native plant stock may be available.
- Work with the Province and Ducks Unlimited and funds generated through Alberta Wetland Policy to naturalize through wetland creation in key ecological areas (near shoreline).

Should matching grants be unavailable or applications unsuccessful, the funding allocated to naturalization could be rolled over into the following year's grant application process or spend through Town-led naturalization improvement projects.

### Naturalization Priority Map

Using a confirmed list of site selection criteria, map of prioritized naturalization zones throughout the Town is provide on Exhibit 9.4. This map should be visited whenever the Town undertakes a capital project on public land. This will ensure that Town project managers and their design consultants are aware of the initiative and can incorporate naturalization into their site design. Current recommended target areas are open spaces adjacent to natural areas and small isolated parkettes transitioning away from tot-lots.

### Naturalization Pilot Project

Conduct a naturalization pilot project under the guidance of naturalization specialists. An initial pilot project site is proposed on Exhibit 9.4 (near RCMP building). Multiple test plot sites may allow the Town to try different construction and maintenance practices. Beyond providing significant insight into different approaches, the project will allow the Town to educate that public and to determine the level of support for naturalization.

### Operations and Maintenance Processes

Develop internal maintenance operations tools for naturalization. Naturalized areas still require periodic inspections and maintenance, though it will differ greatly from traditionally maintained areas. An O&M manual for these spaces will clarify staff responsibility and ensure that the spaces are transitioned and cared for appropriately. Conduct in-services and training to ensure that both permanent and seasonal staff are aware of the locations and differences between naturalized and maintained spaces.

Based on City of Edmonton's naturalization program, a staged approach to naturalization of existing manicured turf areas is recommended as follows:

#### Stage 1: Stop Mowing

- Stop mowing turf areas to allow the grass to grow and eventually control weeds.
- Monitor and control Provincially regulated prohibited noxious weeds, while permitting non-noxious weeds to remain. Selective application of broadleaf herbicides may be used to control severe weed infestations.
- Ensure that the condition of the soil is conducive to turf establishment (i.e. uncompacted, sufficient topsoil, etc.) and amend soils accordingly prior to seeding if seeding required. Use naturalization seed mixes that favor native, low and low maintenance grass species. Include forb species or nurse crops to help early establishment.
- A once or twice annual mow may be conducted to help control a weed infestation or reduce fire hazards. If possible, conduct mow after grass seedheads have matured.
- This stage may take several years to establish and successfully limit weeds.

#### Stage 2: Tree and Shrub Planting

- Plant pockets of trees and native shrubs in naturalized grass areas. Group plantings into beds rather than scattered throughout the site. Planting beds can be mulched (75mm depth) or overseeded with naturalization seed mix. The intend is that the grass areas surrounding plantings will blend together over time.
- Ensure that the plant material is densely planted (1-3m depending on species) and provides a diversity of native species.
- Select a range of nursery stock sizes from a limited number of caliper trees (i.e. 50mm caliper) to a larger number of potted trees (i.e. 5 gallon containers) and potted shrubs (1-5 gallon containers).
- Ensure that plant material is maintained for a minimum of two years (watering, removal of excessive weeds, etc.) to ensure establishment. Replant dead material in locations where over 20% of plants have died or been significantly damaged.

- Provide protection from wildlife, where appropriate (wire mesh for small rodents or tall wildlife fence for deer), until plant establishment is achieved.

### **Stage 3: Habitat Enhancement**

- Continue to support habitat development through the addition of more native trees, shrubs and forbs (wildflowers), woody debris, root wads, and other habitat structures (i.e. mounds, brush piles, etc.).

### **Communication and Outreach Strategy**

Develop a communication and education program in advance of implementing the naturalization program. Work with partners, organizations and schools to generate excitement about the project and improve buy-in. Create a formalized process to hear and address public concerns proactively throughout implementation. Include the installation of interpretive and educational signage in naturalizations areas.

### **Partner with Private Landowners**

Partnerships and allies can be instrumental in developing community buy-in. Consider introducing a private property naturalization initiative in tandem with the public initiative.

### **Private Property Naturalization**

Consider allowing opportunities for residents to implement naturalization on private properties. Proactively providing this opportunity may encourage resident buy-in of public property naturalization. Policies and bylaws may need adjustments to allow for this to occur.

### **Land Development Guidelines**

Initiate discussions with land developers about naturalization in the design of new neighbourhoods. Develop criteria for where naturalization and maintained landscapes are appropriate and adjust the Development Guidelines accordingly.

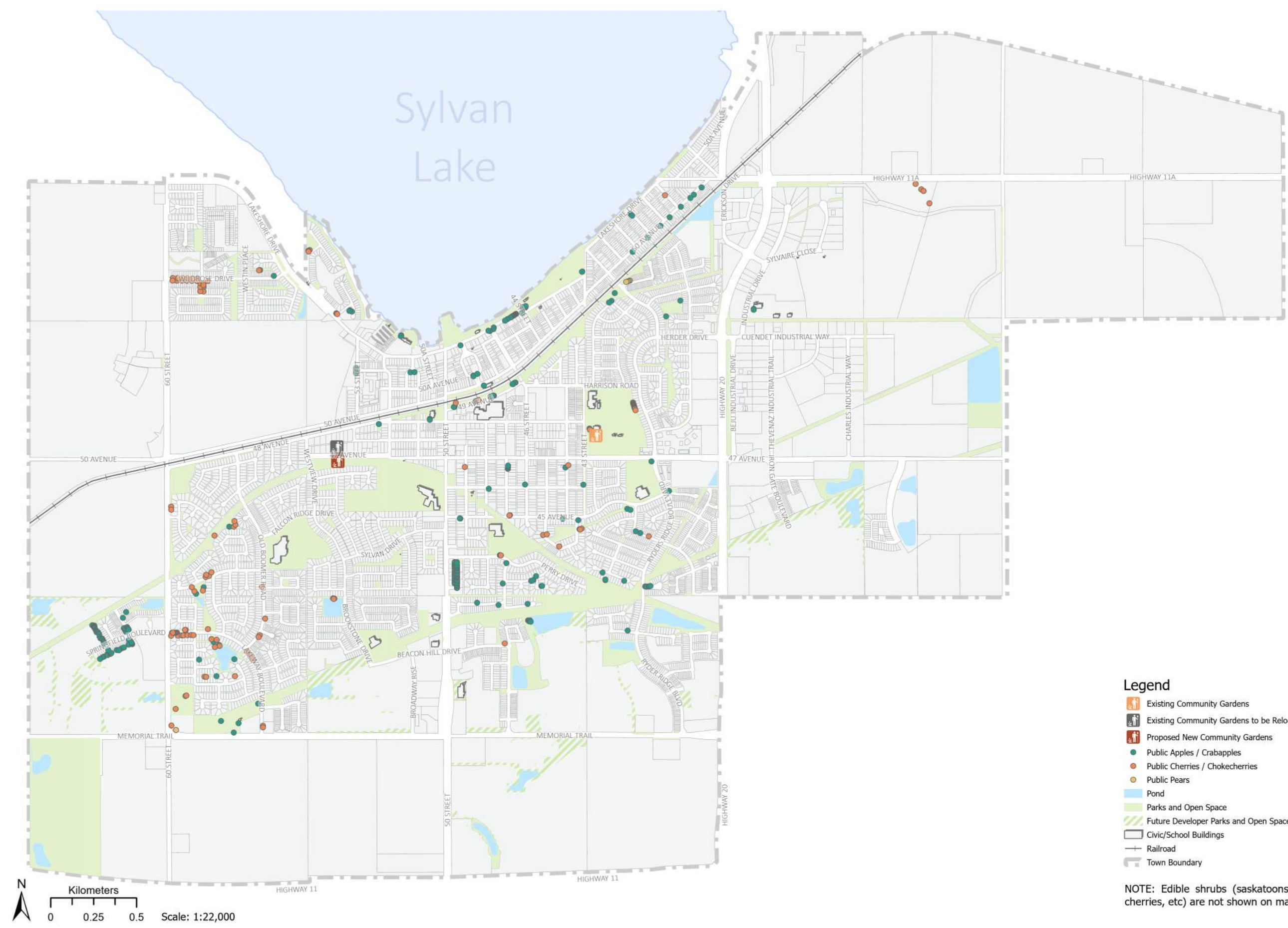
## **9.4 Edible Landscapes**

The following provides guidance on the various ways that the Town can support local food production throughout the community. Locally produced food supports residents, cottage industries and climate change adaptation. Bylaws should be reviewed and adjusted as edible landscape initiative are started. The following provide high-level advice on how edible gardens can be integrated into Sylvan Lake. Exhibit 9.5 provides a map of community gardens and edible trees in Sylvan Lake.

### **Community Gardens**

Community gardens are the most recognizable forms of public edible landscapes. These gardens can either be in-ground or raised planters. Locate garden near multifamily sites where the density is higher or near related organizations, such as a foodbank. It is important to acknowledge that a volunteer organization should be engaged, if possible, to take on management of the gardens since they can be time consuming for municipal staff. Also, ensure that sites have good support services such as a water source and storage. The current community garden north of 47 Street is recommended to be relocated to the south side of 47 Avenue in the Health and Wellness Healing Hub to provide addition space and visibility (see Exhibit 9.5).





- Legend**
- Existing Community Gardens
  - Existing Community Gardens to be Relocated
  - Proposed New Community Gardens
  - Public Apples / Crabapples
  - Public Cherries / Chokecherries
  - Public Pears
  - Pond
  - Parks and Open Space
  - Future Developer Parks and Open Space
  - Civic/School Buildings
  - Railroad
  - Town Boundary
- NOTE: Edible shrubs (saskatoons, nanking cherries, etc) are not shown on map.

### Pop-up Gardens

Pop-up gardens can be used as an impermanence method to trial public uptake of community gardens. These temporary raised planters can be seasonally installed and cared for by residents and moved or removed in subsequent years. These are a low investment way to see if there is interest in gardening and if the location is appropriate. They can also intentionally move each year to different locations as a temporary gardening and learning opportunity to promote home gardens. Pop-up gardens can also promote positive activities in areas that are currently neglected or underused.

### Foraging

Foraging can be encouraged in the community through education and programming. There are several organizations in Alberta that teach wildcraft and foraging. If successful, the Town could support programs, such as a crowdsourcing mapping tool to help people find edible plants on public land throughout the community.

### Park and Open Space Orchards

As a simple way to promote edible landscape is to integrate hardy low-maintenance edible plant material into existing open spaces. The integration of interpretive signage and coordination with local groups (i.e. the foodbank) will help support the harvesting of these trees and shrubs as fruit ripens. The Town already has numerous edible trees in their inventory which could be identified as an online map to encourage residents to harvest from these trees. Inventory could be expanded to include edible shrubs and perennials.

## 9.5 Low-Impact Development Facilities

A Low-Impact Development (LID) facility is a sustainable stormwater management strategy that combines natural features and landscaping with engineered stormwater. LID facilities aim to mimic the natural water cycle by capturing, treating, and infiltrating stormwater on-site, rather than allowing it to runoff into the municipal storm drain system. LID facilities can take many forms, including bioretention areas, rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavement, and swales.

These specialized facilities help mitigate the negative impacts of urban development on the environment, including:

- Capturing and slowly releasing peak stormwater runoff into the municipal system, which helps reduce flooding risks
- Reduces the strain on the piped municipal stormwater systems, especially during major storm events
- Improving water by removing runoff pollutants through bioremediation and soil filtration
- Provides habitat and improves aesthetics through the use of plant material and landscaping
- Reduces the heat island effect by providing trees and vegetation rather than paved surfaces
- Supports sustainability and mitigation initiatives within the community

Parks and open space sites should be considered as potential locations for LID facilities. LID may be beneficial when integrated into park sites with parking lots, building and other hard surfaces. This promotes on-site stormwater management and point source control.

In addition, LID facilities may be integrated into open spaces to help manage runoff from adjacent roadways. However, the location of these facilities will need to be determined as part of a greater stormwater management planning process within the Town or be integrated into roadway improvement projects.

## 10.0 Future of Trails

Sylvan Lake's trail system is well developed throughout the entire community. Improvements suggested in the section are focused on correcting missing gaps, improving connectivity and anticipating future land development.

A map of existing and proposed trail network is provided on Exhibit 10.1.

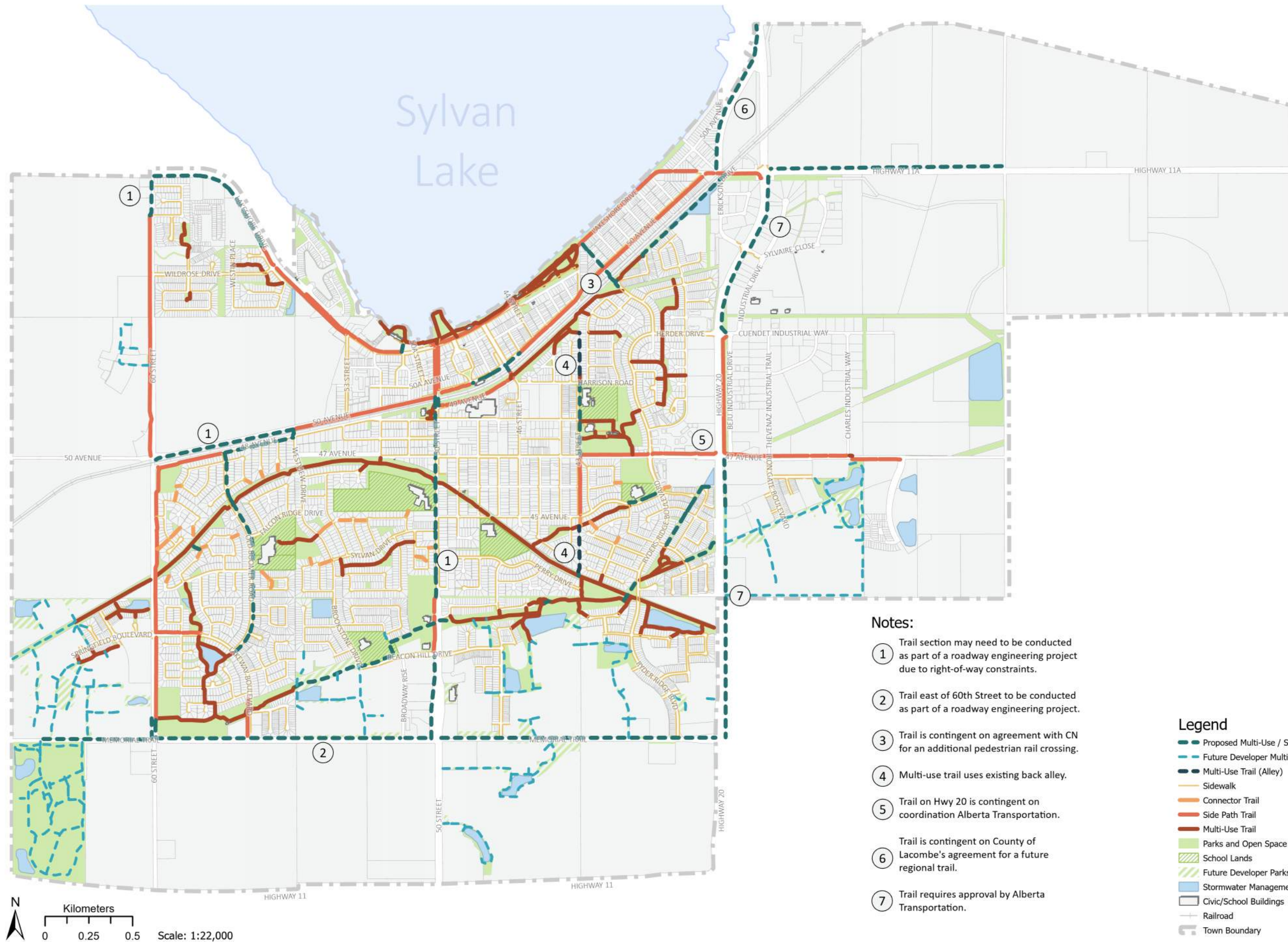
### 10.2 Updated Trails and Sidewalk Classifications

The following provide a modified trail classification system that provide strategic alignment with trail use, levels of services and operation practices. The updated classifications are:

Table 10.1: Updated Trails and Sidewalk Classification

Classification	Description	Design Parameters
<b>Multi-use Trail</b>	<p>Multi-use trails are the backbone of the Town's active transportation network. These wide, off-street trails are intended for recreation and commuting by pedestrians and cyclists, regardless of age and ability. The multi-use trail network is supported with high quality amenities, such as benches, garbage/recycling receptacles and wayfinding.</p> <p>Target User Groups: Everyone, including pedestrians, cyclists and people with mobility challenges</p>	<p>2.5m to 3.0m wide</p> <p>Asphalt or concrete</p> <p>Maximum slope 5% (8% slopes allowable for short distances)</p> <p>Rest areas (benches, garbage/recycling) to be provided at 500m intervals along multiuse trails.</p>
<b>Side Path Trails</b>	<p>Side path trails provide trail connections running adjacent to roadways. They provide links between residential areas and community destinations. They are physically separated from the road by a landscaped boulevard.</p> <p>Target User Groups: Pedestrians, children on bikes and people with mobility challenges. Cyclists may be permitted on key 2.5m wide side path trails that are signed accordingly.</p>	<p>2.0m to 2.5m wide</p> <p>Asphalt or concrete</p> <p>Separated from road with landscape boulevard</p> <p>Maximum slope 5% (8% slopes allowable for short distances)</p> <p>Rest areas (benches, garbage/recycling) to be provided at 500m intervals where adjacent land use is appropriate (i.e. not residential frontages) and adequate space is available in road right-of-way.</p>





Classification	Description	Design Parameters
<b>Connector Trails</b>	Connector trails provide short off-street pedestrian links between neighbourhoods, into park sites and into the multi-use pathway network.  Target User Groups: Pedestrians, children on bikes and people with mobility challenges.	2.0m to 2.5m wide  Asphalt or concrete  Maximum slope 5% (8% slopes allowable for short distances)
<b>Nature Trails</b>	Low-key nature trails may be developed in and around natural areas as a low impact and low-cost trail.  Target User Groups: Pedestrians. Where possible, people with mobility challenges should be accommodated. Cyclists may be accommodated where environmentally impacts are minimal and sufficient trail width is provided.	No amenities typically provided 2.0m to 2.5m typical (2.5m minimum width for cyclist routes only). Low-use or environmentally sensitive areas: 1.5m  Typically gravel (6mm minus limestone gravel for accessible trails). Wood chip trails may be allowed in some low-use pedestrian applications.  Maximum slope of 12% (<8% preferred; accessible trails <5%)  Low-key amenities (i.e. interpretive feature and seating), where appropriate
<b>Standard Sidewalks</b>	Standard sidewalks developed alongside of roadways. These sidewalks may be directly adjacent to the curb (monowalks) or separated by a landscaped median (preferred).	1.5m minimum  Slope depends on adjacent roadway (<5% slope preferred)  No amenities typically provided

Existing trails are renewed and repaired as part of an annual trail maintenance program.

## 10.3 Trails Expansion

The plan shown on Figure 10.1 outlines proposed trail expansion. The expansion plan includes three types of trail development, each with its own special considerations and recommendations:

### Land Development Projects

Land developers are required to include trails as part of their new neighbourhood development project. The Town works proactively with developers to ensure that the proposed trails tie into the existing trail network, provide value to the entire Town, and are easily maintained. The following provides recommendations for this type of trail expansion:

- Collaborate with land development teams to ensure that proposed trails meet the Town's recreation and commuting needs.
- Ensure that land development trails are design according to the Design Guidelines, while remaining flexible in challenging locations.
- Discuss the anticipated trail development timeline and neighbourhood phasing to see if critical missing trails can be developed sooner.



### Roadway Improvement Projects

Roadway improvement projects may provide important opportunities to improve side path trail connections. Currently, north-south trail connections are limited and may not be possible without coordinating with future roadway projects. The following provides recommendations for this type of trail expansion:

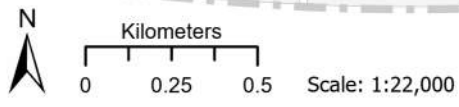
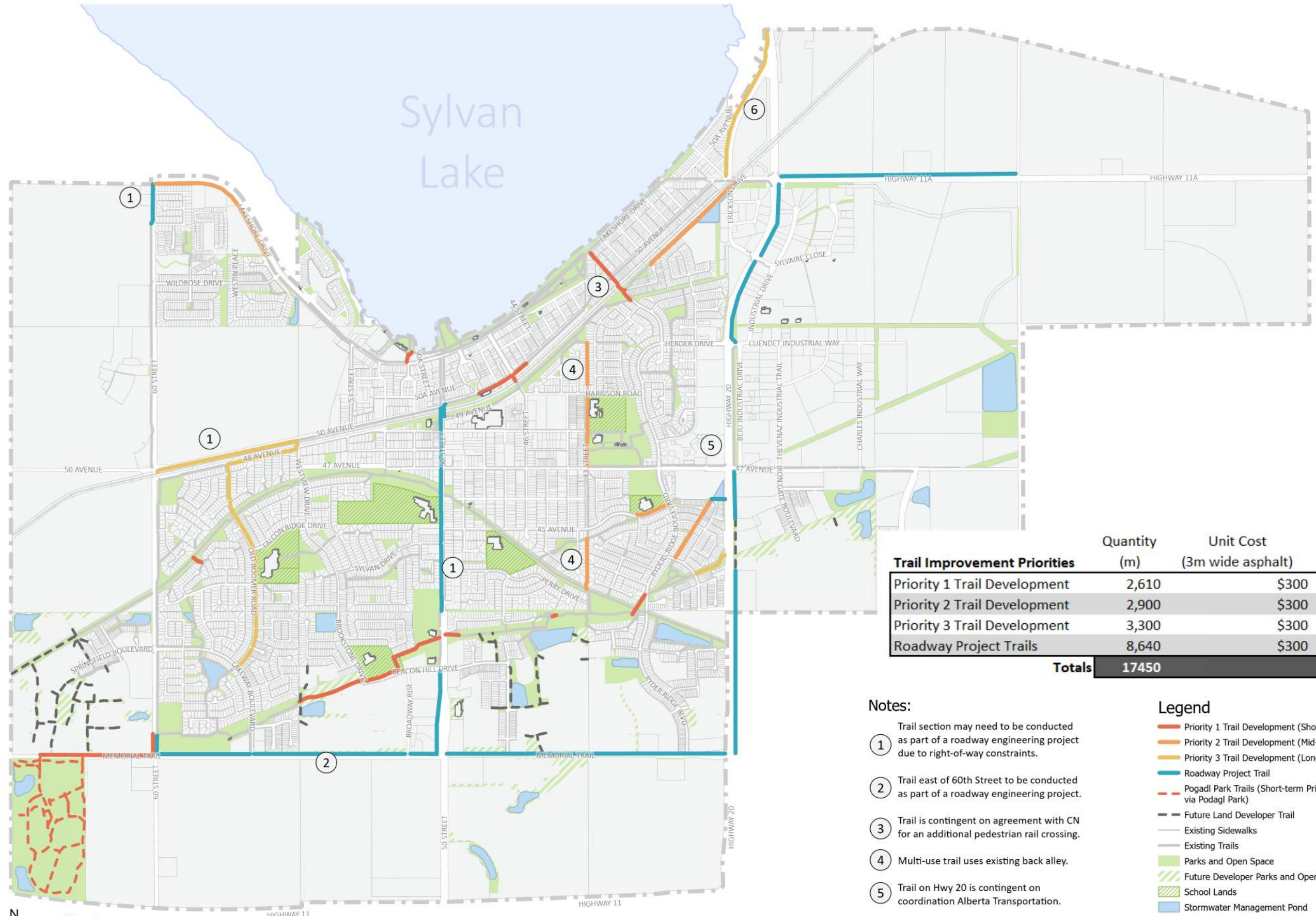
- Proactively discuss the future timing of roadway improvement projects with internal Town stakeholders to make efficient use of roadway and trail improvement budgets.
- Develop a culture of integrating active transportation into all roadway planning projects. Locations such as 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Old Boomer Road, are critical to future improvements to north-south trail connections. However, widening of existing walkways or creation of new trails may only be possible with changes to roadway geometry and a “complete street” design philosophy.
- Consider the future of on-street bike facilities to accommodate cyclists where limited sidewalk width only accommodates pedestrians.
- Coordinate with Alberta Transportation on potential trail development within highway corridors, including the proposed trail along Highway 20.

### Trail Improvements Projects

Trail improvements that cannot be accommodated through the land development and roadway improvement process need to be accommodated through stand-alone expansion projects. These projects are focused mostly on addressing current gaps within the existing network and mature neighbourhoods. Proposed trail development priorities are provided on Exhibit 10.2. It is intended that trail expansion tackled through annual investment in trail construction.

The following provides recommendations for lifecycle maintenance trail rehabilitation:

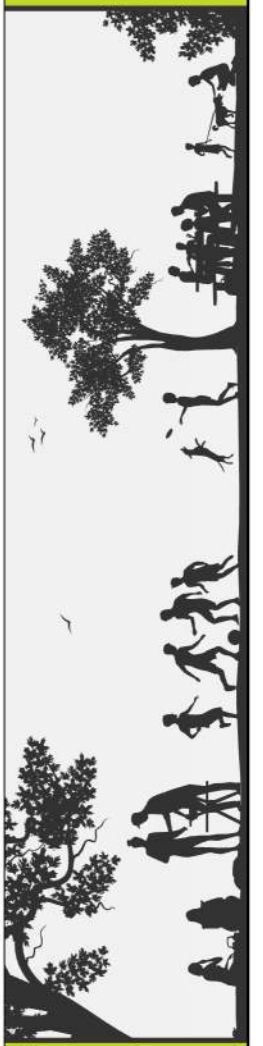
- Conduct an annual review of existing trails for deterioration and prioritize repair and rehabilitation projects.
- Continue to update the Town’s GIS trail inventory to keep track of trail asset conditions and to record accurate trail rehabilitation and construction date. This information is valuable for the Town’s ability to prepare lifecycle cost estimates needed for future budgeting. Consider implementing GIS-based field data collection programs such as (i.e. ESRI Field Maps) to allow operations and maintenance staff to update trail conditions in GIS while onsite and potentially use the program to generate and address maintenance service requests.
- Every five years conduct a retrospective review of trail rehabilitation (repair, resurfacing) projects to determine if lifecycle maintenance funding is keeping pace with aging trail infrastructure and adjust funding level as required. This is especially important right now, since inflation, labour shortages and supply chain issues may stretch current lifecycle maintenance budgets too thin to maintain the current level of service.
- As part of trail repair and resurfacing projects, review the adjacent areas to see if small missing connections can be included in contractor scope.
- Continue to fund capital trail expansion projects on biannual basis. Plan strategically and bundle multiple trail expansions together to receive lower contractor pricing.



Trail Improvement Priorities	Quantity (m)	Unit Cost (3m wide asphalt)	Cost
Priority 1 Trail Development	2,610	\$300	\$783,000
Priority 2 Trail Development	2,900	\$300	\$870,000
Priority 3 Trail Development	3,300	\$300	\$990,000
Roadway Project Trails	8,640	\$300	\$2,592,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17450</b>		<b>\$5,235,000</b>

- Notes:**
- 1 Trail section may need to be conducted as part of a roadway engineering project due to right-of-way constraints.
  - 2 Trail east of 60th Street to be conducted as part of a roadway engineering project.
  - 3 Trail is contingent on agreement with CN for an additional pedestrian rail crossing.
  - 4 Multi-use trail uses existing back alley.
  - 5 Trail on Hwy 20 is contingent on coordination Alberta Transportation.
  - 6 Trail is contingent on County of Lacombe's agreement for a future regional trail.

- Legend**
- Priority 1 Trail Development (Short-Term)
  - Priority 2 Trail Development (Mid-Term)
  - Priority 3 Trail Development (Long Term)
  - Roadway Project Trail
  - Pogadl Park Trails (Short-term Priority - funding via Pogadl Park)
  - Future Land Developer Trail
  - Existing Sidewalks
  - Existing Trails
  - Parks and Open Space
  - Future Developer Parks and Open Space
  - School Lands
  - Stormwater Management Pond
  - Civic/School Buildings
  - Railroad
  - Town Boundary





## 10.4 Trail Amenities

Currently, there is a high-level of support amenities (benches, garbage/recycling receptacles) provided at regular intervals along the existing multi-use trail network. Continue to repair and replace aging support amenities since they encourage the use of the trail network and provide rest areas for people with mobility challenges. The following provides some additional recommendations for trail support amenities:

- Continue to review the multi-use trail network for distances between rest areas. Provide a rest area every 500m to accommodate people with mobility issues. Currently, the majority of the trail system meets this requirement. Rest nodes should include seating (picnic table or bench, garbage/recycling, and a level 1.5m diameter concrete or asphalt area for a wheelchair, scooter or stroller.
- Consider adding bike parking in locations where the multi-use trail network reaches recreation destinations
- In areas with high-use consider adding high-capacity garbage/recycling bins (i.e. Moloks) to reduce frequent ongoing maintenance.
- Consider accessibility when selecting trail furnishings. Accessible furnishing design may elements such as centre bench arms to improve a person's ability to rise and sit and picnic tables with a space for a wheelchair.

## 10.5 Trail Lighting Strategy

Outdoor lighting is integral to safe and four-season use of a community's sidewalk and trail network. It ensures that pedestrians and cyclists can commute safely and can easily enjoy their community at night. In our cold climate, this is of especial importance due to our short winter with sunrise starting as late as 8:45am and sunset as early as 4:30pm.

In Sylvan Lake, sidewalks and side path trails are well-lit from adjacent roadway streetlights. Off-street lit trails are limited to trails at Centennial / Sylvan Lake Park and Lakeway Landing Park. Based concerns and preferences mentioned by the public, investment in trail lighting in key locations in the community will improve both commuting and recreational use of the trail system. Trail lighting will:

- Improve public safety, both real and perceived issues.
- Encourage four-season use of the trail network and adjacent outdoor spaces.
- Encourage active transportation instead of vehicle travel.
- Reduce the potential for human/wildlife conflicts.

However, investing in trail lighting requires careful consideration in respects to the following:

- Trail lighting capital cost can be high and require ongoing operations and maintenance budgets.
- Streetlights provide side path lighting within current capital and operating budgets. Lighting off-street trails with similar routes may not provide much in terms of cost-benefit.
- Adjacent residents may be concern with light trespass (light pollution) into their properties.
- Trail lights can introduce 24/7 access into areas which are not intended for nighttime use.
- Additional outdoor lighting may negatively impact Sylvan Lake's "dark-sky" and wildlife habitat.

To better understand the lifecycle cost implications for different trail lighting options, an electrical engineering consultant reviewed four different trail lighting options for the Town:

- Pole-mounted lights with in-ground hardwiring (traditional trail lights)
- Pole-mounted solar lights (no hardwiring)
- Bollard lights with in-ground hardwiring
- Bollard solar lights (no hardwiring)

Of these options the traditional hard-wired pole mounted option provided the best lifecycle return on investment. Despite the increase construction complexity from hardwiring, the solar lighting was slightly less reliable long term



even though the initial capital cost for installation was comparable to the hard-wired options. Pole mounting lights was higher rated compared to bollard due to a much higher capital cost (need for more frequent bollards vs poles) and a slightly higher potential for vandalism. Though it is not noted in the consultant presentation, bollards also provide limited facial recognition from a distance compared to higher pole lights.

For the rationale above, the majority of trail lighting being installed should be hardwired pole-mounted fixtures. However, it is important to understand that the lighting industry is undergoing a rapid transformation as solar technology and batteries are improving exponentially and cost as continually dropping. As trail lighting is implemented over several years, the Town should continually review industry standards and product availability. The Town has a limited number of solar lights (i.e. pole mounted solar parking lot lights) in operation and as experiences are gained, the Town's perspective on solar lighting may change due in response to climate change adaptation needs.

Bollard light, though they have limitations should still be considered in key locations of the trail system. They can be very effective when placed at pedestrian crossing to improve crossing visibility. They are also excellent low-key options that integrate into the design of areas where poles would be aesthetically displeasing.

No particular lighting product is recommended at this time since product model availability and pricing can vary greatly over time. It is recommended that product selection occur with the first major installation project and that this fixture, or similar fixtures, become the standard used for all trail lighting. The following considerations should be used when selecting a standard fixture:

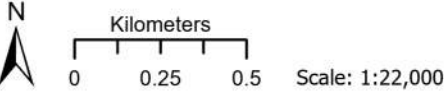
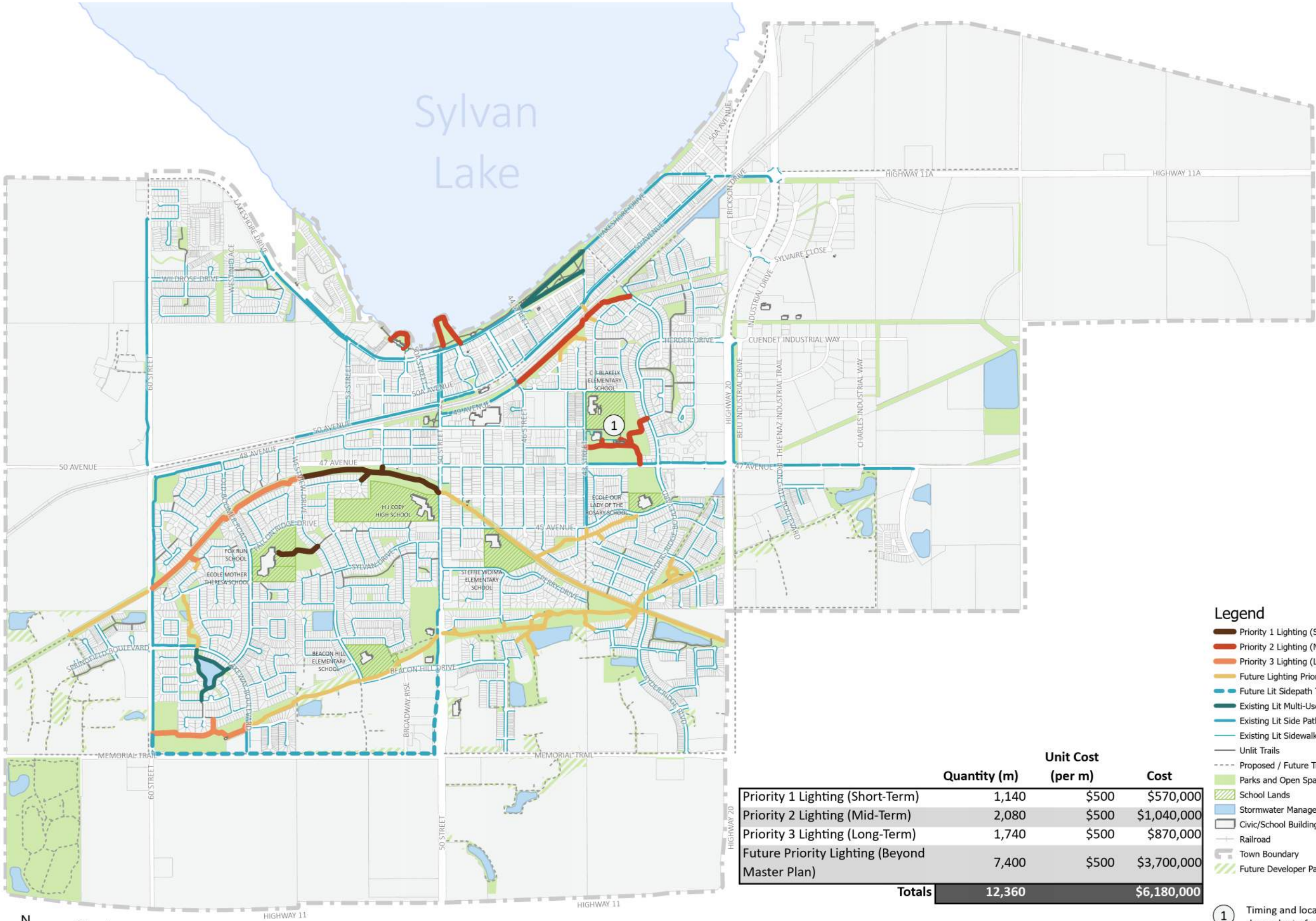
- Is a similar style of fixture available from multiple lighting manufacturers so that the Town has the long-term ability to source fixtures?
- Has the manufacturer been in business for a long time and have a stable supply of products?
- Can the manufacturer demonstrate that their products are high-quality, consistent and have good longevity?
- Are maintenance and operations of fixtures simple and are replacement products readily available?
- Are the products locally available or are there potential shipping challenges?
- Is the product energy efficient and sustainable throughout its entire lifespan?
- Is the fixture dark-sky compliant, full cut-off, and have a low BUG rating (Illuminating Engineering Society rating system for backlight, up-light and glare)?
- Does the have an appropriate colour rendering index (CRI) for visibility and lighting level (~ 5.0 lux)?
- Does the lighting fixture have unique features, such as photovoltaic cells, or the ability to be?
- Does the light fixture tie into the Town's lighting control systems and electrical infrastructure?

The criteria for determining how the number and location of trails lighting is flexible and should be re-evaluated over time as projects are installed since community needs or perspectives may change. We recommend that the Town undertake public engagement for areas that are proposed to be lit and that selection of phased trail lighting projects should prioritize locations where:

- public especially adjacent residents, reception, of trail lighting is more favorable.
- there are current CPTED issues, related to vandalism or crime.
- the public have indicated safety concerns.
- locations adjacent to schools, indoor recreation facilities or civil buildings.
- locations where there are not lit side path or sidewalk alternatives available.
- locations near outdoor winter activities (i.e. permanent outdoor rinks or toboggan hills).
- there aren't significant impacts to wildlife or ecologically sensitive habitat.
- trail usage is high, as determined by a trail counter study.

A trail lighting priority map has been created to short-list improvements projects (See Exhibit 10.3). We recommend that the Town undertake lighting improvements on the CP Lands Trail near H.J. Cody High School, since this area was identified by the public as being an important priority during the Master Plan and previously as a request made to Council.

As the trail lighting phased implementation begins, the Town should conduct a study to determine how well used the proposed trails are. The Trail Counter Study will include a temporary installation and analysis of trail counters installed on trails that are considering lighting improvements.



	Quantity (m)	Unit Cost (per m)	Cost
Priority 1 Lighting (Short-Term)	1,140	\$500	\$570,000
Priority 2 Lighting (Mid-Term)	2,080	\$500	\$1,040,000
Priority 3 Lighting (Long-Term)	1,740	\$500	\$870,000
Future Priority Lighting (Beyond Master Plan)	7,400	\$500	\$3,700,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,360</b>		<b>\$6,180,000</b>

- Legend**
- Priority 1 Lighting (Short Term)
  - Priority 2 Lighting (Mid-Term)
  - Priority 3 Lighting (Long-Term)
  - Future Lighting Priority (Beyond Master Plan)
  - Future Lit Sidepath Trail
  - Existing Lit Multi-Use Trails
  - Existing Lit Side Path Trail (Streetlights)
  - Existing Lit Sidewalk
  - Unlit Trails
  - Proposed / Future Trails
  - Parks and Open Space
  - School Lands
  - Stormwater Management Pond
  - Civic/School Buildings
  - Railroad
  - Town Boundary
  - Future Developer Parks and Open Space

1 Timing and location of trail lighting dependent of redevelopment of Four Seasons Park.



## 10.6 Wayfinding Strategy

Wayfinding planning is an integrated approach to developing signage, landmarks and information to help people intuitively navigate their environment. Traditionally, this was limited to traditional fixed signage; however, in recent years this has expanded to also include mobile, web and print media. In Sylvan Lake, graphic products such as the Town website, brochures and advertisements are designed according to the Town's Brand Book. This branding guideline has been used to develop the Town's entry signage and the downtown/waterfront map kiosks, directional signage, regulatory signage and park entry signage.

The following provides recommendations on expanding Sylvan Lake's wayfinding signage typology throughout the parks and recreation system:

- Be consistent but selective on the level of branding used on long-life signage features such as park entry signage. Branding guidelines tend to be refreshed sooner than permanent signage is replaced. Consider a combine approach of using a permanent structure with a timeless aesthetic along with replaceable components that use the Town's color palette and logo.
- Ensure that elements that where text or maps might change are easily replaceable without removal of the entire structure.
- Add an additional Trail Map Kiosk and a low-key Trail Marker to the current typology of signage (See Exhibit 10.4). The Trail Map Kiosk is used at major entrances into the trail network. The Trail Marker is used at minor trail intersections to easily orient the trail user. They can also be used to mark route distances on large sections of trail, such as the CP Lands Trail.
- Develop a consistent hierarchy of trail routes to understand the level of wayfinding that is appropriate for each route. High-use trails and commuter routes may require a higher level of wayfinding compared to minor routes.
- Continually review the trail network to understand community destination and likely routes of travel. Walk or cycle the trails to see how intuitive the route is or where there may be confusion.
- Be selective with signage. Signage can have a negative impact on the aesthetics and enjoyment of an outdoor space. Remember that non-signage queues such as landmarks, changes in landscape character and roadway crossings are intuitive forms of wayfinding that are equally valuable.

A map of proposed trail signage locations and prioritization is provided on Exhibit 10.4.

Many, though not all, trail users have mobile or web options available to help them determine or navigate unfamiliar routes. Though it is not a priority in this Master Plan, in the future Sylvan Lake may want to investigate mobile wayfinding options for Sylvan Lake including:

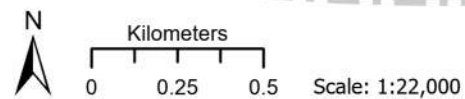
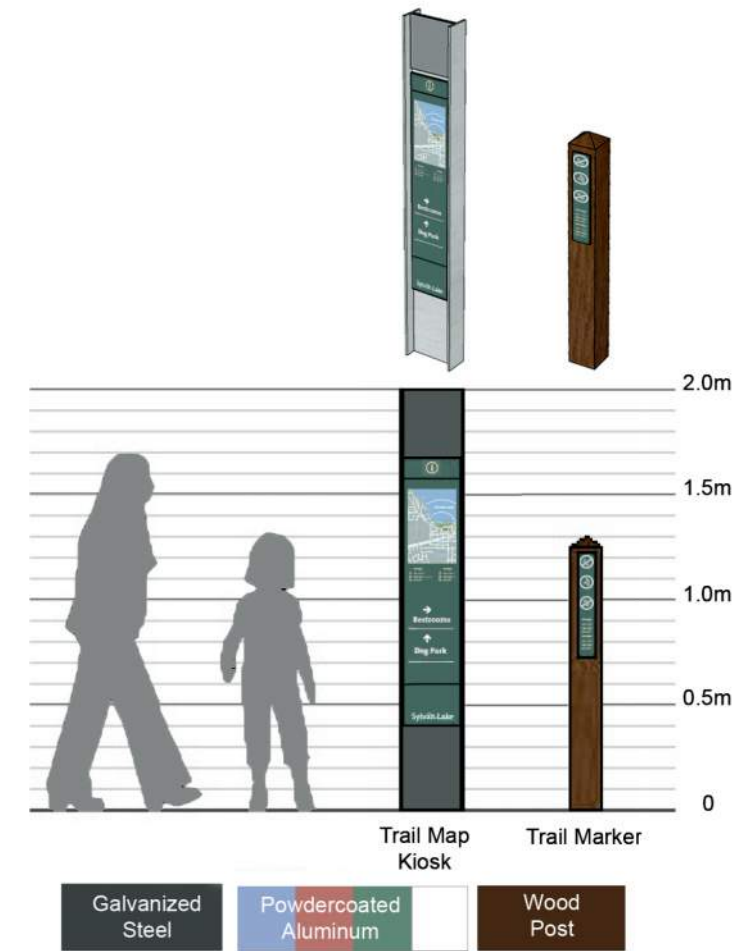
- Reviewing third-party online mapping data, such as Google Maps, to ensure that civic destinations and trails are correct and working these organizations as map context partners to update and enrich their data.
- Review and update the Town website information and maps according to changes in the recreation, parks and culture system. Be selective on what is included on mapping, such as leaving out small parkette sites with limited amenities. Be descriptive on the activities and amenities available at each site.
- Consider investing in an online mapping app tailored to the Town's specific wayfinding needs.



	Qty	Unit Cost	Cost
Priority 1 - Trail Map Kiosk	8	\$15,000	\$120,000
Priority 1 - Trail Marker	10	\$2,000	\$20,000
Priority 2 - Trail Map Kiosk	6	\$15,000	\$90,000
Priority 2 - Trail Marker	36	\$2,000	\$72,000
<b>Priority 1 Subtotal</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>Priority 2 Subtotal</b>	<b>42</b>		<b>\$162,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>\$302,000</b>

#### Legend

- Trail Map Kiosk
- Trail Marker
- Priority 1 Signs
- Priority 2 Signs
- Existing Sidewalk
- Existing Trails
- Future Trails
- Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Civic/School Buildings
- Railroad
- Town Boundary





## 11.0 Future of Service Delivery

### 11.1 Development of Miniature Business Plans

The development of miniature business plans would allow for the achievement of the quantitative goals, both target and stretch goals, set by the team in their miniature business plans. These miniature business plan can also ensure that the most up to date federal, provincial, and regional policy and legislation, trends and how it will impact the plans. For example, these could be cost recovery rates or the number of programs offered, the number of participants, the number of grants provided and impacts and the number of residents accessing assistance programs.

The miniature business plan should break down each functional area in recreation and parks and allow front-line staff to contribute to their success. The plan will include:

- A SWOT analysis.
- Current trends analysis.
- Any new federal, provincial or regional policies and legislation and how it effects the business plan.
- Stakeholder lists (Governing Bodies, Contractors, Citizens, Employees, Interest Groups, Partnerships, Media, User Service Recipients).
- Core Service Review (Vision, Mission and Core business Review, Pressures and Challenges).
- Ways to increase the cost recovery by at least 5%.
- Performance Management with stretch goals.
- Yearly Service Targets with stretch goals.
- A review of the entire department's priorities for the next three years.

### 11.2 Improvements to Operation, Lifecycle Maintenance, and Capital Funding to Keep Pace with Population Growth

The Town should increase the capital funding to the reserves by 3% to meet the current needs of the system and 3% annual increase to keep pace with anticipated population growth. Inflation should be reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly, outside of these proposed increases.

### 11.3 Development of a Recreation Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Strategy

The Town should create a strategy to incorporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) to motivate employees, prevent serious or legal issues from arising, and create a more welcoming service for residents of Sylvan Lake. EDI ensures that people are treated as equals and get the dignity and respect they deserve. This strategy will identify ways to ensure all known barriers, such as unconscious bias and lack of integration, and provide recommendations to improve the recreation and parks model. Essentially preventing these barriers will not only increase the workplace atmosphere but will also increase overall performance.

## **11.4 Increase Opportunities for Communities and Neighbourhoods to Gather**

An inventory should be completed by the Town of vacant areas, which partner organizations like user groups or for-profit entities can activate. These activations must be presented to the Town and evaluated to ensure the most significant community good will be provided. A matching grant will be evaluated to ensure that the partnership can be sustainable.

The process should include:

- An inventory all vacant areas, which are suitable for activations.
- A process to allow for short term changes to the land use bylaw.
- An open call for proposals of how the areas can be activated, with a grant opportunity of 5,000 for seed funding per an activation.
- An evaluation process will be created to evaluate the proposals which will have a sustainability component for the area.
- The amount of accepted proposal will be based on the allocation of funding a year.

## **11.5 Parks and Recreation Succession Planning**

The Recreation, Culture and Tourism Department and Department of Parks & Protective Services should work on succession planning and creating shared knowledge between younger operators and managers.

This process should include:

- Identification of key positions and skills.
- Working with professional development with other staff by creating opportunities for:
  - Mentoring
  - Training
  - Task forces
- Forecasting of department needs, including the addition of specialized parks staff (i.e. arborists, horticulturalists, turf technicians, etc.).
- Creating a pipeline of talent for the younger operators and managers.

## **11.6 Creation of a Parks and Recreation Specific Volunteer Management Plan**

The Recreation, Culture and Tourism Department and Department of Parks & Protective Services should work with the Family Community Support Services (FCSS) to create a volunteer management plan. This plan will not only meet the needs of user groups but reassess the volunteer requirements regarding age and simplify the volunteer process.

This process should include:

- Engaging with user groups to:
  - Assess current user group volunteer assets.
  - Compile the volunteer acquisition and retention rates of user groups.
  - Conduct a SWOT analysis for the parks and recreation volunteer sector.
  - Define the 3 R's of volunteer management:

- **Role** - make volunteers aware of their vital role
- **Recruitment** - find the people and skills that your organization needs
- **Recognition** - praise their hard work and keep them engaged with your mission
- Create an ability to host volunteer trainings.
- Report on the success on the volunteers in the State of Recreation Report.

## 11.7 Improved Consistency in Communication Plan with Stakeholders and Facility Users

Sylvan Lake should communicate more with its stakeholders and facility users to provide opportunities for input on the current state of recreation and parks. This communication will also allow for the user groups to have a chance to share concerns and potentially create solutions between the stakeholders and facility users.

The communication plan should include:

- Performing a Situation Analysis.
- Identifying and Define Objectives / Goals.
- Understanding and Profile Your Key Audience.
- Deciding the Media Channels and Create a Strategy.
- Creating a Timetable for Publishing.
- Monitoring and Evaluate the Results.

## 11.8 Improved Resident Awareness of Recreation Programming Options

The Town should work more directly with marketing to assess the current reach of the Community Guide.

## 11.9 Periodic update of a State of Recreation and Parks Report

The Town should create a "State of Recreation and Parks" report that will provide a progress report on advancing the proposed actions of this plan. It also recommends revisiting the status of the master plan in five years as a "re-calibration" to ensure recommendations align with political will, available budgeting, staff resources and public needs.

The State of Recreation and Parks report process should include:

- Conducting a satisfaction survey of residents.
- Conducting market research on current fees and charges of facilities and rentals.
- Comparing the fill rate of programs and survey of users, assessing current wants.
- Working with other groups in the community, like law enforcement, medical groups, and others, to set and reach goals. These community partners can help measure the well-being indicators of the community (i.e. crime rates, rates of activity-related disease, measures of social cohesion, etc.).

## 11.10 Creation of a Donation Policy

The creation of a donation policy should be created to allow for the bequests or donation of lands and money. The policy should outline:

- Definitions of the types of donations.
- How the donations will be consistent with Town interests.
- Acceptance of undesignated and designated donations of cash or tangible items.
- Acknowledgement of donations.
- Process for declining donations.

- Distribution of donations.
- Dissemination of information.

### 11.11 Attracting Private Recreation Partnership Opportunities

The Town should allow private fitness and recreation providers to rent or partner for space instead of contracting providers. The Town should also investigate the possibility of providing video recording equipment for "rent" for private fitness and recreation providers to take raw video and produce it into influencer products for online distribution. This would allow for additional revenue for the facility and increase the use of the facilities.

### 11.12 Junior Lifeguard Program

The Town should create a junior lifeguard program, which is crucial for the success of the lifeguard profession. Many swim lesson participants finish the swimming levels at a young age. These participants have no additional programs to continue as you are required to be a minimum age of 13 to enter the bronze medals leadership courses to become a lifeguard. The Junior Lifeguard program not only fills the gap between the swimmer and lifeguard levels. The program is open to all ages and can be used to inspire, develop and retain strong leaders for their pools to become swim instructors or lifeguards.

The survival of the lifeguarding profession relies on an early introduction to a program like the junior lifeguard program. A partnership between the Town and the school can be made to increase success and succession. The following process outlines a successful way to create the partnership:



Figure 11.1: Partnership between Town and Schools for Lifeguarding Training

### 11.13 Future Partnership Agreements Opportunities

The Town of Sylvan Lake should assess the current formal or informal partnerships and all future partnerships using the following model as a partnership must be beneficial for both the Town and the groups. The division of roles are shown on Table 11.1 on the following page.

Table 11.1: The Roles for the Town of Sylvan Lake and the User group/Stakeholder

The Town of Sylvan Lake	User Group/Stakeholder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing resources and tools for user groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring accessibility to documents and knowledge of resources.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitating conversations between relevant community members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring proper documentation is uploaded and checklist documents are in order.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting with applications for grants and other forms of funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relaying information on business projects and financials.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing the community on the progress of projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the processes and activities needed to make public input and pathways for information exchange.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing reports to Municipality about the user groups and stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing proper documentation and business plan for review.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting user groups/Stakeholders to municipality members or services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring clear questioning and demand for proper support with connection.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing outreach functions to enhance user group/stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring knowledge and accessibility to outreach functions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing and leading activities needed to help user group/stakeholders to reach their goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inviting the Town to meetings only when decisions require municipal help (funding/special event assistance/sharing of information)</li> </ul>

To improve the partnerships between the Town and User Groups/Stakeholders that receive funding, the following improvements will be made the process:

- Creating an eligibility tool to identify applicants' assessment
- The Town will provide a mandatory board workshop, which will include a tutorial on how to get funding from the Town.
- Determine new required documents: more comprehensive budget form, and current bylaws.
- Delivery of the application to electronic.

## 11.14 Programming Shifts for Demographic Needs

Programming should reflect the current and projected demographics of Sylvan Lake. While Sylvan Lake's current population has a higher portion of youth, 40-49 and seniors, long term actions of this plan will need to account for this population change. There will be an increase to the drop-in and spontaneous programming that will reach the age groups of youth, 40-49 year olds and seniors by 10%.

## 11.15 Seasonal Meetings with User Groups

The user groups who organize activities and provide programming to the residents of Sylvan Lake should be engaged by the Town in both winter and summer to understand the issues and concerns with prices, prime time vs non-prime utilization rates, and to determine the ways they can become more sustainable.

## 11.16 Update the Allocation Policy

The current allocation policy should be updated to add the following:

- Sport fields Allocation Request forms should be completely electronic.



- Outline where schedule will be on the Town's website.
- Increase deadlines for user groups.
- Ice and pool allocation are missing the clear priority list like outside fields.
- Update language to reflect Town's responsibility for approving reselling of cancelled time.

## 12.0 Implementation


























Recommendations in this Master Plan will be implemented over time as the community approaches a population of 25,000. Implementation timelines for each recommendation are based on short, mid, long term priorities rather than by year. The pace of implementation will be determined by population increase balanced with lifecycle maintenance and shifting priorities within the system.







The anticipated budgets provide in the table below are based on high-level 2023 estimates. Since this Master Plan will be implemented over several years, it is important to recognize that these values will need annual adjustment for inflation and changing industry rates.






Lifecycle replacement recommendations, such as sportsfields are, are driven by the needs of aging infrastructure. For these short-term priorities are 1-3 years, mid-term priorities are 4-6 years and long-term priorities are 7-10 years

The table on the following page provides costing and priority phasing for the recommendations in Sections 8 to 11 of the Master Plan:










Table 12.1: Costing and Priority Phasing for the Recommendations in Sections 8 to 11 of the Master Plan

Recommendation	Internal / External	Anticipated Budget	Timeline	Vision Commitment
<b>LEGEND</b>  Community  Nature  Wellness  Excellence				
<b>Future of Indoor Recreation Facilities (see Section 8.0)</b>				
(Section 8.1) Future accessibility assessment for parks and recreation facilities	External	\$30,000	Long Term	 
(Section 8.2) Integrated Recreation Facility Assessment	External	35K	Mid Term	 
(Section 8.3) Future Feasibility assessment for a Performing Arts Space	External	\$40,000	Long Term	 
Section 8.4) Prime Time vs Non-Prime Time Fees Enhancements	Internal	No Additional budget	Short Term	
<b>Future of Parks and Open Spaces (see Section 9.0)</b>				
(Section 9.1.1) Modifications to Development Standards to fit new parks/open space classification	Internal	No Additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 9.1.2) Continue implementation of Pogadl Park Master Plan and Reimagine Sylvan: Sustainable Waterfront Area Redevelopment Plan	External	Other existing budgets	Short Term	   
(Section 9.1.3) Undertake a Four Seasons Park Functional Study	External	\$75,000	Short Term	
(Section 9.1.3) Undertake Functional Studies for three community parks (Disc Golf / Vista / Cole Way Park, Leader Field East/West Park, Meadowview / Multicampus Park)	External	\$100,000	Mid Term	   
(Section 9.1.3) Redevelopment of Four Seasons Park (not including central ball diamond)	External	\$5.5M	Mid Term	   

(Section 9.1.4 to 9.1.8) Recommendations for Neighbourhood Parks, Parkettes, Linear Parks, Ecological Parks and Open Space	Internal	Future Operating Project (funding TBD)	Ongoing	
(Section 9.2.1) Rehabilitation of Ball Diamonds	External	Short Term – \$670K Mid Term – \$830K	Short to Mid Term	
(Section 9.2.1) Rectangular Field Rehabilitation Program	External	Short Term – \$120K Long Term – \$580K	Short to Long Term	
(Section 9.2.3) Accessible Play Initiative – develop accessible play space(s)	External	\$750,000	Mid-Term	
(Section 9.3) Naturalization Strategy Implementation	External	\$25,000 biannually	Short to Long Term	
(Section 9.4) Edible Landscapes – Relocated Community Gardens to Health and Wellness Healing Hub	External	Grant Funding	Short Term	
(Section 9.5) Low-Impact Development Facilities	Internal	Future Roadway and Stormwater Project Budgets	n/a	
<b>Future of Trails (see Section 10.0)</b>				
(Section 10.1) Modifications to Development Standards to fit new trails classification system	Internal	No Additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 10.1) Existing Trails Rehabilitation / Repair Program	External	Current existing annual trails rehabilitation budget	Ongoing	
(Section 10.2) Trails Expansion (not including Roadway Projects or Developer Trails)	External	\$2.64M Short Term – \$780K Mid-Term – \$870K Long Term – \$990K	Short to Long Term	
(Section 10.2) Trails Expansion for Roadway Projects	External	\$2.6M	TBD	

(Section 10.3) Existing Trail Amenities Rehabilitation / Repair Program	External	Current existing annual trails rehabilitation budget	Ongoing	
(Section 10.4) Trails Lighting Improvements – Trail Counter Study	External	\$20K	Short to Long Term	
(Section 10.4) Trails Lighting Improvements – Phase 1	External	\$2.48M Short Term - \$570K Mid-Term - \$1.04M Long-Term - \$870K	Short to Long Term	
(Section 10.4) Trails Lighting Improvements – Phase 2	External	Future Budget (\$3.7M)	Beyond master plan timeline	
(Section 10.5) Trail Signage Improvements	External	\$300,000 Short Term – \$140K Mid-Term – \$160K	Short to Mid Term	
<b>Future of Service Delivery (see Section 11.0)</b>				
(Section 11.1) Future development of Mini Business Plans	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 11.2) Improvements to operation, lifecycle maintenance, and capital funding to keep pace with population growth	Internal	3% annual increases	Short Term	
(Section 11.3) Future development of a Recreation Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Strategy	External	\$45,000	Mid Term	
(Section 11.4) Increase opportunities for communities and neighbourhoods to gather	Internal	Budget to be determined as needs arise	Short Term	
(Section 11.5) Parks and Recreation Succession Planning	Internal	No additional budget	Mid Term	
(Section 11.6) Improved volunteer management planning	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 11.7) Improved consistency in communication plan with stakeholders and facility users	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	



(11.8) Improved resident awareness of Recreation programming options	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 11.9) Periodic update of a State of Recreation and Parks Report	External	\$15,000	Every 5 years	
(Section 11.10) Future creation of a Donation Policy	Internal	No additional budget	Mid Term	
(Section 11) Attracting more private recreation partnership opportunities	Internal	No additional budget	Mid Term	
(Section 11.12) Junior Lifeguard Program	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 11.13) Future Partnership Agreements Opportunities	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	
(Section 11.14) Programming Shifts for Demographic Needs	Internal	Budget to be determined as needs arise	Short Term	
(Section 11.15) Seasonal Meetings with user groups	Internal	No additional budget	Ongoing	
(Section 11.16) Update the Allocation Policy	Internal	No additional budget	Short Term	

# APPENDIX A

Summary of relevant Policies, Strategies and Plans

Appendix A

Government Level	Document	Relevance to Project / Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation
National	National Recreation Framework	The framework is a nationally adopted plan to achieve 3 core goals: to provide a new vision for recreation in Canada, to invite leaders, practitioners, stakeholders and volunteers to collaborate in pursuit of common priorities and to improve the wellbeing of individuals, communities and built / natural environments. The National Recreation Framework is considered in each and every park planning initiative undertaken in Canada
National	National Building Code of Canada	The National Building Code is considered to ensure proposed park amenities are designed and built to the safest standard, which in turn allows users to explore and enjoy parks amenities to their fullest potential
National	Canadian Sports Policy	The Canadian Sports Policy helps to identify Canadian sports priorities and provide guidance to all Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments in advancing sports over a 10 year span.
National	Parks for All	<p>Parks for All is an action plan for the Canadian parks community and believes "nature is a second language". Guiding principles include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nature, including intact, robust ecosystems, is required for our continued survival and livelihood and that of all other species.</li> <li>2. Connecting with Nature is good for Canadians, for personal, community, and societal enrichment.</li> <li>3. Connecting with Nature begins a relationship that can lead to support for the conservation of Nature.</li> <li>4. Parks are places where Nature can thrive, and humans can connect with the land.</li> <li>5. Connected, healthy parks are better for people, plants, and animals.</li> </ol> <p>A guide to how municipalities operate and is one of the most significant and far-reaching statutes in Alberta. This includes operations and planning of parks and open space.</p>
Provincial	Municipal Government Act (MGA)	
Regional	District Planning and Inter-Municipal Agreements	Overview of how the Sylvan Lake network ties into the regional context
Regional	2021 Intermunicipal Development Plan	<p>The Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan represents a collective view of the Plan Area, agreement to protecting the environment and balanced development, and maintain a high quality of life for residents. Sections 6 and 7 specifically relate to environmental management / protection and recreation balance and opportunity. The Sylvan Lake area is a significant recreation destination in Alberta that is used by millions of tourists every year, especially in the summer. As such, recreation is an important activity in the Plan Area. Planning for additional recreation opportunities and maintenance of existing areas that balance tourism with environmental sustainability of the lake and its watershed are important aspects of this plan. Regional trails were identified as significantly important through the Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan public engagement. Members of the public expressed a desire for regional trails in the Plan Area to provide alternative modes of transportation and additional recreational opportunities. Support was expressed for a future trail to be developed around the whole of Sylvan Lake and connected to trails and pathways within municipal boundaries as well as any additional future regional trails that may be considered. An integrated trail network would enhance the recreation opportunities of the Sylvan Lake area.</p> <p>Understanding available funding and financial programs within the Town allows the consulting team to better navigate the master plan recommendations and understand how to allocate amenities and capital budgets</p>
Municipal	Municipal Financing Tools	
		<p>Parks, recreation and open spaces have played a central role in community life and the Town's urban form. As the Town continues to develop at a rapid pace, it will need to provide for new parks and recreation areas and conserve additional open spaces for an expanding population.</p> <p>The Town strives to provide parks and recreational facilities that would create a balanced system across the community that respond to the varied needs of residents.</p> <p>The goals, objectives and policies within this element address the following key parks, recreation and culture issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining existing passive and active parks and recreation facilities;</li> <li>• Addressing the need for walkable neighbourhood parks in existing and new parts of the Town;</li> <li>• Enhancing access to and awareness of natural areas;</li> <li>• Providing interconnectivity between parks and open spaces both locally and regionally;</li> <li>• Integrating the parks and recreation system into a broader context of green infrastructure to maximize ecosystem conservation;</li> <li>• Build a comprehensive public art program; and</li> <li>• Incorporate art and culture into the overall planning process when assessing and evaluating infill and new development.</li> </ul> <p>Chapter 8 of the MDP outlines long term goals and objectives for further developing an integrated, accessible and well-planned parks, recreation and culture initiative in Sylvan Lake.</p> <p>While more focused on residential and commercial development guidelines, the Waterfront Urban Design Guidelines gives insight into landscape requirements for interfacing commercial properties to public space and open space.</p>
Municipal	2014 Municipal Development Plan	
Municipal	2015 Waterfront Urban Design Guidelines	

Municipal	2010 50th Street Urban Design Guidelines	This document is specifically related to 50th street with specific guidelines for public interfacing, CPTED, landscape design, seasonal use, theming and placemaking that directly affect circulation and trails
Municipal	2016 Land Use Bylaw	The Land Use Bylaw gives direct insight into the zoning categories of parks, open space and trails and helps drive recommended improvements and management of these facilities based on use.
Municipal	2018 Municipal Sustainability Plan	This document outlines goals related to community sustainability specifically related to community well being as it pertains to active lifestyles, safety and healthy living, diversity and inclusivity, artistic and cultural celebration and food security. All the goals outlined also relate to smart growth, in our case pertaining to Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation. The Town of Sylvan Lake is a safe and healthy community where residents feel a sense of belonging. Diversity and creative self-expression are fostered, our heritage and the arts are celebrated, and recreation, culture and social opportunities are integrated into the fabric of our neighbourhoods. Services, programs, and facilities are accessible and affordable, and respond to the social, physical, and mental well-being of every individual.
Municipal	2017 Natural Areas Management Plan	Identifies environmentally significant areas in Town and allows the team to navigate and incorporate these areas into recommendations.
Municipal	2022 Destination Positioning Strategy	The document identifies how the destination can stand out and become recognizable among other top Albertan and Canadian destinations. Emphasis on certain aspects of Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation are considered within this strategy and considered within plan recommendations
Municipal	Economic Impact Assessments	Economic impact assessments allow the Town and consultants to determine areas of significance for economic viability and allocate development funds to areas that can increase revenue for the Town
Municipal	2020 Lakefront Usage Strategy	<p>The Sylvan Lake Lakefront Usage Strategy (LUS) refines the vision for the lakefront established in previous planning documents and identifies improvements that could be implemented along the lakefront, including updates to public open space. The Lakefront has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rentals Dock - A boat rental business operates from a dock near the Chateau Suites development. This business provides both motorized and non motorized boat rentals.</li> <li>2. Water Play Feature - A floating recreation system called the ""Water Play Feature"" exists adjacent to Lakefront Park.</li> <li>3. Sand Beach (Central Beach) - The central beach and other sections of lakefront within the Study Area feature sand beach areas adjacent to the water. These areas are particularly popular for visitors.</li> <li>4. Park Spaces - The Study Area features a significant amount of park space, with several park areas spanning the lakefront. Lighthouse Park is a popular destination for visitors. The pier, also known as Sylvan Lake Park, features a large park space that includes beach volleyball, picnic areas, and informal gathering spaces. Centennial Park features picnic shelters, a playground and formal and informal gathering spaces.</li> <li>5. Mobile Vending - Mobile vending opportunities are provided in Lakefront Park, Sylvan Lake Park and Centennial Park. Popular destinations for visitors, the mobile vending opportunities include an artist plaza, food trucks, and other mobile vending opportunities."</li> </ol>
Municipal	2016 Community Social Master Plan	<p>Insight into resident needs and wants as they pertain to amenity provided by Sylvan Lake. The overall goal of Parks, Recreation and Culture in Sylvan Lake is to create integrated, accessible and well-planned facilities, along with an open space and parks system that supports a broad range of recreation and cultural opportunities catering to diverse groups and promote quality art and cultural programming that enlivens and celebrates the Town and region."</p> <p>The plan provides insight into cultural needs and trends as they pertain to Sylvan Lake over the next 7 years, specifically assesses based cultural development and programs, services and facilities. The plan recognizes the opportunity for the creation of a regional community hub that includes multiple recreational and cultural spaces capable of hosting large and regional sporting, cultural or entertainment events. These spaces and facilities can help address the demand for cultural programming space until a dedicated Cultural Centre, and additional cultural venues can be established.</p>
Municipal	2017 Cultural Master Plan	
Municipal	2019 Reimagine Sylvan Lake Waterfront Plan	The purpose of Reimagine Sylvan, the Sustainable Waterfront Area Redevelopment Plan is to guide growth and development over the next 20 years within the Waterfront area in an orderly, efficient, and thoughtful manner. Focus on trends, policy, planning and sustainability directly relate to Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation. The beach and adjacent park space are some of the main attractors for visitors to Sylvan Lake as a destination. Currently they are very well enjoyed during the summer and have significantly less use during shoulder seasons and the winter. Very careful consideration needs to be given to the future redevelopment of Lakefront Park and the Pier to ensure public objectives regarding year round activation; enhancing public access to the waterfront; trail development; preservation of views; access / egress; provisions for parking; and architectural treatment of buildings are all properly considered.
Municipal	2019 Pogadl Park Outline Plan	Pogadl Park has been built out since the inception of the outline plan and provides new and exciting facilities in the south-east part of town. Pogadl Park is a key precedent for all future parks, open space and recreation development in the Town. Recreation Facilities are the major land use within Pogadl Park. Amenities include walking trails, sports fields, and passive open fields consisting of a mix of naturalized areas and manicured passive spaces which provide areas for informal play and exercise.

Municipal	2010 Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan	As the previous iteration of the plan, the 2010 master plan provides insight into the previous objectives and priorities of the Town as they pertain to Parks, Open Space and Recreation. Most notably it allows the consulting team to see the progress made in the Town since the last plan was adopted and use that as a benchmark for recommendations
Municipal	Various ARP's and ASP's	ARP's and ASP's allow the consultant team to see future areas of development and incorporate strategic connections to communities and developments not yet established. This will render trail connections and recreation spaces in areas of Town that are yet to interconnect with the current network.
Municipal	Festival & Event Best Practice	<p>Free Spirits in Alberta are highly social and open-minded thrill-seekers with an enthusiasm for life that extends to their outlook on travel. They prefer to indulge in high-end experiences that can be shared with others—whether in person or online. They are always planning their next trip. In destination, they prefer to see and experience a bit of everything, from the main to lesser known attractions.</p> <p>Appealing activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dining at restaurants with local ingredients</li> <li>• Visiting well-known natural wonders</li> <li>• Visiting small-towns</li> <li>• Boating and other water-based activities</li> <li>• Multi-day touring on their own by car</li> <li>• Attending farmers' markets</li> <li>• Visiting provincial parks to participate in outdoor adventure activities</li> </ul>

POLICIES		
Government Level	Document	Relevance to Project / Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation
Municipal	Alcohol in Town Facilities - Sales_Consumption	Ensure that recreation and culture programs appeal to a wide range of people and that where alcohol is served, that the Provincial laws are complied with.
Municipal	E-003-003D Snow_Ice Control	Provides action to ensuring the safety and mobility of the public is upheld throughout the transportation network in the winter months
Municipal	Environmental Protection	<p>This policy covers the three E's:</p> <p>Establish direction to manage the municipal impact on the environment and ensure environmental considerations in all municipal policies, procedures, bylaws, and planning documents;</p> <p>Encourage resource conservation, environmental awareness and stewardship to municipal staff and contractors, visitors, residents and the business community;</p> <p>Ensure that municipal and contractor operations comply with all pertinent environmental legislation. Provide responsibility for controlling and eliminating undesirable weeds in parks and green space which will improve the general aesthetic appearance of the Town.</p>
Municipal	Herbicide Spraying	
Municipal	Ice Allocation Policy	Policy to promote and encourage participation in ice sports by committing capital and operational investment in recreation facilities and the changing demographics of the community. A clear communication about how ice facilities are managed, allocated and distributed.
Municipal	Memorial Bench_Tree	Establish guidelines where the public may dedicate standardized benches and / or trees within the trail system and parks of the Town of Sylvan Lake.
Municipal	Outdoor Ice Inspection_Maintenance	Establish a sense of community through the naming of parks and playgrounds
Municipal	Park Playground Naming	Establish a sense of community through the naming of parks and playgrounds
Municipal	Playground Inspection_Maintenance	In order to provide the cleanest and safest parks and playgrounds possible, the Town of Sylvan Lake Recreation, Parks & Culture Department will carry out yearly detailed inspections and weekly site inspections on all parks and playgrounds.
Municipal	Pedestrian Crossing Assistance	Policy for the upkeep and provision of signals to assist pedestrian use of crossings
Municipal	R 001 003B Special Events Policy	Allow the Town of Sylvan Lake to facilitate special events while preserving and protecting publicly owned facilities and lands. It will endeavor to ensure compliance with laws, address public health and safety & the impact of events on adjacent neighbourhoods.
Municipal	R 004 001A You Can Play Too! Grant Policy	Town of Sylvan Lake You Can Play Too! Grant Program is to help community members remove or minimize the barriers to recreation and leisure activity programs that will enhance social, physical and cognitive skills.
Municipal	R 004 002A Winter Games Legacy Grant Policy	To provide for individual athletes, coaches and sports groups within Sylvan Lake access to funding to support training, at attend high level sporting events outside of Sylvan Lake
Municipal	Sports Field Allocation Policy	With the high provision of sports fields in Sylvan Lake, it is necessary for Council to ensure that operation of facilities is equitable, cost-effective and fiscally sustainable. This action will help promote and encourage participation in sports and recreation.
Municipal	Swimming Pool Allocation Policy	Promote the role that the Swimming Pool plays in the development of the youth.
Municipal	Turf_Sports Field Maintenance	Effective turf maintenance program will enhance the natural beauty and attractiveness of the Town; increase the turf's ability to withstand pests and disease; provide safe and playable sports fields; and create optimum turf and soil health throughout Town owned lands.
Municipal	Walkway Hazards	Policy to ensure maintenance of hard surfaced sidewalks, trails, and other walking surfaces on public property and at publicly owned town facilities is upheld and provisioned.



# APPENDIX B

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Data

Appendix B

## SYLVAN LAKE RECREATION PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT

### Online Survey and Mapping Tool

Dates: August 5 to September 10, 2022

#### 1.0 Purpose

To gain a wide range of public perspectives on the current state of the recreation, parks, open space and trail system; to understand how they use the system and how often; to understand perspectives on how the system could be improved, and; to understand how much investment should be made to improve and how to fund it.

#### 2.0 Activities

##### Online Survey

A fifteen question survey was posted online for the project team to gain an understanding of public perspective of the current recreation, parks, open space and trails system and how they use it. Residents were also asked about potential improvement to the systems and their perspectives on funding the improvements. The survey questions were aligned with types of questions asked during the 2004 Master Plan survey and adjusted according to requirements of this new Master Plan. See Results on following pages for questions that were asked.

##### Online Mapping Tool

A website was set up to host an online mapping tool specific to this master plan project. The following outlines the webpage set up and online mapping activity.

##### 1. Welcome Page

###### **Welcome and thank you for participating!**

Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces play a vital role in our community and the lives of residents and visitors. Your input will help guide future planning for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, programs and services for the 2022 Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

##### 2. Instruction box

###### **Place a pin on the map to identify the area you would like to provide feedback.**

1. Locate on the map the area where you would like to comment by zooming into the area.
2. From the pin selection at the top of the screen, select a topic area by clicking on the pin.
3. To place the pin on the map, click the desired location.
4. Enter your comments and press save.

##### 3. Pins with text box (200 words) \*icons to match the theme

- a. **Public parks / open space:** Please share your experience with public parks and open spaces what do you like, what needs improvement and what else would you like to see. Tell us more, use the pin to indicate the location.
- b. **Indoor recreation facility:** Please share your experience with indoor recreation facilities? Which facilities do you use and how do you use them? What do you like, what needs improvement and what else would you like to see? Tell us more, use the pin to indicate the location.

- c. **Sport Fields:** Which facilities do you use and how do you use them? What do you like, what needs improvement and what else would you like to see? Tell us more, use the pin to indicate the location.
- d. **Playgrounds:** Which playgrounds do you use? What do you like, what needs improvement and what else would you like to see? Tell us more, use the pin to indicate the location.
- e. **Trails:** What trails do you use or interact with? What do you like, are there any missing connections or areas to improve? Tell us more, use the pin to indicate the location.
- f. **Other:** Are there any other items related to public parks, recreation, or recreational programs in the Town of Sylvan Lake you would like to share. Tell us more, use the pin to indicate the location.

## 3.0 Results

### Online Survey

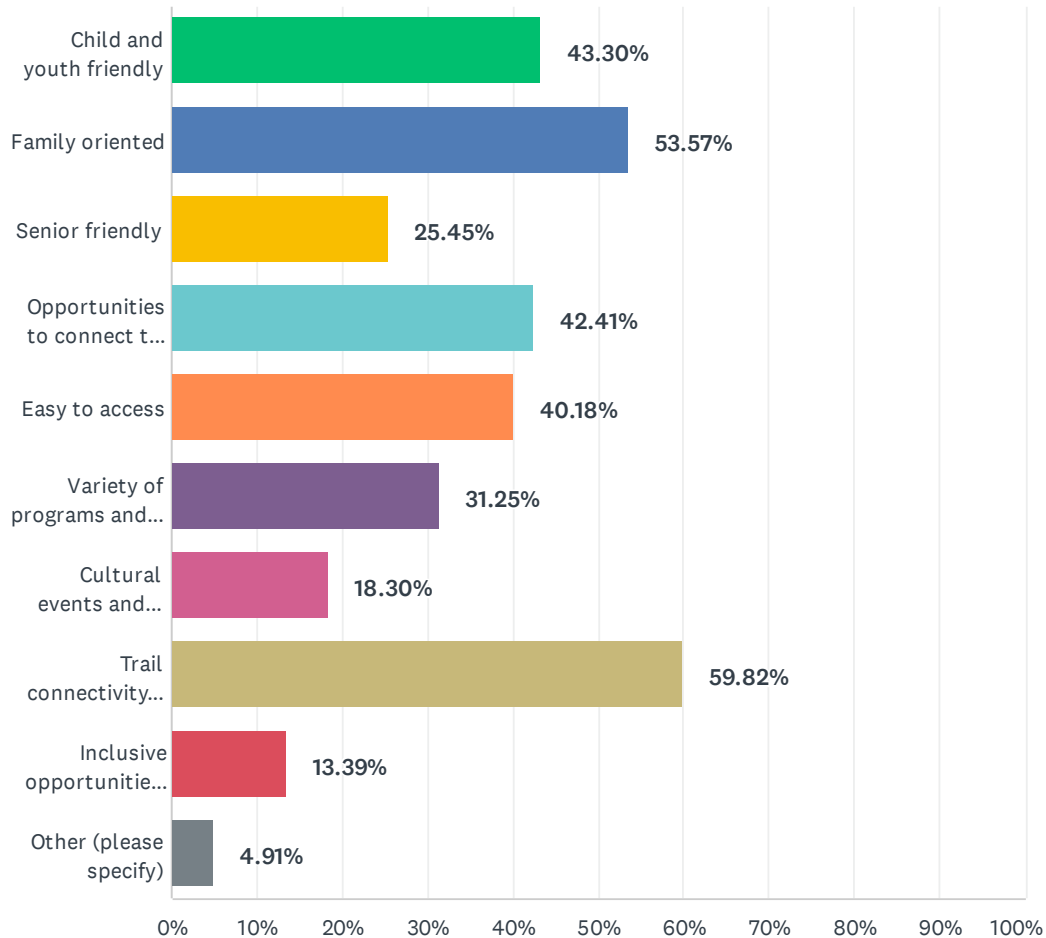
There were a total of 266 respondents to the online survey. 92.04% of respondents were full-time residents, 3.10% were seasonal residents, and the remaining 4.86% were from the neighbouring Counties and Summer Villages. Survey responses are on the following page.

### Online Mapping Tool

There were 45 people who submitted 179 pins on the online mapping tool. A map with the location of pins and comments received are on the following pages.

## Q1 What do you value most about Sylvan Lake's current parks and recreation programs and services?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 6



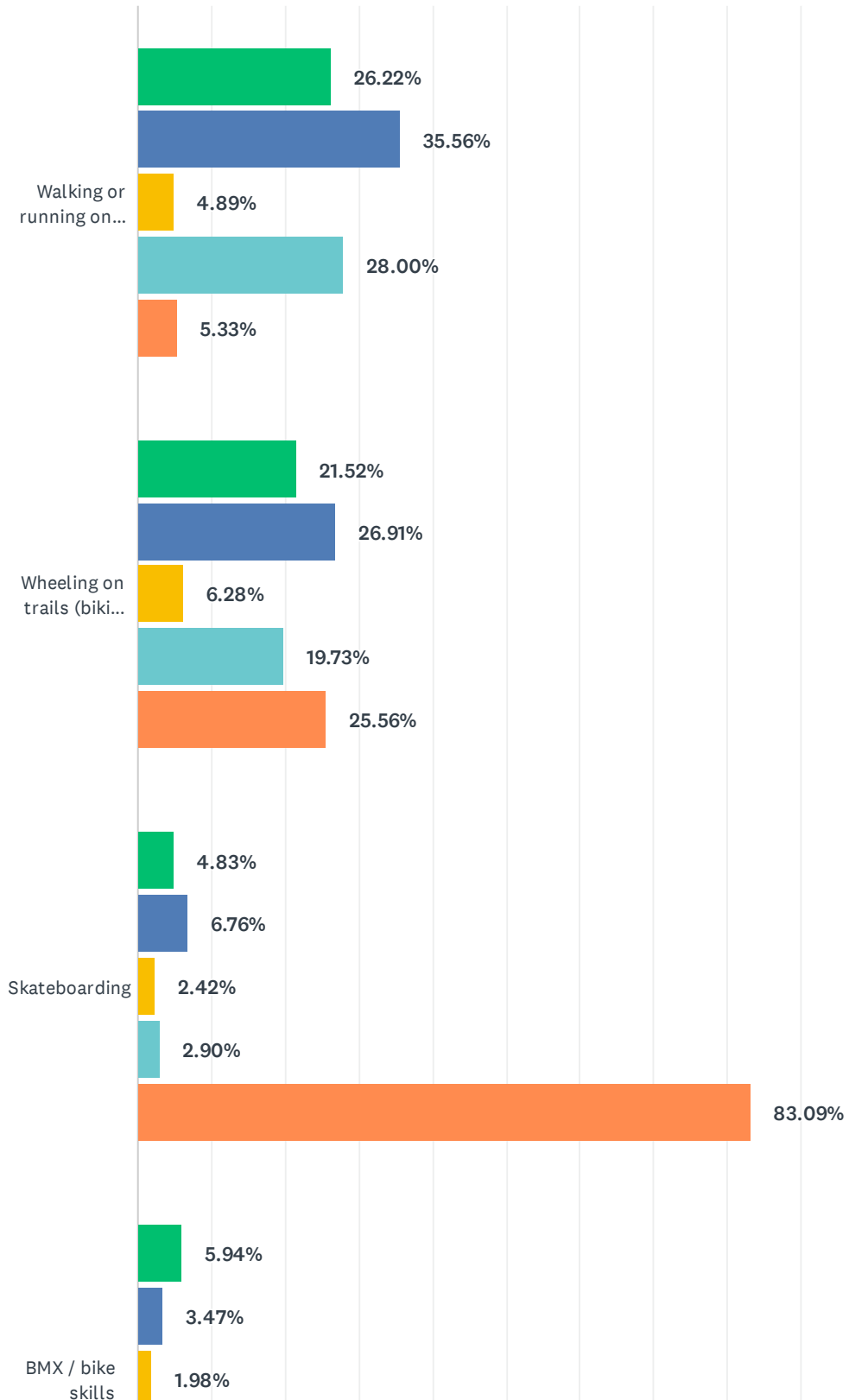
## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Child and youth friendly	43.30%	97
Family oriented	53.57%	120
Senior friendly	25.45%	57
Opportunities to connect to nature	42.41%	95
Easy to access	40.18%	90
Variety of programs and services	31.25%	70
Cultural events and spaces	18.30%	41
Trail connectivity within the community	59.82%	134
Inclusive opportunities to participate	13.39%	30
Other (please specify)	4.91%	11
Total Respondents: 224		

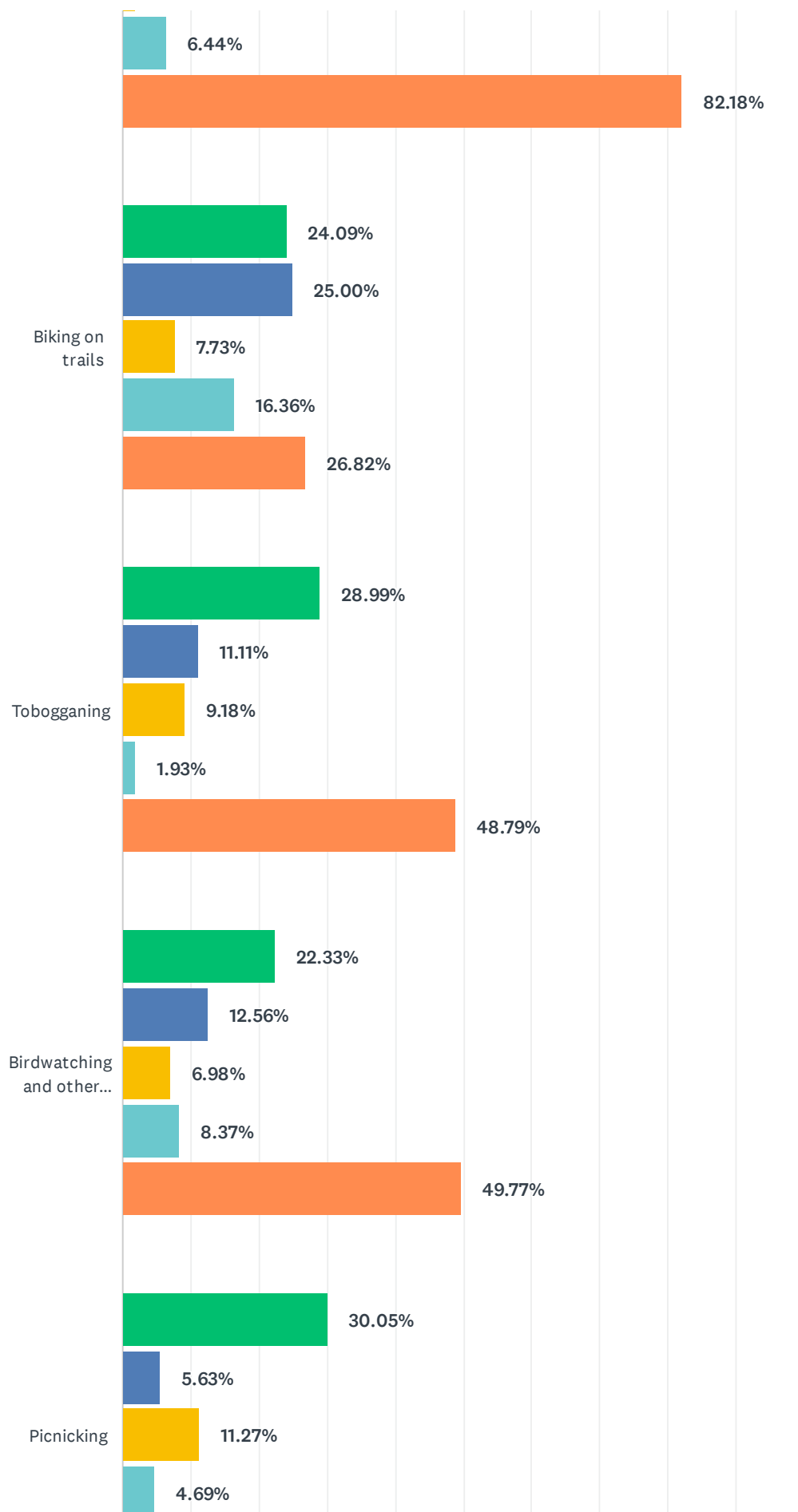


## Q2 Please identify how often you or someone in your household participates in outdoor recreation activities

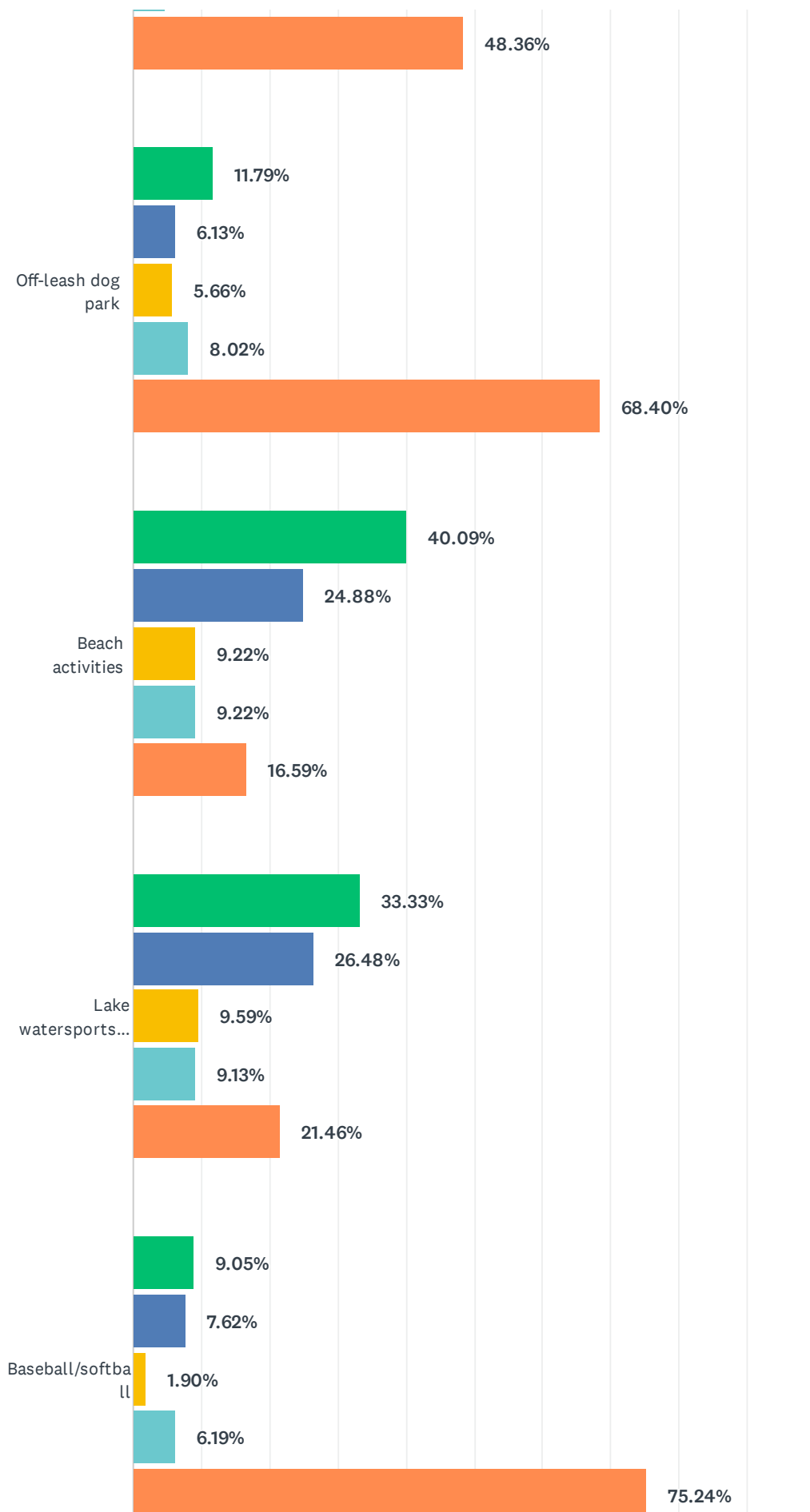
Answered: 229 Skipped: 1



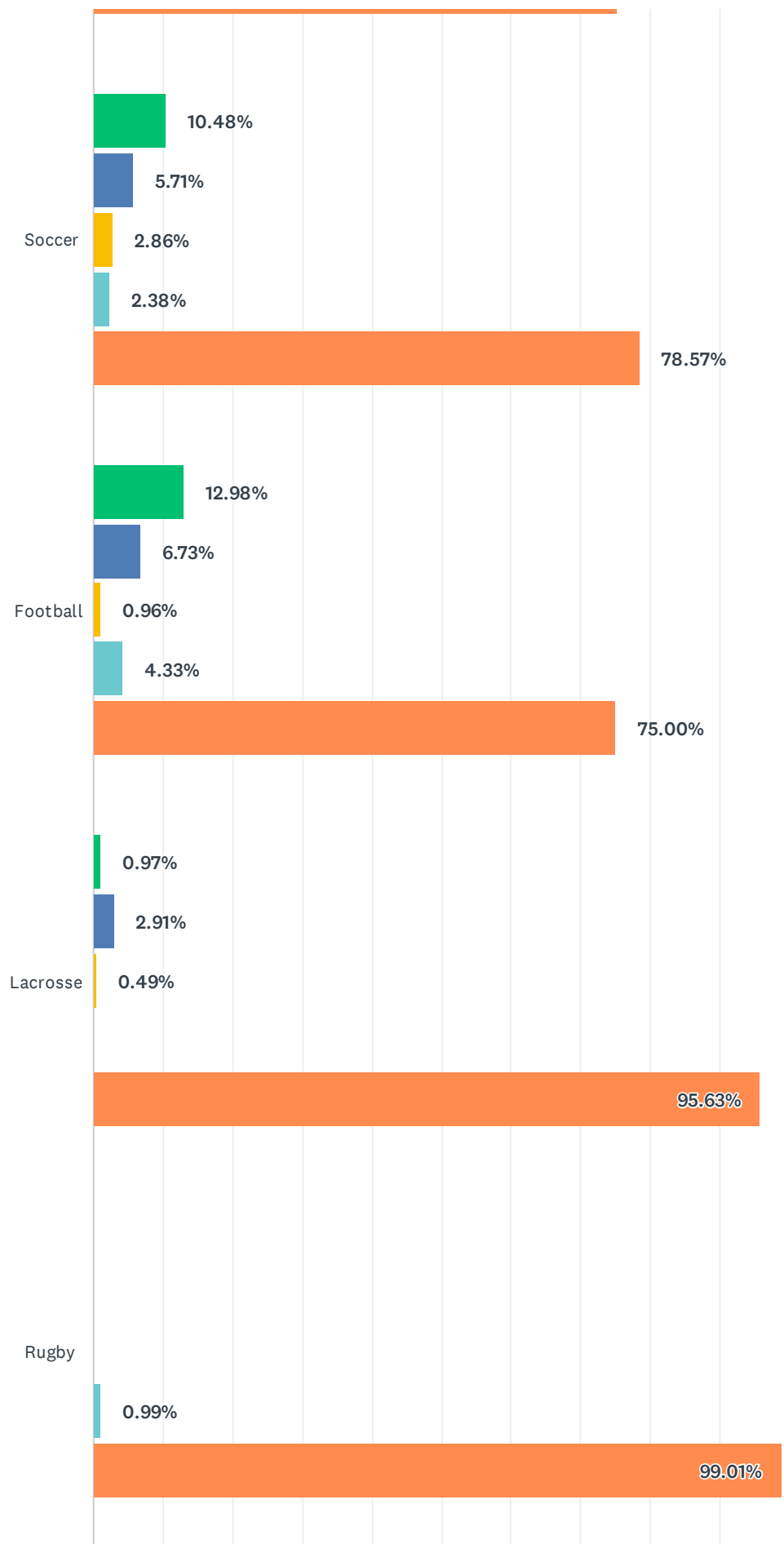
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



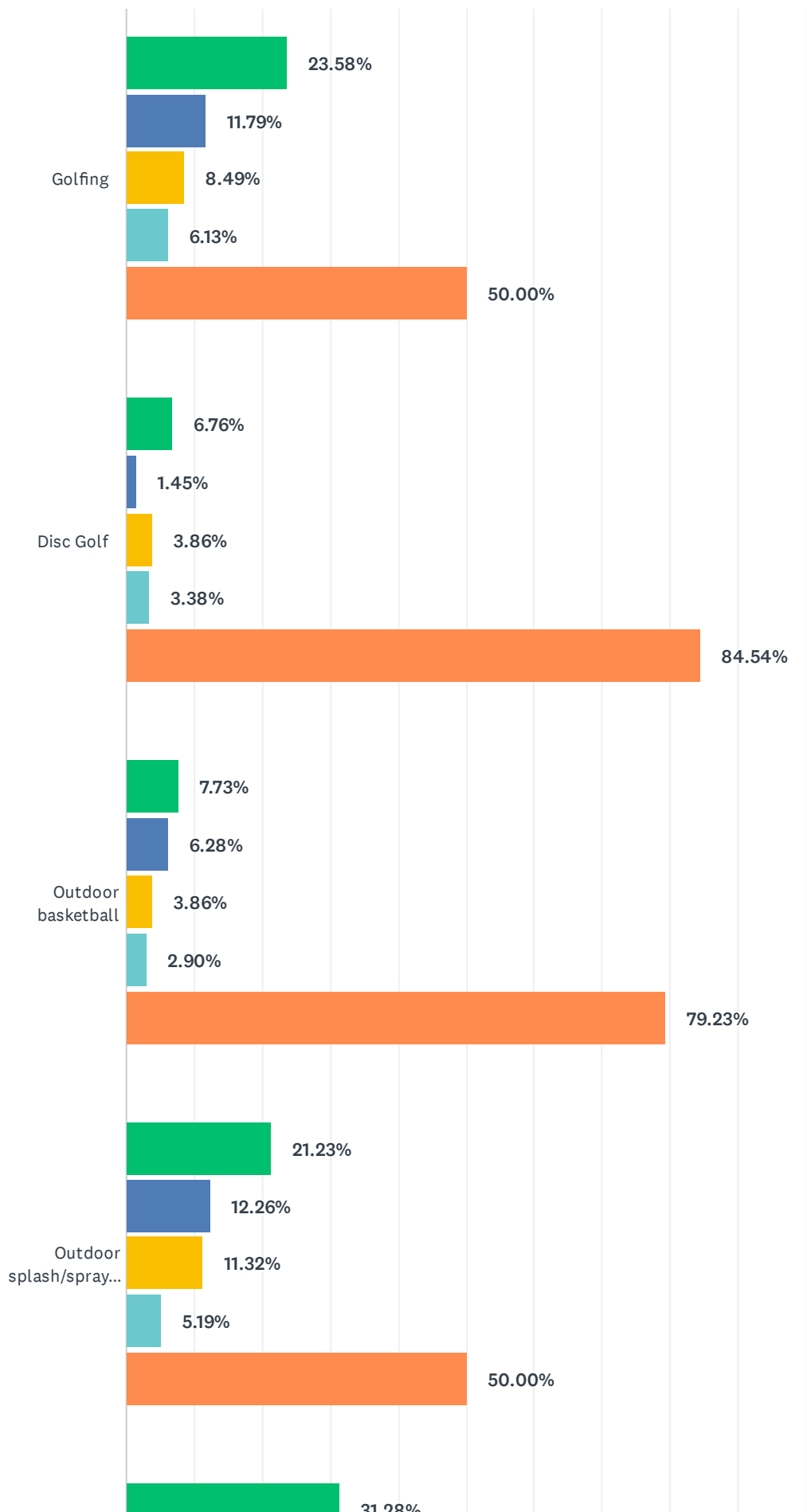
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

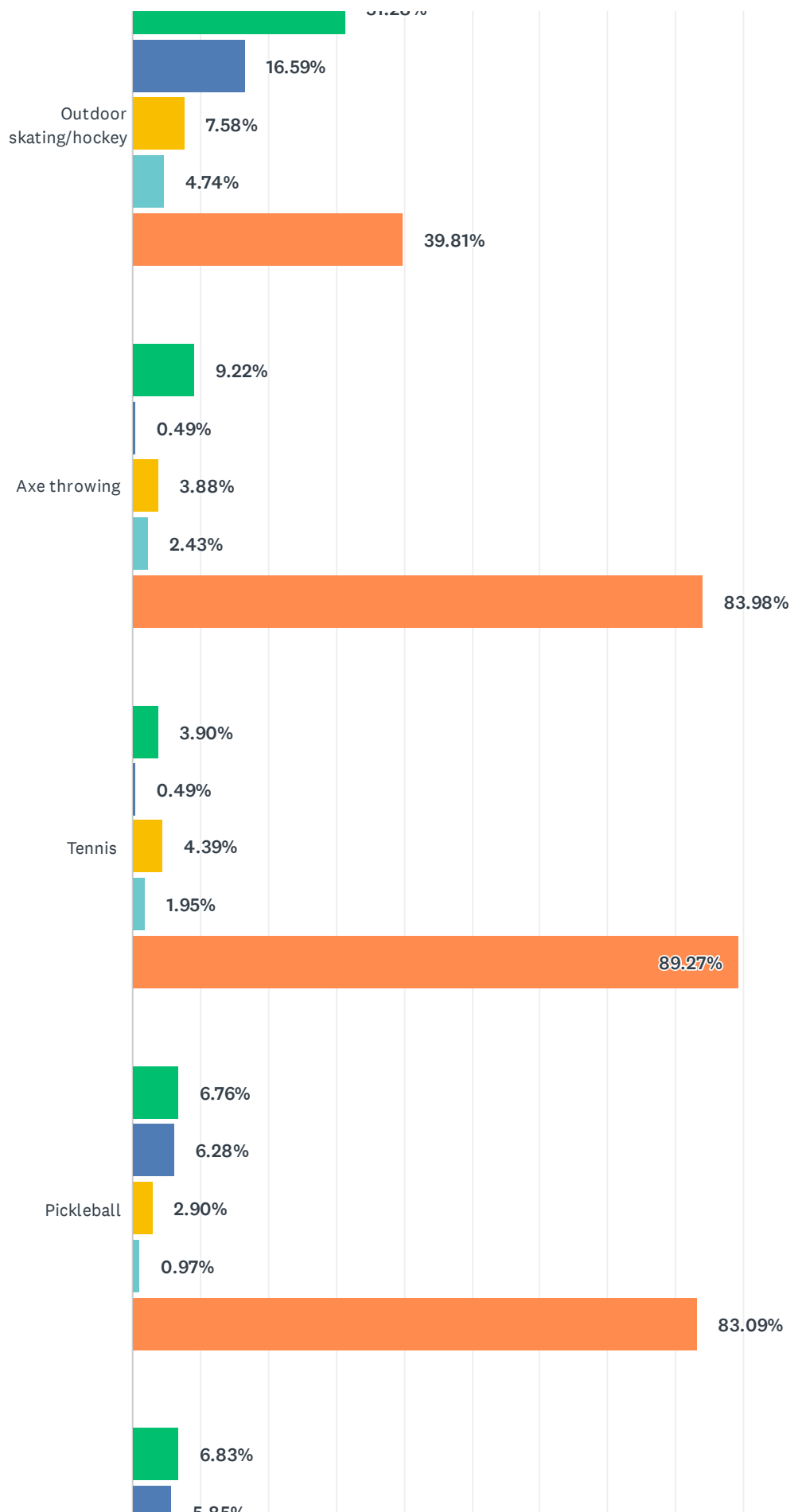


# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

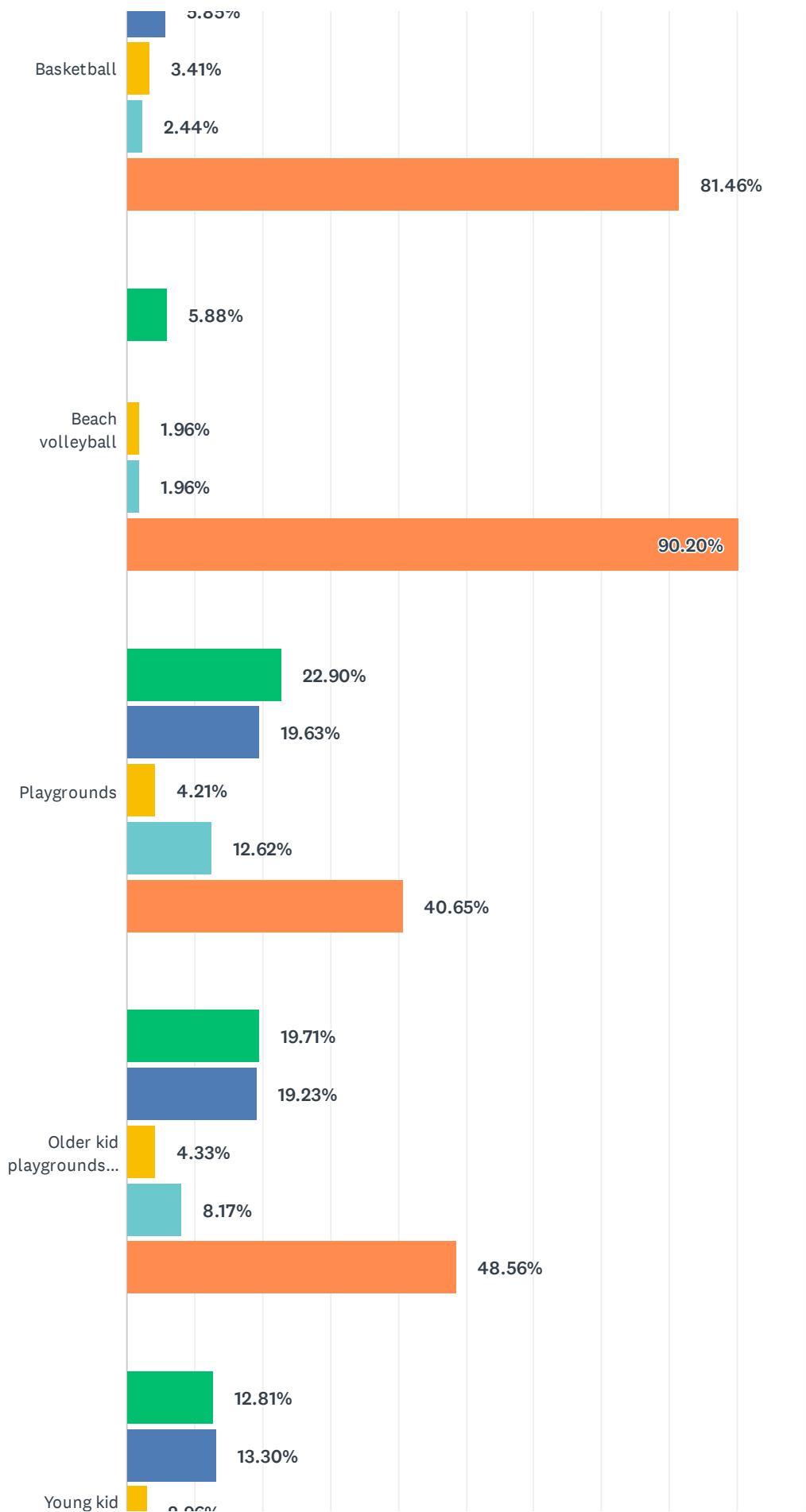




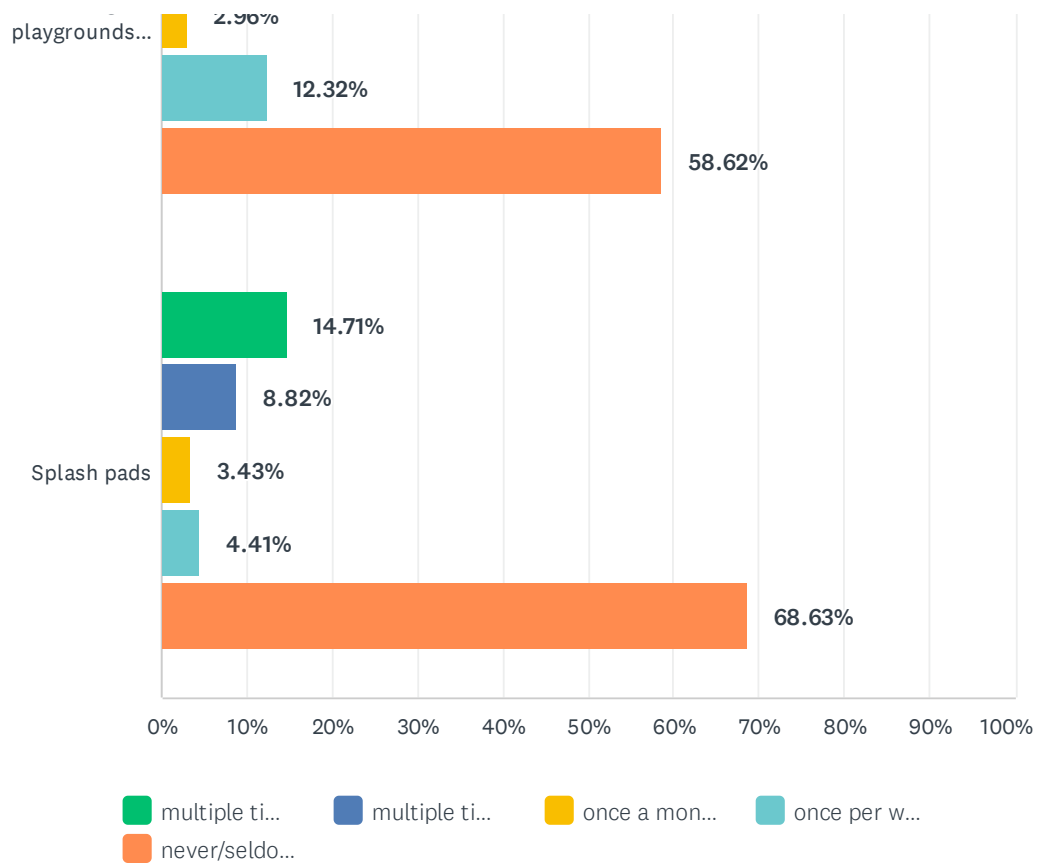
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

	MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	MULTIPLE TIMES PER MONTH	ONCE A MONTH	ONCE PER WEEK	NEVER/SELDOM	TOTAL
Walking or running on trails	26.22% 59	35.56% 80	4.89% 11	28.00% 63	5.33% 12	225
Wheeling on trails (biking, rollerblading, scooter, wheelchair)	21.52% 48	26.91% 60	6.28% 14	19.73% 44	25.56% 57	223
Skateboarding	4.83% 10	6.76% 14	2.42% 5	2.90% 6	83.09% 172	207
BMX / bike skills	5.94% 12	3.47% 7	1.98% 4	6.44% 13	82.18% 166	202
Biking on trails	24.09% 53	25.00% 55	7.73% 17	16.36% 36	26.82% 59	220
Tobogganing	28.99% 60	11.11% 23	9.18% 19	1.93% 4	48.79% 101	207
Birdwatching and other nature- based	22.33% 48	12.56% 27	6.98% 15	8.37% 18	49.77% 107	215
Picnicking	30.05% 64	5.63% 12	11.27% 24	4.69% 10	48.36% 103	213
Off-leash dog park	11.79% 25	6.13% 13	5.66% 12	8.02% 17	68.40% 145	212
Beach activities	40.09% 87	24.88% 54	9.22% 20	9.22% 20	16.59% 36	217
Lake watersports (kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, boating, swimming)	33.33% 73	26.48% 58	9.59% 21	9.13% 20	21.46% 47	219
Baseball/softball	9.05% 19	7.62% 16	1.90% 4	6.19% 13	75.24% 158	210
Soccer	10.48% 22	5.71% 12	2.86% 6	2.38% 5	78.57% 165	210
Football	12.98% 27	6.73% 14	0.96% 2	4.33% 9	75.00% 156	208
Lacrosse	0.97% 2	2.91% 6	0.49% 1	0.00% 0	95.63% 197	206
Rugby	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.99% 2	99.01% 200	202
Golfing	23.58% 50	11.79% 25	8.49% 18	6.13% 13	50.00% 106	212
Disc Golf	6.76% 14	1.45% 3	3.86% 8	3.38% 7	84.54% 175	207
Outdoor basketball	7.73% 16	6.28% 13	3.86% 8	2.90% 6	79.23% 164	207
Outdoor splash/spray parks	21.23% 45	12.26% 26	11.32% 24	5.19% 11	50.00% 106	212
Outdoor skating/hockey	31.28% 66	16.59% 35	7.58% 16	4.74% 10	39.81% 84	211
Axe throwing	9.22% 19	0.49% 1	3.88% 8	2.43% 5	83.98% 173	206

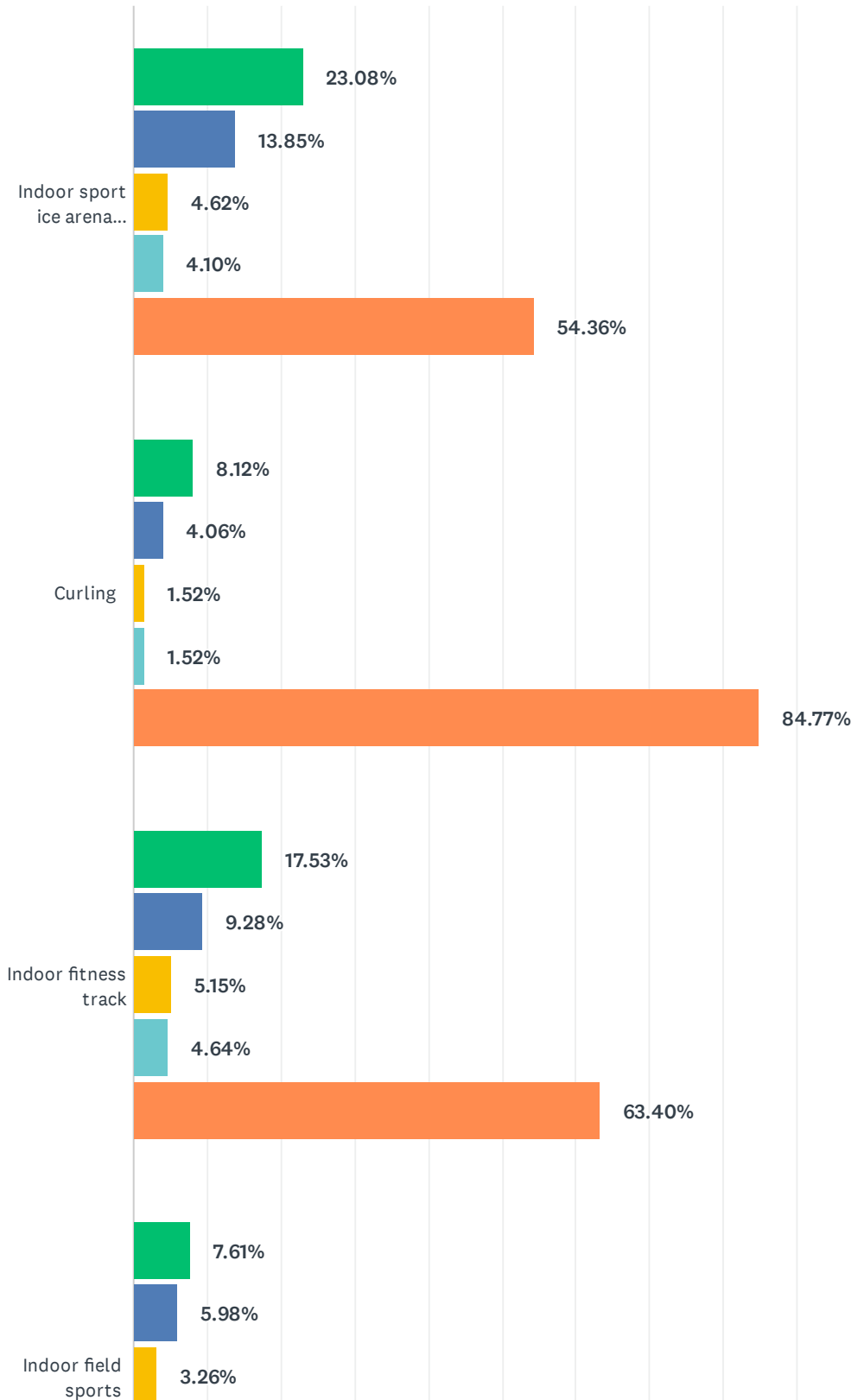
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

Tennis	3.90% 8	0.49% 1	4.39% 9	1.95% 4	89.27% 183	205
Pickleball	6.76% 14	6.28% 13	2.90% 6	0.97% 2	83.09% 172	207
Basketball	6.83% 14	5.85% 12	3.41% 7	2.44% 5	81.46% 167	205
Beach volleyball	5.88% 12	0.00% 0	1.96% 4	1.96% 4	90.20% 184	204
Playgrounds	22.90% 49	19.63% 42	4.21% 9	12.62% 27	40.65% 87	214
Older kid playgrounds (over 5)	19.71% 41	19.23% 40	4.33% 9	8.17% 17	48.56% 101	208
Young kid playgrounds (under 5)	12.81% 26	13.30% 27	2.96% 6	12.32% 25	58.62% 119	203
Splash pads	14.71% 30	8.82% 18	3.43% 7	4.41% 9	68.63% 140	204

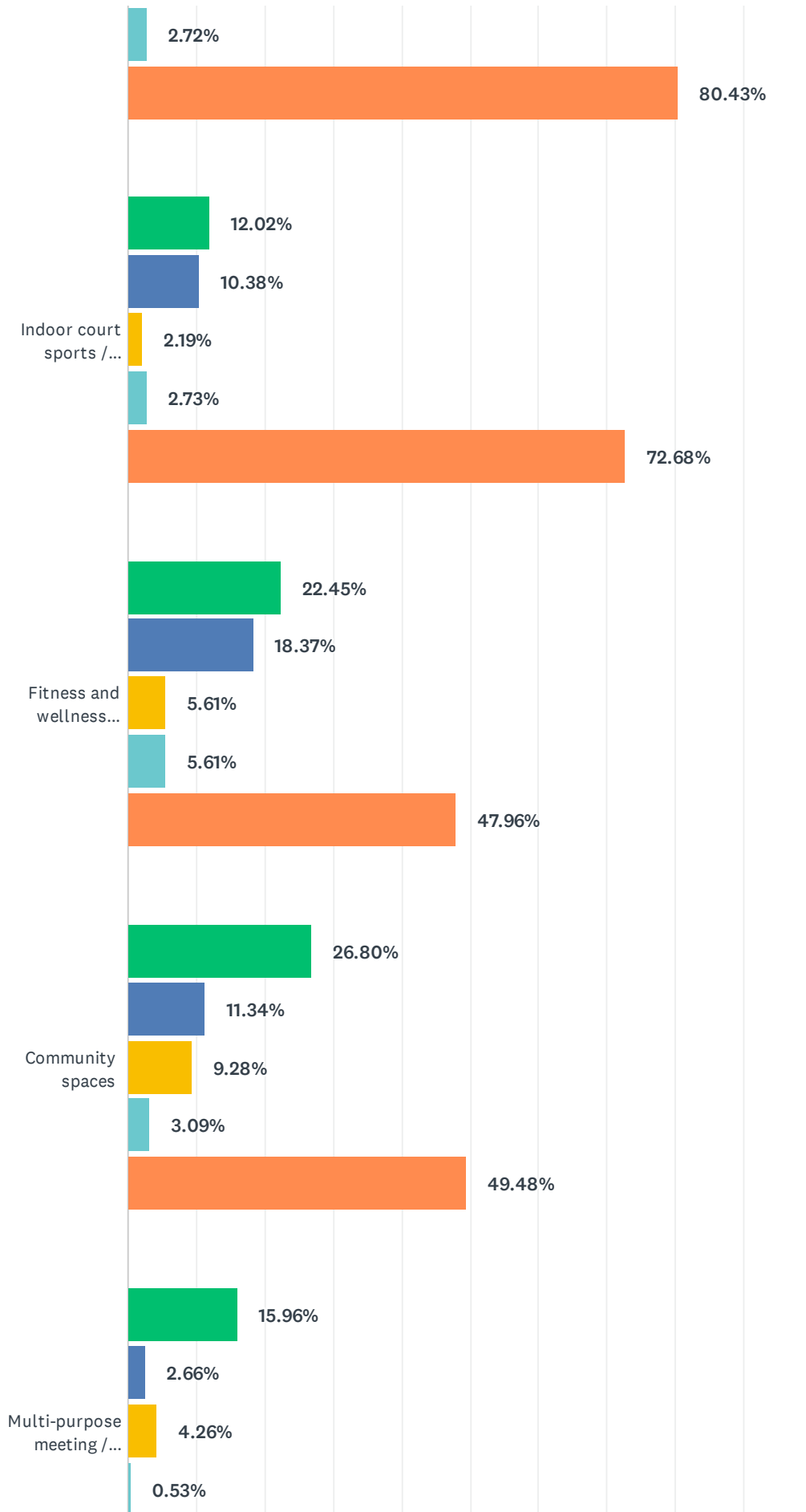


### Q3 Please identify how often you or someone in your household participates in indoor activities

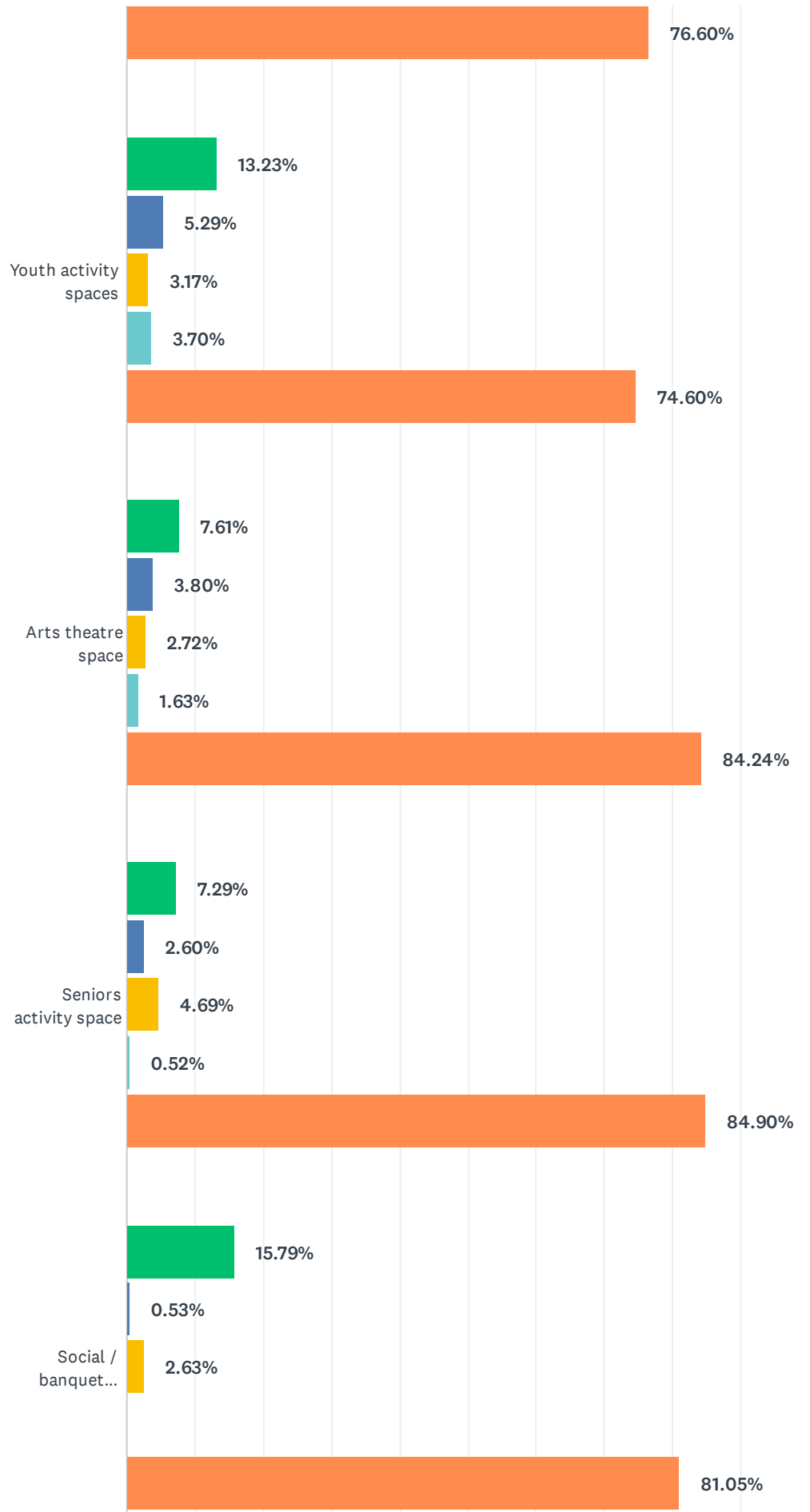
Answered: 223 Skipped: 7



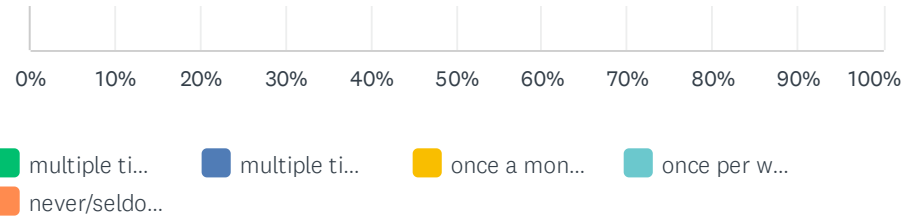
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



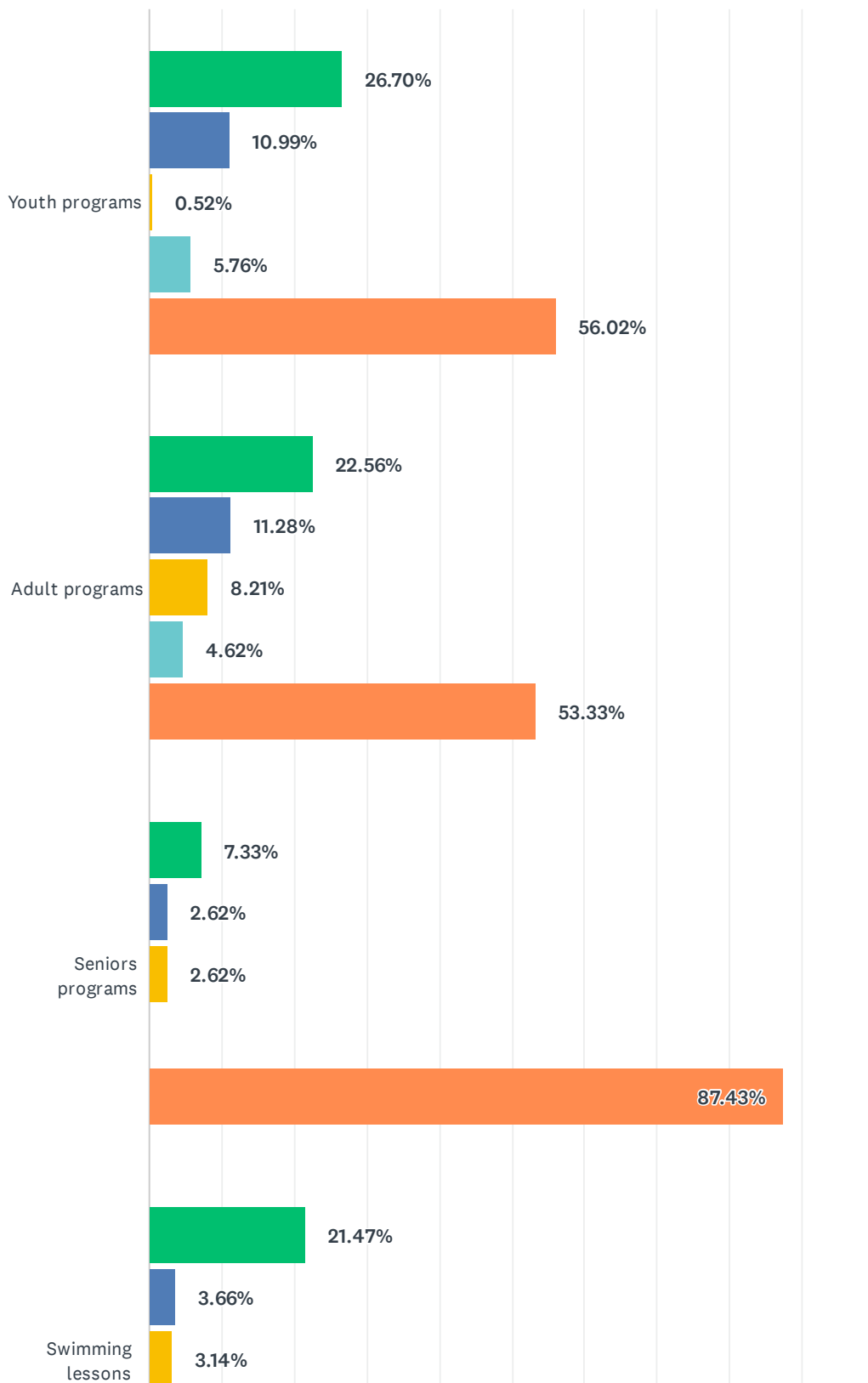
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



	MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	MULTIPLE TIMES PER MONTH	ONCE A MONTH	ONCE PER WEEK	NEVER/SELDOM	TOTAL
Indoor sport ice arena (skating, hockey)	23.08% 45	13.85% 27	4.62% 9	4.10% 8	54.36% 106	195
Curling	8.12% 16	4.06% 8	1.52% 3	1.52% 3	84.77% 167	197
Indoor fitness track	17.53% 34	9.28% 18	5.15% 10	4.64% 9	63.40% 123	194
Indoor field sports	7.61% 14	5.98% 11	3.26% 6	2.72% 5	80.43% 148	184
Indoor court sports / gymnasium spaces	12.02% 22	10.38% 19	2.19% 4	2.73% 5	72.68% 133	183
Fitness and wellness centres	22.45% 44	18.37% 36	5.61% 11	5.61% 11	47.96% 94	196
Community spaces	26.80% 52	11.34% 22	9.28% 18	3.09% 6	49.48% 96	194
Multi-purpose meeting / program spaces	15.96% 30	2.66% 5	4.26% 8	0.53% 1	76.60% 144	188
Youth activity spaces	13.23% 25	5.29% 10	3.17% 6	3.70% 7	74.60% 141	189
Arts theatre space	7.61% 14	3.80% 7	2.72% 5	1.63% 3	84.24% 155	184
Seniors activity space	7.29% 14	2.60% 5	4.69% 9	0.52% 1	84.90% 163	192
Social / banquet facilities	15.79% 30	0.53% 1	2.63% 5	0.00% 0	81.05% 154	190

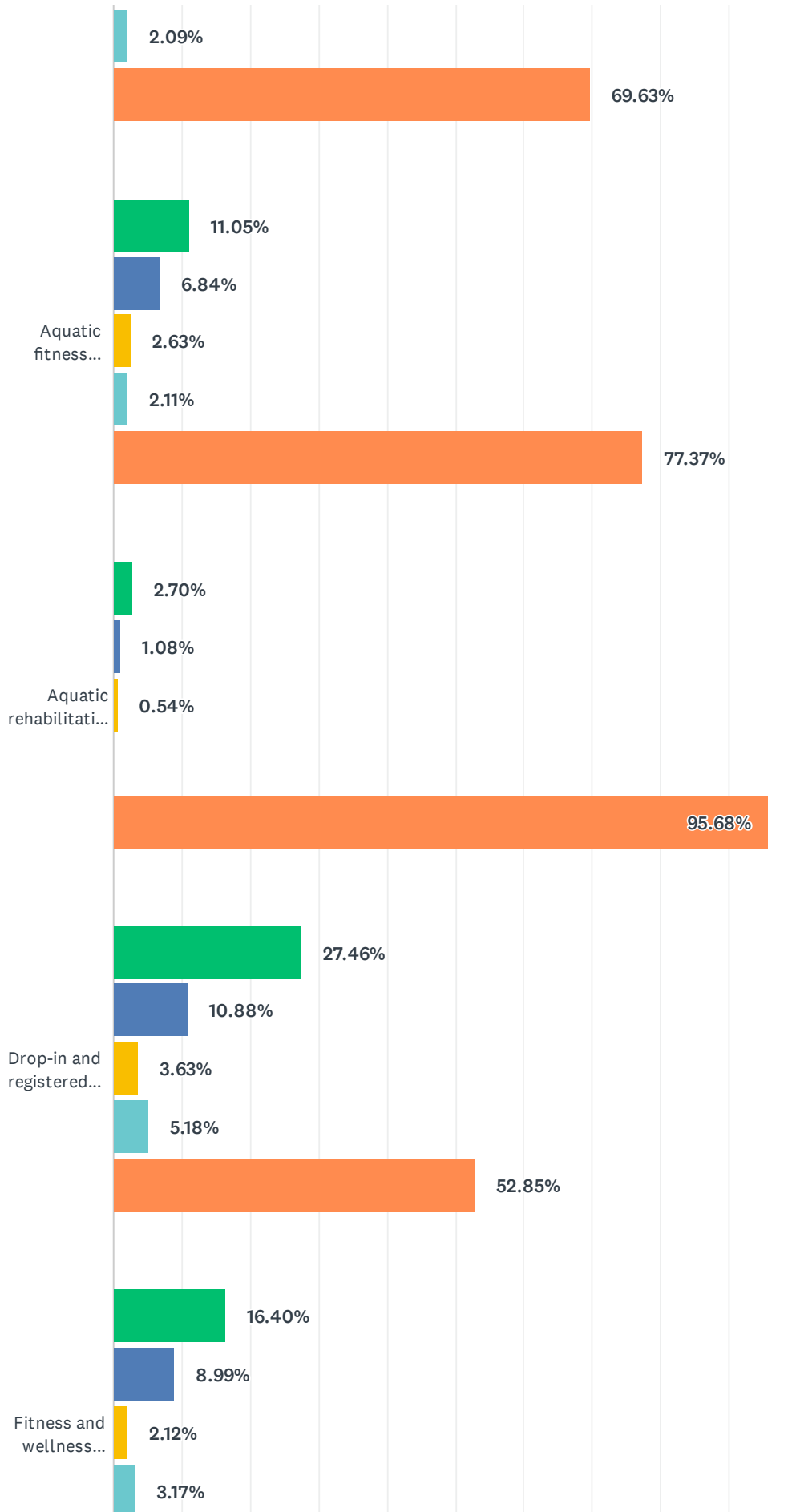
# Q4 Please identify how often you or someone in your household participates in sport, recreation programs and cultural activities and events.

Answered: 221 Skipped: 9

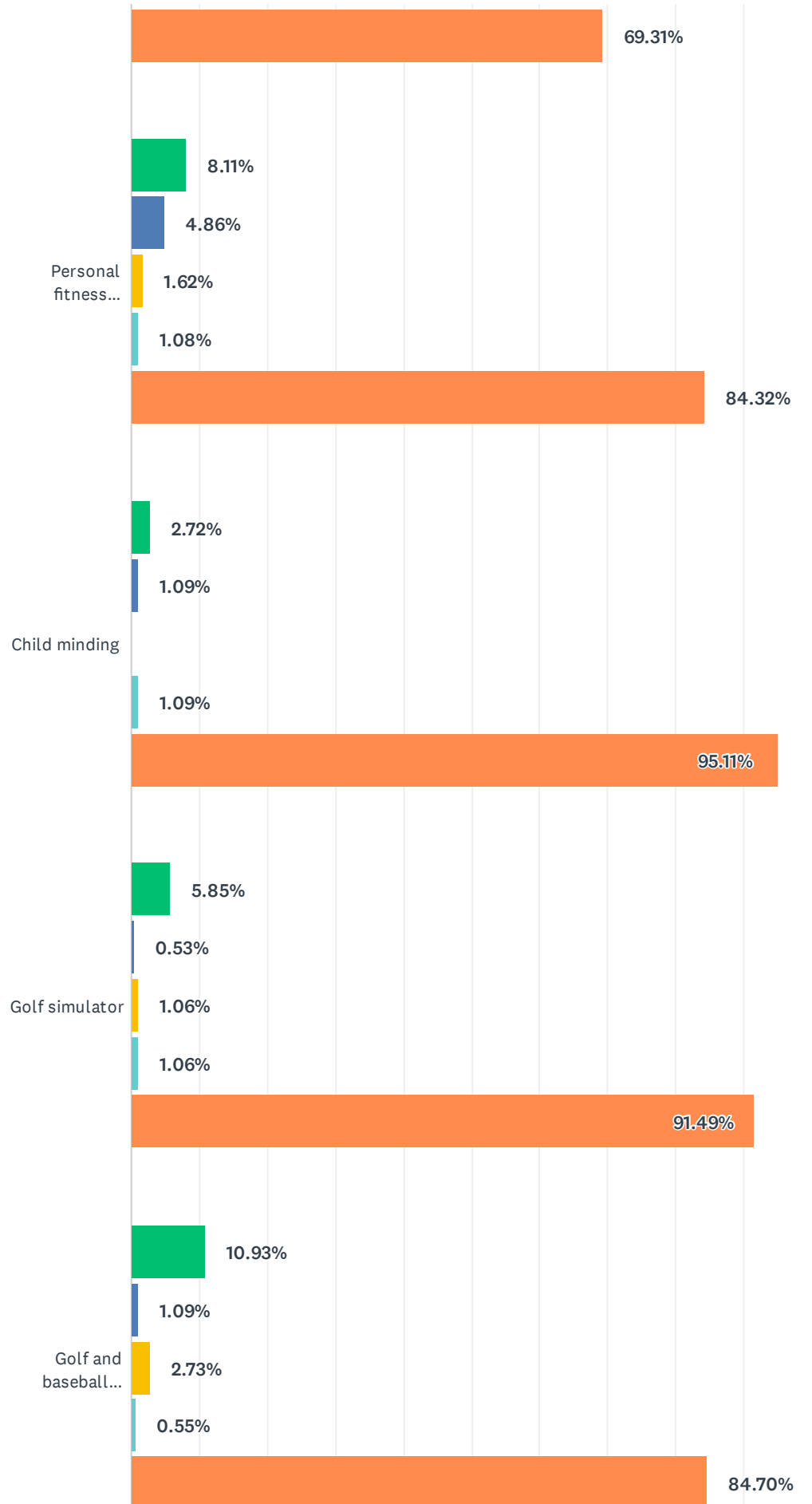




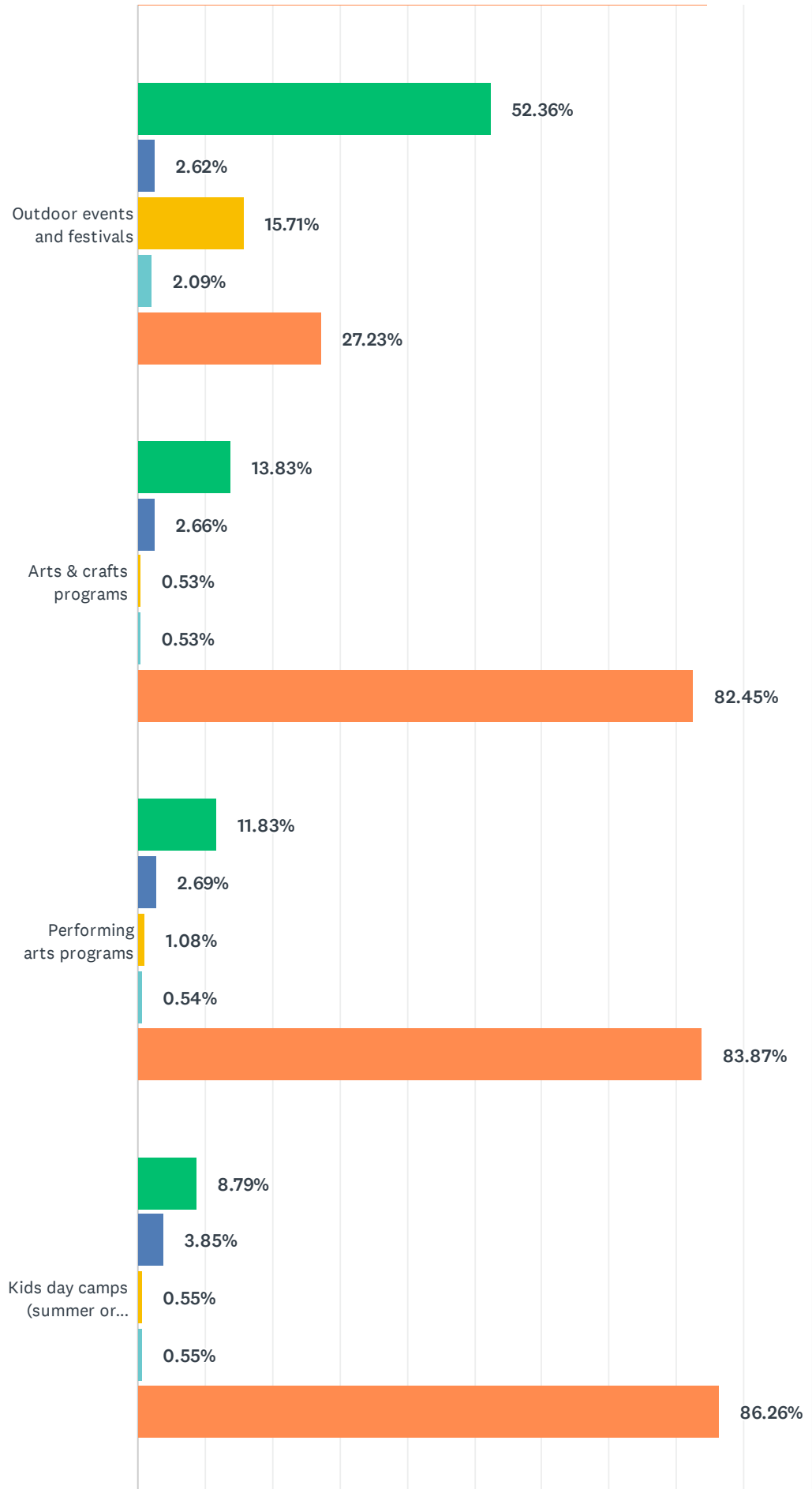
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



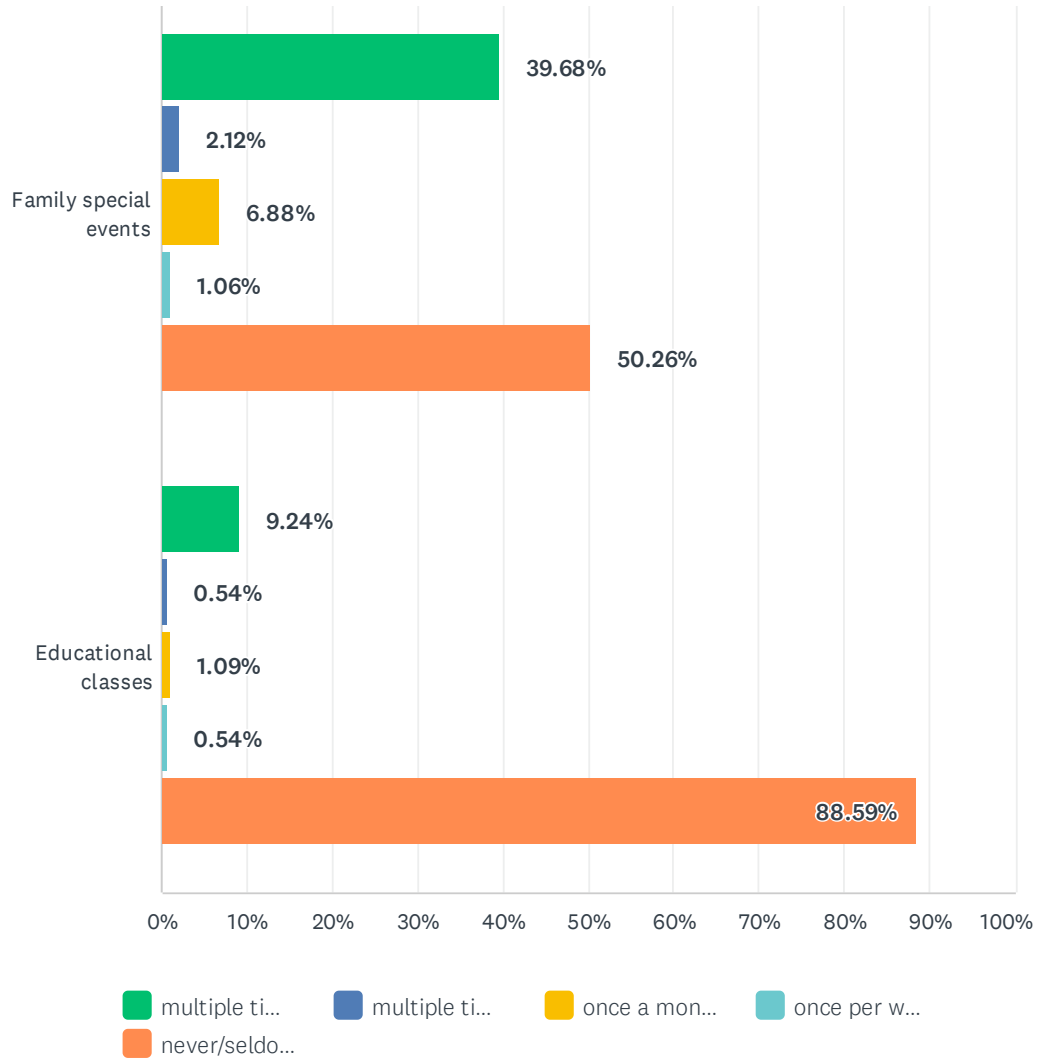
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

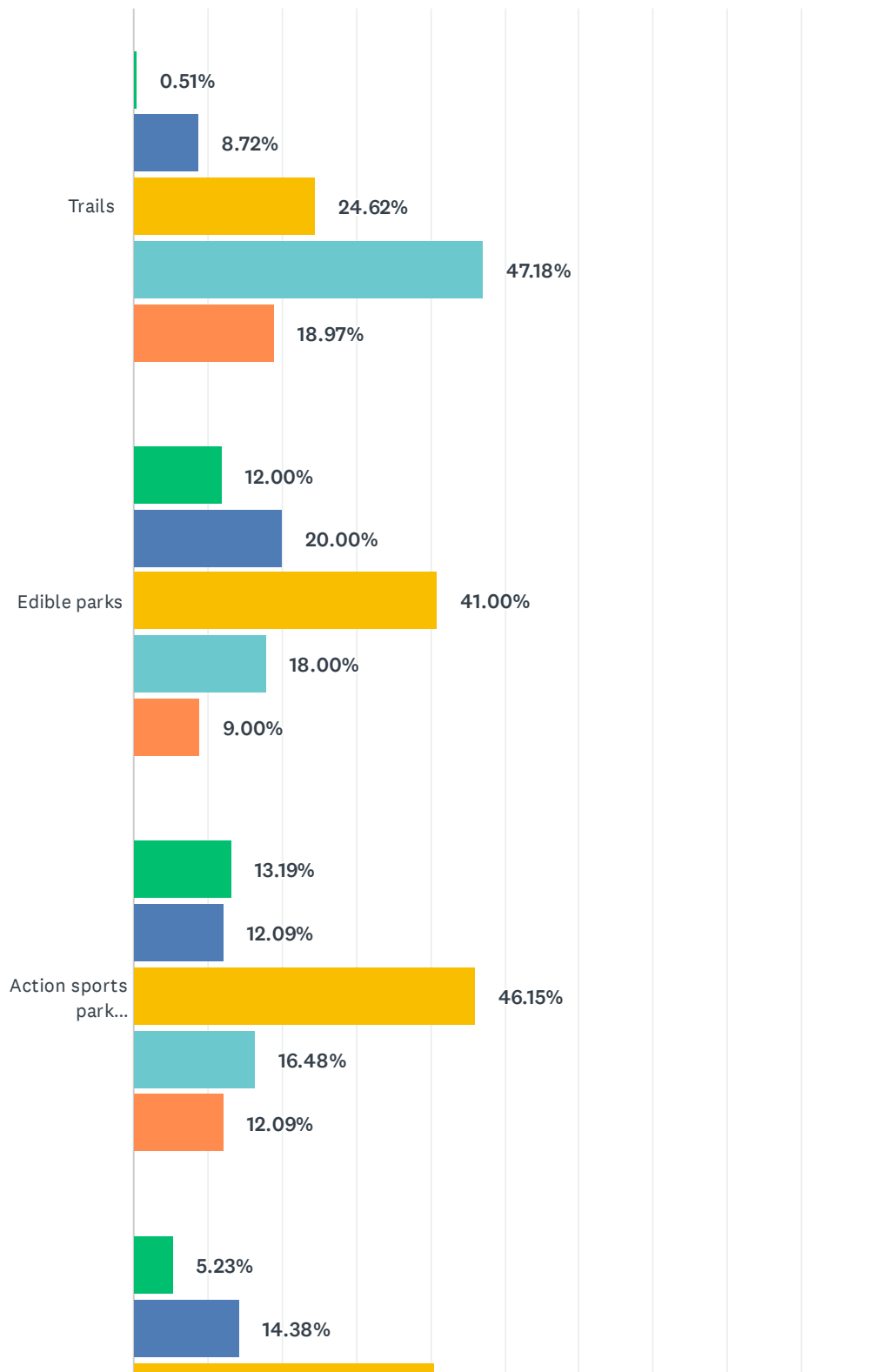


# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

	MULTIPLE TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	MULTIPLE TIMES PER MONTH	ONCE A MONTH	ONCE PER WEEK	NEVER/SELDOM	TOTAL
Youth programs	26.70% 51	10.99% 21	0.52% 1	5.76% 11	56.02% 107	191
Adult programs	22.56% 44	11.28% 22	8.21% 16	4.62% 9	53.33% 104	195
Seniors programs	7.33% 14	2.62% 5	2.62% 5	0.00% 0	87.43% 167	191
Swimming lessons	21.47% 41	3.66% 7	3.14% 6	2.09% 4	69.63% 133	191
Aquatic fitness programs	11.05% 21	6.84% 13	2.63% 5	2.11% 4	77.37% 147	190
Aquatic rehabilitation programs	2.70% 5	1.08% 2	0.54% 1	0.00% 0	95.68% 177	185
Drop-in and registered sports	27.46% 53	10.88% 21	3.63% 7	5.18% 10	52.85% 102	193
Fitness and wellness classes	16.40% 31	8.99% 17	2.12% 4	3.17% 6	69.31% 131	189
Personal fitness training	8.11% 15	4.86% 9	1.62% 3	1.08% 2	84.32% 156	185
Child minding	2.72% 5	1.09% 2	0.00% 0	1.09% 2	95.11% 175	184
Golf simulator	5.85% 11	0.53% 1	1.06% 2	1.06% 2	91.49% 172	188
Golf and baseball batting cages	10.93% 20	1.09% 2	2.73% 5	0.55% 1	84.70% 155	183
Outdoor events and festivals	52.36% 100	2.62% 5	15.71% 30	2.09% 4	27.23% 52	191
Arts & crafts programs	13.83% 26	2.66% 5	0.53% 1	0.53% 1	82.45% 155	188
Performing arts programs	11.83% 22	2.69% 5	1.08% 2	0.54% 1	83.87% 156	186
Kids day camps (summer or spring)	8.79% 16	3.85% 7	0.55% 1	0.55% 1	86.26% 157	182
Family special events	39.68% 75	2.12% 4	6.88% 13	1.06% 2	50.26% 95	189
Educational classes	9.24% 17	0.54% 1	1.09% 2	0.54% 1	88.59% 163	184

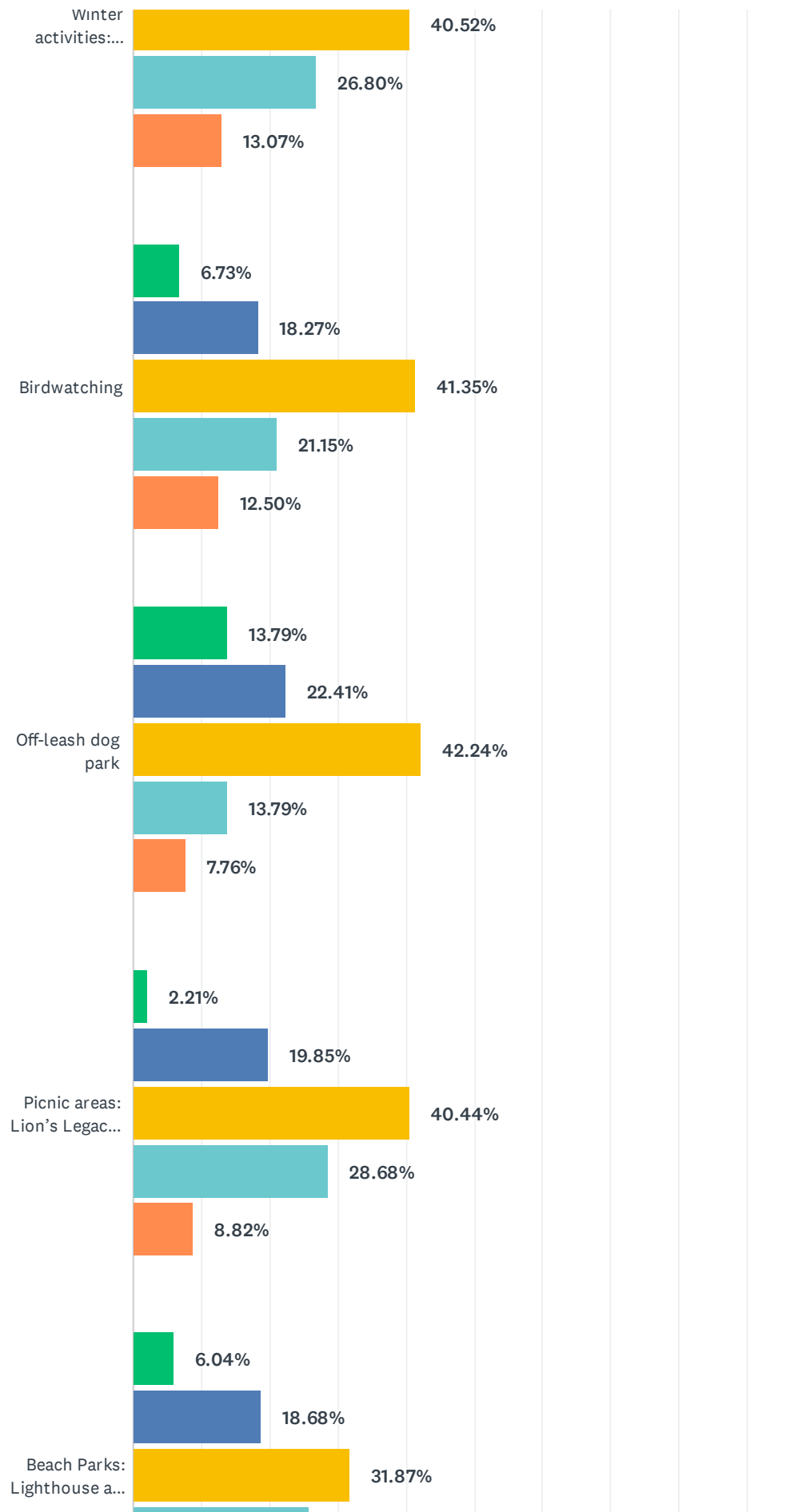
Q5 If you or someone from your household has utilized the following outdoor recreation and parks services and facilities in the past 12 months, please rate your level of satisfaction from 1 – 5.

Answered: 221 Skipped: 9

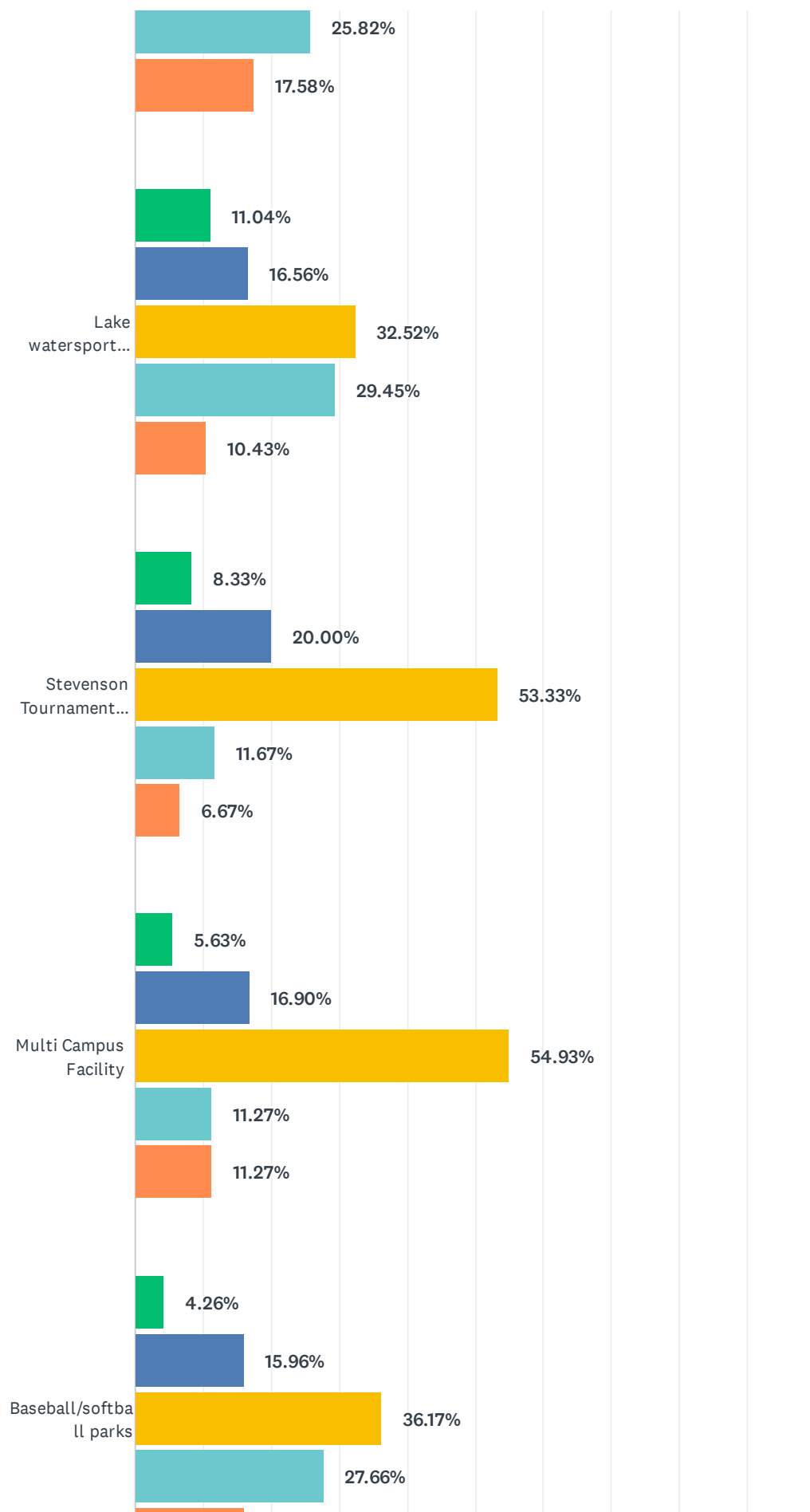




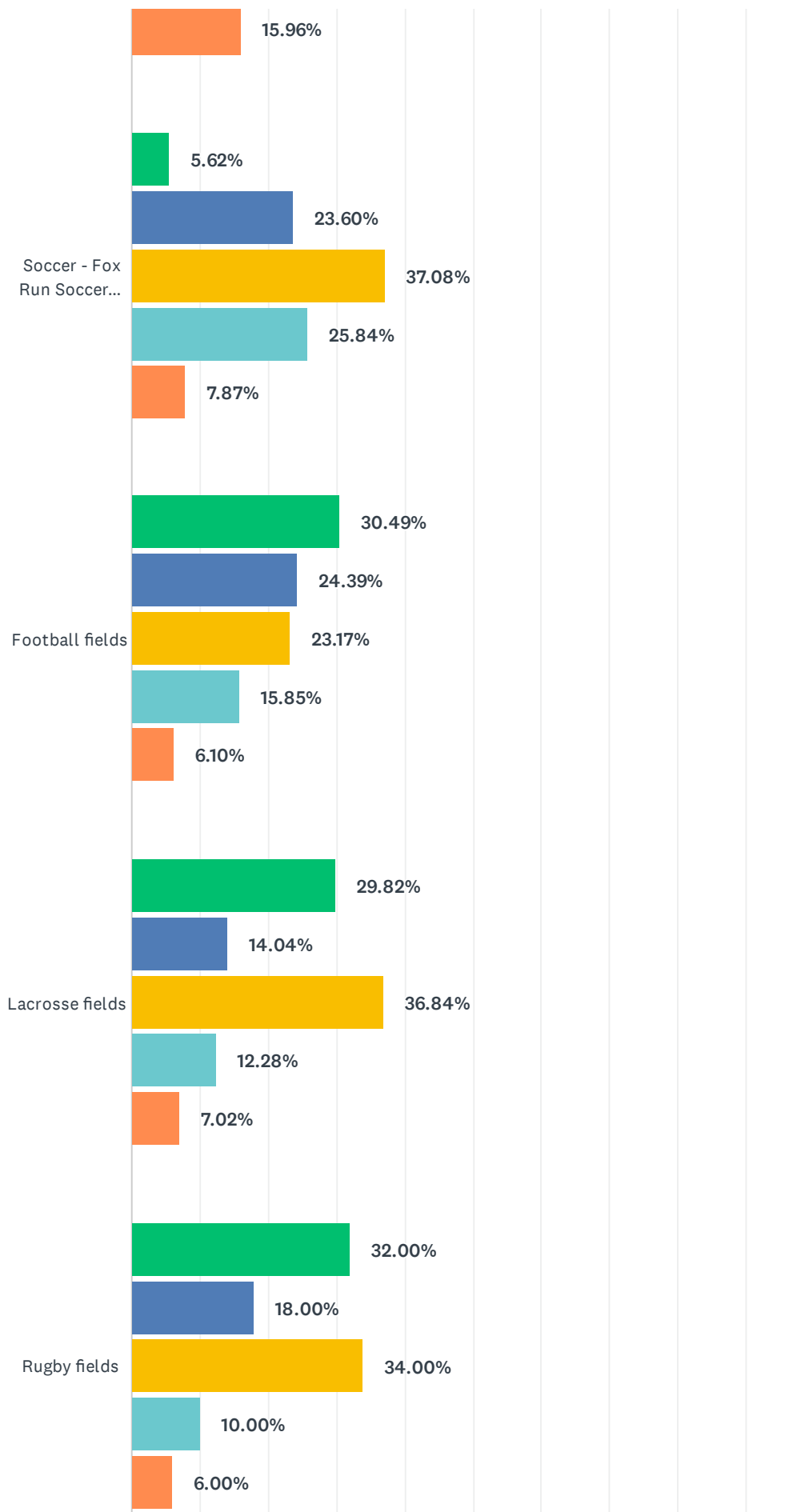
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



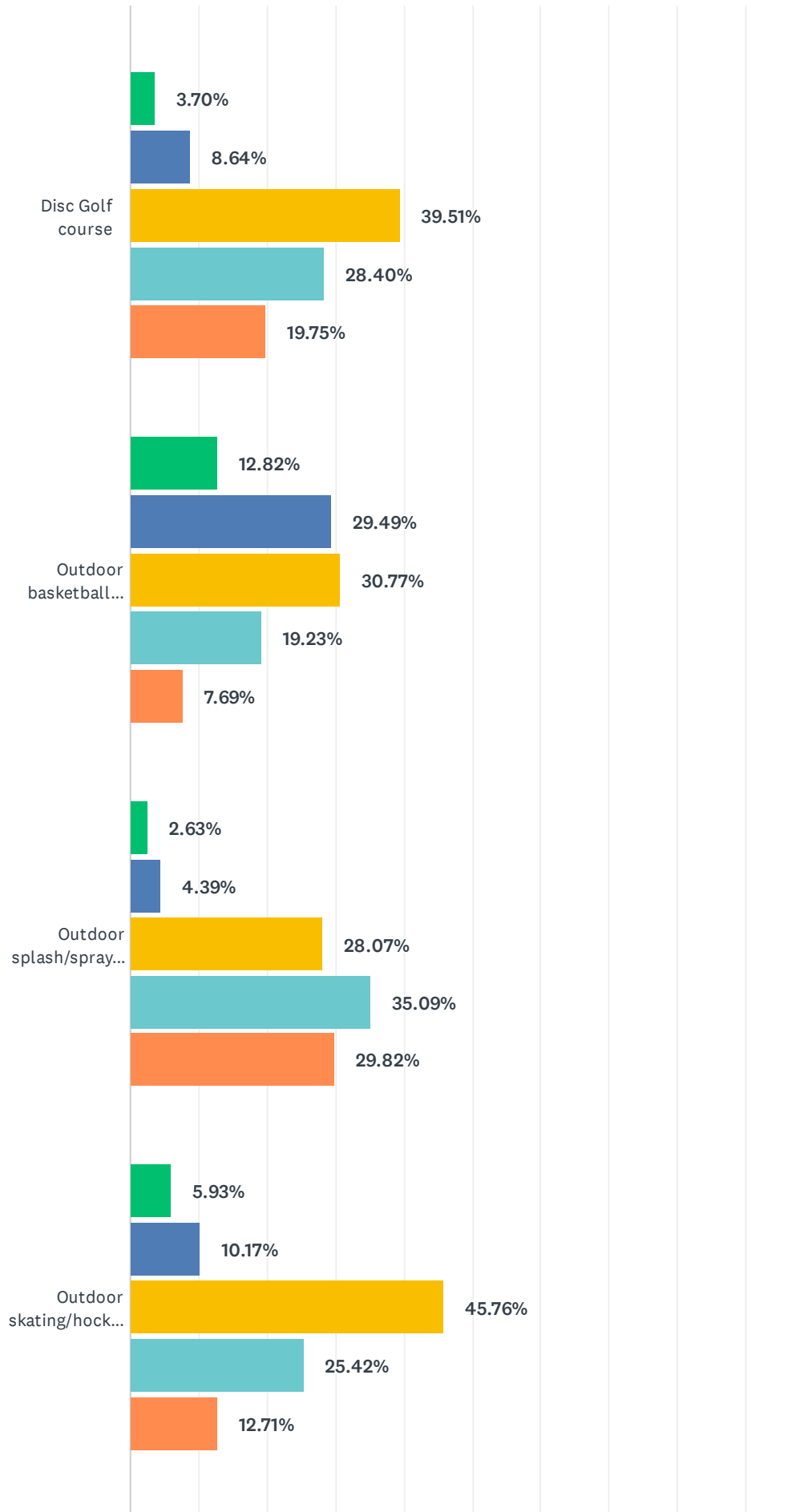
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



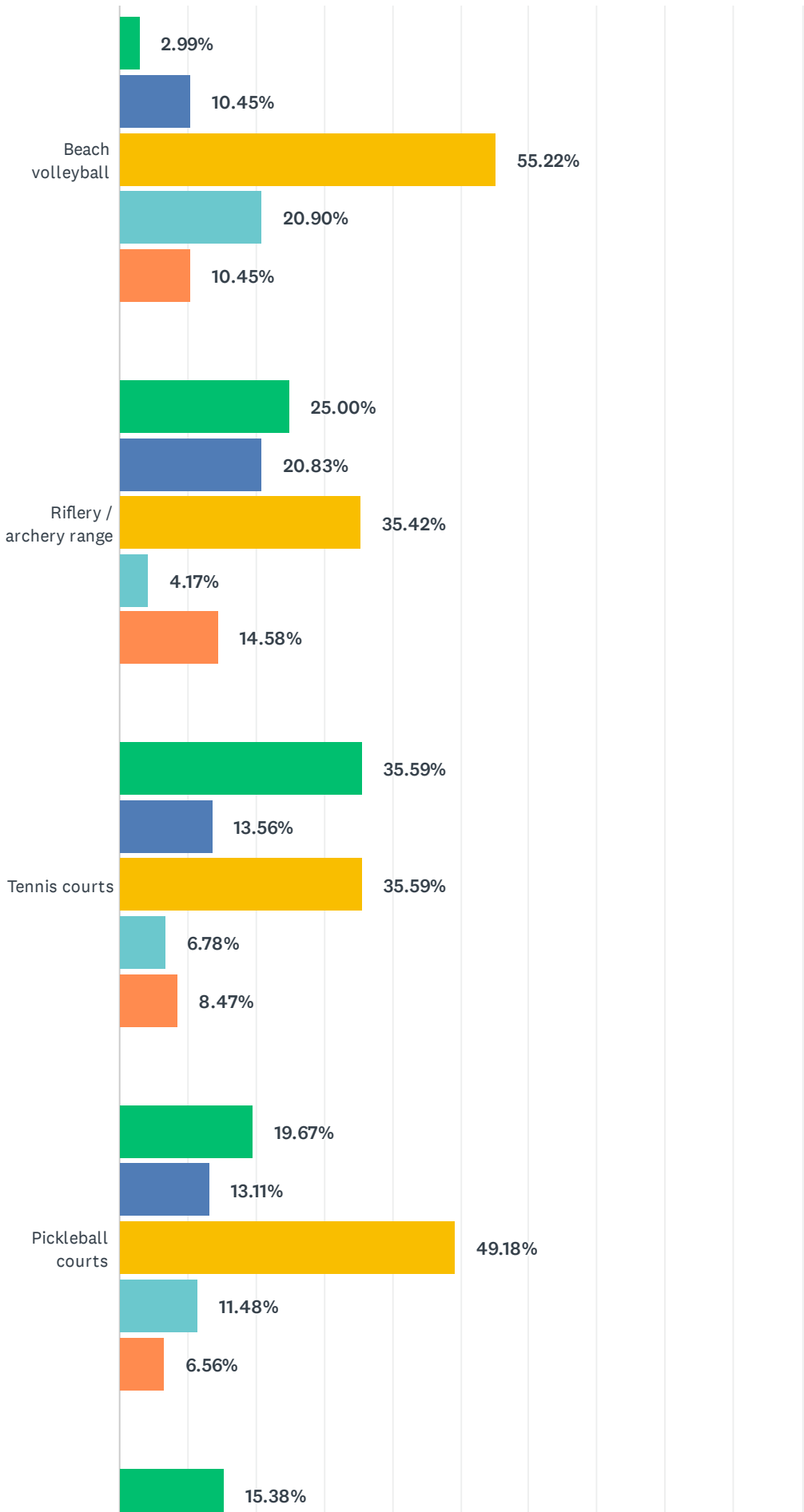
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



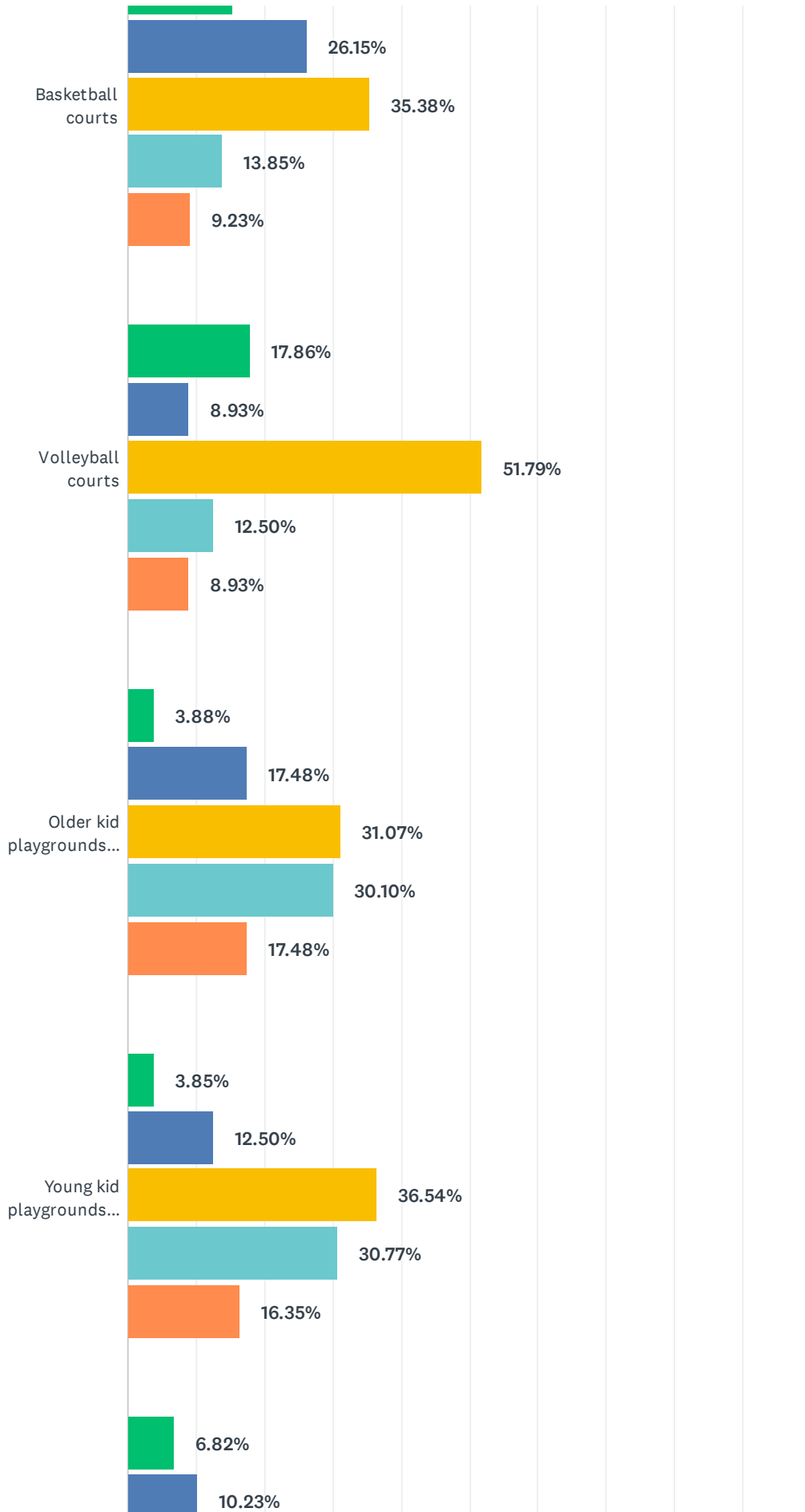
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

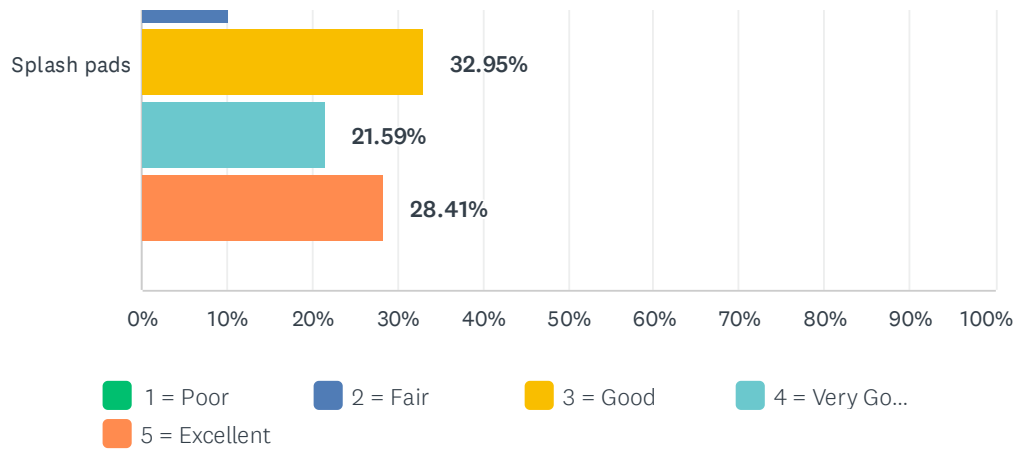


# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan





## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

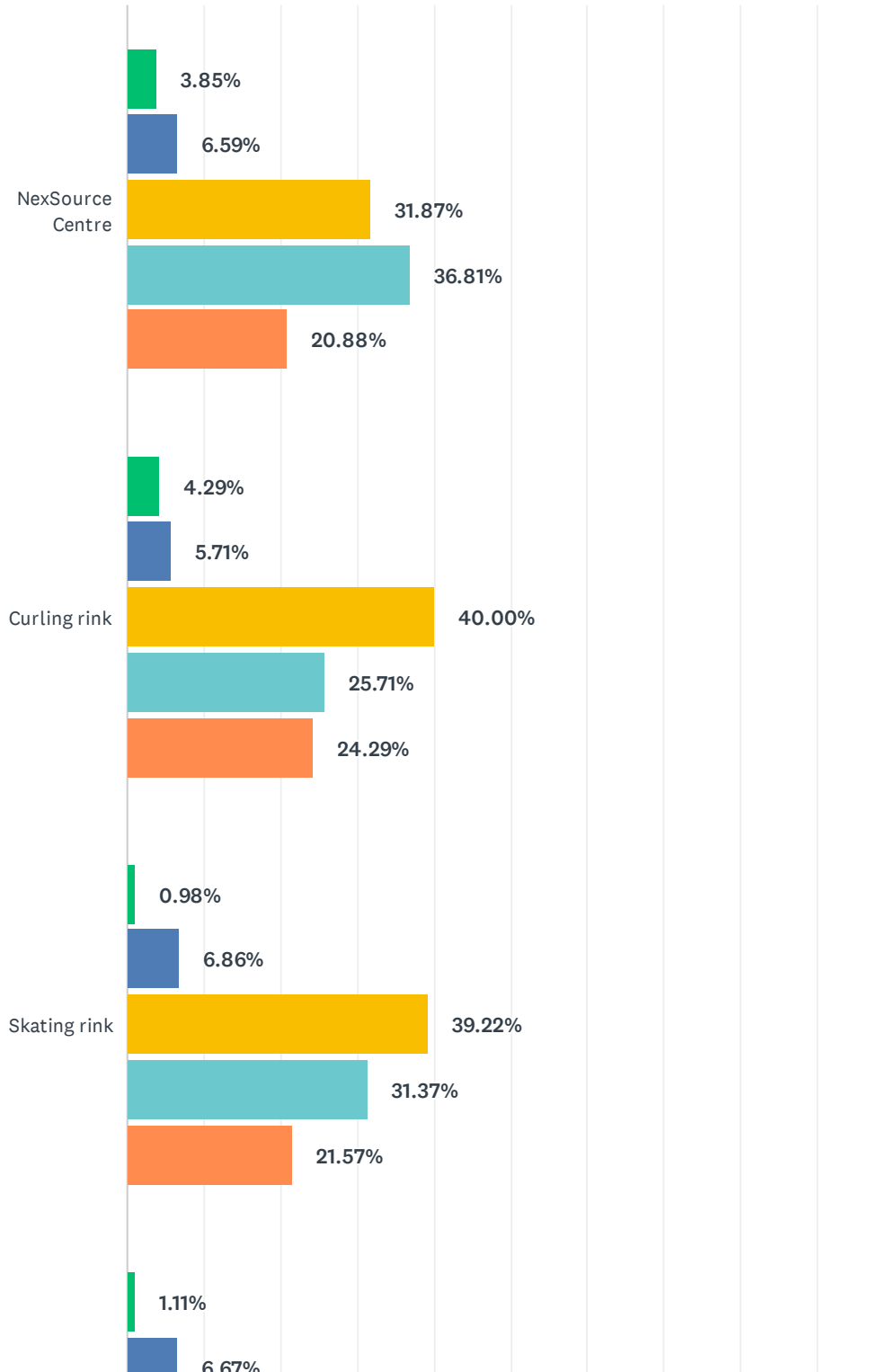
	1 = POOR	2 = FAIR	3 = GOOD	4 = VERY GOOD	5 = EXCELLENT	TOTAL
Trails	0.51% 1	8.72% 17	24.62% 48	47.18% 92	18.97% 37	195
Edible parks	12.00% 12	20.00% 20	41.00% 41	18.00% 18	9.00% 9	100
Action sports park (Skateboard, BMX)	13.19% 12	12.09% 11	46.15% 42	16.48% 15	12.09% 11	91
Winter activities: tobogganing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing	5.23% 8	14.38% 22	40.52% 62	26.80% 41	13.07% 20	153
Birdwatching	6.73% 7	18.27% 19	41.35% 43	21.15% 22	12.50% 13	104
Off-leash dog park	13.79% 16	22.41% 26	42.24% 49	13.79% 16	7.76% 9	116
Picnic areas: Lion's Legacy & Centennial Park	2.21% 3	19.85% 27	40.44% 55	28.68% 39	8.82% 12	136
Beach Parks: Lighthouse and Lakefront & Sylvan Lake Parks	6.04% 11	18.68% 34	31.87% 58	25.82% 47	17.58% 32	182
Lake watersport access (kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, boating, swimming)	11.04% 18	16.56% 27	32.52% 53	29.45% 48	10.43% 17	163
Stevenson Tournament House	8.33% 5	20.00% 12	53.33% 32	11.67% 7	6.67% 4	60
Multi Campus Facility	5.63% 4	16.90% 12	54.93% 39	11.27% 8	11.27% 8	71
Baseball/softball parks	4.26% 4	15.96% 15	36.17% 34	27.66% 26	15.96% 15	94
Soccer - Fox Run Soccer Pitch, Leader Field, Four Seasons Park	5.62% 5	23.60% 21	37.08% 33	25.84% 23	7.87% 7	89
Football fields	30.49% 25	24.39% 20	23.17% 19	15.85% 13	6.10% 5	82
Lacrosse fields	29.82% 17	14.04% 8	36.84% 21	12.28% 7	7.02% 4	57
Rugby fields	32.00% 16	18.00% 9	34.00% 17	10.00% 5	6.00% 3	50
Disc Golf course	3.70% 3	8.64% 7	39.51% 32	28.40% 23	19.75% 16	81
Outdoor basketball courts	12.82% 10	29.49% 23	30.77% 24	19.23% 15	7.69% 6	78
Outdoor splash/spray parks	2.63% 3	4.39% 5	28.07% 32	35.09% 40	29.82% 34	114
Outdoor skating/hockey facilities	5.93% 7	10.17% 12	45.76% 54	25.42% 30	12.71% 15	118
Beach volleyball	2.99% 2	10.45% 7	55.22% 37	20.90% 14	10.45% 7	67
Riflery / archery range	25.00% 12	20.83% 10	35.42% 17	4.17% 2	14.58% 7	48
Tennis courts	35.59% 21	13.56% 8	35.59% 21	6.78% 4	8.47% 5	59

## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

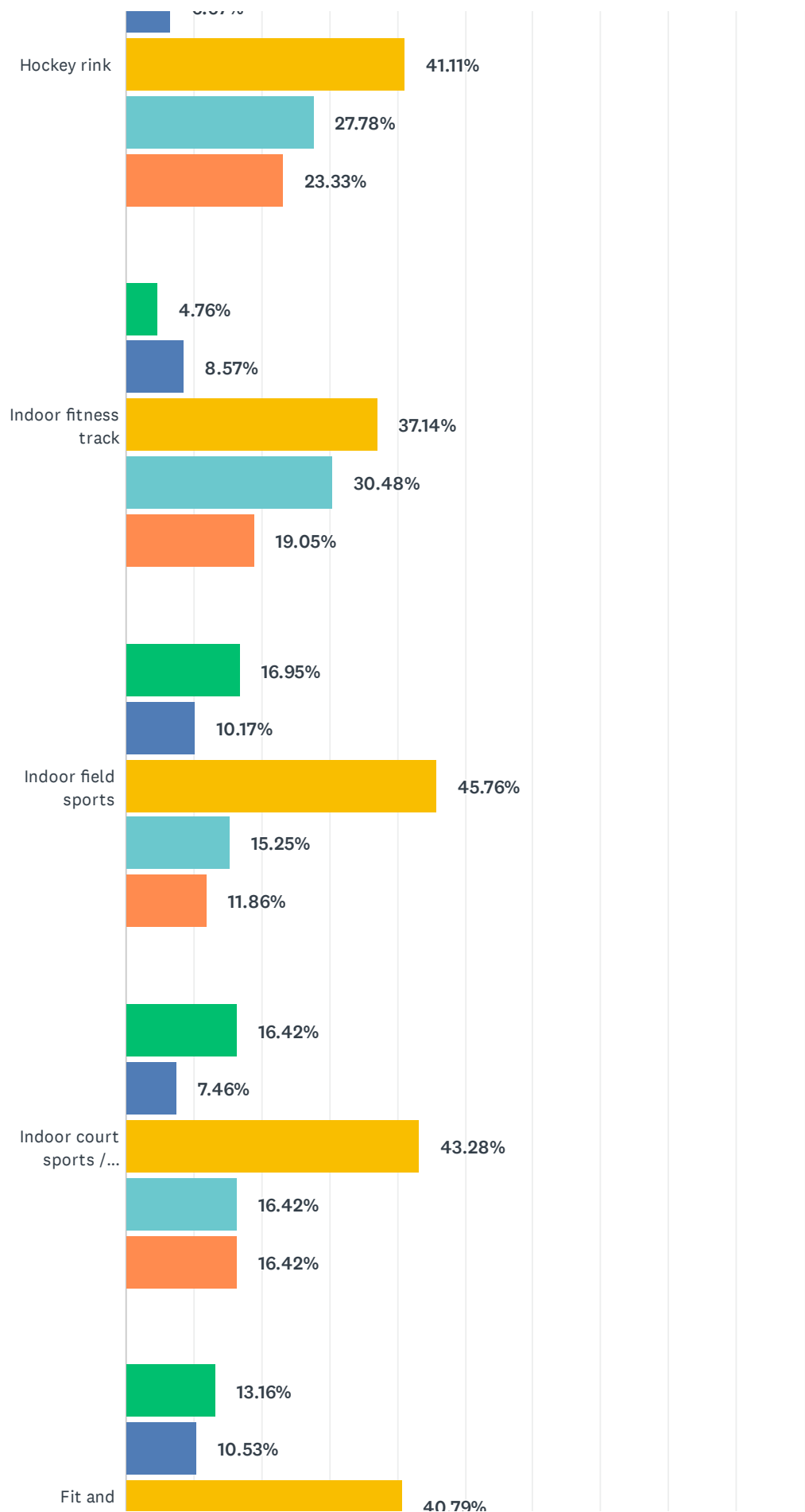
Pickleball courts	19.67% 12	13.11% 8	49.18% 30	11.48% 7	6.56% 4	61
Basketball courts	15.38% 10	26.15% 17	35.38% 23	13.85% 9	9.23% 6	65
Volleyball courts	17.86% 10	8.93% 5	51.79% 29	12.50% 7	8.93% 5	56
Older kid playgrounds (over 5)	3.88% 4	17.48% 18	31.07% 32	30.10% 31	17.48% 18	103
Young kid playgrounds (under 5)	3.85% 4	12.50% 13	36.54% 38	30.77% 32	16.35% 17	104
Splash pads	6.82% 6	10.23% 9	32.95% 29	21.59% 19	28.41% 25	88

Q6 If you or someone from your household has utilized the following indoor recreation and parks services and facilities in the past 12 months, please rate your level of satisfaction for each amenity from 1 – 5. (1=Poor and 5 = Excellent)

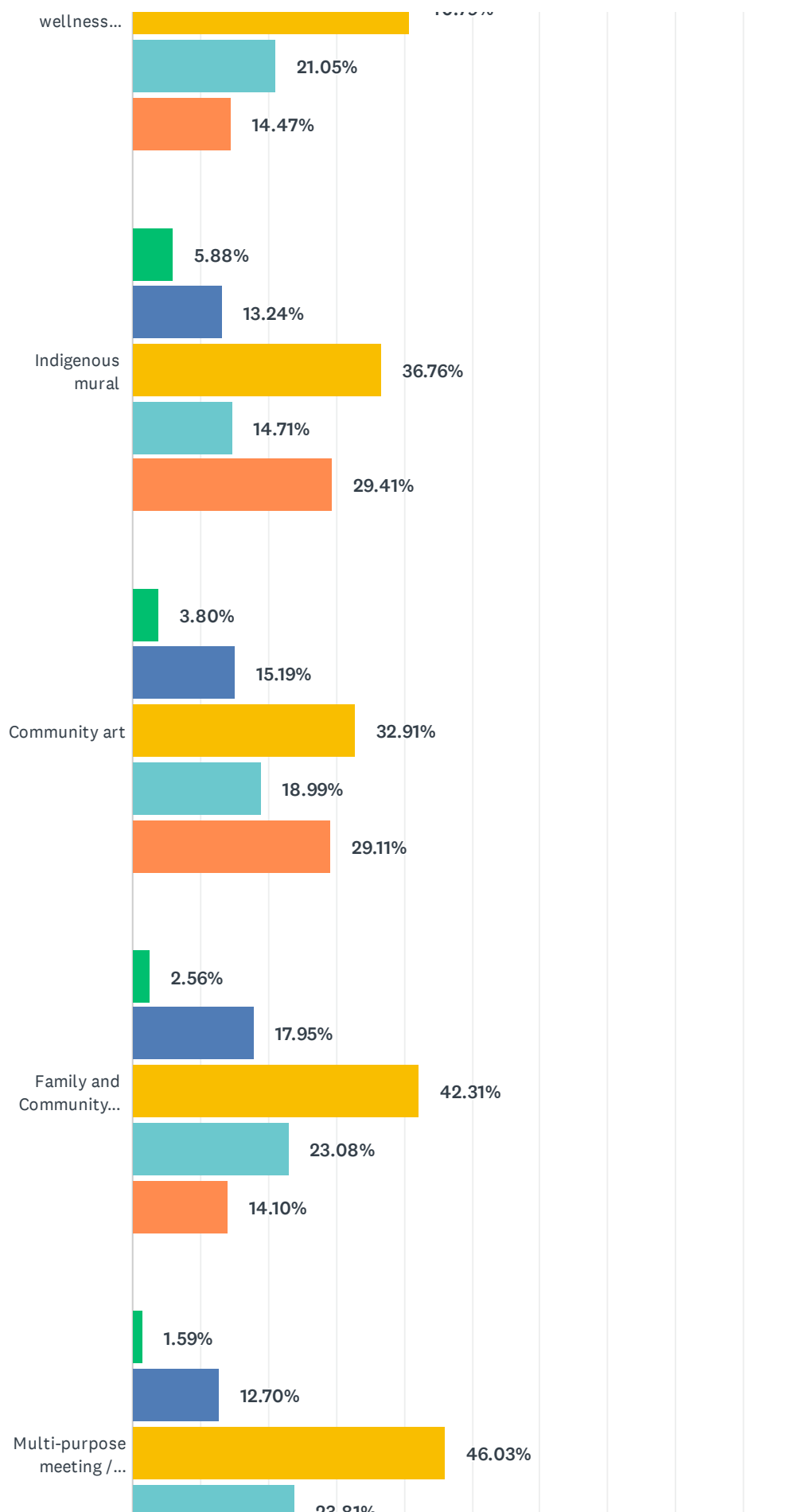
Answered: 198 Skipped: 32



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

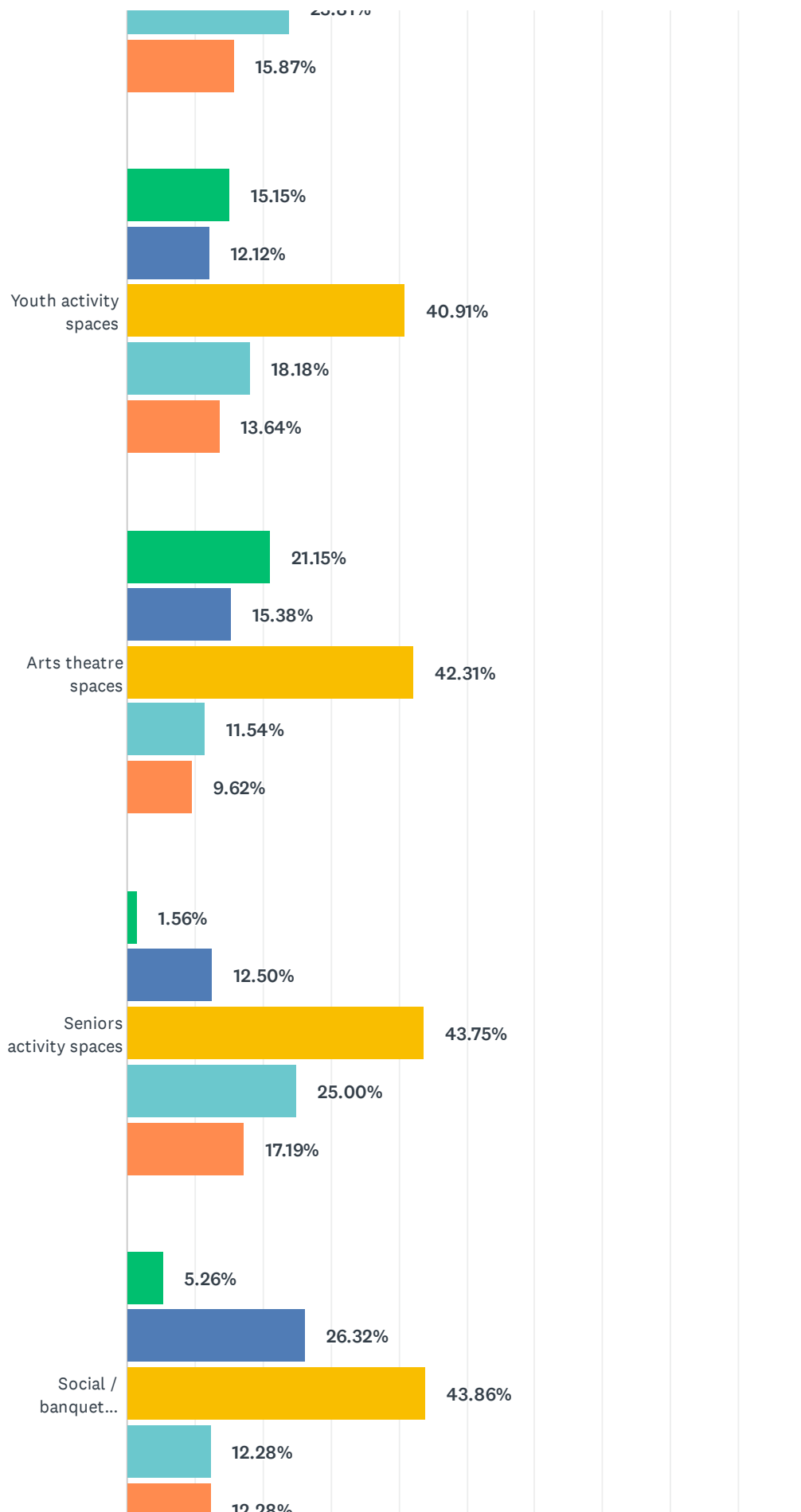


# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

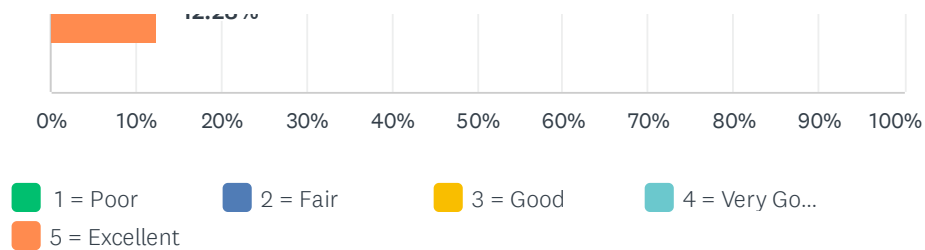




# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



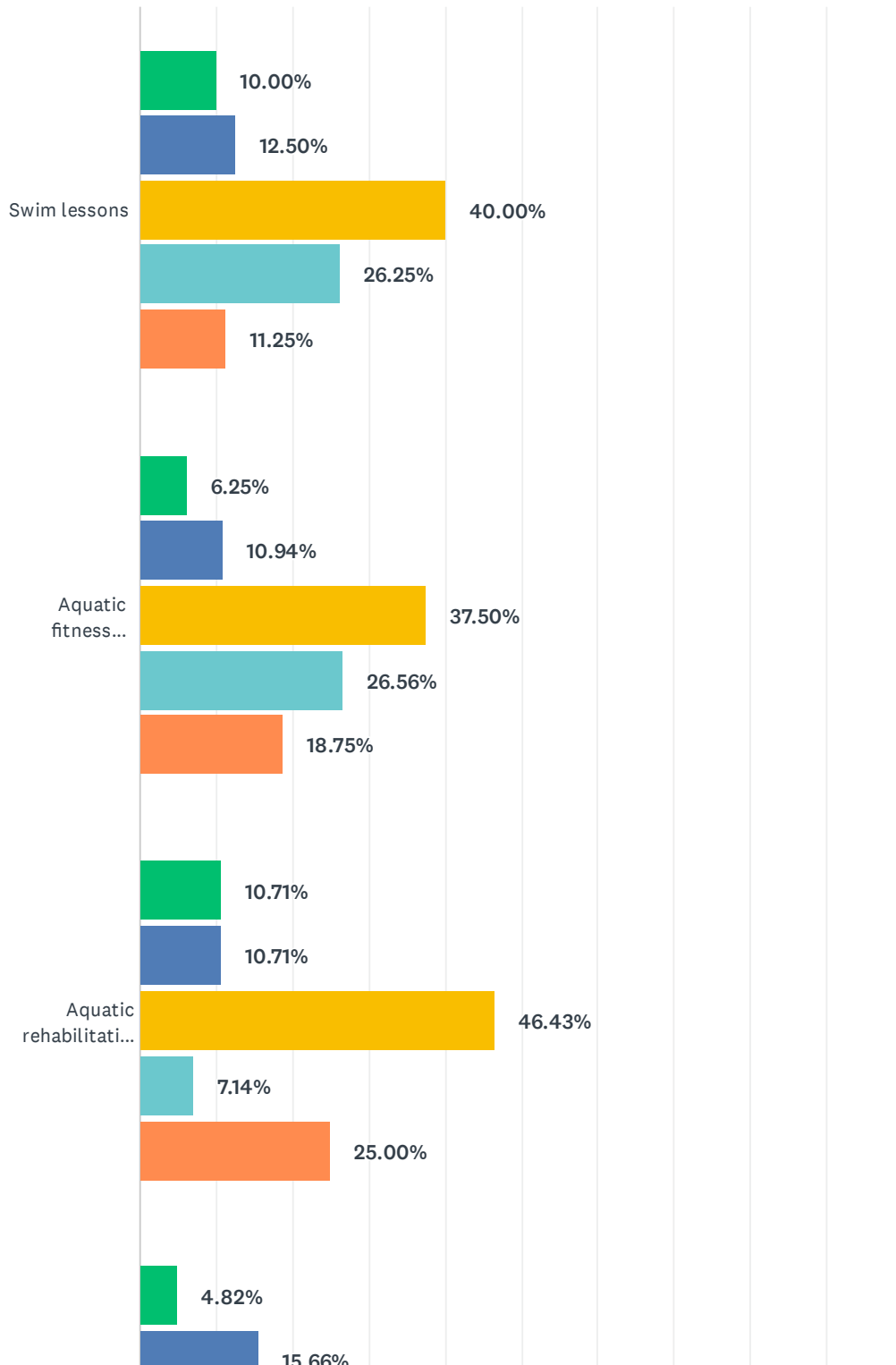
## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



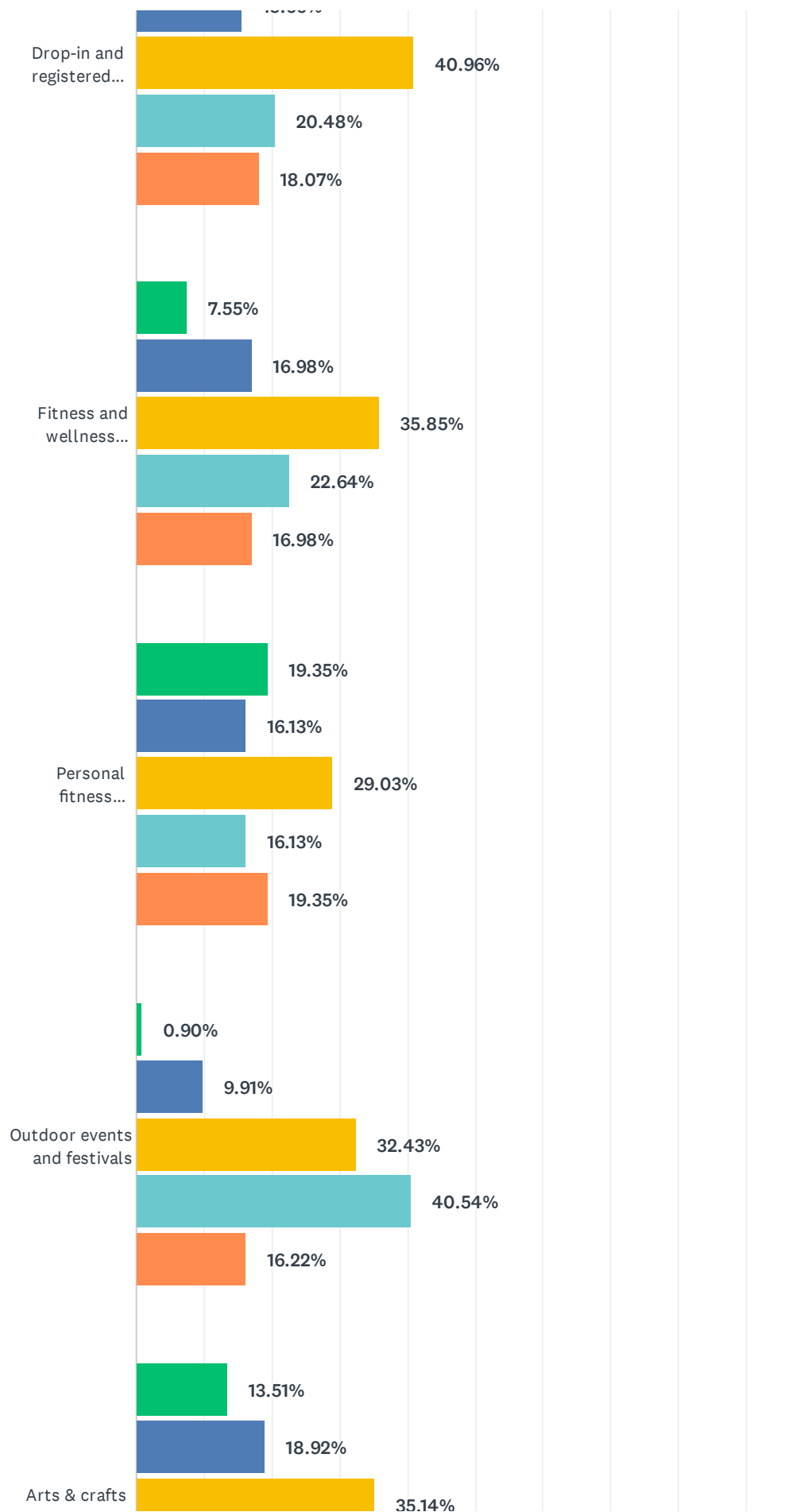
	1 = POOR	2 = FAIR	3 = GOOD	4 = VERY GOOD	5 = EXCELLENT	TOTAL
NexSource Centre	3.85% 7	6.59% 12	31.87% 58	36.81% 67	20.88% 38	182
Curling rink	4.29% 3	5.71% 4	40.00% 28	25.71% 18	24.29% 17	70
Skating rink	0.98% 1	6.86% 7	39.22% 40	31.37% 32	21.57% 22	102
Hockey rink	1.11% 1	6.67% 6	41.11% 37	27.78% 25	23.33% 21	90
Indoor fitness track	4.76% 5	8.57% 9	37.14% 39	30.48% 32	19.05% 20	105
Indoor field sports	16.95% 10	10.17% 6	45.76% 27	15.25% 9	11.86% 7	59
Indoor court sports / gymnasium spaces	16.42% 11	7.46% 5	43.28% 29	16.42% 11	16.42% 11	67
Fit and wellness centres	13.16% 10	10.53% 8	40.79% 31	21.05% 16	14.47% 11	76
Indigenous mural	5.88% 4	13.24% 9	36.76% 25	14.71% 10	29.41% 20	68
Community art	3.80% 3	15.19% 12	32.91% 26	18.99% 15	29.11% 23	79
Family and Community Centre	2.56% 2	17.95% 14	42.31% 33	23.08% 18	14.10% 11	78
Multi-purpose meeting / program spaces	1.59% 1	12.70% 8	46.03% 29	23.81% 15	15.87% 10	63
Youth activity spaces	15.15% 10	12.12% 8	40.91% 27	18.18% 12	13.64% 9	66
Arts theatre spaces	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	42.31% 22	11.54% 6	9.62% 5	52
Seniors activity spaces	1.56% 1	12.50% 8	43.75% 28	25.00% 16	17.19% 11	64
Social / banquet facilities	5.26% 3	26.32% 15	43.86% 25	12.28% 7	12.28% 7	57

Q7 If you or someone from your household has utilized the following indoor recreation and parks programs in the past 12 months, please rate your level of satisfaction for each amenity from 1 – 5. (1=Poor and 5 = Excellent)

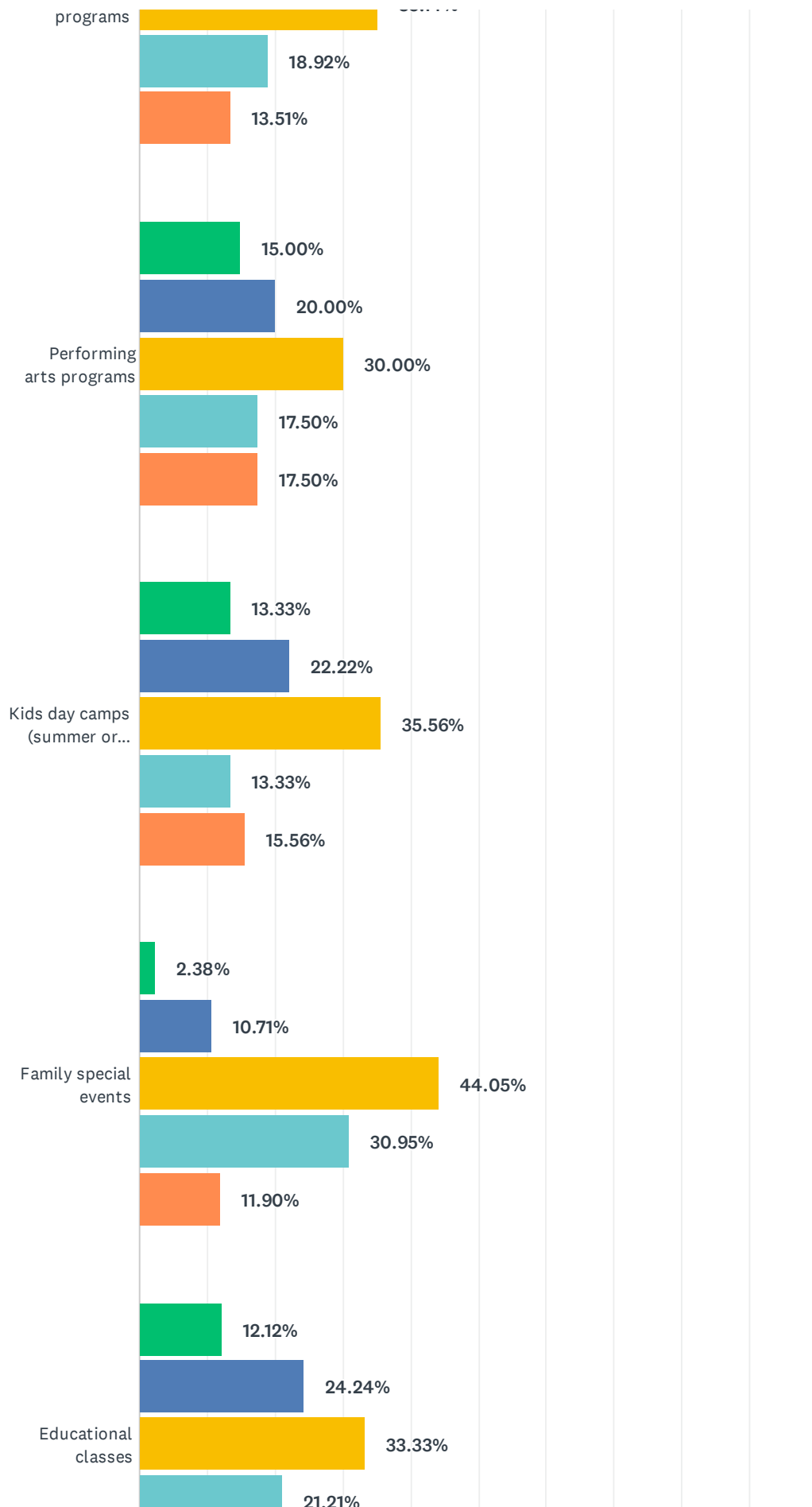
Answered: 163 Skipped: 67



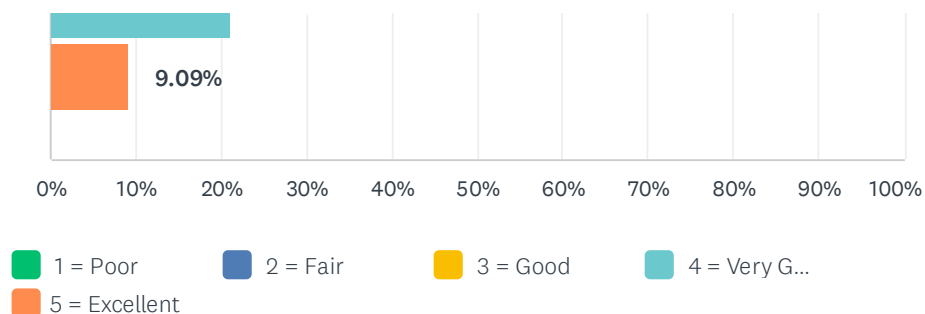
# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

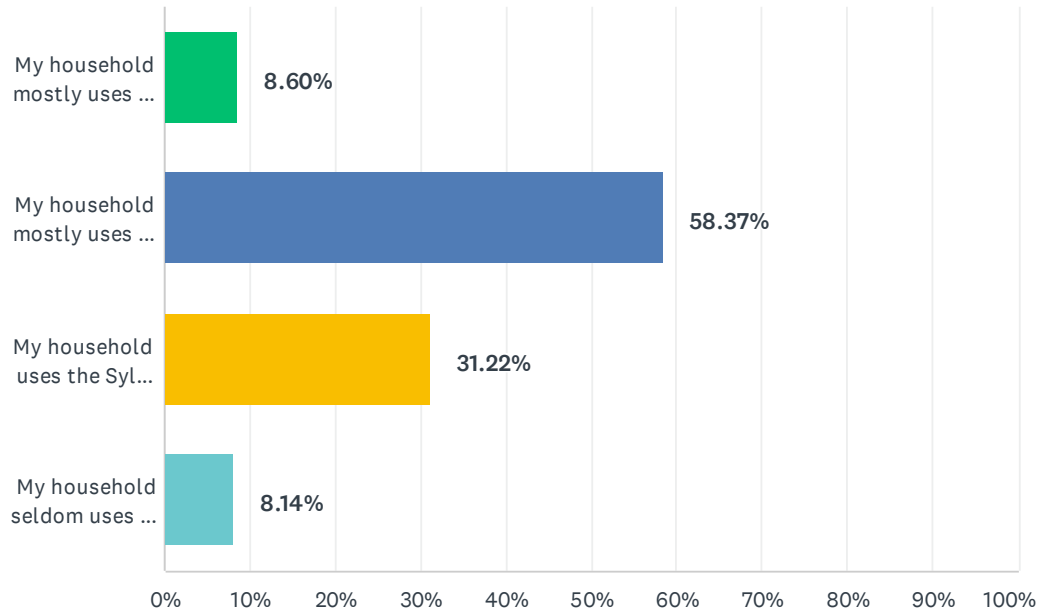


	1 = POOR	2 = FAIR	3 = GOOD	4 = VERY GOOD	5 = EXCELLENT	TOTAL
Swim lessons	10.00% 8	12.50% 10	40.00% 32	26.25% 21	11.25% 9	80
Aquatic fitness programs	6.25% 4	10.94% 7	37.50% 24	26.56% 17	18.75% 12	64
Aquatic rehabilitation programs	10.71% 3	10.71% 3	46.43% 13	7.14% 2	25.00% 7	28
Drop-in and registered sports	4.82% 4	15.66% 13	40.96% 34	20.48% 17	18.07% 15	83
Fitness and wellness classes	7.55% 4	16.98% 9	35.85% 19	22.64% 12	16.98% 9	53
Personal fitness training	19.35% 6	16.13% 5	29.03% 9	16.13% 5	19.35% 6	31
Outdoor events and festivals	0.90% 1	9.91% 11	32.43% 36	40.54% 45	16.22% 18	111
Arts & crafts programs	13.51% 5	18.92% 7	35.14% 13	18.92% 7	13.51% 5	37
Performing arts programs	15.00% 6	20.00% 8	30.00% 12	17.50% 7	17.50% 7	40
Kids day camps (summer or spring)	13.33% 6	22.22% 10	35.56% 16	13.33% 6	15.56% 7	45
Family special events	2.38% 2	10.71% 9	44.05% 37	30.95% 26	11.90% 10	84
Educational classes	12.12% 4	24.24% 8	33.33% 11	21.21% 7	9.09% 3	33



## Q8 Considering the use of Sylvan Lake's trail network by people in your household, please indicate which statement applies to your household.

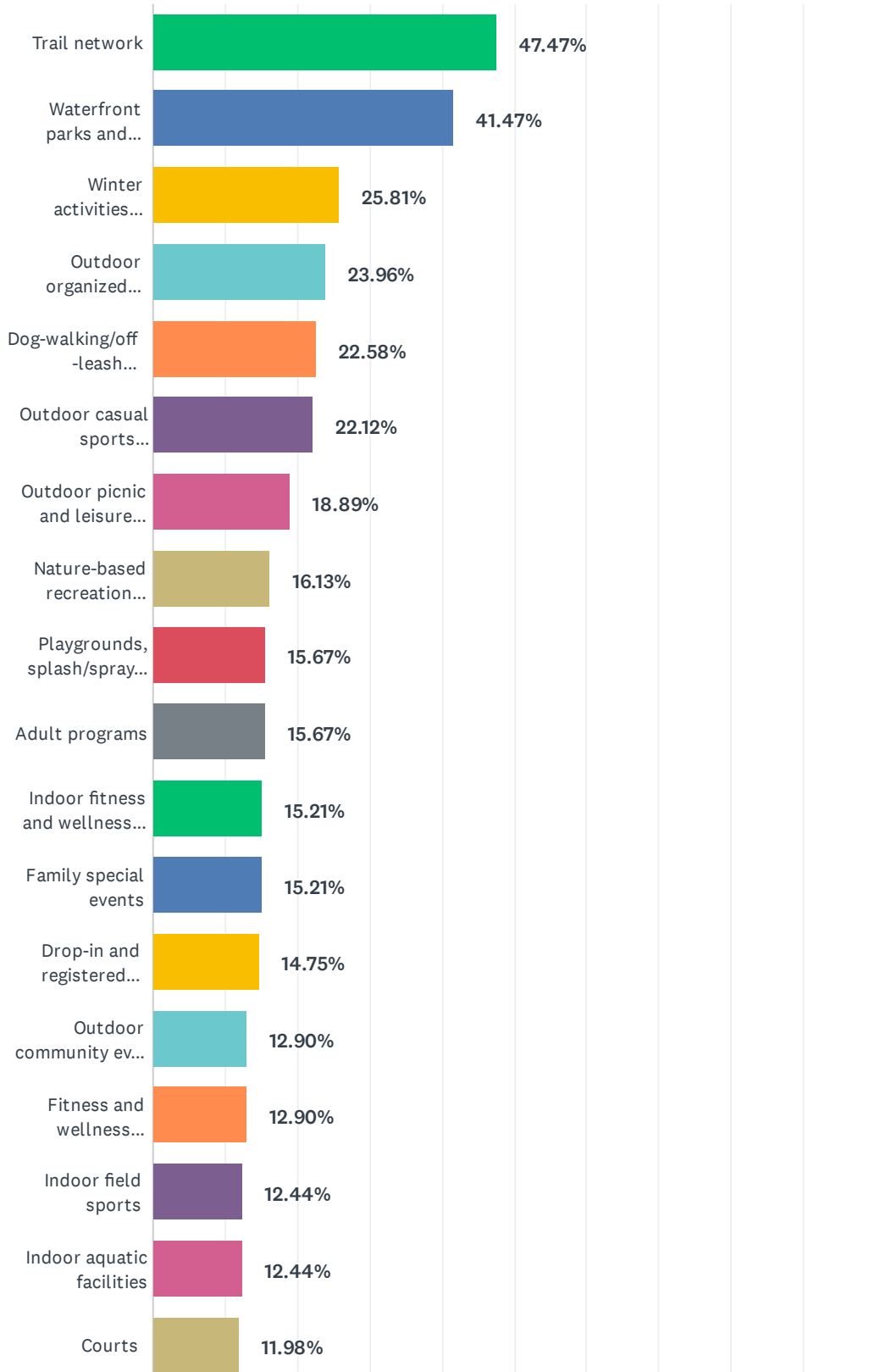
Answered: 221 Skipped: 9



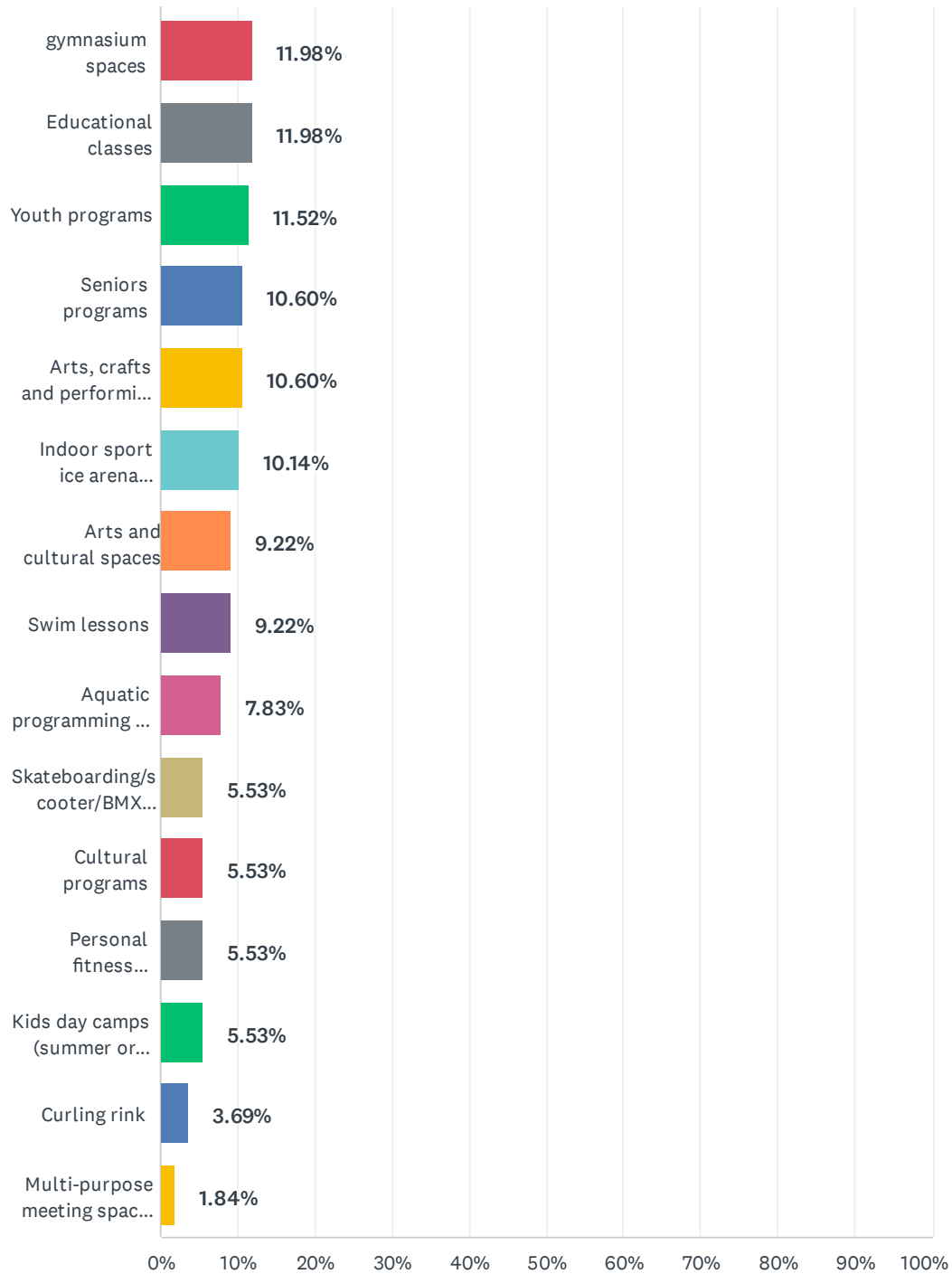
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My household mostly uses the Sylvan Lake trail network for commuting (as a means to get from one place to another).	8.60%	19
My household mostly uses the Sylvan Lake trail network for recreation (fitness and leisure).	58.37%	129
My household uses the Sylvan Lake Trail network equally for commuting and for recreation.	31.22%	69
My household seldom uses the Sylvan Lake Trail.	8.14%	18
Total Respondents: 221		

## Q9 Please identify up to five NEW recreational facility and/or programming categories you would like to see in Sylvan Lake.

Answered: 217 Skipped: 13



## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan



# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trail network	47.47%	103
Waterfront parks and beaches	41.47%	90
Winter activities (i.e., tobogganing/ outdoor skating)	25.81%	56
Outdoor organized sports facilities and fields	23.96%	52
Dog-walking/off-leash facilities	22.58%	49
Outdoor casual sports facilities (tennis, basketball, beach volleyball, disc golf, etc.)	22.12%	48
Outdoor picnic and leisure spaces	18.89%	41
Nature-based recreation (i.e., birdwatching)	16.13%	35
Playgrounds, splash/spray parks	15.67%	34
Adult programs	15.67%	34
Indoor fitness and wellness facilities	15.21%	33
Family special events	15.21%	33
Drop-in and registered sports	14.75%	32
Outdoor community event spaces	12.90%	28
Fitness and wellness classes	12.90%	28
Indoor field sports	12.44%	27
Indoor aquatic facilities	12.44%	27
Courts	11.98%	26
gymnasium spaces	11.98%	26
Educational classes	11.98%	26
Youth programs	11.52%	25
Seniors programs	10.60%	23
Arts, crafts and performing arts programs	10.60%	23
Indoor sport ice arena (skating, hockey)	10.14%	22
Arts and cultural spaces	9.22%	20
Swim lessons	9.22%	20
Aquatic programming and swim lessons	7.83%	17
Skateboarding/scooter/BMX parks	5.53%	12
Cultural programs	5.53%	12
Personal fitness training	5.53%	12
Kids day camps (summer or spring)	5.53%	12
Curling rink	3.69%	8

# Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

Multi-purpose meeting spaces and banquet facilities  
Total Respondents: 217

1.84%

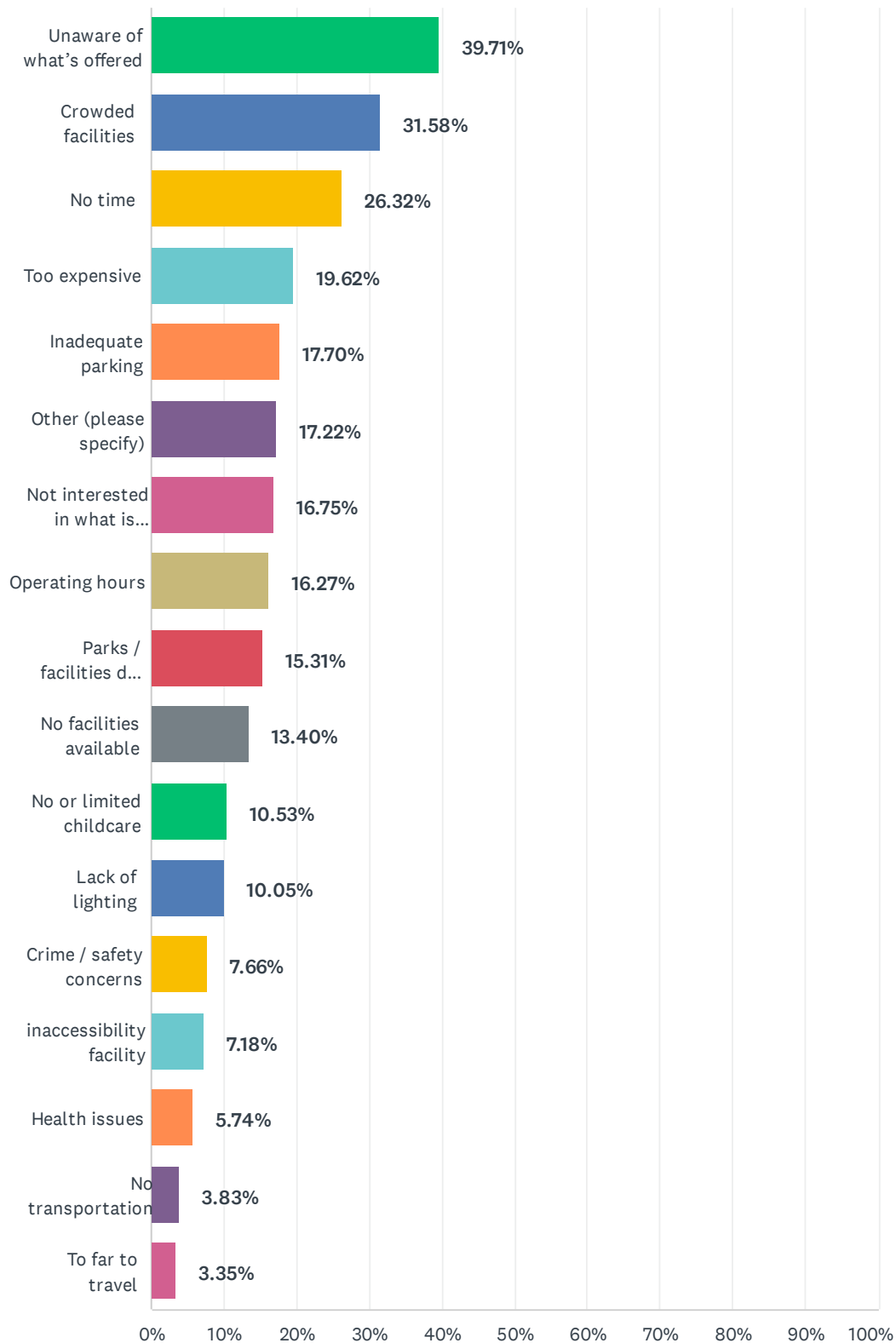
4

**Q10 What barriers prevent you from participating in parks, recreation and cultural programs and events? Check all that apply**

Answered: 209 Skipped: 21



## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

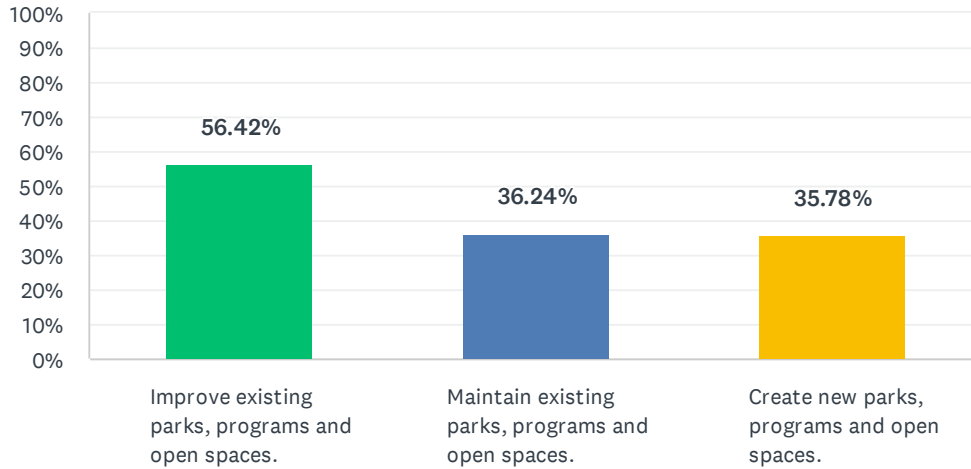


## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Unaware of what's offered	39.71%	83
Crowded facilities	31.58%	66
No time	26.32%	55
Too expensive	19.62%	41
Inadequate parking	17.70%	37
Other (please specify)	17.22%	36
Not interested in what is offered	16.75%	35
Operating hours	16.27%	34
Parks / facilities do not appear clean	15.31%	32
No facilities available	13.40%	28
No or limited childcare	10.53%	22
Lack of lighting	10.05%	21
Crime / safety concerns	7.66%	16
inaccessibility facility	7.18%	15
Health issues	5.74%	12
No transportation	3.83%	8
To far to travel	3.35%	7
Total Respondents: 209		

## Q11 .What are the areas where you feel we should invest? Check all that apply.

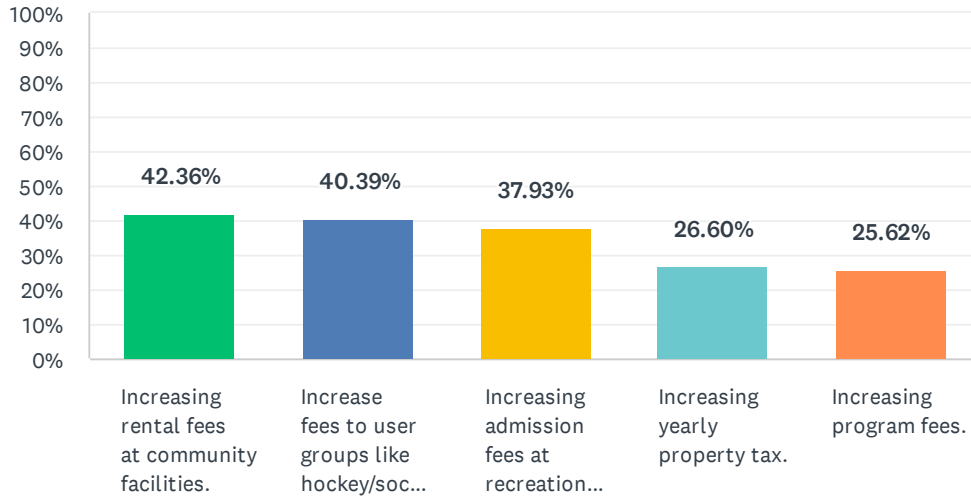
Answered: 218 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improve existing parks, programs and open spaces.	56.42%	123
Maintain existing parks, programs and open spaces.	36.24%	79
Create new parks, programs and open spaces.	35.78%	78
Total Respondents: 218		

## Q12 Which of the following statements best describes how you feel parks & recreation programs should be funded?

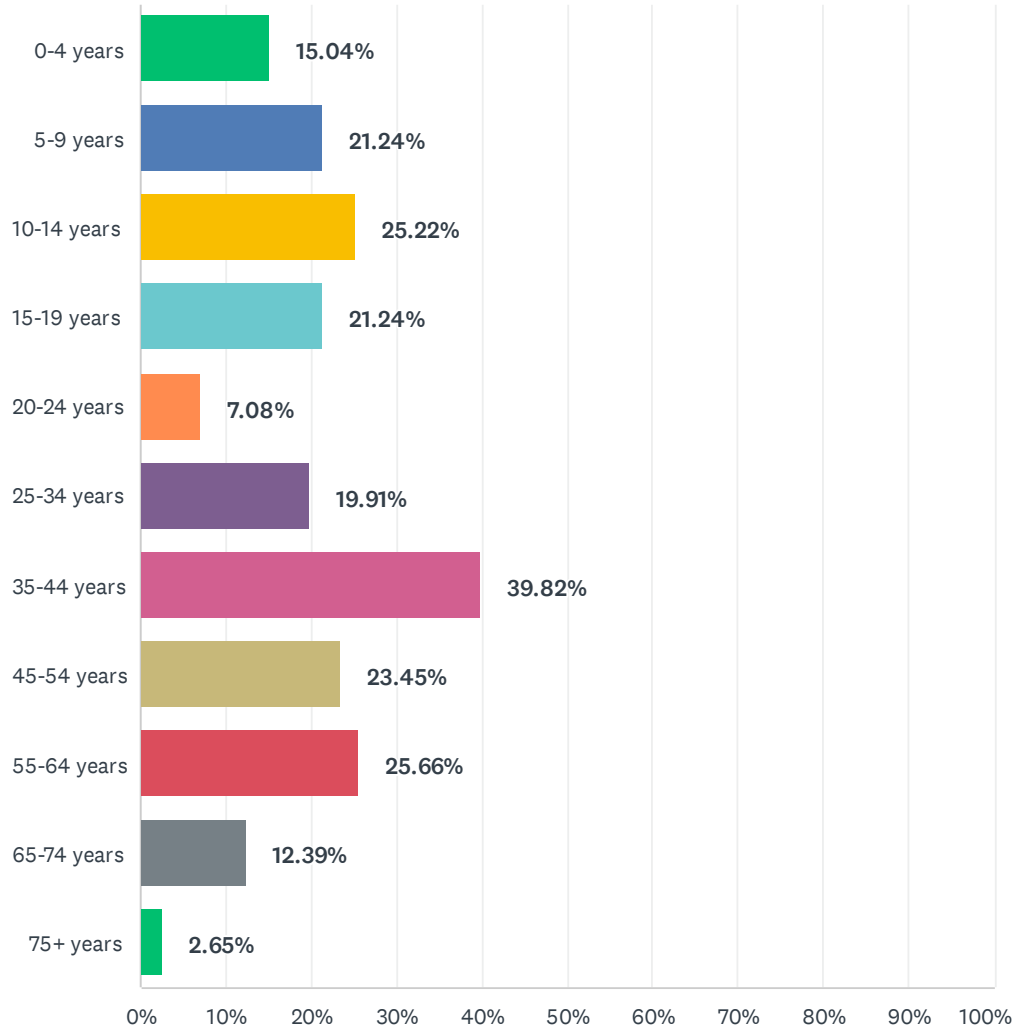
Answered: 203 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increasing rental fees at community facilities.	42.36%	86
Increase fees to user groups like hockey/soccer.	40.39%	82
Increasing admission fees at recreation facilities such as the pool or public skating.	37.93%	77
Increasing yearly property tax.	26.60%	54
Increasing program fees.	25.62%	52
Total Respondents: 203		

### Q13 Please describe your household by recording the number of members in each of the following age groups. (Please do not forget yourself!)

Answered: 226 Skipped: 4

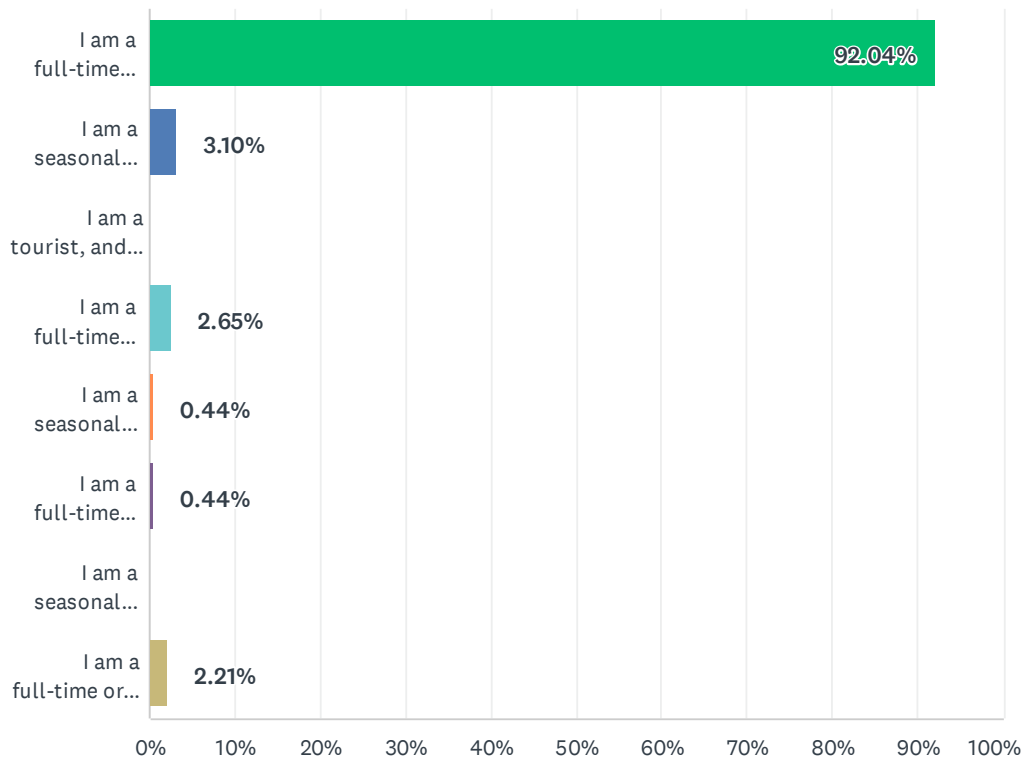


## Sylvan Lake - Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-4 years	15.04%	34
5-9 years	21.24%	48
10-14 years	25.22%	57
15-19 years	21.24%	48
20-24 years	7.08%	16
25-34 years	19.91%	45
35-44 years	39.82%	90
45-54 years	23.45%	53
55-64 years	25.66%	58
65-74 years	12.39%	28
75+ years	2.65%	6
Total Respondents: 226		

## Q14 Please choose the following statement that applies to you

Answered: 226 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am a full-time resident of Sylvan Lake	92.04%	208
I am a seasonal resident of Sylvan Lake	3.10%	7
I am a tourist, and often visit Sylvan Lake	0.00%	0
I am a full-time resident within Red Deer County	2.65%	6
I am a seasonal resident within Red Deer County	0.44%	1
I am a full-time resident within Lacombe County	0.44%	1
I am a seasonal resident within Lacombe County	0.00%	0
I am a full-time or seasonal resident of a summer village, please specify which summer village:	2.21%	5
Total Respondents: 226		



**Q15 Do you have any additional information or comments you would like to share regarding Sylvan Lake's Recreation, Parks, Trails and Open Spaces?**

Answered: 146   Skipped: 84

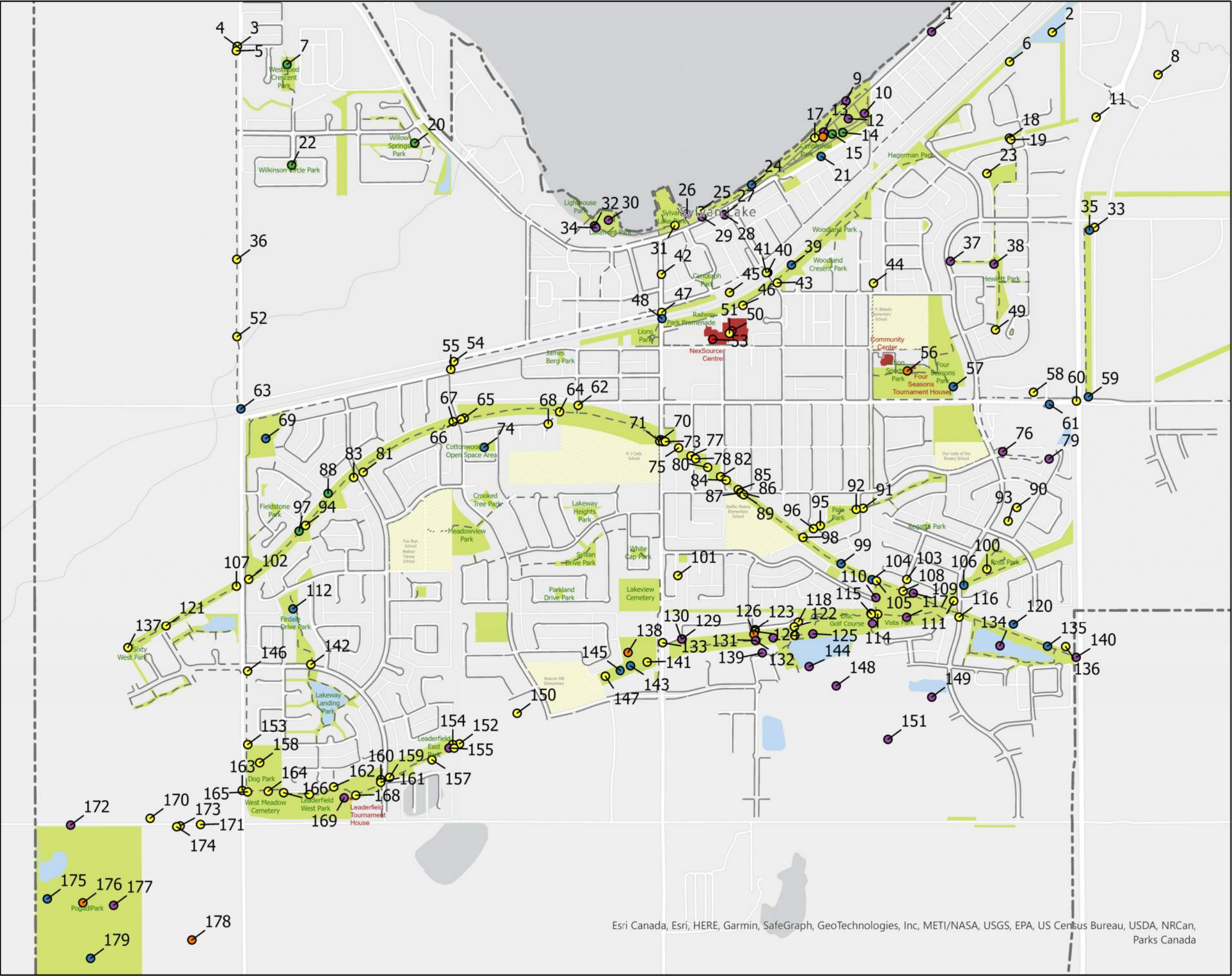
# Online Mapping Tool Results

September 13, 2022

- Legend

  - Recreation Facilities
  - Parks & Open Space
  - School Parcel
  - Wet Pond
  - Asphalt Trails
  - Concrete Walks
  - Town Boundary
- Online Survey Pins

  - Indoor Recreation Facility
  - Other
  - Playgrounds
  - Public Parks / Open Spaces
  - Sport Fields
  - Trails



## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

Map #	ResponseID	Pin Type	Comment
1	31	Public Parks / Open Spaces	There needs to be more beach space. Create deeper sand beaches along the water for more people
2	5	Trails	We need trails, a park and more trails over in the Hampton area. We should be able to get to Tim's and the lake
3	2	Trails	There are SO many people who walk this path and then end up on the road to walk up to 11A- it would be more safe if there was a walking path one one side that went up to the highway. PLEASE ??
4	42	Trails	Why does this trail not continue north to 11A, and work its way to Lakeshore? One has to wander about to figure out how to get towards Lakeshore.
5	14	Trails	This path starts and ends nowhere. It should connect to the greater trails system
6	5	Trails	More walking trails needed in the Hampton area
7	3	Playgrounds	Better placed benches for parents
8	14	Trails	Snake lake is a great local business, I would love to see it connected ot the trail system as well. PARKing is always difficult and the more people who feel safe biking here would be great
9	16	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Would love a formal paddle sports "launch"
10	31	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Larger beach areas with sand for families. No tents.
11	44	Trails	
12	38	Public Parks / Open Spaces	consider putting a pair of disc golf targets approximately 10 -15 m apart to play disc golf putting practice games (similar to horseshoes or washertoss)
13	16	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Would love a space to take my dog (on-leash is fine!!) Even just a picnic area
14	31	Playgrounds	Add some kind of small water feature for families
15	31	Playgrounds	There is no shade for parents watching their children. Also a lot of broken equipment
16	20	Sport Fields	
17	43	Trails	noisy vehicles detract from the enjoyment of the trails. Diesel vehicles and motorcycles. Speeding, and stunting along lakeshore drive.
18	44	Trails	
19	42	Trails	Trail does not connect, one must wander down back alleys and down streets to figure out where to find the trail.
20	3	Playgrounds	This park really needs a bench
21	27	Other	Contractor's and town employees who must use their own vehicles to park in close to Centennial and Sylvan Lake parks should be given parking placards so they don't get ticketed while working events.
22	3	Playgrounds	Better placed benches for parents
23	44	Trails	
24	42	Other	The beach front is always full of garbage, litter and generally unkept. Want more tourists, day trippers, then need to dedicate staff to be cleaning up the beach during the day and every morning.
25	43	Trails	All along lakeshore drive the diesel vehicles and motorcycles rev up their engines and speed through the area. Ban them from this roadway to increase the enjoyment people have on the trails.
26	24	Public Parks / Open Spaces	
27	43	Trails	
28	31	Public Parks / Open Spaces	More beach areas with sand. No tents. Make it easier for families to enjoy.

## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

29	9	Public Parks / Open Spaces	I liked the street closed. It kept it quiet down here. I hope it is seriously considered in the future with infrastructure implemented to make it more useful space
30	14	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Could this (or an alternative portion of the lakeshore park system) be made dog friendly?
31	14	Trails	None of this is accessible by trail by anyone south of the railroad tracks
32	45	Public Parks / Open Spaces	
33	44	Trails	
34	19	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Enjoy having green space here. Great for town events but also additional greenspace on Lakeshore drive and lakefront access
35	21	Other	
36	41	Trails	The trail along 60th was not maintained regularly during the winter and for the entire summer it has been a disaster because of a developer ripping it up and not making it useable.
37	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	good location for a garbage can
38	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	need garbage can with doggie bag relocated to here from playground location just east. the one at the playground rarely gets used.
39	28	Other	Apply to stop train whistling: <a href="https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/grade-crossings/apply-stop-train-whistling-public-grade-crossing">https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/grade-crossings/apply-stop-train-whistling-public-grade-crossing</a>
40	14	Trails	Unsafe and confusing pedestrian crossing
41	33	Trails	Would be nice to have a more accessible train crossing, it is very hard to navigate mobility scooter/wheelchair over the bumps and divets
42	14	Trails	50st is not bike friendly preventing folks from using alternative transport to get to the amenities on lakeshore
43	33	Trails	Better accessibility to get from the walking path to the lake for mobility scooter/wheelchairs without having to cross the same intersection several times to be able to stay on the path or sidewalk.
44	44	Trails	
45	14	Trails	It's hard to bike to the library without biking on a road, which many people (especially with kids or elderly) are uncomfortable doing
46	14	Trails	These paths do not connect to greater path infrastructure. I would like to see all crossings with raised intersections
47	9	Trails	Paths connecting pedestrians to Lakeshore would help reduce car traffic
48	14	Other	Poor pedestrian and bike crossing. Its confusing and dangerous.
49	44	Trails	Trail to the alley, again.
50	42	Indoor Recreation Facility	Do not use this facility, only occasional for a 3rd party event. Wonder why the Town has a bar they run in this facility? Again, not the role of local gov't and competing with businesses in town.
51	14	Trails	Nexsource is not well connected with the trails
52	42	Trails	Why is not the Town ensuring the developer gets the trail open, has been closed for almost a year with the construction and now sitting there with no effort to get it open.
53	38	Indoor Recreation Facility	consider purchasing, 2-3 temporary disc golf baskets for winter putting league. approximate cost \$750.-\$800
54	42	Trails	Another trail that just ends and where to from here? People on the road crossing the rail road tracks.
55	14	Trails	Unsafe and confusing pedestrian crossing
56	19	Sport Fields	Add permeant outdoor shade structure to skate park for rider & visitor safety in summer heat
57	30	Other	Cut the trees down that are encroaching on private property throughout the town and replant fruit bearing trees further back from property line. Tell developers to stop planting evergreens.

## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

58	5	Trails	
59	42	Other	This trail does not connect to anything. Crosswalks from this trail to the businesses to the east of the road take bikers/pedestrians right into the access road in the business, not safe!
60	14	Trails	Another area and crossing that are not pedestrian friendly. I'd love to see biking encouraged
61	23	Other	
62	18	Trails	Garbage can
63	14	Other	Poor pedestrian crossing. Its confusing and dangerous
64	18	Trails	Garbage can
65	18	Trails	Garbage can
66	17	Trails	More garbage cans for dog waste would be great. long distances between current trash cans right now.
67	18	Trails	Garbage can
68	18	Trails	Garbage can
69	26	Other	Fruit and berry trees, herbs and good weeds for soil enrichment. In all the green areas, stop spraying and start picking. You are poisoning foragers.
70	9	Trails	
71	18	Trails	Garbage can
72	14	Trails	This is a busy road crossing with many people going fast through here, consdering there is a school right there. A raised intersection would help
73	18	Trails	Garbage can
74	26	Other	We'd rather go out of town into the country to find herbs and fruits. You should have large community gardens but there are none. Get rid of those huge lawns and turn them into seasonal plots.
75	15	Trails	Make the paved bike path go across the gravel alley. Right now it is very difficult to do certain activities like rollerblading or ride scooter on the gravel.
76	22	Public Parks / Open Spaces	
77	18	Trails	Garbage can
78	18	Trails	Garbage can
79	23	Public Parks / Open Spaces	This green easement has posts which have not been repaired and a playground which is tired.
80	15	Trails	Make the paved bike path go across the gravel alley. Right now it is very difficult to do certain activities like rollerblading or ride scooter on the gravel.
81	18	Trails	Garbage can
82	18	Trails	Garbage can
83	18	Trails	Garbage can
84	18	Trails	Garbage can
85	18	Trails	Garbage can
86	14	Trails	The crossing here is at a weird angle and feels unsafe for pedestrians. There is a chokepoint next to the school where the path, sidewalk and road meet
87	9	Trails	

## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

88	4	Playgrounds	
89	18	Trails	Garbage can
90	14	Trails	This greenspace is not used at all and could connect the CP rail trail to the Sobeys parking lot, making it easier to walk or bike to the grocery store
91	18	Trails	Garbage can
92	18	Trails	Garbage can
93	9	Trails	
94	18	Trails	Garbage can
95	18	Trails	Garbage can
96	18	Trails	Garbage can
97	4	Playgrounds	Would love to see a park here. We've been asking for years!
98	18	Trails	Garbage can
99	26	Other	Clean up the dead fall in here and plant large lengths of fruit and berry trees all along this trail. Plant herbs and good weeds that enrich the soils.
100	14	Trails	I have to cut through the grass if i want to ride my bike through here. a path connecting this loop would help
101	14	Trails	No sidewalk in here. Only accessible via car
102	18	Trails	Garbage can please
103	18	Trails	Garbage can
104	26	Other	This trail is way too dark and dangerous. My children are afraid to use it when the sun is low or gone. You need to install cameras at various intervals and lots of lighting for nighttime.
105	18	Trails	Garbage can
106	42	Other	The trail system is pretty good east-west, but trying to bike to the Lakeshore and north-south in general is not well connected. Bike lanes for the summer, or signage to direct one to trails.
107	18	Trails	Garbage can
108	18	Trails	Garbage can
109	29	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Berry and fruit trees along all trails
110	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	good location for a garbage can near existing bench
111	14	Trails	this is mowed for the lawnmowers to go through, but there is no path. Bikers need to either ride on the street or the small sidewalk to access the path 100m north
112	26	Other	We'd rather go out of town into the country to find herbs and fruits. You should have large community gardens but there are none. Get rid of those huge lawns and turn them into seasonal plots.
113	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	good location for a bench and a more p[permanent Garbage can.
114	18	Trails	Garbage can
115	18	Trails	Garbage can
116	8	Trails	
117	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	add garbage can to existing bench location

## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

118	18	Trails	Garbage can
119	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	remove temporary garbage can
120	37	Other	
121	18	Trails	Garbage can
122	18	Trails	Garbage can
123	9	Other	
124	18	Trails	Garbage can
125	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	upgrade to more permanent garbage can
126	19	Sport Fields	Disc golf course - love this! Great course and good location. Consider adding clearer indicators for tee boxes and continue building trail system to navigate the course (especially south end by pond)
127	18	Trails	Garbage can
128	35	Public Parks / Open Spaces	please Consider renaming this trail to "Kinabik (spelling?) trail" to honor the Cree peoples and Treaty 6 . the sinuous or "snakey" curves of the trail lend itself to the name quite well.
129	18	Trails	Garbage can
130	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	great location for a bench and a more permanent garbage can
131	18	Trails	Garbage can
132	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	great location for a bench and better garbage can
133	16	Trails	The crosswalk leads to no where
134	32	Public Parks / Open Spaces	A fountain similar to bower ponds in red deer
135	37	Other	Please put a trash can here there is not one for close so people throw their trash into the trees
136	16	Trails	Could this trail be expanded north near Wendy's?
137	18	Trails	Garbage can
138	36	Sport Fields	
139	12	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Very nice disc golf course, asset to the community
140	14	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Can this be continued along the old railway? A trail linking sylvan to red deer could bring many tourists, like the trail between canmore and banff
141	36	Trails	
142	42	Trails	There are many posts and rope along these trails that need maintenance and repair. If the town is not able to maintain existing infrastructure, should we be adding more?
143	25	Other	This space is a hot mess of overgrown invasive weeds and annoying unsightly weeds!! I take pride in my yard and where I live but isn't is very hard to care when I live beside this!! Where's the pride
144	34	Public Parks / Open Spaces	extend trail along the storm pond.
145	25	Other	These fields should be cut regularly!! And why is it not a trail to connect the trail system on either side!? Do something about this!! All it's doing now is attracting rodents and stray cats!!
146	18	Trails	Garbage can



## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

147	14	Trails	I'd like to see a trail run along this pipeline all the way to pogdagl park. IT would offer another way for people to walk or bike to the dog park, soccer fields and baseball diamond
148	14	Public Parks / Open Spaces	The view of the lake from on top of the hill here is beautiful. It should be preserved for the public. Please put a pathway or lookout up here. Don't let housing immediately back onto the park.
149	14	Public Parks / Open Spaces	I'd like to see this park improved ASAP
150	40	Trails	
151	14	Public Parks / Open Spaces	There is a long line of trees full of wildlife and saskatoon berry bushes. I'd like to see it preserved
152	13	Trails	I would REALLY like to see this trail continue through the utility right of way to meet up at the Beacon Hill school!
153	18	Trails	Garbage can
154	18	Trails	Garbage can
155	7	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Start pressuring the developer of Beacon Hill (Laebon Homes) to develop and complete this green space before they sell off their expected quota of lots.
156	16	Trails	Love to see this trail tie-in to the trail near RCMP
157	18	Trails	Garbage can
158	14	Trails	I'd like better landscaping here, a spigot or water cube for the dogs and for it to be larger
159	18	Trails	Garbage can
160	18	Trails	Garbage can
161	42	Trails	Why not some sort of trail along Memorial? Connect 60th, 50th, Crestview Blvd, and Ryders Ridge Blvd.
162	18	Trails	Garbage can
163	16	Trails	Need a trail to Pogadl Park!!
164	18	Trails	
165	18	Trails	Garbage can
166	18	Trails	Garbage can
167	42	Trails	There are some dead tress (planted, not natural). Again, maintenance of existing infrastructure needs to be a priority over adding more that the Town can not seem to look after.
168	18	Trails	Garbage can
169	10	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Both the ropes and posts for the Perimeter fencing are in rough shape and have been falling apart.
170	34	Trails	need trail connectivity to Pogadl park
171	14	Trails	This road needs bike friendly infrastructure ASAP
172	1	Public Parks / Open Spaces	
173	9	Trails	
174	13	Trails	
175	42	Other	Do not support further development of Pogadel Park. Local gov't role is not putting in campgrounds which competes with private businesses.
176	42	Sport Fields	Do not use sports fields. Seem to have an abundant of ball fields, which sit idle for the vast majority of the year. Gull Stadium is heavily subsidized by taxpayers.

## ONLINE MAPPING TOOL COMMENTS (SEE MAP)

177	29	Public Parks / Open Spaces	Berry and fruit trees. Herbal and edible flowers.
178	39	Sport Fields	Would like to see a multipurpose turf field for soccer, lacrosse, and especially football. Putting this at or near pogadl park seems the most logical move at this point.
179	19	Other	In continued development of Pogadl park, please consider parking needs further. Based on development completed already, existing facilities are running out of parking when all 3 locations are at full

## SYLVAN LAKE RECREATION PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT

### Funfest Visioning Workshop

Dates: Thursday, September 8, 2022

Time: Drop-in Session 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: NexSource Centre, 4823 49 Ave, Sylvan Lake, AB

### 1.0 Purpose

ISL hosted a drop-in style public session during the Sylvan Lake Fun Fest Info Night to broaden the reach of engagement. During this interactive session we used an appreciative inquiry process to collect stories and insights from participants and youth. Participants learned about the recreation, parks and open spaces master plan process, and were led through a series of reflective questions and activities to explore strengths of Sylvan Lake's parks, recreation and open spaces. They then had the opportunity to explore the vision for Sylvan Lake's master plan.

The Town of Sylvan Lake is committed to ensuring youth have what they need to grow up healthy and happy. Building on this commitment ISL Engineering designed the event to involve youth and families in the visioning open house during the Fun Fest Info Night. These activities were designed for children, youth and adults. Invitations were sent to Sylvan Lake youth groups and shared through the Town to encourage youth and public participation at the event.

### 2.0 Activities

#### Fridge Magnet Visioning Activity

The general session were introduced to Sylvan Lake's Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan. The project team used an appreciative inquiry process to revisit and pull key themes from the 2004 Master Plan vision and work through a series of questions to create a new vision.

Participants participated in an interactive white board "fridge magnet" exercise where they took wood magnets from the old master plan vision as a springboard to craft new phrases that articulate their visions for for the Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces system.

#### Mark the Spot! Where is Your Recreation Happy Place?

A large airphoto map of Sylvan Lake, which outlined the location of trails and park was laid out on the table with happy face stickers. Participants were asked to identify their recreation "happy place". Project staff interacted with participants to discuss their happy place as well as any ideas or concerns they had for recreation in the community. These casual conversations allowed the project team to understand resident perspectives as well as introducing residents to the project.

#### What Would You Like to Do?

A large table-sized print out of 30 recreation activity images was laid out with colorful stickers. The images showed different recreational activities, some of which already occur in the community and some that do not. Participants were encouraged to play as many stickers as they wanted to identify activities that they were interested in. Project staff were available to discuss their preferences and choices.

---

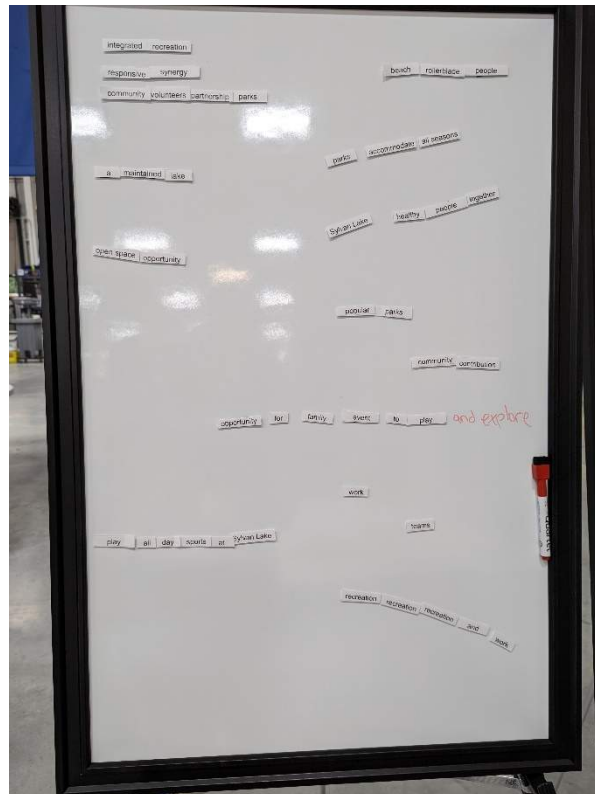
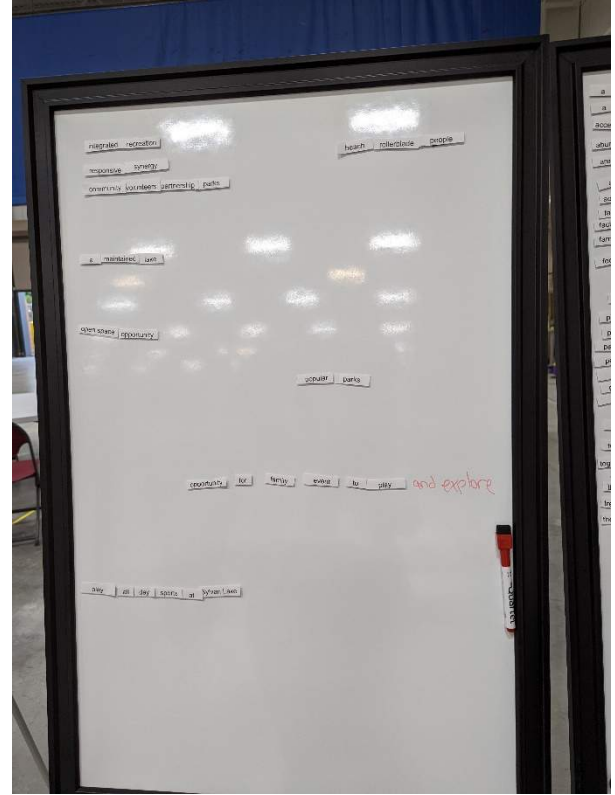
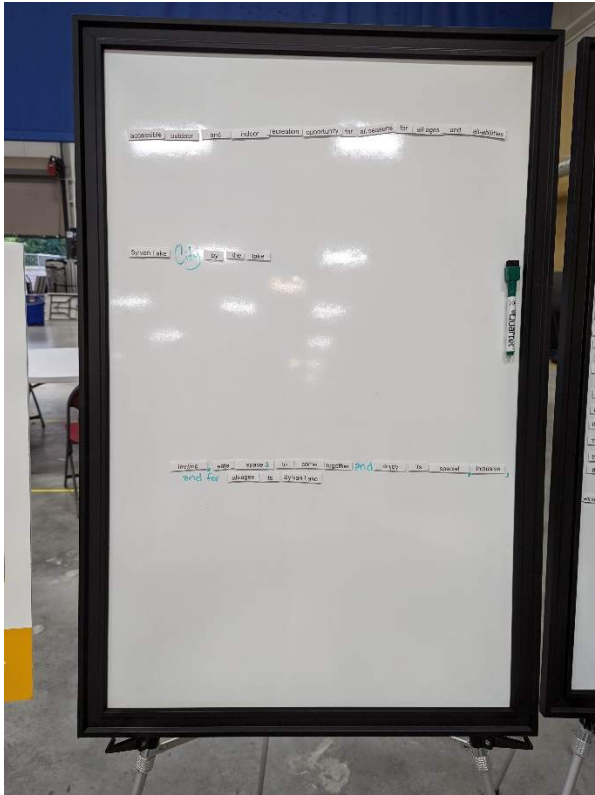
### **Draw or Write About Your Favorite Seasonal Activity or Place**

A large table-size paper was provided, broken into four quadrants, each representing a different seasons. Participants were encouraged to draw/write about their favorite seasonal activities. This board also provided a “catch-all” for participants to identify activities not shown in the “What Would You Like to Do?” board and to capture any other participant ideas.

## **3.0 Results**

The number of participants at the visioning drop-in booth is unknown; however, the funfest event was attended by over 500 attendees who had the opportunity to participate in the visioning activities. Anecdotally, the majority of participants engaging in the activities were families with children ranging from preschool to junior high ages. Participants also included seniors, some of whom identified that they had young grandchildren in the community.

Photographs of the engagement boards following the event are provided in the following pages.



Fridge Magnet Visioning Activity



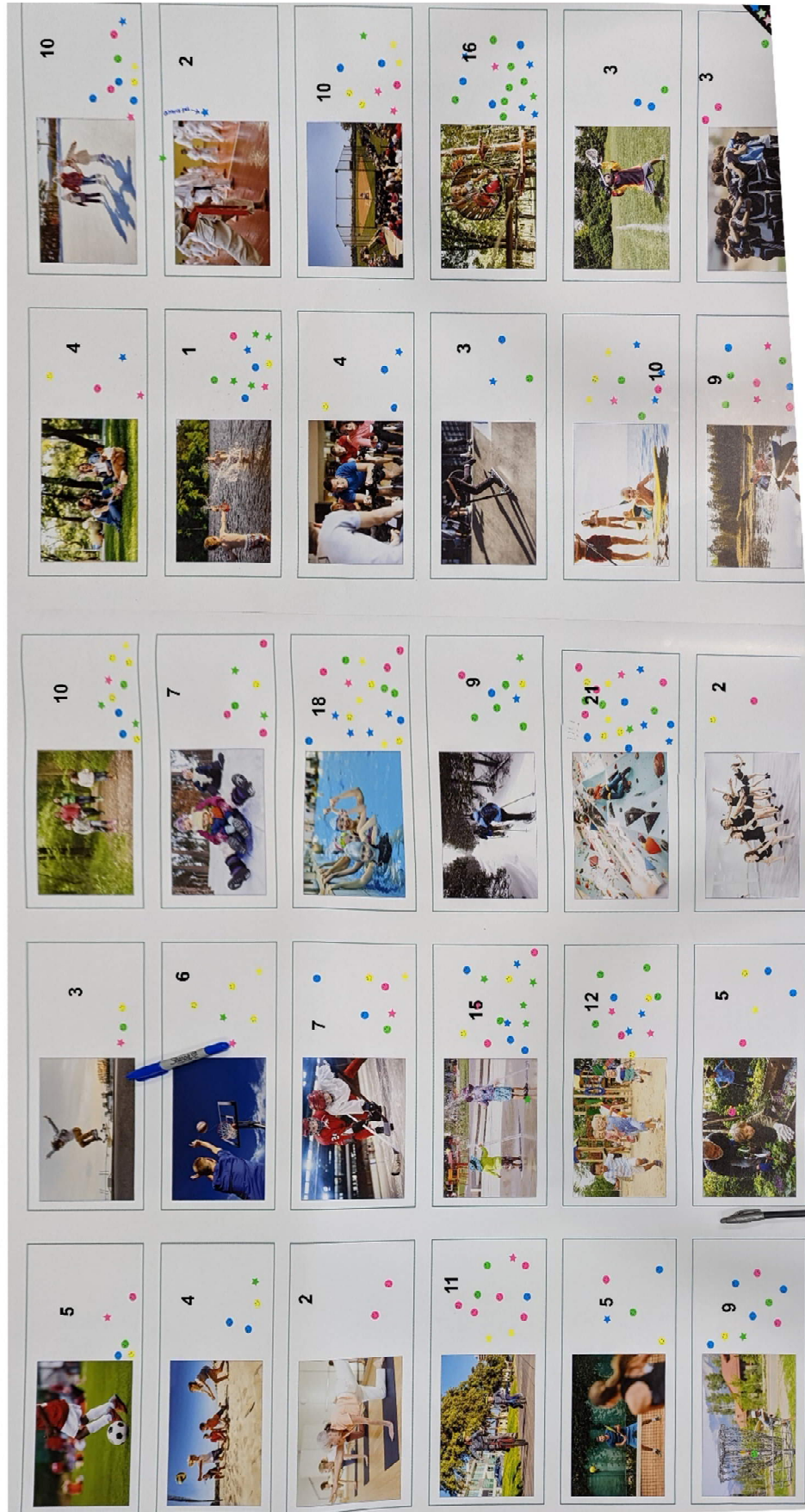


**Mark the Spot! Where is Your Recreation Happy Place?**



# What Do You Want to Do?

Note: Numbers identify how many stickers were placed by participants.





DRAW OR WRITE ABOUT YOUR FAVOURITE SEASONAL ACTIVITY OR PLACE

**Spring:**

bikeing  
Softball!  
Baseball  
Golf  
Tennis 2  
Walking  
Gardening

**Summer:**

Tennis courts - more!  
Kangak X2, P1  
Swimming X2, X3  
Beach  
Swim  
Paddle Boarding  
Spigot  
Cub Camp  
Walking path on railway line  
↳ needs lights for evening walks

**Fall:**

Trail walking X2  
SCHOOL  
Hiking Trails  
Where is our Performing Arts Centre? X2  
How about the waterside was too big - just do it  
Walking & picking up leaves  
Football! X2  
Jump in leafpiles X2  
Trail

**Winter:**

Sledging  
Skiing X2  
Shedding making snowballs  
Snow shovelling X2  
Rinks with boards  
decorated trails / pier  
Rinks @ the Lake  
Ice Slide  
Ice Castle - absolutely!  
Skiing - X2 downhill  
SKATING  
Swimming  
Hockey  
build snowman  
thanks for maintaining trails in the winter. 😊

Draw or Write About Your Favorite Seasonal Activity or Place



## Sylvan Lake User Group Workbook 2022-09-14

Sylvan Lake User Work Book

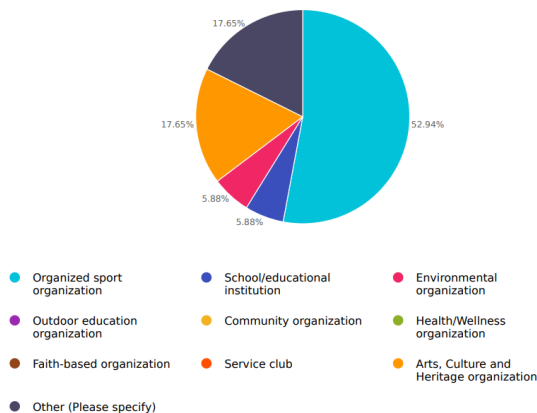
18 responses

3-from volleyball

2-from lacrosse

Amazon's Jr Women's Hockey Team	Sylvan Lake Curling Club
Central Alberta Disc Golf Association	Sylvan Lake Minor Ball
Chinook's Edge School Division	Sylvan Lake Quilters Guild
Gulls Baseball - H4 Sports and Entertainment Ltd	Sylvan Lake Theatre
Jazz At The Lake Festival Society	Sylvan Lake Volleyball Club
Sylvan Lake Aqua Splash	SYLVAN LAKE VOLLEYBALL CLUB
Sylvan Lake Art Society	Sylvan Lake Volleyball Club
Sylvan Lake Blizzard Soccer Club	Volleyball Alberta
	Yetti lacrosse Assic
	Yetti Lacrosse Association

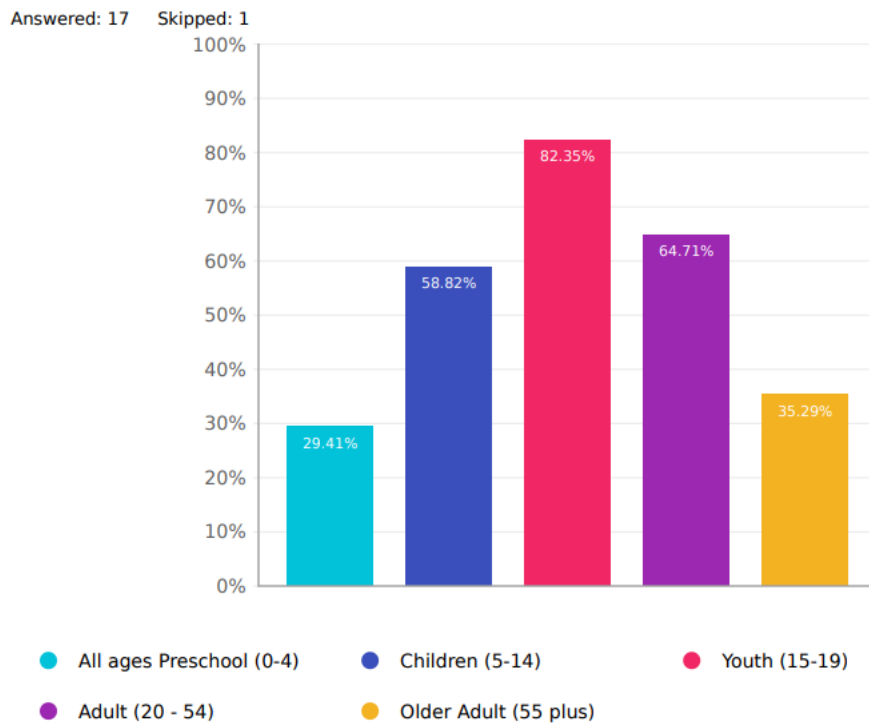
1. Select one category that best describes your organization:



The majority of survey participants represent organized sports programs. Arts culture, and heritage programs and other groups made up the next highest percentages. School and education and environmental organizations make up the remaining organizations. This graphic represents an opportunity to try and advertise programs towards other organizations within the community as well as showing the current state of users.



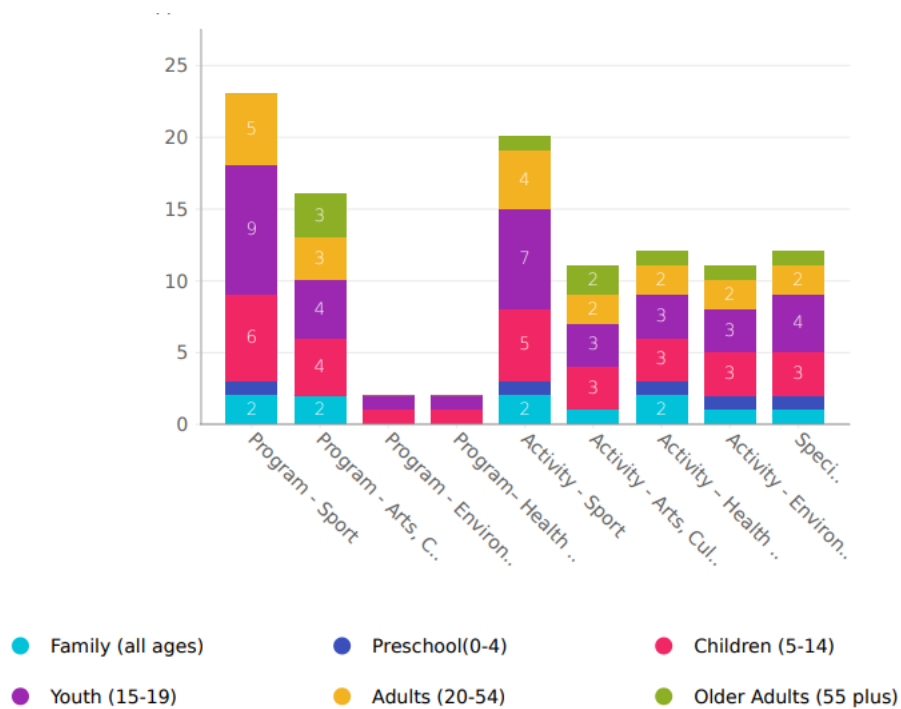
## 2. What are the age groups that your organization serves?



Youths aged 15-19 are the most served age group with older adults being the least served. Youths aged 16-19 are only 6.6% of the population of Sylvan Lake as of the 2021 census whereas adults over 55 are 23.8% of the population. The 15-19 population has grown, but not as much as the older adult population. This demonstrates a need to develop programs and organizations that serve more ages based on the Town's demographics.

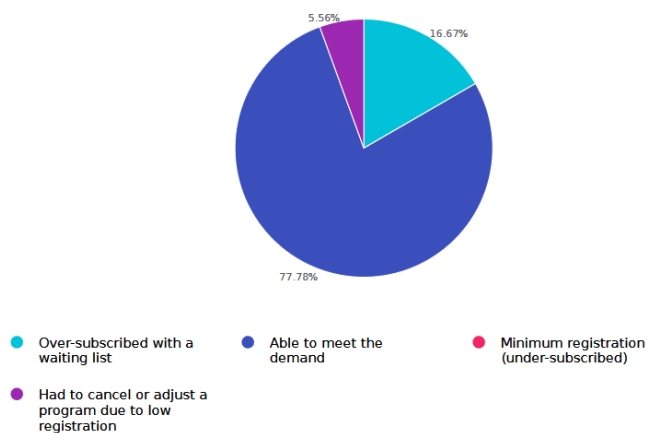


3. Check the types of programs you offer for each age group. Please check all that apply?



Sports programs are the most offered activities with arts, culture, and heritage coming second. Health and environmental programs are the least offered. Pre-school aged children have the least amount of programs served to them all around.

4. What best describes how your organization is able to meet the demand for programs and services? {select one}:

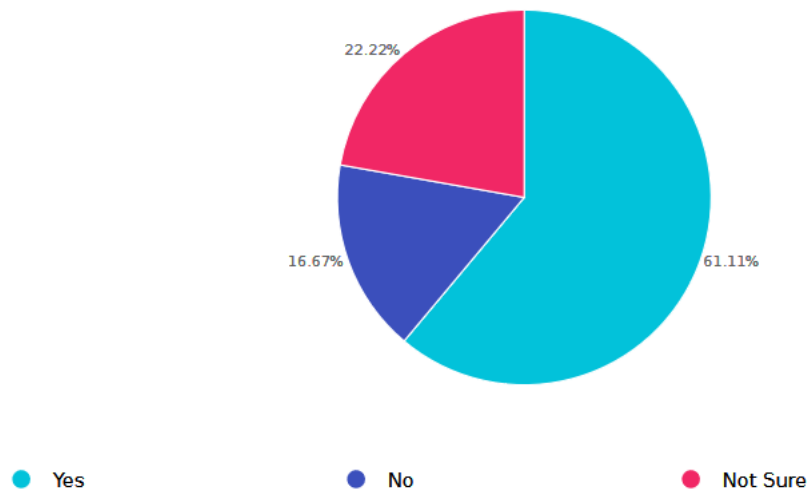


Most organizations find themselves able to meet the demand required of them, with some finding they are overwhelmed with too much demand and not enough supply and must resort



to waiting lists. This implies steady demand and interest in programs as well as opportunity to expand. Only a small percentage are over-subscribed (Sylvan Lake Aqua Splash & Sylvan Lake Minor Ball). Curling had to adjust due to low registration.

5. Do you anticipate any shifts or trends that may impact your programming over the next 5 years?



The majority of participants agree that societal shifts and changes will have some sort of impact on the available programming in the coming years. The covid-19 pandemic is a likely source for this belief in changing trends. The community must be able to adapt to these changes.

**Key shifts are:**

All are growing

Volunteers are harder to come by due to provincial and national organizations and burn out.

**How to deal with the trends**

Work and partner with the Town to understand how many people can be on the field. Working with the district teams to pool coaches to reduce volunteers required



## 6. Top Challenges:

Booking preferred times	5
Cost of rentals	5
facilities need improvements	3
Volunteers	3
Keeping costs low	2
Lack of advertising	2
Competition for children	1
condition of fields	1
Funding	1
increased registration	1
More ice time	1
security issues	1

## 7. Programs not being able to offer:

Providing indoor soccer during other seasons as well as being able to host tournaments for the Competitive Leagues.

Volleyball Alberta is hoping to add a 12U age class

Eventually would like to offer a ball program geared toward special needs individuals, so we would need a field that is accessible by all individuals and geared toward their needs.

the Central Alberta Disc Golf Association does not provide programmed services. volunteers sometimes partner with local school phys-ed classes for instruction.

Live productions in a true theatre designed for that purpose. Productions that allow for disability access. A facility that allows for dinner theatre productions.

Yes. We would like to open a "junior" park for the under 6yr old children

Transportation of players to out of town games. We need a community Bus.

If we had more coaches, we could offer a boys program. We would also need more gym times.

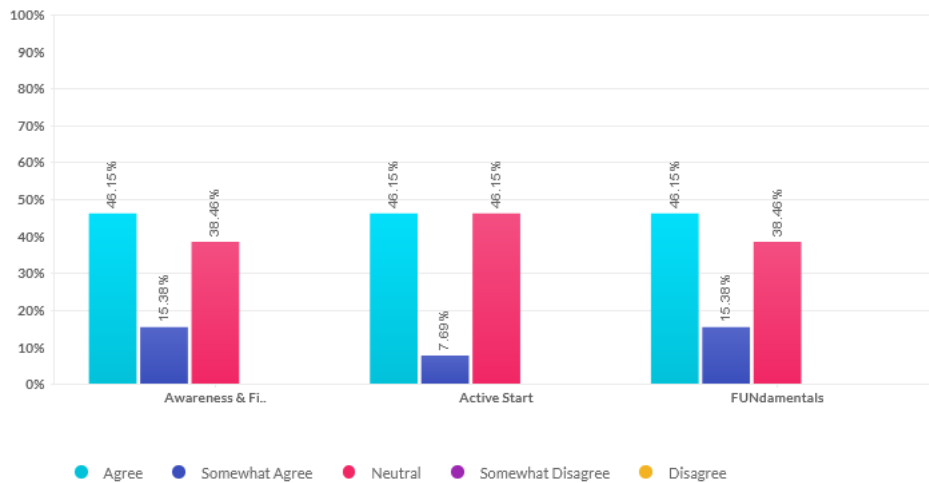
Until I know what our membership participation will be this year I have no answer for this question

## 8. What is the average age of your board members

**Average Age of Boards: 49**

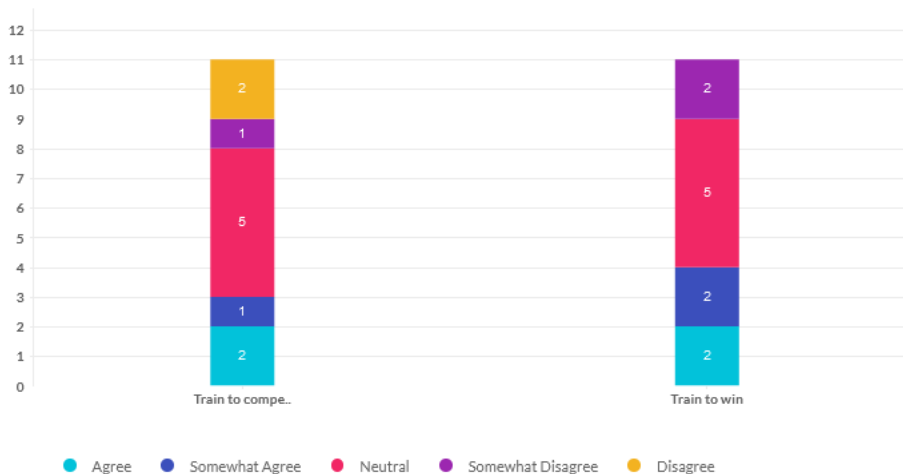


9. To what extent do you agree that the Town of Sylvan Lake will prioritize its resource in the following stages of the Athlete Development Model:



Most users believe the Town will do best at following the Active for Life recommendations portrayed by the Long-Term Athlete Development Model, a fair decision when considering the aging population. Overall, users expect the Town of Sylvan to follow most of the resources in the model.

10. To what extent do you agree that the Town should NOT prioritize the following stages of the Athlete Development Model:

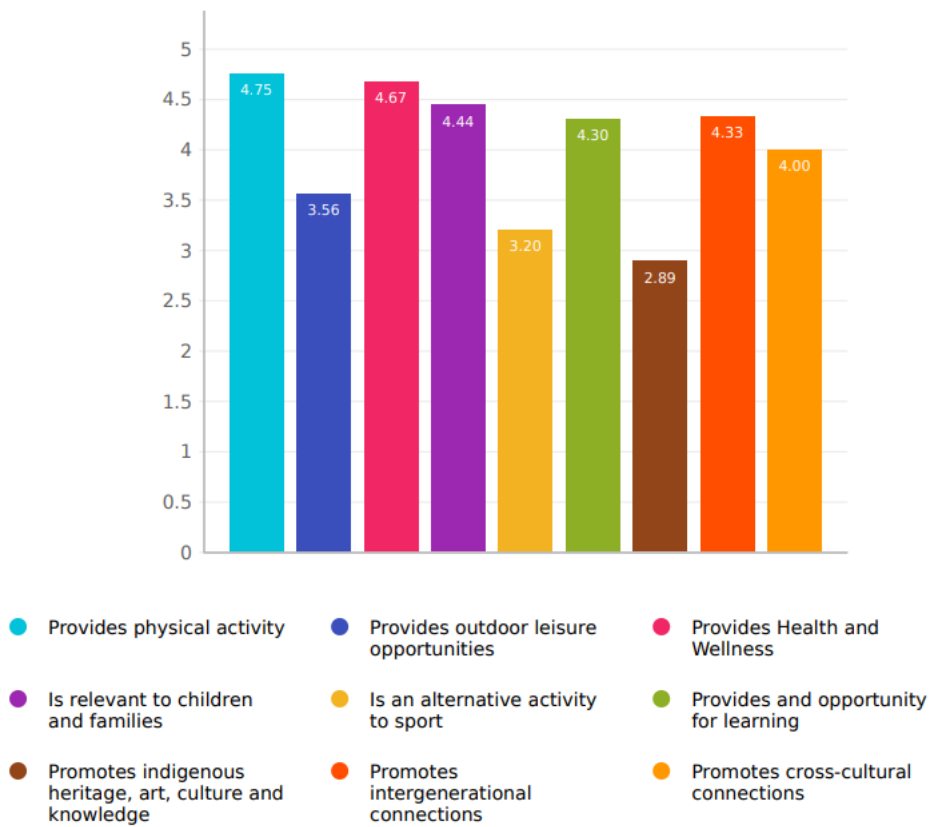






Many users think the town should not focus on the Train to Win recommendations, perhaps because this section requires a great deal of time and dedication that the Town cannot expend resources for in large numbers.

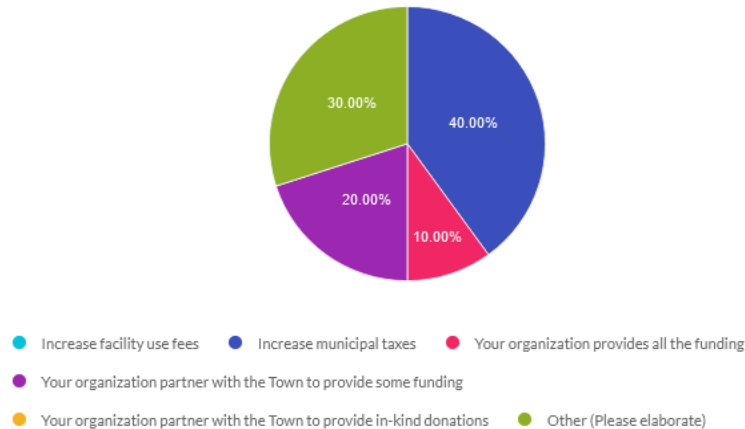
11. On a scale of five, one being the least, how do you feel about your organization:



Most participants feel that their organization focuses primarily on providing physical activity, as well as health and wellness. Most also feel that their programs are relevant to children and families. Non sporting activities rank the lowest.



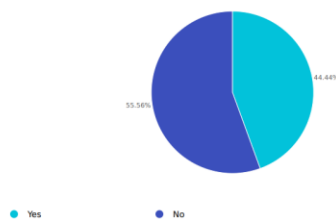
12. If there are proposed services, facilities, and recreational opportunities enhancements that directly enhance your organization (baseball diamonds for baseball users), how do you feel this should be best funded?



Many participants describe wanting other avenues for funding services, such as government grants, increased facility use fees, and donations. A combination approach that encompasses several strategies has a higher chance of success and approval from user groups. There were many respondents that had ideas:

- Combination of increase facility use fees, partner with Town to provide some funding and in-kind donations. As our Club is not the only one to use the soccer pitches we would NOT be open to providing 100% of funding.
- to build a home for a proper theatre would likely involve a combination of approaches
- Government Grants

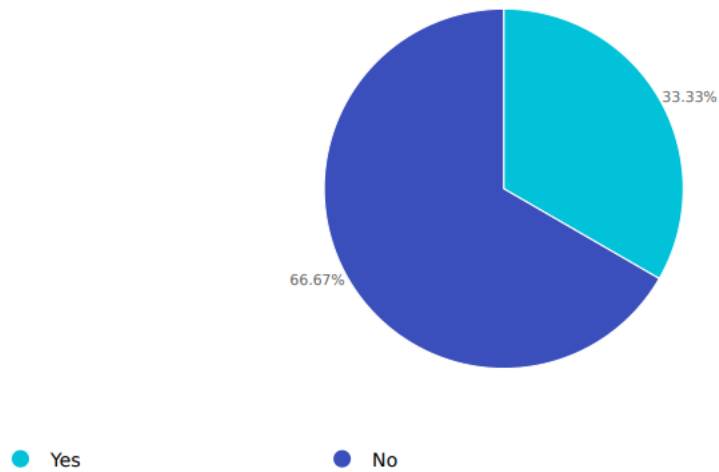
13. Do you encourage your users to use trails or other forms of transportation (nonvehicular) to attend your programming?



Most users do not encourage their users to find alternate modes of transportation, beyond driving, in order to attend programming. Encouraging this could not only be better for the environment and body, but also free up parking space required at facilities.



14. Have you shared the community survey with your users?



Most survey participants did not share the survey with users of their organization.

# APPENDIX C

Maps of the proposed recreation, parks and  
open space system

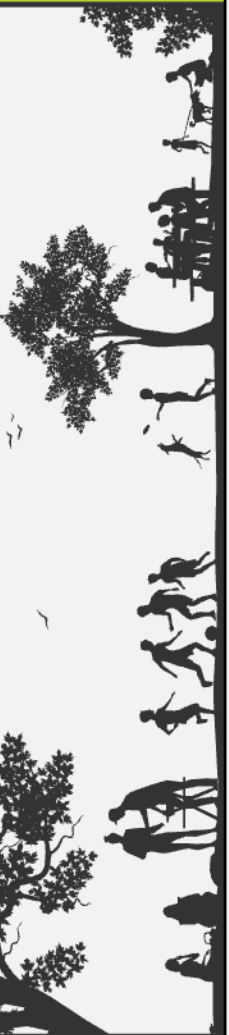
Appendix C



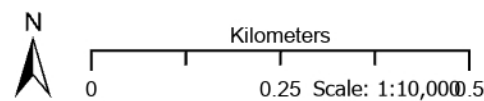
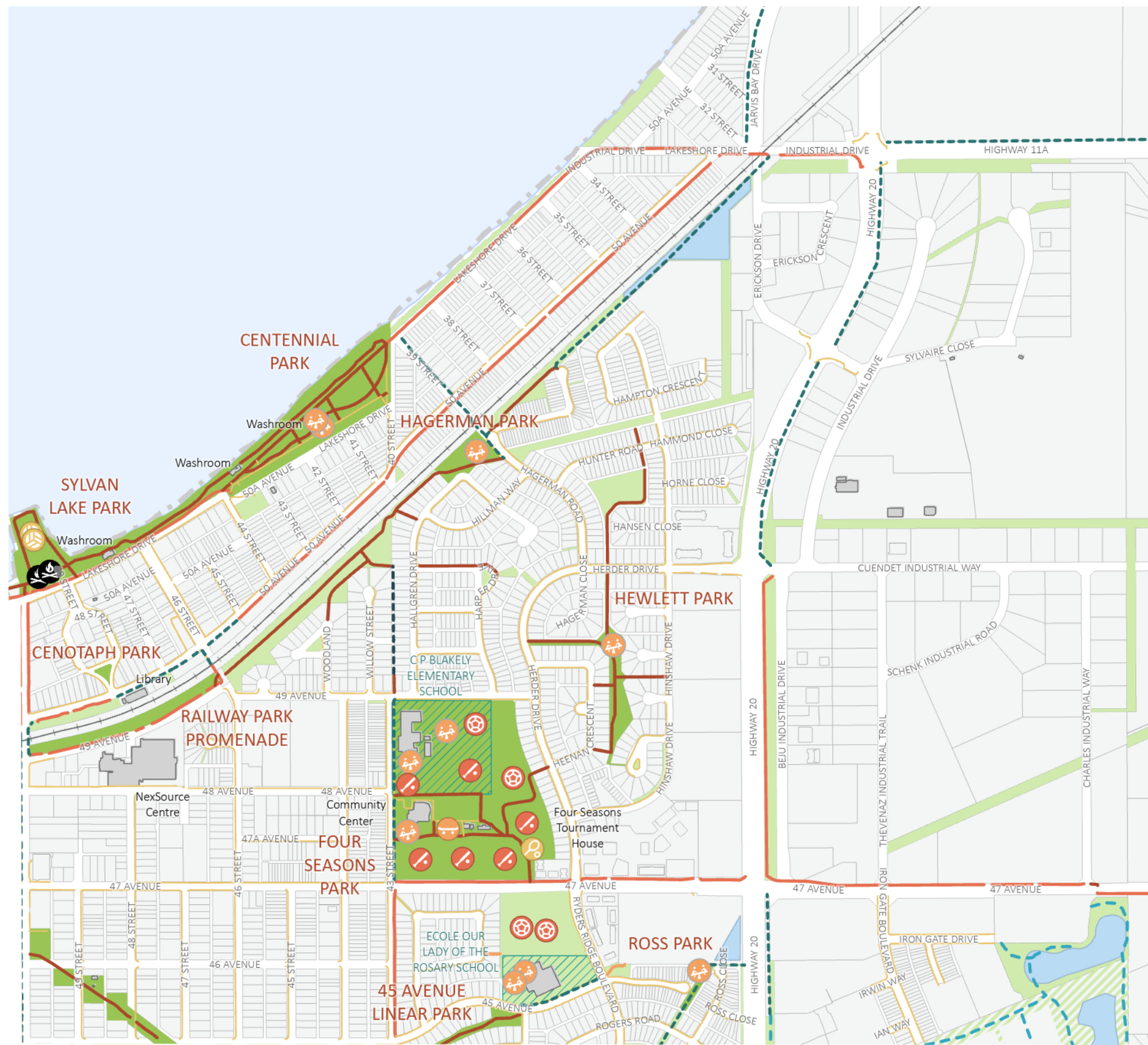
Park	New Classification
Centennial Park	Regional Park
Hewlett Park	Neighbourhood Park
Four Seasons Park	Community Park
Regatta Park	Parkette
Palo Park	Neighbourhood Park
Railway Park Promenade	Linear Park
Lions Park	Neighbourhood Park
James Berg Park	Parkette
Lakeview Heights Park	Neighbourhood Park
Meadowview Park	Community Park
Sylvan Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park
Parkland Drive Park	Parkette
Firdale Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park
Lakeway Landing Park	Neighbourhood Park
Leaderfield West Park / Dog Park	Community Park
Leaderfield East Park	Community Park
Wilkinson Circle Park	Parkette
Westwood Crescent Park	Neighbourhood Park
Willow Springs Park	Parkette
Lighthouse Park	Regional Park
Cenotaph Park	Parkette
Sylvan Lake Park	Regional Park
Disc Golf Park	Community Park
Lakefront Park	Regional Park
Pogadl Park	Regional Park
Ryders Ridge Park	Neighbourhood Park
Hagerman Park	Neighbourhood Park
Sixty West Park	Neighbourhood Park
Cole Way Park	Neighbourhood Park
Vista Park	Neighbourhood Park
54 Avenue Linear Park	Linear Park
Ross Park	Parkette
Health and Wellness Healing Hub	Neighbourhood Park

Legend

- Gazebo/Picnic Shelter
- Group Firepit
- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Future Baseball/Softball
- Future Multi-use
- Future Soccer
- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis
- Future Basketball
- Future Tennis (x2)
- Future Pickleball (x4)
- Playground
- Skatepark
- Splashpark
- Park
- Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Civic/School Buildings
- Sidewalk
- Connector Trail
- Side Path Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Proposed Multi-Use / Side Path Trail
- Future Multi-Use Trail (Alley)
- Future Developer Multi-Use
- Railroad
- Town Boundary





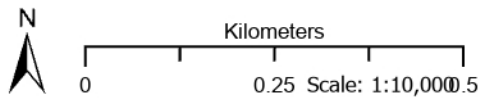
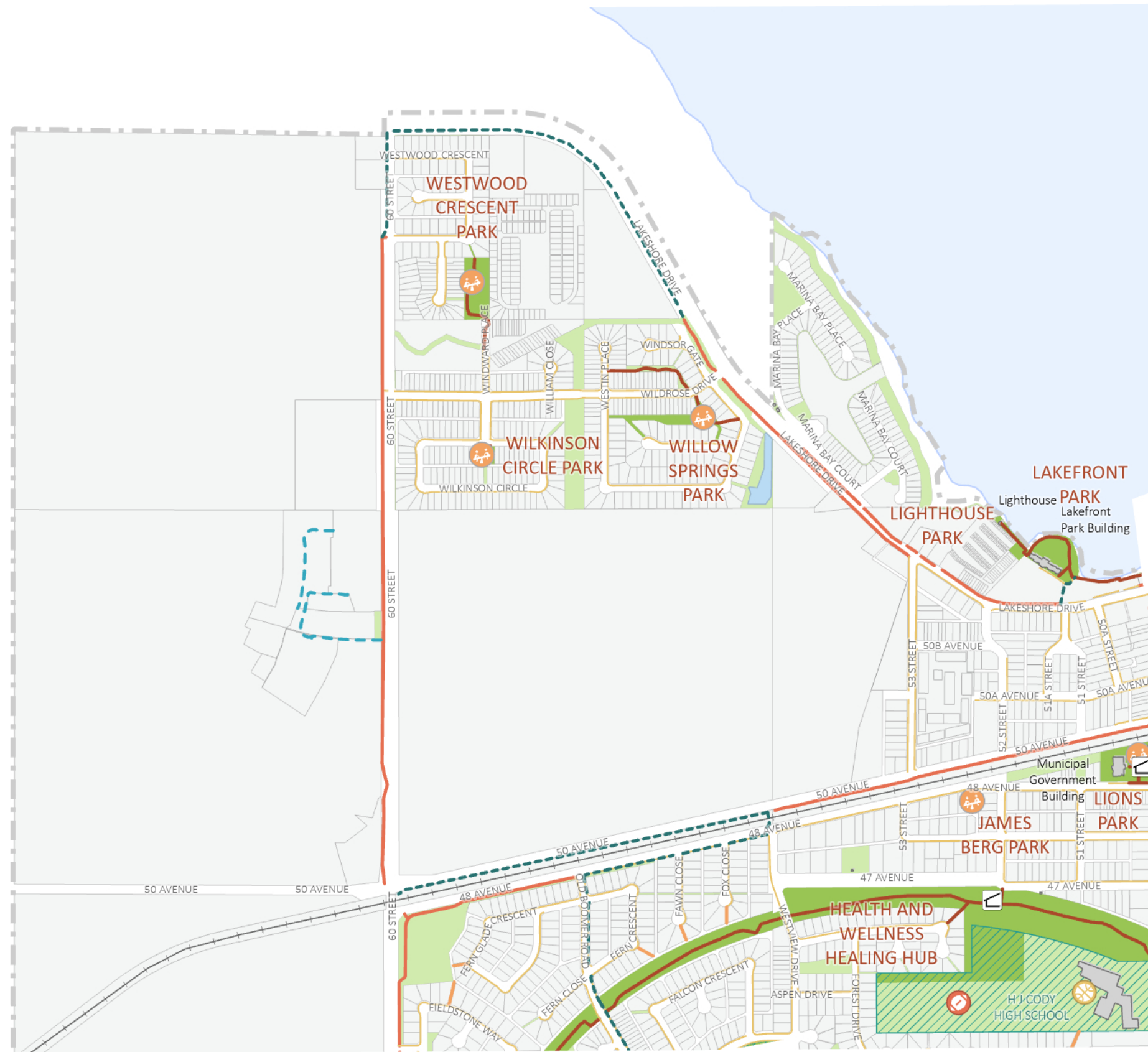


## Legend

- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis
- Playground
- Skatepark
- Splashpark
- Gazebo/Picnic Shelter
- Group Firepit
- Park
- Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Civic/School Buildings
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Railroad
- Town Boundary
- Sidewalk
- Connector Trail
- Side Path Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Proposed Multi-Use / Side Path Trail
- Future Developer Multi-Use
- Future Multi-Use Trail (Alley)

Park	2022 Class
54 Avenue Linear Park	Linear Park
Cenotaph Park	Parkette
Centennial Park	Regional Park
Four Seasons Park	Community Park
Hagerman Park	Neighbourhood Park
Hewlett Park	Neighbourhood Park
Railway Park Promenade	Linear Park
Ross Park	Parkette
Sylvan Lake Park	Regional Park



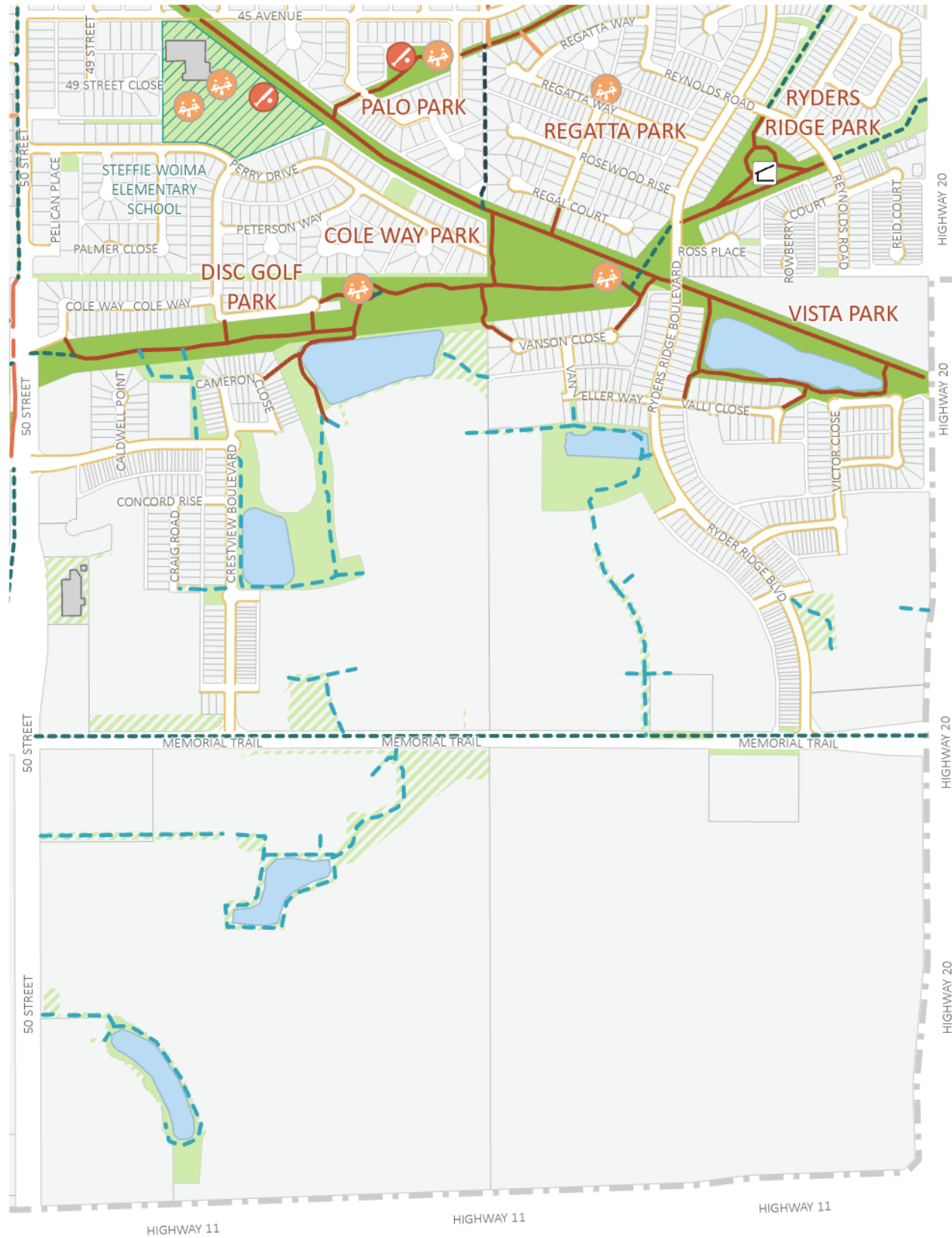


## Legend

- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis
- Playground
- Skatepark
- Splashpark
- Gazebo/Picnic Shelter
- Group Firepit
- Park
- Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Civic/School Buildings
- Railroad
- Town Boundary
- Sidewalk
- Connector Trail
- Side Path Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Proposed Multi-Use / Side Path Trail
- Future Developer Multi-Use
- Future Multi-Use Trail (Alley)

Park	2022 Class
Lions Park	Neighbourhood Park
James Berg Park	Parkette
Meadowview Park	Community Park
Wilkinson Circle Park	Parkette
Westwood Crescent Park	Neighbourhood Park
Willow Springs Park	Parkette
Lighthouse Park	Regional Park
Lakefront Park	Regional Park
Health and Wellness Healing Hub	Neighbourhood Park





### Legend

- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis
- Playground
- Skatepark
- Splashpark
- Gazebo/Picnic Shelter
- Group Firepit
- Park
- Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Civic/School Buildings
- Railroad
- Town Boundary
- Sidewalk
- Connector Trail
- Side Path Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Proposed Multi-Use / Side Path Trail
- Future Developer Multi-Use
- Future Multi-Use Trail (Alley)

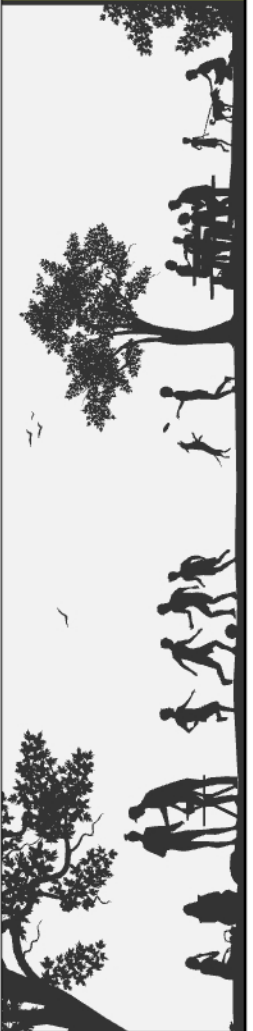
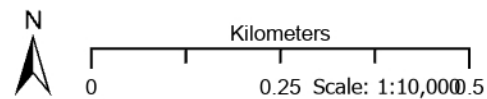
Park	2022 Class
Regatta Park	Parkette
Palo Park	Neighbourhood Park
Disc Golf Park	Community Park
Ryders Ridge Park	Neighbourhood Park
Cole Way Park	Neighbourhood Park
Vista Park	Neighbourhood Park
54 Avenue Linear Park	Linear Park



## Legend

- Baseball/Softball
- Football
- Multi-use
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis
- Playground
- Skatepark
- Splashpark
- Gazebo/Picnic Shelter
- Group Firepit
- Park
- Open Space
- Future Developer Parks and Open Space
- School Lands
- Stormwater Management Pond
- Railroad
- Town Boundary
- Civic/School Buildings
- Sidewalk
- Connector Trail
- Side Path Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Proposed Multi-Use / Side Path Trail
- Future Developer Multi-Use
- Future Multi-Use Trail (Alley)

Park	2022 Class
Lakeview Heights Park	Neighbourhood Park
Meadowview Park	Community Park
Sylvan Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park
Parkland Drive Park	Parkette
Firdale Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park
Lakeway Landing Park	Neighbourhood Park
Leaderfield West Park / Dog Park	Community Park
Leaderfield East Park	Community Park
Pogadl Park	Regional Park
Sixty West Park	Neighbourhood Park



# APPENDIX D

Existing Asset Valuation for the Existing Recreation,  
Parks, Open Space and Trails

Appendix D



Indoor Recreation Facilities	
Facility	Subtotal Cost
Wellness & Community Centre (1987)	\$7-10M
MultiCampus (1999)	\$ 40-50M
NexSource Centre (1999-2018)	\$65-75M
<b>TOTAL REPLACEMENT VALUE OF INDOOR RECREATION ASSETS</b>	
	<b>\$ 112-135M</b>

Parks, Open Space and Trails						
Park / Open Space	Total Area (sq. m)	Base Park Cost	Amenities Cost	Trees Cost	Trails Cost	Subtotal Cost
Cenotaph Park	868	\$41,661	\$60,400	\$9,750	\$0	\$111,811
Centennial Park	32364	\$1,553,469	\$1,000,200	\$249,000	\$721,653	\$3,524,322
Firdale Drive Park	14596	\$700,613	\$165,400	\$46,500	\$100,287	\$1,012,800
Four Seasons Park	79281	\$3,805,497	\$5,135,600	\$81,750	\$3,536,899	\$12,559,746
Hagerman Park	7159	\$343,651	\$133,200	\$14,250	\$33,144	\$524,245
Hewlett Park	13202	\$633,677	\$87,600	\$11,250	\$165,963	\$898,490
James Berg Park	846	\$40,594	\$95,400	\$1,500	\$0	\$137,494
Lakefront Park	7484	\$359,240	\$22,400	\$13,500	\$55,661	\$450,801
Lakeway Heights Park	3800	\$182,379	\$95,400	\$11,250	\$0	\$289,029
Lakeway Landing Park	12265	\$588,714	\$234,000	\$38,250	\$161,234	\$1,022,199
Leaderfield East/West Park	81941	\$3,933,185	\$345,400	\$134,250	\$215,875	\$4,628,710
Lighthouse Park	1679	\$80,570	\$77,200	\$3,000	\$22,179	\$182,949
Lions Park	7923	\$380,301	\$338,400	\$39,750	\$37,914	\$796,365
Meadowview Park	19271	\$925,002	\$799,000	\$58,500	\$43,034	\$1,825,536
Palo Park	8027	\$385,287	\$120,000	\$35,250	\$40,908	\$581,445
Parkland Drive Park	1114	\$53,489	\$80,200	\$2,250	\$0	\$135,939
Pogadl Park	321944	Construction Costs for Phase 1 and 2				\$9,890,360
Railway Park Promenade	11752	\$564,083	\$129,600	\$119,250	\$39,986	\$852,919
Regatta Park	606	\$29,108	\$80,200	\$10,500	\$8,745	\$128,553
Ross Park	18671	\$896,206	\$138,200	\$65,250	\$157,946	\$1,257,602
Sixty West Park	10119	\$485,723	\$362,200	\$114,000	\$92,843	\$1,054,765
Sylvan Drive Park	10854	\$520,982	\$120,400	\$21,000	\$57,591	\$719,972
Sylvan Lake Park	43615	\$2,093,514	\$295,000	\$3,750	\$418,321	\$2,810,585
Vista Park	92336	\$4,432,105	\$280,800	\$180,000	\$383,071	\$5,275,976
Westwood Crescent Park	7088	\$340,208	\$80,200	\$8,250	\$43,789	\$472,447
Wilkinson Circle Park	1632	\$78,325	\$80,200	\$6,000	\$13,490	\$178,014
Willow Springs Park	4798	\$230,315	\$77,200	\$10,500	\$35,162	\$353,177
<b>Subtotal - All Parks</b>	<b>815,234</b>	<b>\$23,677,896</b>	<b>\$10,433,800</b>	<b>\$1,288,500</b>	<b>\$6,385,694</b>	<b>\$51,676,250</b>
Open Space (Un-Named Parkland)	1025876	\$49,242,062	\$816,400	\$1,301,250	\$3,783,245	\$55,142,958
Other Public Land (non-Parkland Assets)	n/a	n/a	\$558,000	\$2,408,250	\$2,462,734	\$5,428,984
<b>TOTAL REPLACEMENT VALUE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSETS</b>						<b>\$112,248,191</b>

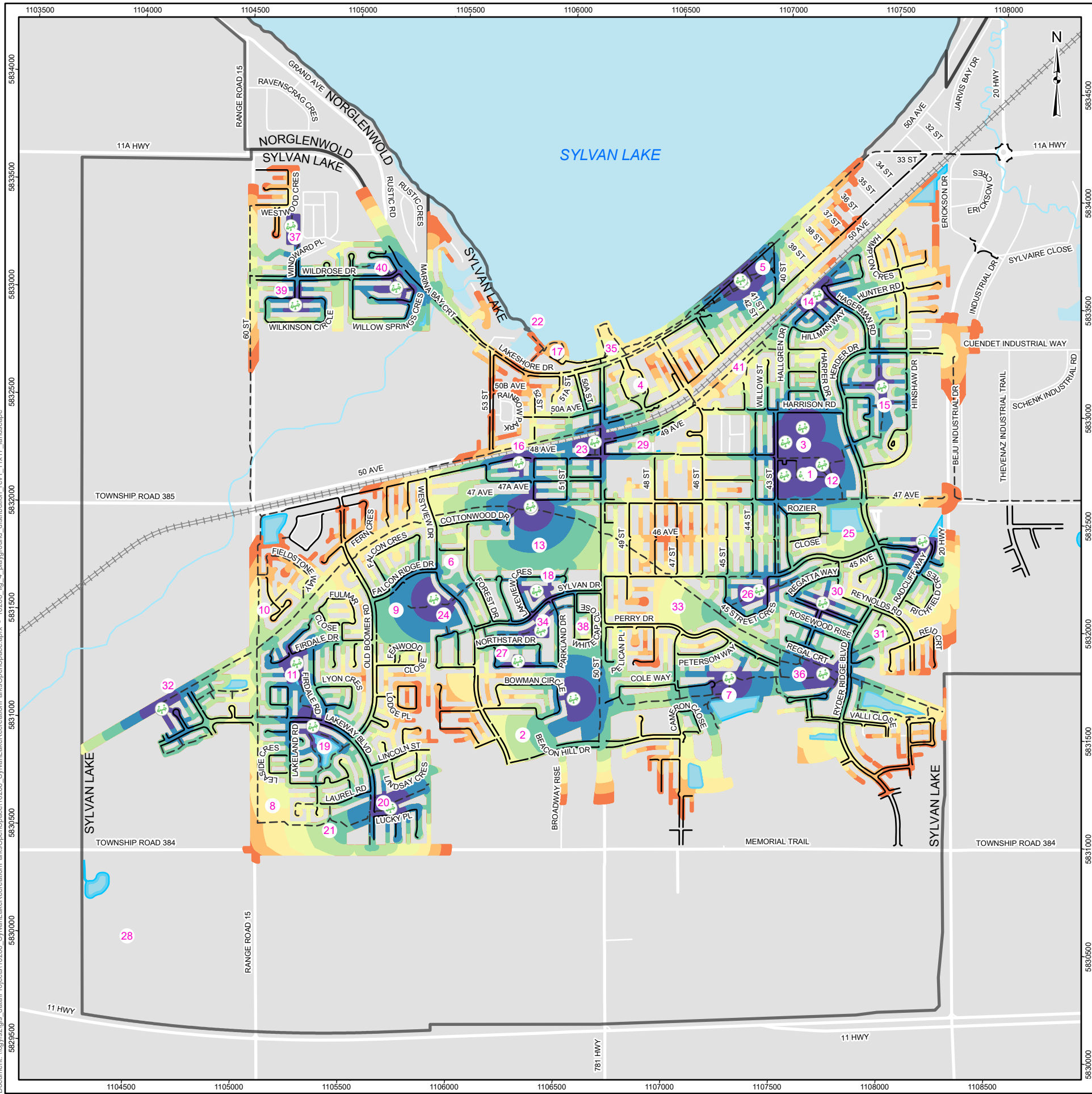
# APPENDIX E

Detailed Trail Connectivity Analysis Maps

Appendix E



Document: \\gryfz2\gis\_data\Projects\16266\_SylvanLakeRecreation\ Parks\OpenSpace.aprx - 16266\_fig\_4\_playground\_distribution\_rev1\_1x17 landscape



WALKING DISTANCE TO PLAYGROUNDS

LEGEND

Study Areas

- 1 - Action Sports Park
- 2 - Beacon Hill Elementary School
- 3 - C.P. Blakely
- 4 - Cenotaph Park
- 5 - Centennial Park
- 6 - Crooked Tree Park
- 7 - Disc Golf Course
- 8 - Dog Park
- 9 - Ecole Mother Teresa School
- 10 - Fieldstone Park
- 11 - Firdale Drive Park
- 12 - Four Seasons Park
- 13 - H.J. Cody School
- 14 - Hagerman Park
- 15 - Hewlett Park
- 16 - James Berg Park
- 17 - Lakefront Park
- 18 - Lakeway Heights Park
- 19 - Lakeway Landing Park
- 20 - Leaderfield East Park
- 21 - Leaderfield West Park
- 22 - Lighthouse Park
- 23 - Lions Park
- 24 - Meadowview Park
- 25 - Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School
- 26 - Palo Park
- 27 - Parkland Drive Park
- 28 - PogadlPark
- 29 - Railway Park Promenade
- 30 - Regatta Park
- 31 - Ross Park
- 32 - Sixty West Park
- 33 - Steffie Woima Elementary School
- 34 - Sylvan Drive Park
- 35 - Sylvan Lake Park
- 36 - Vista Park
- 37 - Westwood Crescent Park
- 38 - White Cap Park
- 39 - Wilkinson Circle Park
- 40 - Willow Springs Park
- 41 - Woodland Park

- Playground / Splash-Splash / Skatepark
  - Sidewalk
  - Trail
  - Railway
  - Watercourse
  - Water Body
  - Storm Pond
  - Municipal Boundary
- Walking Distance to Play Facility (m)
- 100 m
  - 200 m
  - 300 m
  - 400 m (~5 minute walk)
  - 500 m
  - 600 m
  - 700 m
  - 800 m (~10 minute walk)

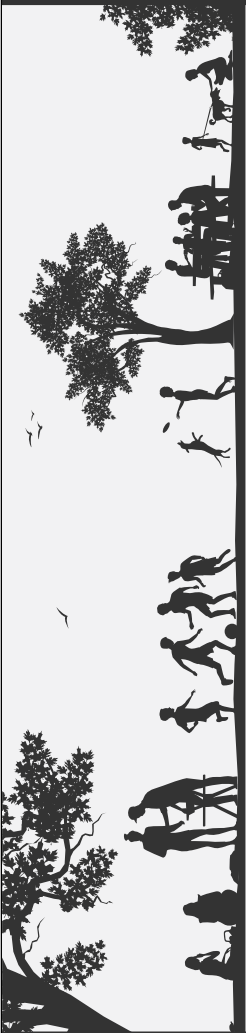
DATA SOURCES  
- Sylvan Lake, IHS, Government of Canada Resources

PROJECTION  
NAD 1983 3TM 114

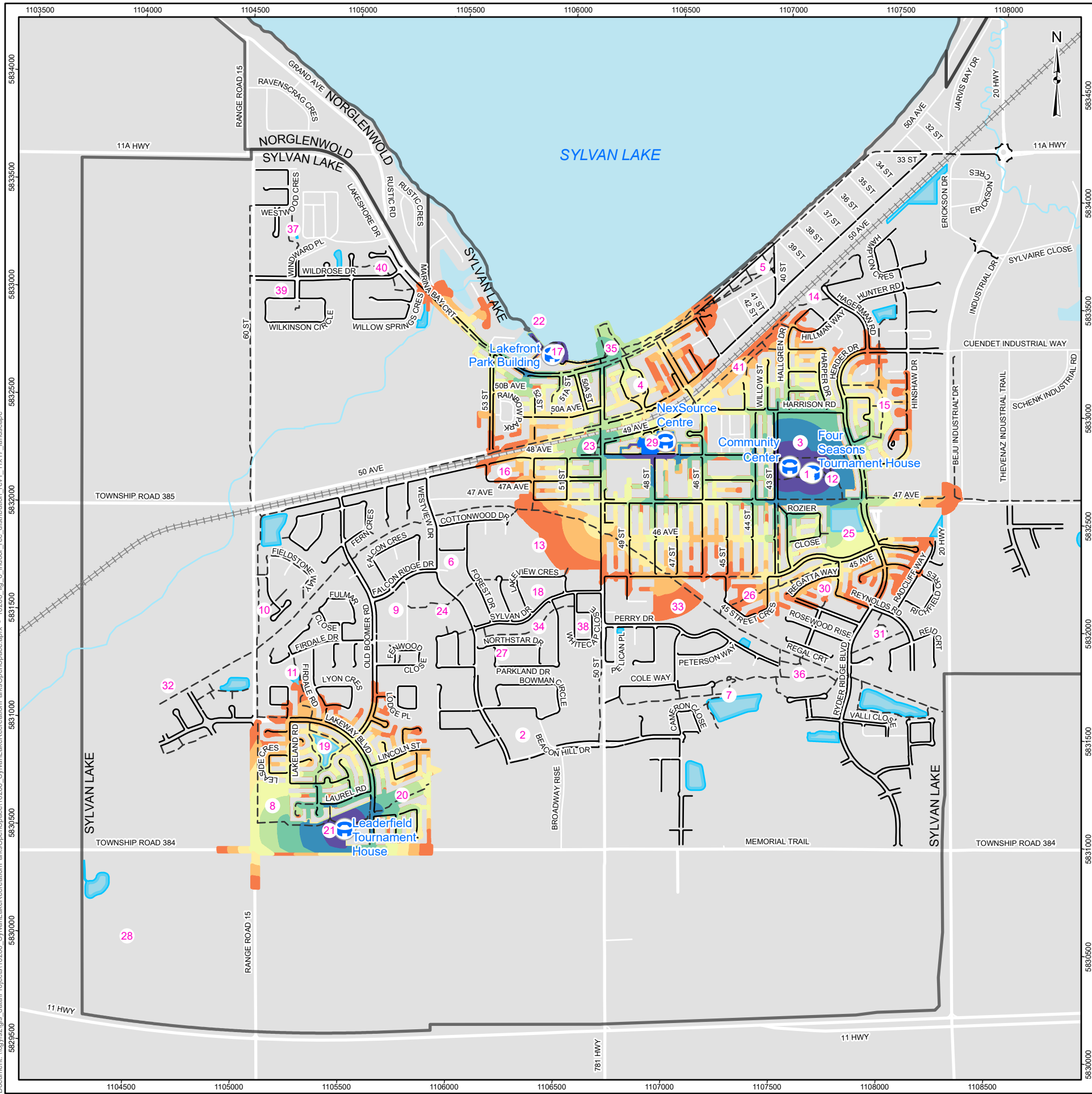
0 25 50  
1:20,000 KM



FIGURE 1  
DATE 2022-08-18  
PROJECT NO. 16266  
AUTHOR TDaSilva



Document: \\gryf2\gis\_data\Projects\16266\_SylvanLakeRecreation\ ParksOpenSpace.aprx - 16266\_fig\_6\_indoor\_rec\_distribution\_rev1\_11x17\_landscape



# WALKING DISTANCE TO INDOOR RECREATION

## LEGEND

### Study Areas

- 1 - Action Sports Park
- 2 - Beacon Hill Elementary School
- 3 - C.P. Blakely
- 4 - Cenotaph Park
- 5 - Centennial Park
- 6 - Crooked Tree Park
- 7 - Disc Golf Course
- 8 - Dog Park
- 9 - Ecole Mother Teresa School
- 10 - Fieldstone Park
- 11 - Firdale Drive Park
- 12 - Four Seasons Park
- 13 - H.J. Cody School
- 14 - Hagerman Park
- 15 - Hewlett Park
- 16 - James Berg Park
- 17 - Lakefront Park
- 18 - Lakeway Heights Park
- 19 - Lakeway Landing Park
- 20 - Leaderfield East Park
- 21 - Leaderfield West Park
- 22 - Lighthouse Park
- 23 - Lions Park
- 24 - Meadowview Park
- 25 - Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School
- 26 - Palo Park
- 27 - Parkland Drive Park
- 28 - PogadlPark
- 29 - Railway Park Promenade
- 30 - Regatta Park
- 31 - Ross Park
- 32 - Sixty West Park
- 33 - Steffie Woima Elementary School
- 34 - Sylvan Drive Park
- 35 - Sylvan Lake Park
- 36 - Vista Park
- 37 - Westwood Crescent Park
- 38 - White Cap Park
- 39 - Wilkinson Circle Park
- 40 - Willow Springs Park
- 41 - Woodland Park



Indoor Recreation Building



Sidewalk



Trail



Railway



Watercourse



Water Body



Storm Pond



Municipal Boundary

Walking Distance to Indoor Recreation (m)

- 100 m
- 200 m
- 300 m
- 400 m (~5 minute walk)
- 500 m
- 600 m
- 700 m
- 800 m (~10 minute walk)

### DATA SOURCES

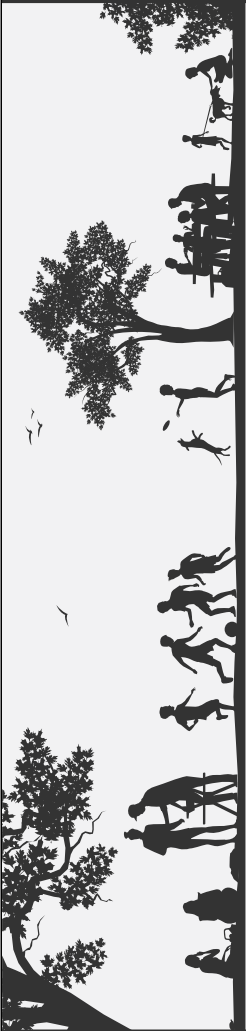
- Sylvan Lake, IHS, Government of Canada Resources

### PROJECTION

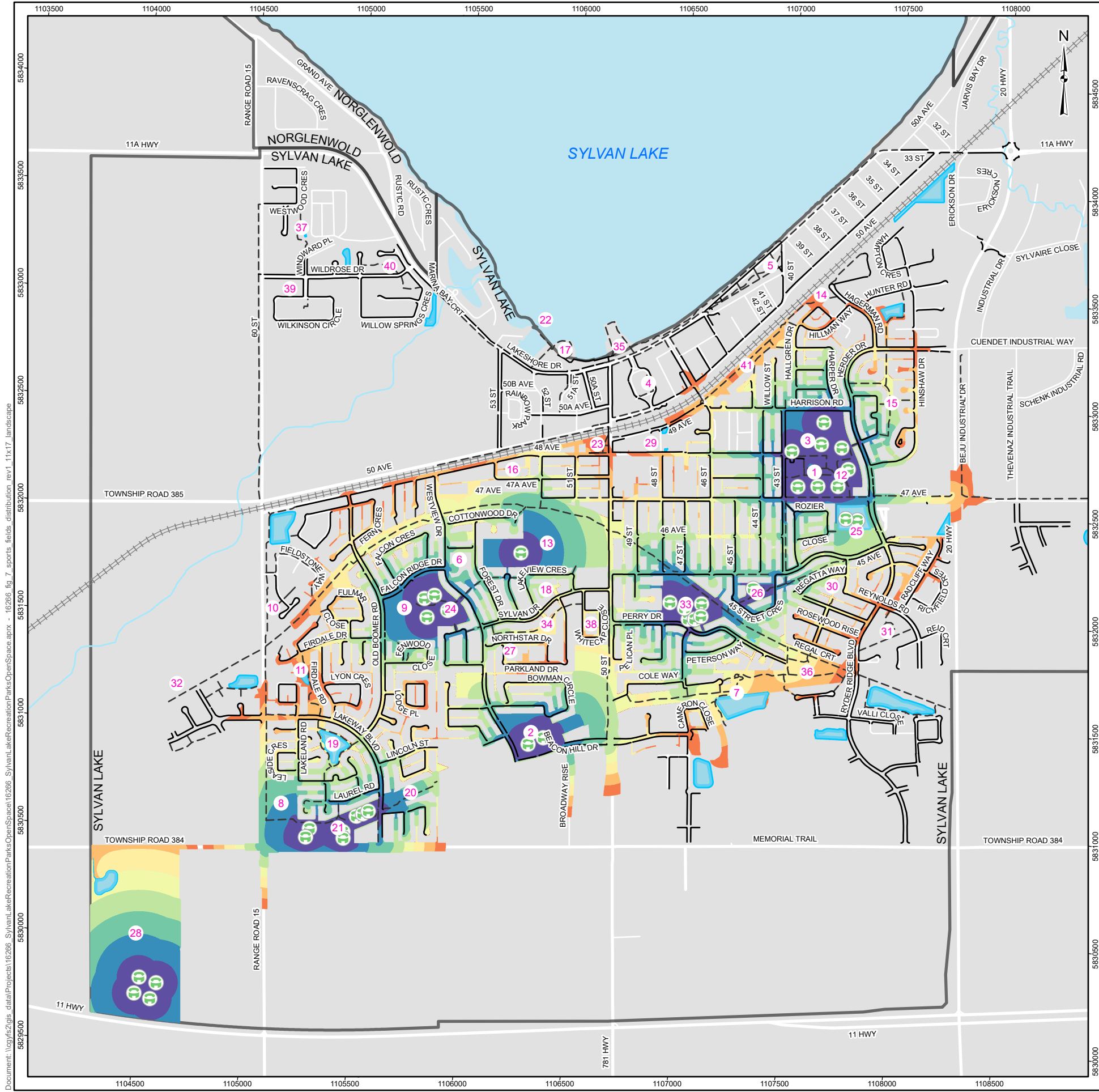
NAD 1983 CSRS 3TM 114

0 25 50  
1:20,000 KM

FIGURE 1  
DATE 2022-08-19  
PROJECT NO. 16266  
AUTHOR TDaSilva







# WALKING DISTANCE TO SPORT FIELDS

## LEGEND

### Study Areas

- 1 - Action Sports Park
- 2 - Beacon Hill Elementary School
- 3 - C.P. Blakely
- 4 - Cenotaph Park
- 5 - Centennial Park
- 6 - Crooked Tree Park
- 7 - Disc Golf Course
- 8 - Dog Park
- 9 - Ecole Mother Teresa School
- 10 - Fieldstone Park
- 11 - Firdale Drive Park
- 12 - Four Seasons Park
- 13 - H.J. Cody School
- 14 - Hagerman Park
- 15 - Hewlett Park
- 16 - James Berg Park
- 17 - Lakefront Park
- 18 - Lakeway Heights Park
- 19 - Lakeway Landing Park
- 20 - Leaderfield East Park
- 21 - Leaderfield West Park
- 22 - Lighthouse Park
- 23 - Lions Park
- 24 - Meadowview Park
- 25 - Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School
- 26 - Palo Park
- 27 - Parkland Drive Park
- 28 - PogadlPark
- 29 - Railway Park Promenade
- 30 - Regatta Park
- 31 - Ross Park
- 32 - Sixty West Park
- 33 - Steffie Woima Elementary School
- 34 - Sylvan Drive Park
- 35 - Sylvan Lake Park
- 36 - Vista Park
- 37 - Westwood Crescent Park
- 38 - White Cap Park
- 39 - Wilkinson Circle Park
- 40 - Willow Springs Park
- 41 - Woodland Park

- Sportsfield
  - Sidewalk
  - Trail
  - Railway
  - Watercourse
  - Water Body
  - Storm Pond
  - Municipal Boundary
- Walking Distance to Sports Fields (m)**
- 100 m
  - 200 m
  - 300 m
  - 400 m (~5 minute walk)
  - 500 m
  - 600 m
  - 700 m
  - 800 m (~10 minute walk)

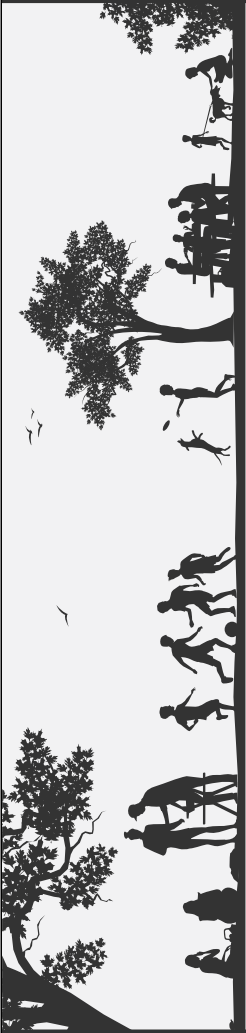
DATA SOURCES  
- Sylvan Lake, IHS, Government of Canada  
Resources

PROJECTION  
NAD 1983 CSRS 3TM 114

0 25 50  
1:20,000 KM



FIGURE 1  
DATE 2022-08-23  
PROJECT NO. 16266  
AUTHOR TDaSilva



# APPENDIX F

Programming Primetime Schedules

Appendix F

Non-Prime Time Schedule Arena Ice in							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am		Prime Time Ice					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am		Learn to Skate		Learn to Skate		Learn to Skate	
11:00am							
12:00pm		Stick & Pucks	Public skating	Stick & Pucks	Public skating	Stick & Pucks	
1:00pm		School Booking					
2:00pm			Adult Shinny		Adult Shinny		
3:00pm			Figure Skating		Figure Skating		
4:00pm							
5:00pm							
6:00pm	Prime Time Ice						
7:00pm	Youth Shinny					Prime Time Ice	
8:00pm	Adult Shinny					Adult Shinny	
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Curling Rink Ice in							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am	Learn to Curl	School Booking	Seniors Curl	School Booking	Seniors Curl	School Booking	Learn to Curl
11:00am							
12:00pm							
1:00pm							
2:00pm	Prime Time Ice	Balance and Coordination class	Sliding Fitness	Balance and Coordination class	Sliding Fitness	Balance and Coordination class	Prime Time Ice
3:00pm							
4:00pm							
5:00pm							
6:00pm							
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Pool							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Prime Time Pool					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am	Toonie Swim	Aquafit	Water Therapy	Aquafit	Water Therapy	Aquafit	Swimming Lessons
10:00am		Parent and Preschool Lessons		Parent and Preschool Lessons		Parent and Preschool Lessons	
11:00am		Lane Swim	Public Swim	Lane Swim	Public Swim	Lane Swim	
12:00pm		Lane Swim		Lane Swim		Lane Swim	
1:00pm		School Lessons	Introduction to Water Sports	School Lessons	Introduction to Water Sports	School Lessons	Lane Swim
2:00pm							
3:00pm							
4:00pm							

5:00pm	Public Swim						Public Swim
6:00pm							
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm	Closed	Adults Only					Public Swim
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Seniors Centre							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am		Fitness Class	Bocce Ball	Fitness Class	Bocce Ball	Fitness Class	Pottery & Clay Sculpting
11:00am		Social Dancing/ Zumba	Spinning	Social Dancing/ Zumba	Spinning	Social Dancing/ Zumba	
12:00pm			Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	
1:00pm			Knitting		Knitting		
2:00pm		Movement Therapy	Quilting	Movement Therapy	Quilting	Movement Therapy	Fitness Class
3:00pm							Zumba
4:00pm	Yoga						Yoga
5:00pm	Zumba						Social Dancing
6:00pm	Closed						Closed
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Multipurpose Rooms							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Closed					
7:00am							
8:00am		Fitness Class	Yoga	Fitness Class	Yoga	Fitness Class	Closed
9:00am		Zumba	Ping pong	Zumba	Ping pong	Zumba	Gross Motor and Fine Motor Classes
10:00am	Gross Motor and Fine Motor Classes	Parent & Tot		Parent & Tot		Parent & Tot	
11:00am			Mixed Media	Mixed Media			
12:00pm							
1:00pm	Ping Pong	Knitting and Quilting	Wellness and Therapy	Knitting and Quilting	Wellness and Therapy	Knitting and Quilting	Knitting and Quilting
2:00pm							
3:00pm	Knitting and Quilting						
4:00pm							
5:00pm	Yoga						Yoga
6:00pm							
7:00pm	Closed						Closed
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Track & Fitness							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Walk & Run					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am	Fundamental Movement Class	Circuit Training	Fundamental Movement Class	Circuit Training	Fundamental Movement Class	Circuit Training	Fundamental Movement Class
10:00am		Learn to Run		Learn to Run		Learn to Run	
11:00am							
12:00pm							

1:00pm	Walk & Run	Walk & Run	School Booking	Walk & Run	School Booking	Walk & Run	Walk & Run
2:00pm							
3:00pm							
4:00pm							
5:00pm	Walk & Run						Walk & Run
6:00pm							
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm	Closed						Closed
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Art Centre							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am	Mixed Media	Knitting and Quilting	Scrapbooking	Knitting and Quilting	Scrapbooking	Knitting and Quilting	Mixed Media
11:00am							
12:00pm	Photography	Pottery and Clay	Parent & Tot	Mixed Media	Parent & Tot	Photography	Photography
1:00pm							
2:00pm	Pottery & Clay						Pottery & Clay
3:00pm							
4:00pm							
5:00pm							
6:00pm	Closed						Closed
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Gymnasium							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am	Multisport	Zumba	Bootcamp	Zumba	Bootcamp	Zumba	Multisport
11:00am		Pickel Ball	Multisport	Pickel Ball	Multisport	Pickel Ball	
12:00pm	Circuit Training	Badminton	Parent & Tot	Basketball	Parent & Tot	Badminton	Circuit Training
1:00pm							
2:00pm	Bootcamp	Parent & Tot	Zumba	Parent & Tot	Zumba	Parent & Tot	Bootcamp
3:00pm	Zumba						Zumba
4:00pm	Yoga						Yoga
5:00pm							
6:00pm	Closed						Closed
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Arena Ice in							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Prime Time Ice					
7:00am							
8:00am							Public skating
9:00am	Learn to Skate	Learn to Skate		Learn to Skate		Learn to Skate	Learn to Skate
10:00am							
11:00am	Learn to Skate						
12:00pm		Stick & Pucks	Public skating	Stick & Pucks	Public skating	Stick & Pucks	
1:00pm	Public skating	School Booking					Public skating
2:00pm			Adult Shinny		Adult Shinny		
3:00pm		School Booking	Figure Skating	School Booking	Figure Skating	School Booking	
4:00pm							
5:00pm							
6:00pm	Power Skating						Adult learn to Skate
7:00pm	Youth Shinny						Learn to Play Hockey
8:00pm	Adult Shinny						Adult Shinny
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Arena Ice out							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am	Multisport	Bootcamps	Yoga	Bootcamps	Yoga	Bootcamps	Multisport
10:00am							
11:00am	Multisport	Multisport	Pickle Ball	Multisport	Pickle Ball	Multisport	
12:00pm							
1:00pm	Zumba	School Booking		School Booking		School Booking	Zumba
2:00pm	Circuit Training		Parent & Tot		Parent & Tot		Circuit Training
3:00pm			Zumba		Zumba		
4:00pm	Social Dancing						Social Dancing
5:00pm							
6:00pm	Drop-in Lacross						Drop-in Lacross
7:00pm	Closed						Closed
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Curling Rink Ice out							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am	Multisport	Bocce Ball	Circuit Training	Bocce Ball	Circuit Training	Bocce Ball	Multisport
11:00am							
12:00pm		Parent & Tot	Spinning	Parent & Tot	Spinning	Parent & Tot	
1:00pm			Golf Driving Range		Golf Driving Range		



2:00pm	Circuit Training	Social Dancing/ Zumba	Parent & Tot		Parent & Tot		Circuit Training
3:00pm	Bootcamp	Zumba		Social Dancing/ Zumba	Zumba	Social Dancing/ Zumba	Bootcamp
4:00pm	Spinning						Spinning
5:00pm							
6:00pm	Yoga						Yoga
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm	Closed						Closed
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Pool							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Lane Swim					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am	Toonie Swim	Aquafit	Water Therapy	Aquafit	Water Therapy	Aquafit	Swimming Lessons
10:00am		Parent and Preschool Lessons	Lane Swim	Parent and Preschool Lessons	Lane Swim	Parent and Preschool Lessons	
11:00am		Lane Swim		Lane Swim		Lane Swim	
12:00pm		Lane Swim		Lane Swim		Lane Swim	
1:00pm	Public Swim	School Lessons	Public Swim	School Lessons	Public Swim	School Lessons	Lane Swim
2:00pm			Introduction to Water Sports		Introduction to Water Sports		
3:00pm							
4:00pm							
5:00pm							
6:00pm							
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm	Closed	Adults Only					Public Swim
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Seniors Centre							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am		Closed					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am		Fitness Class	Bocce Ball	Fitness Class	Bocce Ball	Fitness Class	Pottery & Clay Sculpting
11:00am		Social Dancing/ Zumba	Spinning	Social Dancing/ Zumba	Spinning	Social Dancing/ Zumba	
12:00pm		Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	Scrapbooking	
1:00pm							
2:00pm		Movement Therapy	Knitting	Movement Therapy	Knitting	Movement Therapy	Fitness Class
3:00pm			Quilting		Quilting		Zumba
4:00pm	Yoga						Yoga
5:00pm	Zumba						Social Dancing
6:00pm	Closed						Closed
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Multipurpose Rooms							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

6:30am	Closed	Closed					Closed			
7:00am		Closed								
8:00am		Fitness Class	Yoga	Fitness Class	Yoga	Fitness Class				
9:00am	Gross Motor and Fine Motor Classes	Zumba	Ping pong	Zumba	Ping pong	Zumba	Gross Motor and Fine Motor Classes			
10:00am		Parent & Tot		Parent & Tot		Parent & Tot				
11:00am			Mixed Media		Mixed Media					
12:00pm	Ping Pong						Ping Pong			
1:00pm							Knitting and Quilting	Wellness and Therapy	Knitting and Quilting	Wellness and Therapy
2:00pm										
3:00pm	Knitting and Quilting	Knitting and Quilting		Knitting and Quilting		Knitting and Quilting				
4:00pm										
5:00pm										
6:00pm	Yoga						Yoga			
7:00pm										
8:00pm										
9:00pm	Closed						Closed			
10:00pm										

Non-Prime Time Schedule Track & Fitness							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Walk & Run					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am	Fundamental Movement Class	Circuit Training	Fundamental Movement Class	Circuit Training	Fundamental Movement Class	Circuit Training	Fundamental Movement Class
10:00am		Learn to Run		Learn to Run		Learn to Run	
11:00am							
12:00pm	Walk & Run	Walk & Run	School Booking	Walk & Run	School Booking	Walk & Run	Walk & Run
1:00pm							
2:00pm							
3:00pm							
4:00pm							
5:00pm	Closed						Closed
6:00pm							
7:00pm							
8:00pm							
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

Non-Prime Time Schedule Art Centre							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed	Closed					
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am							
11:00am	Mixed Media	Knitting and Quilting	Scrapbooking	Knitting and Quilting	Scrapbooking	Knitting and Quilting	Mixed Media
12:00pm							
1:00pm		Pottery and Clay	Parent & Tot	Mixed Media	Parent & Tot	Photography	
2:00pm	Pottery & Clay						Pottery & Clay
3:00pm							
4:00pm							
5:00pm	Closed						Closed
6:00pm							
7:00pm							

8:00pm	Closed						Closed
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

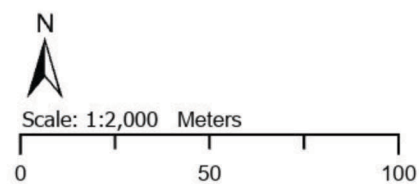
Non-Prime Time Schedule Gymnasium							
Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6:30am	Closed						
7:00am							
8:00am							
9:00am							
10:00am	Multisport	Zumba	Bootcamp	Zumba	Bootcamp	Zumba	Multisport
11:00am		Pickel Ball	Multisport	Pickel Ball	Multisport	Pickel Ball	
12:00pm		Pickel Ball	Multisport	Pickel Ball	Multisport	Pickel Ball	
1:00pm							
2:00pm	Circuit Training	Badminton	Parent & Tot	Basketball	Parent & Tot	Badminton	Circuit Training
3:00pm	Bootcamp	Parent & Tot	Zumba	Parent & Tot	Zumba	Parent & Tot	Bootcamp
4:00pm	Zumba						Zumba
5:00pm	Yoga						Yoga
6:00pm							
7:00pm							
8:00pm	Closed						Closed
9:00pm							
10:00pm							

# APPENDIX G

Four Season Park Concept Options

Appendix G





A

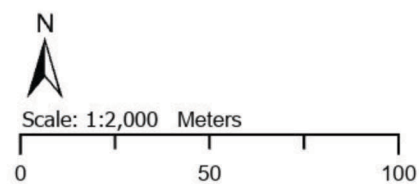


FOUR SEASON PARKS CONCEPT OPTION

Assessment

Sylvan Lake  
Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan





B

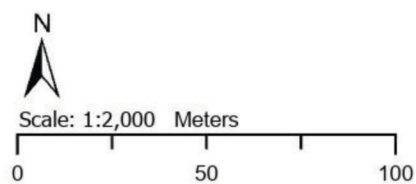


FOUR SEASON PARKS CONCEPT OPTION

Assessment

Sylvan Lake  
Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan





C



FOUR SEASON PARKS CONCEPT OPTION

Assessment

Sylvan Lake  
Recreation, Parks & Open Space Master Plan



# APPENDIX H

Checklist of Potential Park Amenities Improvements  
for Neighbourhood Parks

Appendix H

Park Name	Community Event Support Amenities	Parking	Gazebo / Shelter / Arbour / Shde Structure	Band Shell or Amphitheatre	Fireplace / Group Fire Pit / BBQ's	Interpretive Features / Public Art	Standard (Base-level) Landscaping	Enhanced Landscaping (i.e. ornamental planting beds	Naturalized Landscape	Edible Landscape Planting	Plaza Space (hardscaped gatehehering area)	Picnic Tables	Group picnic sites	Benches/ Garbage / Recycling	Multi-use trails (asphalt/concrete )	Internal Walking Pathways or Nature Trails	Baseball/Softball diamonds	Soccer Field	Multi-use Field	Tennis courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts (half)	Basketball Courts (full)	Temporary or Permanent Skateboard Park	Splash/Spray Park	Snowbank Rink	Outdoor Boarded Rink	Cross-country skiing	Outdoor Skating Area / Loop	Tobagganing	Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Disc Golf	Parkour	Accessible Playground	Traditional Playground	Nature Playground	Adventure Playground	Bouldering (low rock climbing)	Community Garden	Greenhouse																																									
Westwood Crescent Park						N				N		N		E	E																				E																																														
Wilkinson Circle Park						N				N				E	E																	N			N	E	N	N	N	N																																									
Willow Springs Park														E	E																				N	E																																													
Lighthouse Park	Follow Recommendations in Waterfront Strategy																																																																																
Lakefront Park																																																																																	
Sylvan Lake Park																																																																																	
Centennial Park																																																																																	
Hagerman Park										N		N		E	E																N			E	N																																														
Hewlett Park		I								N		N		E	E						I													N	N	E		N	N																																										
Four Seasons Park	N	E	N			N		N		N	N	N	N	N	E	N	I / R	E			I			N	E	N	E	I		N	N	N		N	N	E	N	N	N	E	N																																								
Railway Park Promenade								E				E		E	E																																																																		
Cenotaph Park	N					E		I			I				E																																																																		
Lions Park	N	E	E			N		E		N	N	N		E	E																				N	R	N			N																																									
James Berg Park										N		N		E		N																				E																																													
PogadiPark	Follow Recommendations in Pogadi Park Plan																																																																																
Leaderfield Park																																										N	E	N			N		N	N	E	N	E	E	N		E									E		N	N	E	N			N	N	E		N	N		
Lakeway Landing Park																																												E						E			E		E	E																				E					
Firdale Drive Park																																												N						E	N	N	N		E	E							E												N		E				
Meadowview Park						N		N		N	N	N	N	E	E		I		E			I	N													E	N	N																																											
Lakeway Heights Park									N					E		N											E									R	N			N																																									
Sylvan Drive Park										N		E		E	E												E									E			N																																										
Parkland Drive Park														E		N																	N			E	N			N	N																																								
Vista Park	N	N	N			N		N	E	N	N	E	N	E	E	E													N	N		N	E	N	N	E	N	N	N																																										
Ross Park			E	N				E		N	E	E		E	E																E																																																		
Regatta Park										N				E	E																					R					N																																								
Palo Park										N		N		E	E		I										N									E	N																																												
Sixty West Park								E				E		E	E																					E																																													
CP Trail Lands						N			E					E	E	E																N					N			N																																									
LEGEND	E	Existing (Retain)			I	Existing (Improve)			R	Existing (Remove)			N	Potential New Amenity for Consideration																																																																			

Note: "Potential New Amenities for Consideration" provides a list of new amenities compatible with the site context and condition. It is not intended that all new amenity options be integrated into the site.

