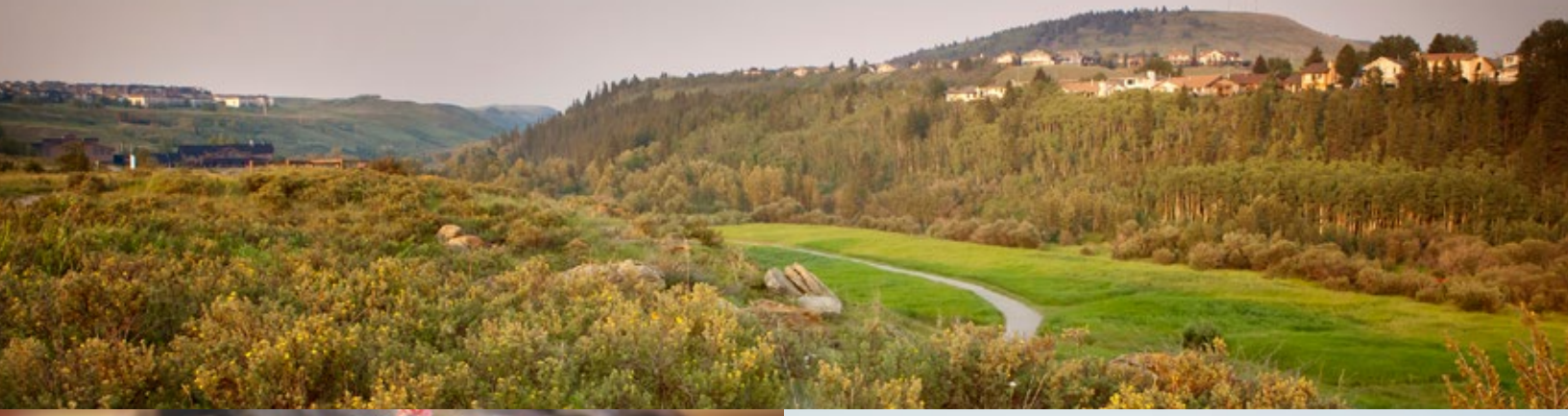






Town of Cochrane

Parks, Culture and Active Living Master Plan and Connectivity Planning

What We Heard Report – Phase 1

February 2025

rcs+

cochrane
HOW THE WEST IS NOW



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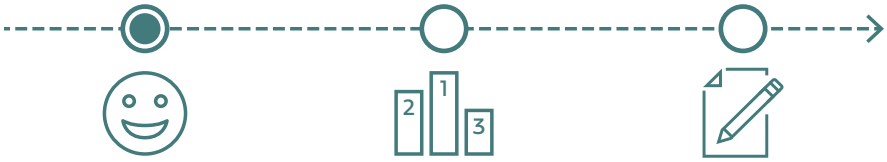


1 Introduction

The provision of parks, recreation and culture opportunities, and trails and pathway connectivity is highly valued and an important public service that the Town of Cochrane provides to its residents. These experiences and opportunities are important contributors to creating a healthy community. To better understand the current and future needs for parks, recreation and culture facilities, amenities and services, and trail and pathway connectivity the Town is undertaking the development of a Parks, Culture and Active Living Master Plan and Connectivity Plan. The Master Plan is a strategic plan that will help guide how the Town plans and delivers these services over the next 10 years.



The Master Plan will be developed based on a thorough program of research, including a comprehensive, three (3) phase engagement program. Understanding the various perspectives and preferences of the community is critical in the development of the Master Plan.



Phase 1: Preferences, Satisfaction and Values

Phase 2: Priorities

Phase 3: Master Plan Development and Review



This document presents the findings gathered from Phase one of the engagement program. Each tactic is described with the findings presented.





2 Engagement Findings

A variety of tactics were employed to gather a breadth of community input related to parks, recreation and culture and connectivity. The tactics are noted in the following table along with levels of participation.



Pop-Up Events
2100+ participants

Resident Survey
647 participants

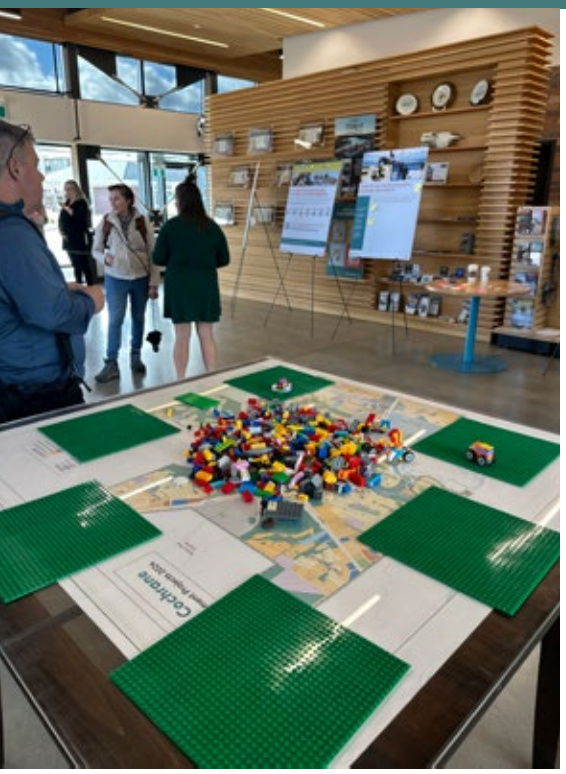


Online Mapping Tool
409 pins

Community Group Survey
84 participants



Community Group Pop-Up
30+ participants







2.1 Pop-Up Events

Pop-up events were held at various locations across Cochrane to engage with residents and share information about the project. These events aimed to gather top-of-mind feedback from the community while increasing awareness of the Master Plan. In total, 11 pop-up events were held, where the Consultant Team and Town Staff connected with over 2100 participants, fostering meaningful participation. Locations of the pop-up events include:

- The Station (September 20, 2024)
- Farmers Market (September 21,2024)
- Outhouse Races (September 22, 2024)
- FCSS Interagency (September 25, 2024)
- Cowboy Coffee (October 10,2024)
- Cochrane Newcomers (October 15, 2024)
- Age Friend Steering Committee (October 15, 2024)
- Trunk or Treat (October 26, 2024)
- Seniors on the Bow (October 28, 2024)
- Spray Lake Sawmill Centre (October 30, 2024)
- Cochrane Baby Boomers (October 30, 2024)

Panels were set up at the events to share information about the project and its timelines while engaging attendees with thoughtful questions. These included exploring connectivity within the town, identifying where residents currently engage in parks, recreation and culture activities, highlighting activities they feel should be expanded, and gathering their vision for the future of parks, recreation and culture in Cochrane. A synopsis of the findings is presented on the following pages.

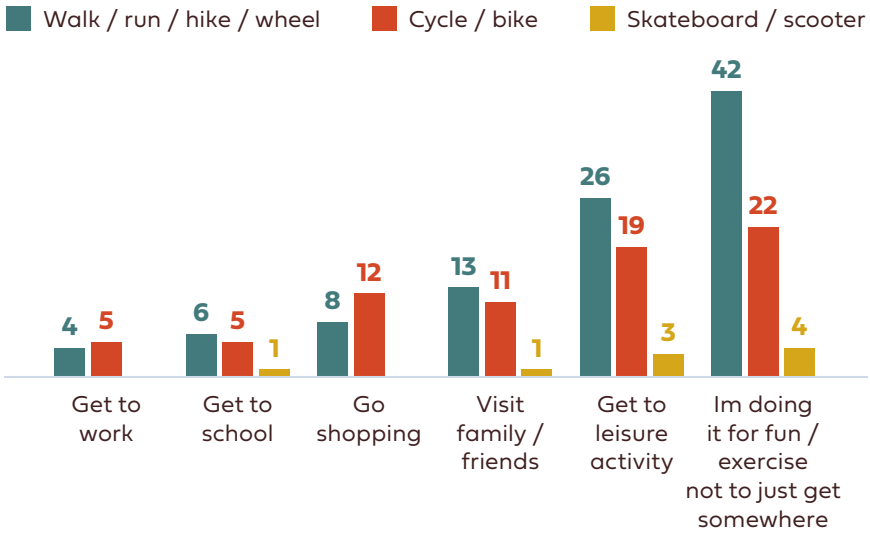
How do you stay connected?

In total **245** stickers were placed on the connectivity board.

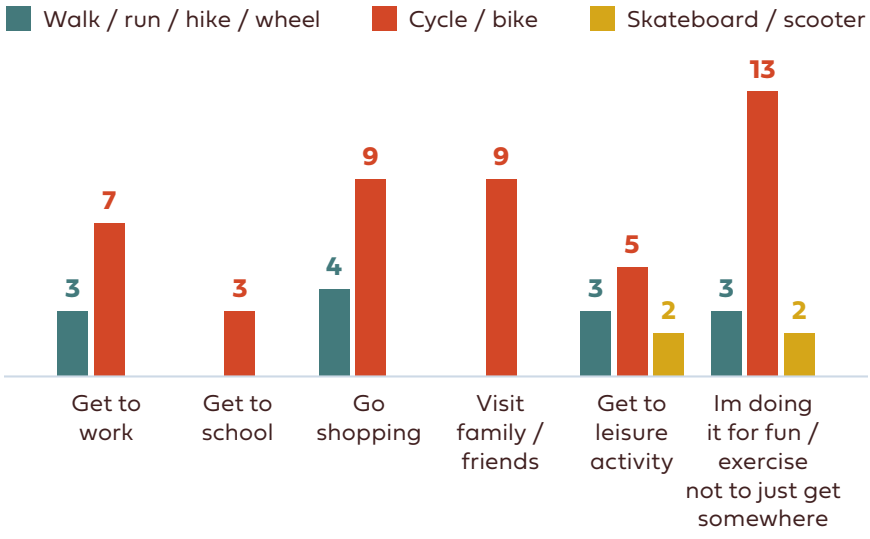
As can be seen on the accompanying graphs, respondents indicated that they primarily use active transportation options for fun or to get to leisure activity.

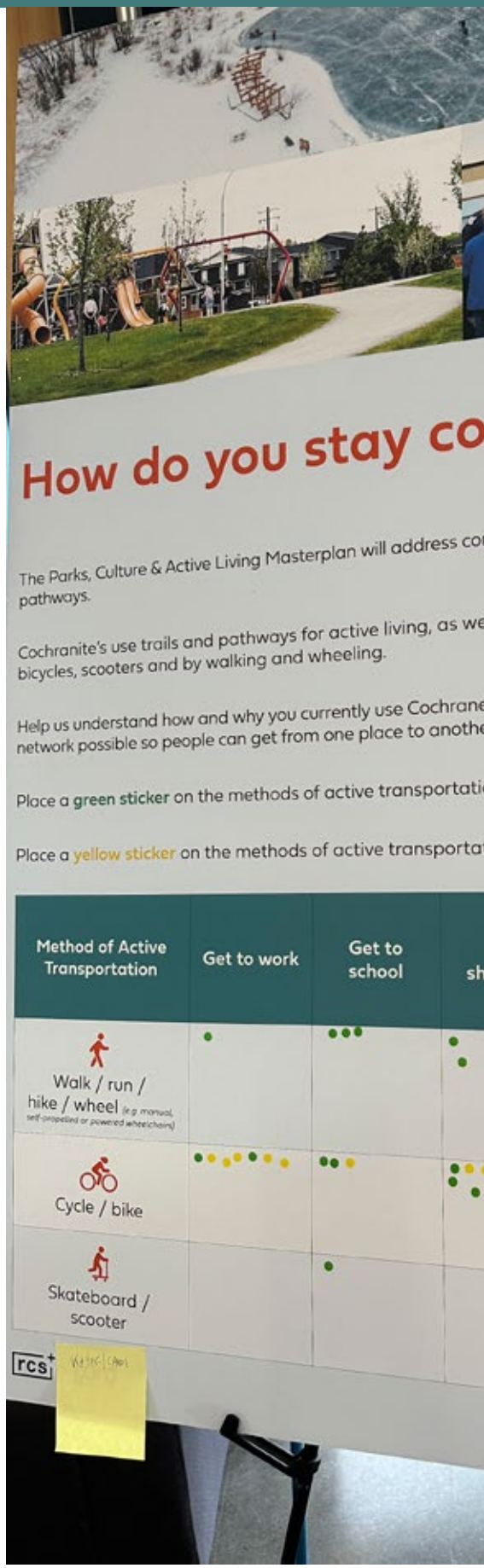
Considering future use, there is some interest in cycling or biking to go shopping, to visit friends or family and for fun.

Active Transportation **Currently** Used



Future Active Transportation Use







Attendees were invited to mark their favorite trails, safety concerns, and areas in need of improvement on a map using different colored pins.

In total **167** pins were placed on the connectivity board.

- 78 green pins indicating favourite trails.
- 35 yellow pins safety concerns.
- 54 red pins areas that need enhancements.

As shown accompanying map, attendees enjoy the Cochrane Ranche House trails, as well as the trails and pathways along the Bow River.



What types of parks, recreation and culture programs and activities would you like to see more of in Cochrane?

In total **85** comments were received regarding programming in Cochrane. The comments have been organized into the following key themes with a synopsis of the responses received from residents provided.

Cultural Enrichment and Events

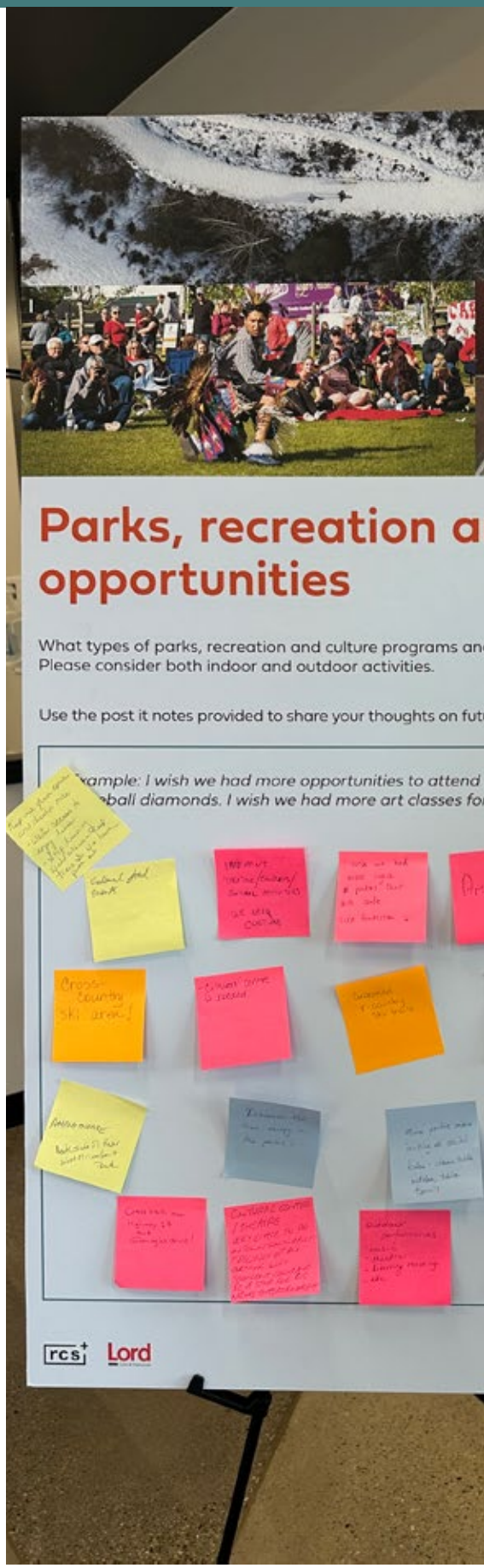
- Increased funding and support for cultural festivals, events, and food celebrations.
- Spaces for visual and performance arts, including an amphitheater, black box theatres, and art exhibits.
- Programming to celebrate and preserve cultural diversity, including Indigenous and immigrant heritage.
- More evening activities such as live music, theatre, and intimate performance spaces for locals and visitors.

Recreation and Active Living

- Expanded facilities for sports and fitness activities; specific amenities identified in the responses included squash, pickleball, soccer, and swimming.
- Adventure and outdoor activities; specific activities identified in the responses included biking, climbing, snowshoeing, and kayaking.
- Unstructured and accessible spaces for activities; specific amenities identified in the responses included basketball, ball hockey, and mini skateparks in neighborhoods.
- More community dance opportunities.

Intergenerational and Multigenerational Programming

- Programs that bring together youth, adults, and seniors for shared recreation and cultural activities.
- Multigenerational spaces that foster creativity, fitness, and social connection.





Opportunities for Youth and Teens

- Adventure and unstructured activities to engage youth.
- Teen-oriented events and programs, particularly in the evenings.

Adult Programs and Social Engagement

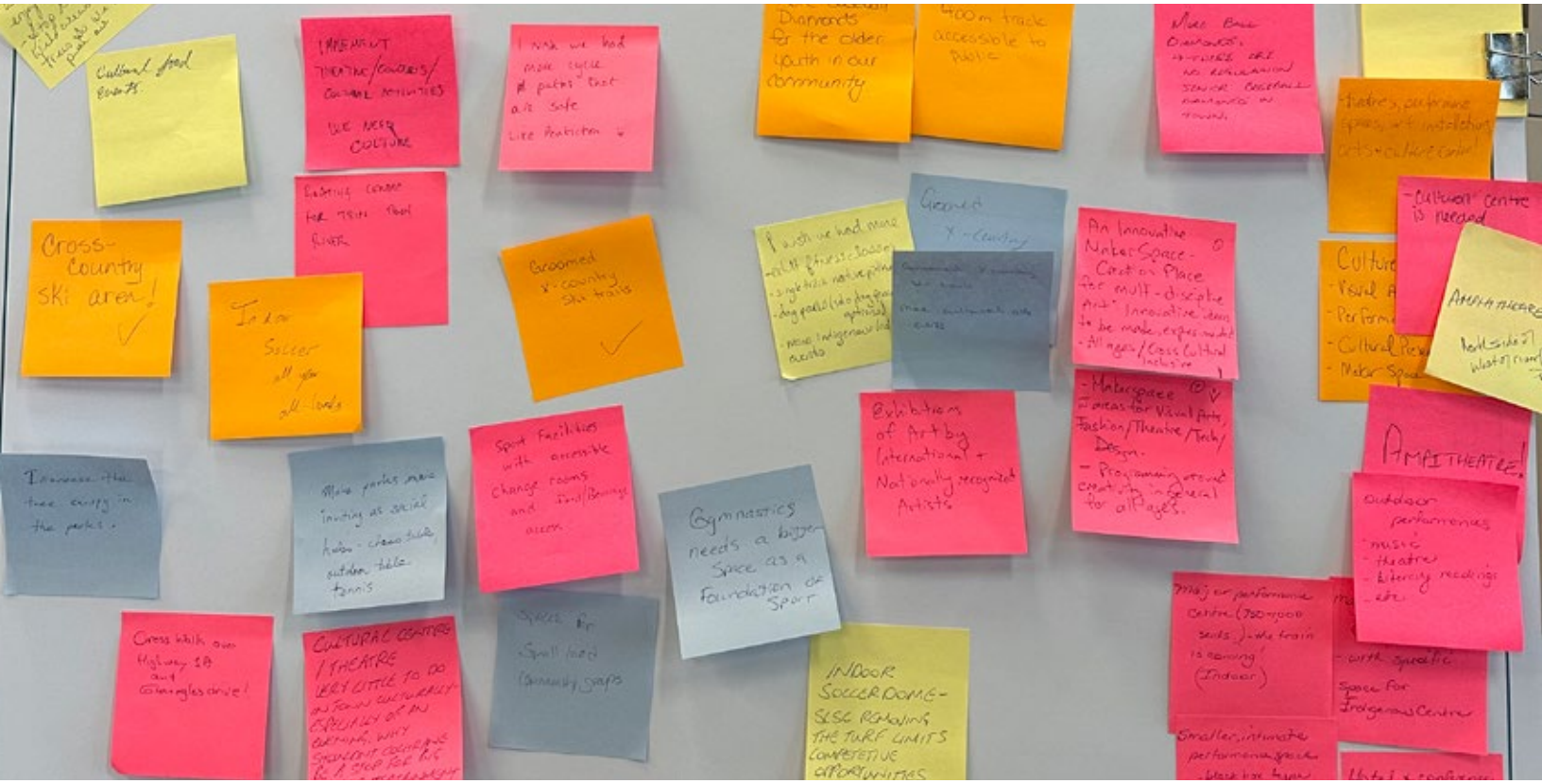
- Expansion of adult fitness classes, multi-sport leagues, and social activities after work.

Accessibility and Communication

- Improved awareness of available activities and better communication of event opportunities.
- Affordable and accessible programming for all ages and abilities.

Environmental and Nature-Based Activities

- Programs centered around conservation, wildlife observation, and education about the natural world.
- River-focused activities such as fishing, kayaking, and floating.
- Expanded trails for walking, biking, and snowshoeing in nature.



What is your vision for parks, recreation and culture in Cochrane for the next 10 years?

A total of 183 comments were received, offering diverse ideas on residents' vision for parks, recreation and culture in the town. The comments have been organized into the following key themes with a synopsis of the responses received from residents provided.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

- Pathways and trails designed for all abilities, ensuring seniors and individuals with disabilities can navigate without barriers.
- Definitions and standards for accessibility in parks, public spaces, and dog parks.
- Expanded public facilities such as restrooms, water fountains, and covered gathering spaces.

Recreation and Active Living

- Improved trail connectivity between neighborhoods and natural spaces.
- Year-round activities.
- Expanded indoor and outdoor sports facilities, specific amenities identified in the responses included soccer fields, ball diamonds, basketball courts, and skateparks.
- Spaces for casual and organized activities, specific activities identified in the responses included public running tracks, equestrian facilities, and pump/jump bike tracks.

Arts, Culture, and Community Engagement

- Support for local artists through open mics, exhibitions, and festivals.
- Cultural and music events celebrating diverse heritages, including Indigenous, immigrant, and Western traditions.





Environmental Stewardship

- Preservation of green spaces, wildlife corridors, and natural ecosystems.
- Increased tree planting for shade, air quality, and beautification.
- Protection of wetlands and natural areas to sustain biodiversity.
- Mindful urban development that balances growth with environmental priorities.

Connectivity and Green Infrastructure

- Connecting rural and urban areas with trails and pathways.
- Better pathway signage and wayfinding to promote safe and efficient use.
- Expanded green belts and connected parks that preserve wildlife corridors and recreational access.
- Enhancement of existing parks; specific examples included in the responses were additional trees, benches, and connectivity to other areas.



Community Building and Social Capital

- Creation of a Cochrane Residence Board for community input and idea-sharing.
- Volunteer center to connect residents with opportunities.
- Spaces for life skills workshops, cooking classes, and community gardens.
- More accessible information-sharing systems for events and group promotions.



Entertainment and Enrichment

- More family-friendly activities and spaces for outdoor and indoor recreation.
- Events showcasing diverse cuisines, music, and live performances.
- Opportunities for esports, children's camps, and cultural tourism.

Sustainable Urban Planning

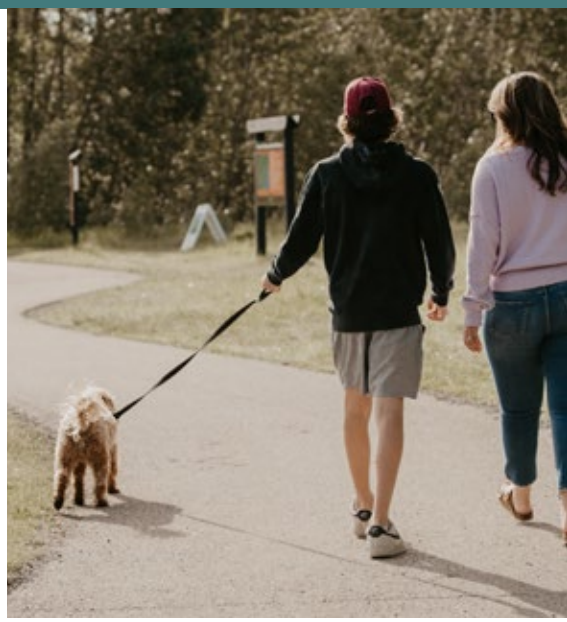
- Prioritization of environmental protection in development.
- Fully connected pathway systems for walking and biking in town, reducing dependence on cars.
- Strategic planning to ensure infrastructure aligns with community needs.
- Maintenance and upgrades of existing amenities, specific examples included in the responses were dog parks, sports fields, and erosion control.

Economic Growth and Opportunity

- Tourism initiatives leveraging Cochrane's natural beauty, culture, and history.
- Local business support through events and partnerships, enhancing economic vibrancy.

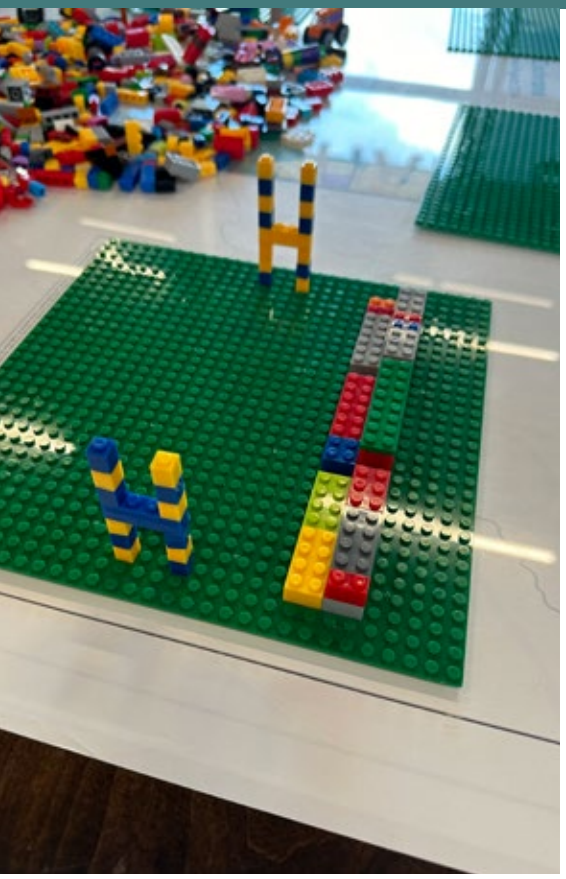
Preservation of Cochrane's Unique Identity

- Celebration of Cochrane's Western heritage and history in programs and signage.
- Integration of Indigenous names and cultural significance in public spaces.
- Maintaining the "wild" essence of Cochrane Ranche and surrounding areas.













Other Comments

There were **92** additional comments related to infrastructure in Cochrane. The comments have been organized into the following key themes with a synopsis of the responses received from residents provided.

Preservation and Enhancement of Natural Spaces

- Protect wetlands, wildlife corridors, and ecologically significant areas.
- Maintain and expand green spaces.
- Develop parks that balance recreation with environmental sustainability.
- Improve maintenance of existing parks, dog parks, and trails.

Recreation Facilities and Amenities

- Enhance sports facilities such as baseball diamonds, indoor pickleball courts, indoor soccer facilities, arenas, bike parks and outdoor rinks.
- Introduce multi-functional parks with amenities like fire pits, benches, chess tables, and outdoor exercise equipment.
- Build new facilities such as cultural centre/theatre (with smaller spaces for community programs), batting cages, squash courts climbing centers, smaller dog parks and cross-country skiing / snowshoe trails.
- Create spaces for both structured (organized sports) and passive recreation.

Pathways and Connectivity

- Develop a well-connected pathway system linking neighborhoods and natural areas.
- Enhance bike and pedestrian safety through investment into more cycle paths, walkways, and crosswalks.
- Complete missing pathway links, ensuring access to all communities and points of interest.
- Collaborate with the county and private landowners to develop a regional pathway to Calgary and improve connections to Glenbow Ranch.

Cultural and Social Hubs

- Establish a major arts and culture center with performance spaces, maker spaces, dedicated Indigenous cultural area, a space for large-scale events and concerts.
- Add community centers in neighborhoods to support small group gatherings and activities.
- Provide outdoor amphitheaters, theatre spaces, and interactive cultural art installations.

Communication and Trail Management

- Improve trail signage, maintenance, and information on various skill levels.
- Address community concerns regarding the management and development of trails and pathways.
- Provide official trailheads and river access points to reduce harm to natural environments.

Access to Water Recreation

- Designate safe access points for kayaking and tubing along the river.
- Explore potential for an outdoor pool and splash pads.
- Introduce a boating center for recreational river use.
- Improve access to the river for kayaking, boating, and fishing while protecting riverbanks.





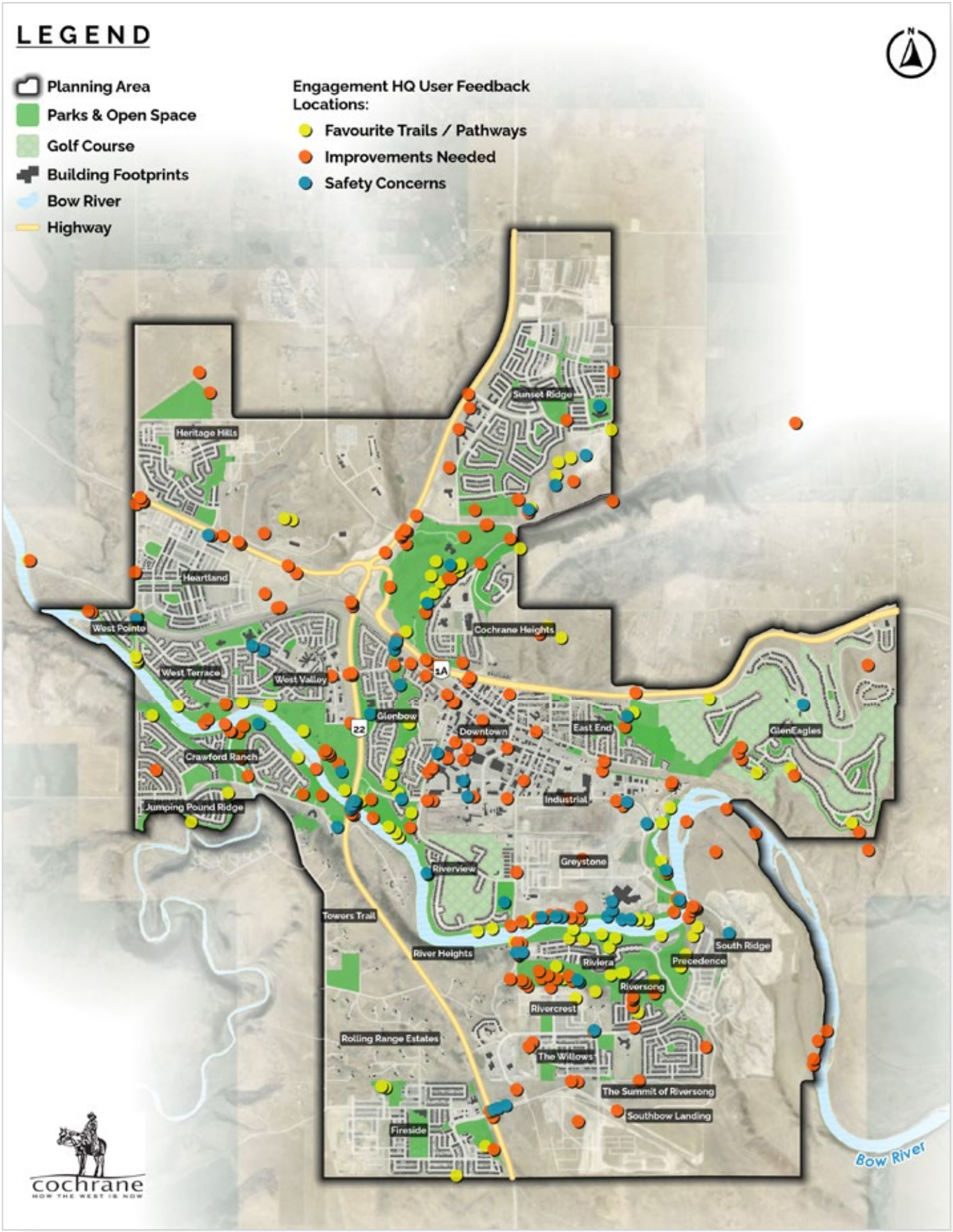




2.2 Online Mapping Tool

An online mapping tool was available for respondents to indicate the location of their favorite trails and pathways (green pins), areas where they have experienced concerns (yellow pins) and areas that may need enhancement or new trails (red pins). In addition to posting pins on the virtual map, respondents were able to explain why they loved the trail or pathway, the challenges they have encountered or opportunities to make their experiences more enjoyable.

In total 409 pins were placed on a map of Cochrane using the online tool by 64 contributors (48 registered platform users, 16 unregistered platform users). These findings are not representative of all residents in Cochrane; however they do provide insight into the perspectives of the individuals responding.


LEGEND
Planning Area
Parks & Open Space
Golf Course
Building Footprints
Bow River
Highway
Engagement HQ User Feedback Locations:
Favourite Trails / Pathways
Improvements Needed
Safety Concerns
N
Heritage Hills
Sunset Ridge
Heartland
West Pointe
West Terrace
West Valley
Cochrane Heights
1A
Glenbow
22
Downtown
East End
GlenEagles
Crawford Ranch
Jumping Pound Ridge
Industrial
Greystone
Riverview
Towers Trail
River Heights
Riviera
Precedence
South Ridge
Riversong
Rivercrest
Rolling Range Estates
The Willows
The Summit of Riversong
Southbow Landing
Fireside
Bow River
cochrane
HOW THE WEST IS NOW







2.2.1 Favourite Trails and Pathways

100 pins were placed indicating respondents' favourite trail or pathway. Respondents were able to share their thoughts on their favourite trails or pathways in Cochrane. The comments have been organized into the following key themes with a synopsis of the responses received from residents provided.

Positive Aspects:

- Cochrane's trails are highly appreciated for their natural beauty, access to nature, and safety for various users (pedestrians, cyclists, families, and dogs).
- The multi-use pathways are praised for providing connectivity and offering great recreational opportunities.
- The paved paths through town are valued for daily use and commuting.
- The off-leash areas and natural spaces are also highly valued.

Desirable Features:

- Respondents indicated an appreciation for green spaces and river access, emphasizing the need to protect these natural areas and preserve wildlife corridors.
- The convenience of accessing the river and using trails for biking, walking is important. There's a preference for maintaining the natural feel of these spaces.
- There is desire for better connections (Examples of specific comments made include the development of a connector to the RancheHouse and trail access for communities such as Sunset, Rivercrest, and Heritage)

Maintenance:

- Continued maintenance of existing trails and access points is highly appreciated.

2.2.2 Areas of Concern

210 were place indicating improvements. Themes identified include:

Crossings and Safety:

- Improve crossings throughout the town.
- Install pedestrian and bike-friendly crossings, especially in busy intersections near schools.
- A pedestrian bridge over the Bow River to provide safer crossing.
- Safe crossings from Sunset to Heritage Hill, ideally with an underpass or overpass for pedestrians and cyclists.

Pathway Connections:

- Connect downtown Cochrane to the RancheHouse with a pathway on the north side of the highway.
- Link Heartland and Heritage Hills with pathways for easier access to town.
- Ensure better connection from Rivercrest to River Avenue and other downtown areas.
- Create paths between the tri-schools area, Greystone, and the Bow River.

Bike and Trail Access:

- Develop better connections to Buffalo Bean Trails and ensure they integrate into Cochrane's larger trail network.
- Improve the path from Cochrane Ranche to Glenbow Ranch, ideally with a new bridge or more direct connection.
- Design a mountain biking and hiking trail system on the south side of town, and better connect bike lanes, such as on Griffin Road.
- Improve bike access to the river and create safer pathways for bikes and pedestrians, such as a dedicated bike lane on busy roads (e.g., 1A and Griffin).







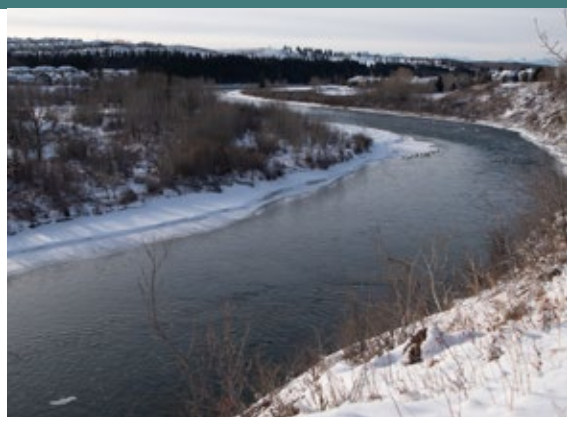


Trail Quality and Accessibility:

- Address steep gradients that make paths difficult for bikes and pedestrians, especially for kids and older adults.
- Fix pathway issues that have roots lifting pavement, creating hazards for walkers and cyclists.
- Separate dog parks and bike paths to avoid accidents and enhance safety for both.

Infrastructure:

- Address the lack of accessible washrooms in downtown and high-traffic areas for families and visitors.
- Improve public river access points for activities like kayaking and swimming.
- Consider the development of bike parks, including jumps and trails, in unused spaces.



2.2.3 Areas for Enhancement or Development

52 areas for enhancement or new development identified. Themes identified include:

Infrastructure for Safer Pedestrian and Cyclist Access



- **Protected Pathways:** There is some support for a protected pathway from Highway 22 to the schools in the area.
- **Bike Lanes:** There is some demand for bike lanes in areas such as: Quigley Drive, George Fox Trail, and across Highway 22.
- **Crosswalks and Bridges:** There are concerns about the narrow pedestrian pathways on the Highway 22 bridge, the need for an overpass crossing near train tracks, and challenges with steep grades, blind corners, and abrupt transitions.
- **Safety Enhancements:** Reduce highway speed limits upon entering town to 50 km/h to protect children and pedestrians crossing the intersection.

Dog Management and Off-Leash Issues



- **Off-Leash Dogs:** Some concerns about unsafe and irresponsible off-leash behavior throughout Cochrane:
  - » Off-leash dogs chasing cyclists and pedestrians and threatening wildlife.
  - » Specific areas (e.g., Jim Uffellman Park and river paths) require better boundaries, signage, enforcement, and separate fenced off-leash zones.
- **Calls for updated bylaws, including:**
  - » Stricter leash laws.
  - » Prohibition of dogs on school grounds, sports fields, and playgrounds.
- **Education and Signage:** Improved signage and visible penalties to deter non-compliance and protect public spaces.







Environmental and Maintenance Concerns

- **Trail and Path Maintenance:**
  - » Broken asphalt, abrupt transitions, and seasonal path clearing.
  - » Failing wooden bridge planks and mud accumulation.
  - » Unsanctioned trails damaging vegetation and ecosystems.
- **Riverbank and Habitat Protection:** Damage caused by the development of unsanctioned trails, dogs, and lack of enforcement.

2.3 Resident Survey

The resident survey was intended to gather feedback and insight from residents living in Cochrane regarding parks, recreation and culture and connectivity preferences. The resident survey was primarily fielded using the Town's engagement website (letstlalkcochrane.ca); however, residents were provided with the opportunity to receive a paper copy of the survey. To complete the survey, respondents were required to be registered used of the Town's engagement platform. In total 647 (609 online / 38 paper submissions) responses were gathered. The survey was promoted through various methods including:

- Town Social Media Chanels
- The Town's Website (Cochrane.ca)
- The Town's Engagement Platform (letstalkcochrane.ca)
- Local newspaper
- Posters in the community

The findings from the surveys are presented below. They follow the order that the questions were posed in the survey. Not all respondents answered each question, the percentages shown represent those who answered the question.





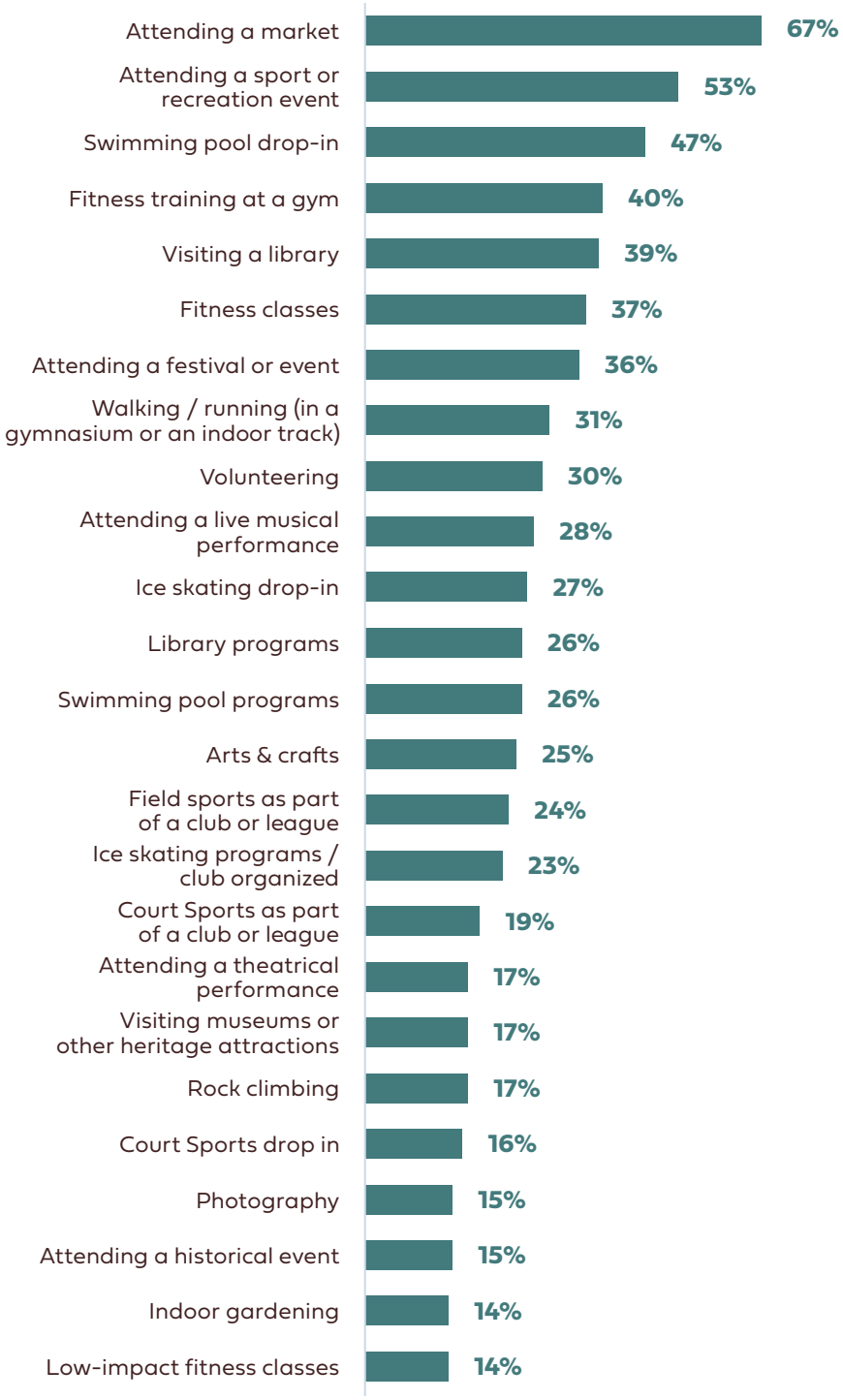


2.3.1 Your Parks, Recreation and Culture Activities

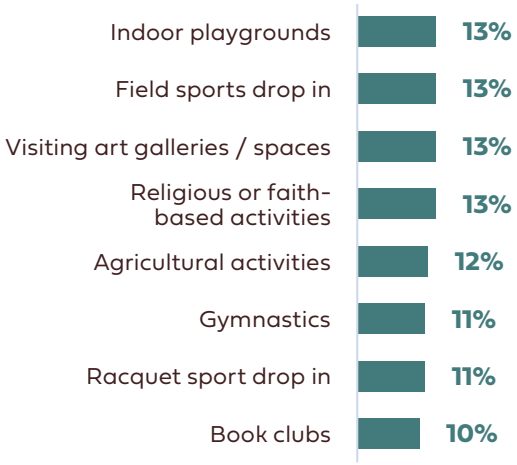
The survey began by asking respondents to identify the indoor and outdoor activities they and their household members regularly participate in (at least twice per month). The most popular indoor activities include attending a market (67%), attending a sport or recreation event (53%), swimming pool drop-in (47%), fitness training at a gym (40%) and visiting a library (39%).

**Not included in the graph: dance (9%), participating in a community arts activity (8%), curling (8%), cultural workshops and classes (8%), performing arts activity (7%), martial arts (6%), attending a dance performance (6%), racquet sport team / club organized (5%), makerspaces / fabrication labs (4%), lacrosse (3%), archery (3%), inclusive arts program (2%), parkour (1%), indoor adapted sports teams/leagues (1%), esports and video game leagues (1%), darts (1%), shuffleboard (0%) and indoor adapted drop in sports (0%).*

Indoor Activities Households Participate in on a Regular Basis



Indoor Activities Households Participate in on a Regular Basis (Continued)



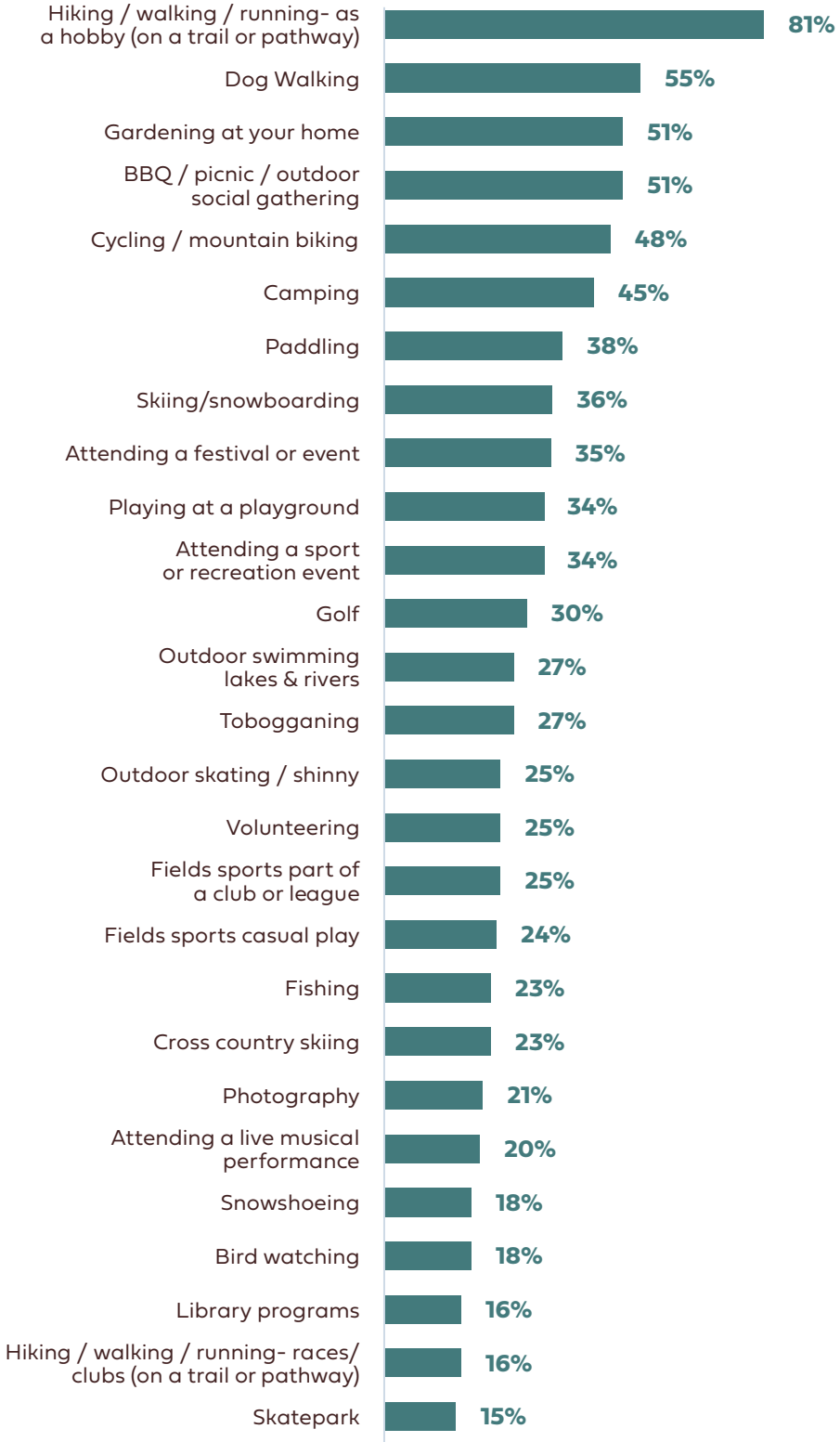




When it comes to outdoor activities, the most popular among respondents was hiking, walking, or running on trails and pathways, with 81% of respondents participating regularly. In lower proportions respondents enjoy, dog walking (55%), gardening at home (51%), outdoor social gatherings (51%), cycling and mountain biking (48%) and camping (45%).

**Not include in the graph: disc golf (9%), canine sports (9%), rock/ice climbing (7%), outdoor fitness equipment or classes (7%), community gardens (7%), nature conservation or citizen science projects (7%), BMX (5%), racquet sports team / club organized (4%), participating in a community arts activity (4%), beach volleyball (4%), archery (3%), attending a dance performance (2%), parkour (1%), outdoor adapted team sport / league (0%).*

Outdoor Activities Households Participate in on a Regular Basis



Outdoor Activities Households Participate in on a Regular Basis

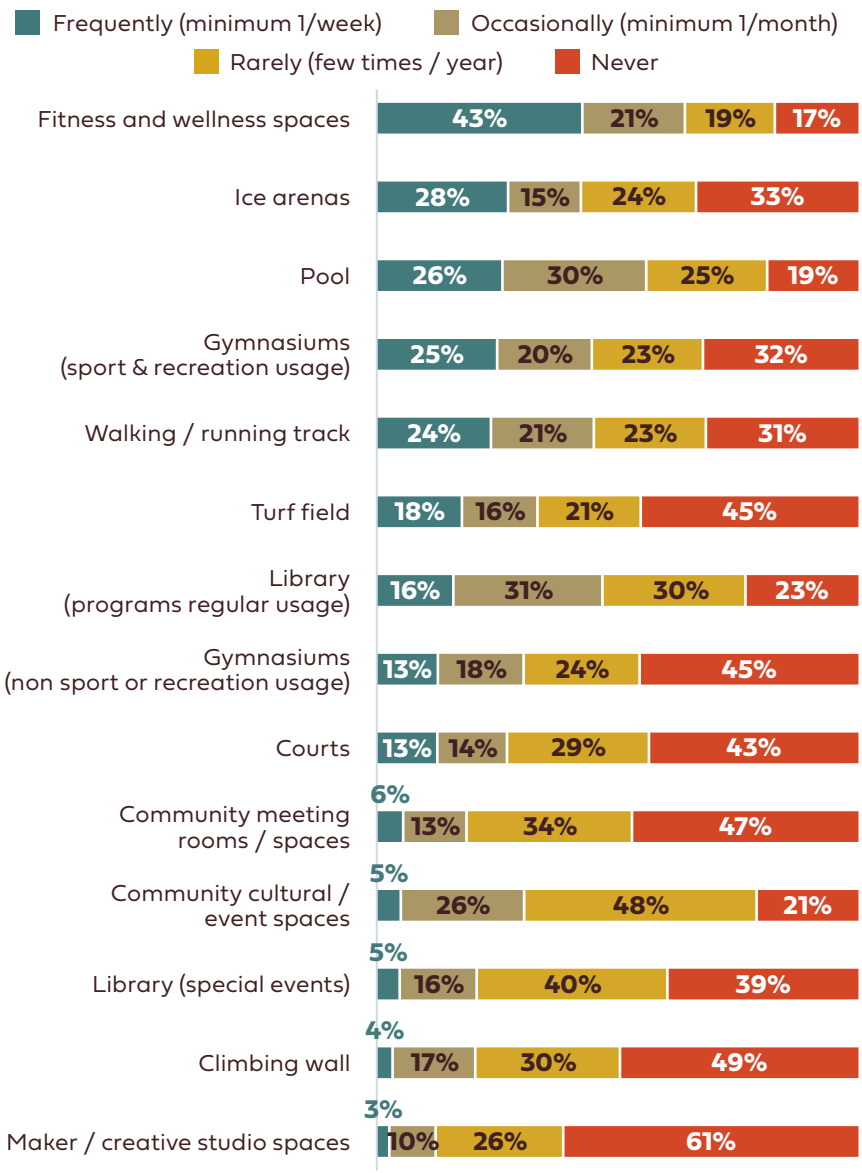






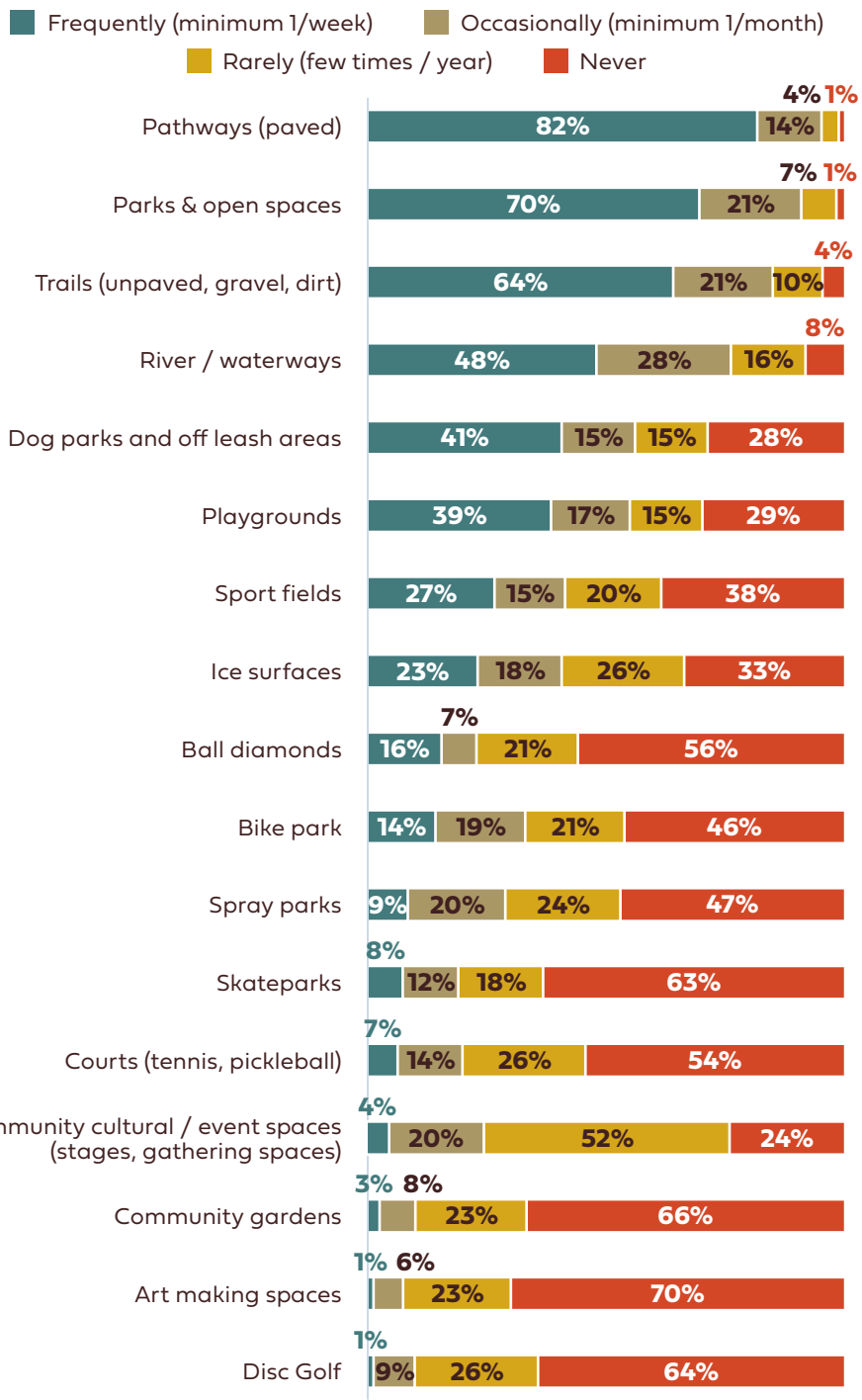
Approximately half (43%) of respondents indicated they use fitness and wellness facilities frequently (at least once a week). In lower proportions, approximately one-quarter (28%) of respondents indicated that they frequently use the ice arenas, while 26% indicated they use the pool at least once a week. Additionally, about half (48%) of respondents stated they visit community cultural and event spaces a few times per year, suggesting that these venues are often utilized for community events.

Frequency of Use **Indoor** Spaces



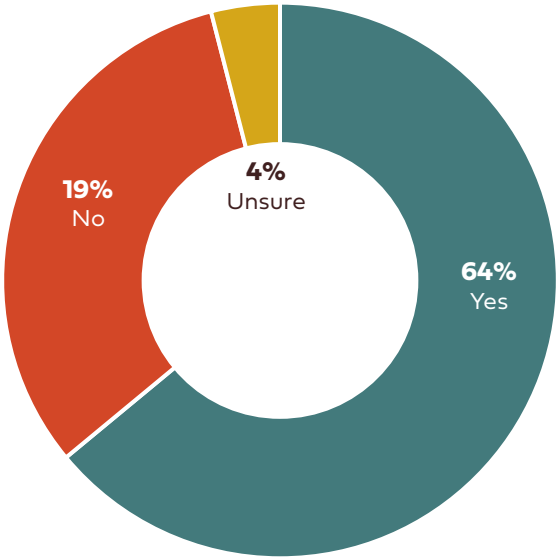
Almost all respondents use paved pathways at least once a week (82%). Parks and open spaces (70%) and unpaved trails (64%) are also frequently used outdoor spaces by respondents.

Frequency of Use **Outdoor** Spaces



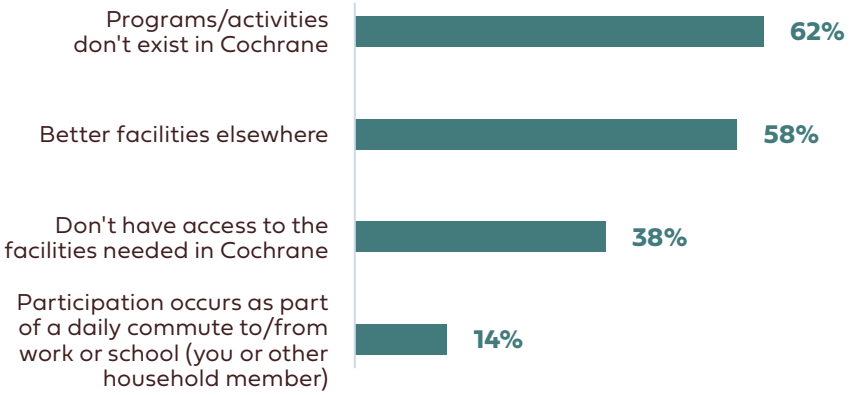
Next, approximately two-thirds (64%) indicated they use parks, recreation and culture facilities or spaces outside of Cochrane. In lower proportions, approximately one-third (32%) reported they do not use spaces outside of Cochrane.

Do You or Someone in Your Household Regularly Use Parks, Recreation and Culture Facilities or Spaces **Outside** of Cochrane



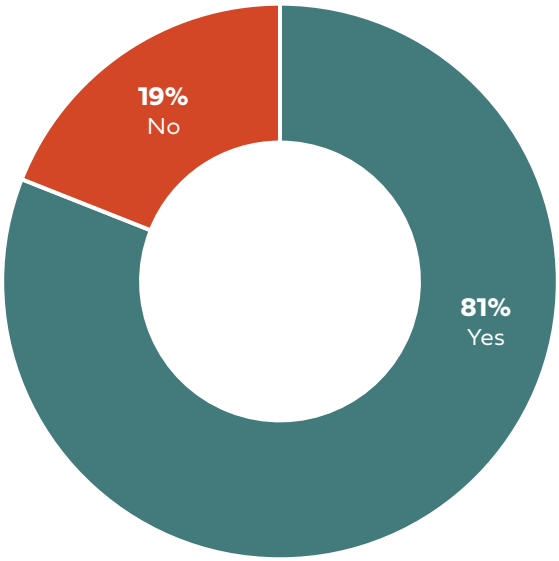
Respondents who indicated they use recreation and culture facilities outside of Cochrane were asked to identify their reasons from a provided list. Nearly two-thirds (62%) stated that they sought facilities elsewhere because the programs and activities were not available in town. Likewise, 58% indicated a preference for the quality of facilities in other locations.

Reasons Households Participate in Parks, Recreation and Culture Facilities Outside of Cochrane



Shifting focus to community events and celebrations, the majority (81%) of respondents indicated they had attended an event or celebration in the past 12 months.

Have You Attended Any Community Events or Celebrations in the Past 12 Months?











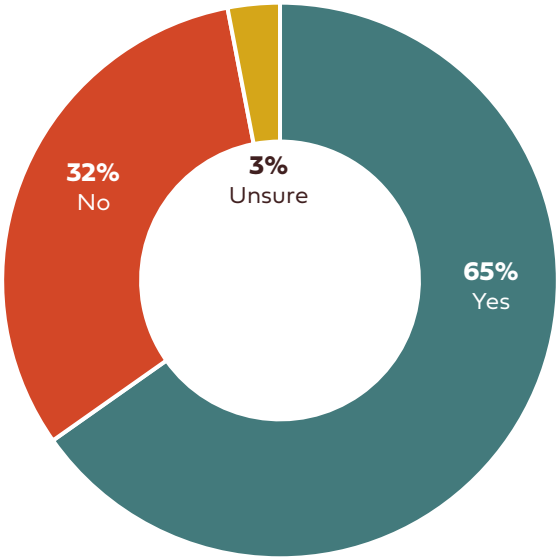
Those who did attend an event or celebration in Cochrane were asked to identify which they attended. Respondents mentioned various events they attend (453 comments) including:

- Lions Rodeo
- Police Rodeo
- Canada Day
- Labor Day Parade
- Oktoberfest
- Bike Cochrane Events
- Rotary Events
- Pancake Breakfasts
- Outhouse Races
- Truth and Reconciliation Events
- Light Up Cochrane (Light Up)
- Cochrane Music Society Concerts
- Terry Fox Run
- Cochrane Food Fest
- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Stampede Breakfasts
- Culture Days
- Farmer's Market
- Pow Wow's
- Community BBQs
- Heritage Day Parade
- International Gathering (Culture Fest)
- New Year's Fireworks
- Show N Shine
- 'We Are Cochrane' Talks at Found Bookstore
- Discovery Days Carnival
- Food Drives

For those respondents who did not attend an event, they were able to provide details to the barriers to attending events. Respondents (84 comments) mentioned various reasons such as scheduling conflicts, lack of interest, lack of time, accessibility issues, overwhelming crowds, health issues, and personal circumstances for not attending community events and activities. Some also noted a preference for events that cater to different interests or age groups (such as adult only).

When it comes to sports, recreation, arts, or culture classes, programs, or leagues, two-thirds (65%) of respondents indicated they participated in these activities in the last 12 months. Conversely, approximately one-third (32%) indicated they had not taken part in any of the mentioned activities.

Have You Participated in a Sport, Recreation, Arts or Culture Class, Program or League in Cochrane in the Past 12 Months?











Respondents were able to share the program, class or league they or a member of their household participated in over the past 12 months. Overall, 146 comments were provided. The programs mentioned are presented below according to themes:

Sports Programs

- **Hockey:** Cochrane Minor Hockey, Men's Hockey, U7 Hockey, Adult Shinny, Cochrane Chaos Hockey, Cochrane Rockies, and various youth hockey leagues.
- **Soccer:** Cochrane Rangers Soccer (youth and adult), Cochrane Wolves Soccer, and recreational soccer leagues.
- **Baseball/Softball:** Cochrane Minor Baseball, Cochrane Minor Softball, and adult slow pitch leagues.
- **Lacrosse:** Rockyview Lacrosse and Cochrane Minor Lacrosse.
- **Swimming:** Comets Swim Club, Water Ninjas, and various swimming lessons at Spray Lakes.
- **Gymnastics:** Classes at U of C and Spray Lakes.
- **Dance:** Eurythmics Dance Studio, Snap Dance, and various dance classes.
- **Other Sports:** Volleyball, basketball, rugby (Bow Valley Rugby Club), and martial arts (Goju Karate).

Arts and Cultural Programs

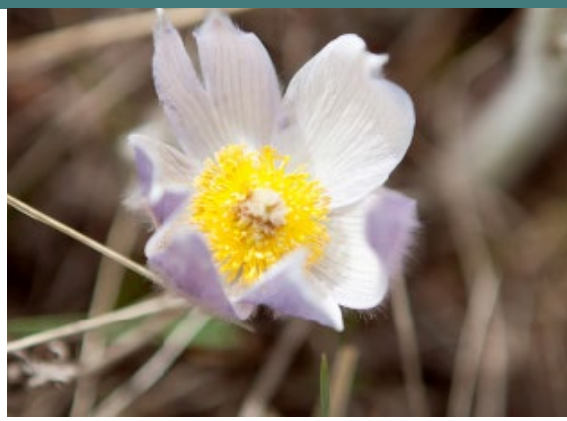
- **Art Classes:** Various classes at Route 22, Saffron Studios, and library art programs.
- **Music:** Cochrane Music Society Choir and other music-related activities.
- **Theater:** Drama classes with Sleeping Giants Theatre and community theater productions.

Fitness and Wellness Programs

- **Fitness Classes:** Zumba, yoga, aquafit, and other fitness classes at Spray Lakes.
- **Special Programs:** Aging in Place classes, tech help at the library, and community events.

Youth and Community Programs

- **Library Programs:** Various events, book clubs, and educational workshops.
- **Scouting and Guides:** Girl Guides of Canada and Boy Scouts.
- **Camps:** Bike Cochrane camps, summer camps at Spray Lakes, and other youth camps.





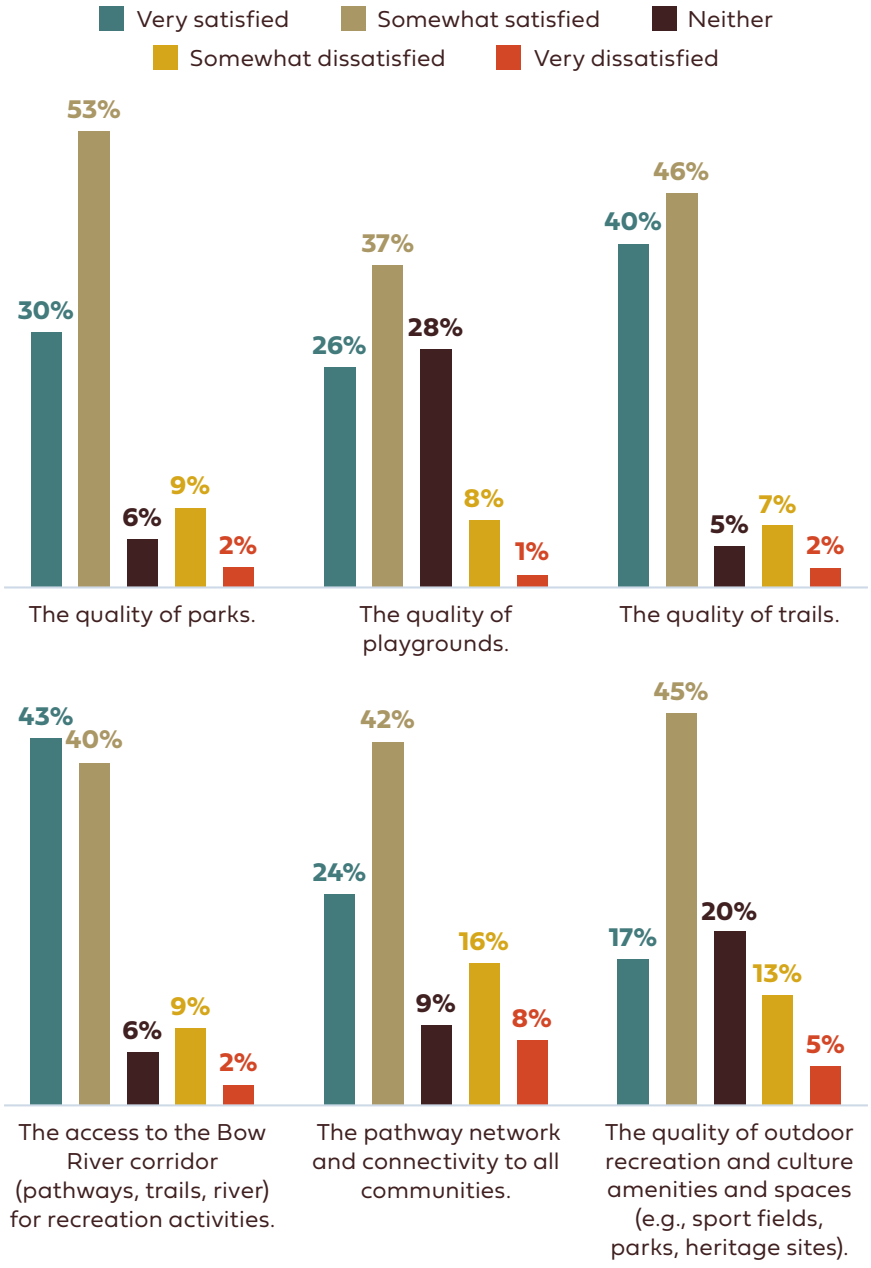


2.3.2 Satisfaction with Current Parks, Recreation and Culture Opportunities

In this section of the survey, respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with different aspects of parks, recreation and culture and connectivity opportunities, services and facilities in the town.

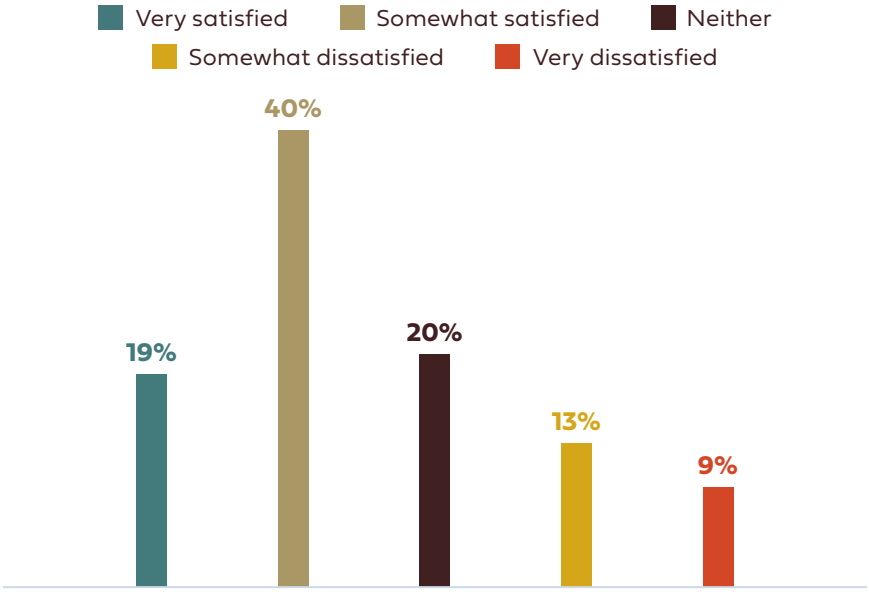
Considering outdoor parks, recreation and culture and connectivity aspects, almost all respondents (86%) indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with the quality of the Town's trails. Similarly, 83% of respondents indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with the quality of parks and the access to the Bow River corridor.

Satisfaction with Aspects of **Outdoor** Parks, Recreation and Culture



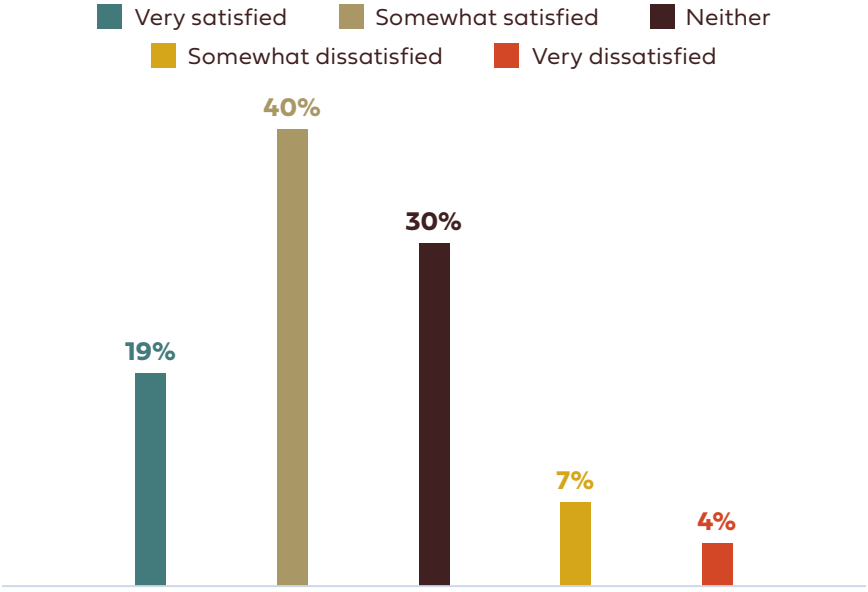
When asked about **satisfaction levels regarding indoor recreation and culture amenities and spaces**, over half (59%) indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied).

Satisfaction with the Quality of **Indoor** Recreation and Culture Spaces



The quality of indoor recreation and culture amenities and spaces.

Satisfaction with the **Accessibility** of Recreation and Culture Spaces

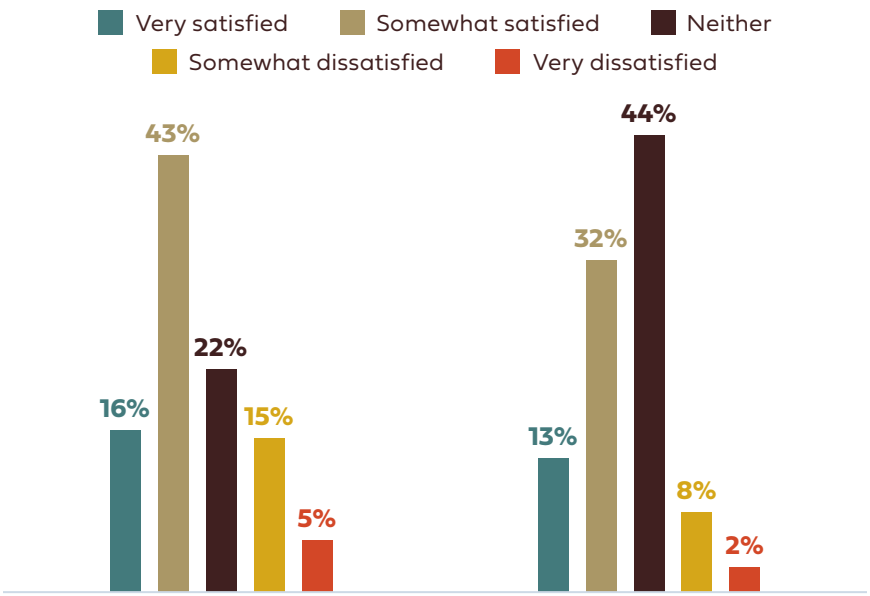


The accessibility (physical access) to recreation and culture amenities and spaces

Next, over half (59%) indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with the **accessibility (physical access) to recreation and culture amenities and spaces in the town.**

Regarding **satisfaction levels of programming**, over half (59%) are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with sport and recreation program opportunities. In lower proportions, under half (45%) indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with cultural, arts and heritage program opportunities in the town.

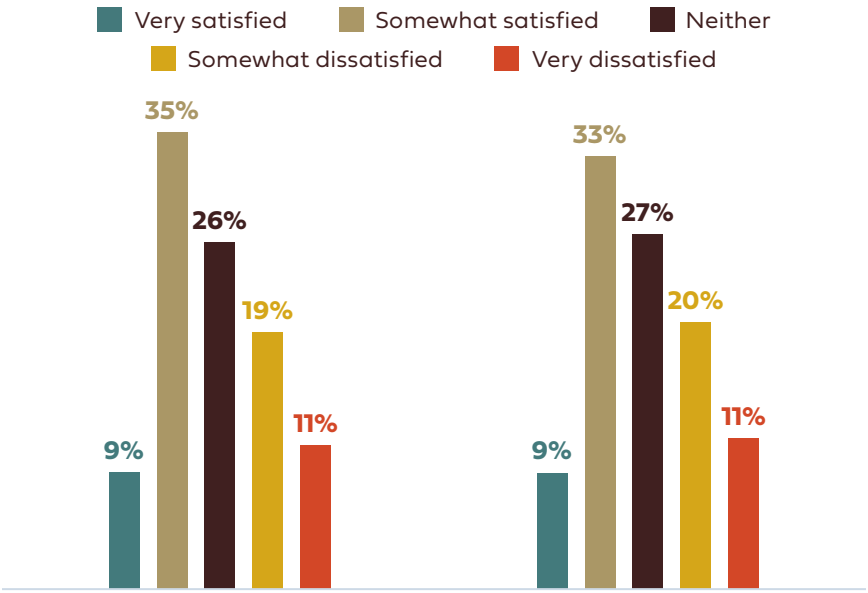
Satisfaction with **Programming**



The sport and recreation program opportunities in Cochrane.

The cultural, arts and heritage program opportunities in Cochrane.

Satisfaction with **Affordability**



The affordability of recreation, sport, arts and cultural programs and activities in Cochrane.

The affordability of recreation, sport, arts and cultural facilities and spaces in Cochrane.

When asked about the **affordability of recreation, sport, arts and culture facilities and spaces,** 44% indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) while approximately one-third (30%) of respondents indicated they are dissatisfied (very dissatisfied and somewhat dissatisfied).

Respondents were able to explain their responses, which included dissatisfaction with the affordability, accessibility, and general maintenance of recreational facilities in Cochrane. Key themes of specific issues identified by respondents included the lack of indoor soccer fields, ice surfaces, availability and cost of swimming lessons, limited recreation and sports facilities, trails and pathway maintenance concerns, and the need for more open green spaces.

Respondents highlight the need for improved connectivity throughout the town, more recreational opportunities in the growing community and for planning to address affordability and inclusivity of recreational programs.



Sample Responses:

"Our Town needs more pathways to connect around Town and to allow people freedom to choose how they transport themselves and their families. A bike lane that just ends and isn't protected from traffic isn't a safe option for anyone."

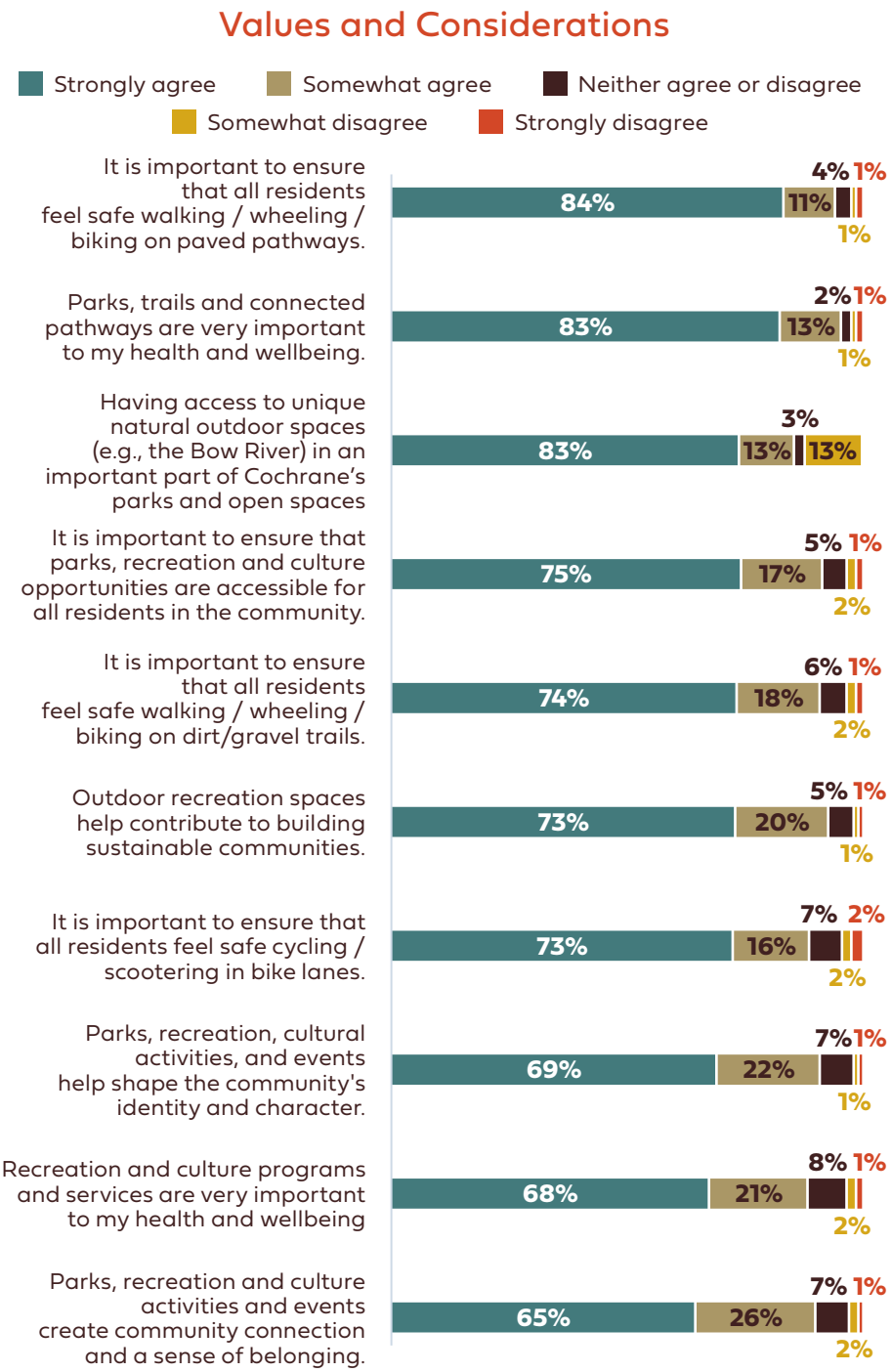
"Access to Spray Lakes is very expensive for many. There is no theatre in Cochrane. A big missing piece especially as the town grows."

"It is becoming increasingly harder to register for children's sport/activity programs in Cochrane. Swimming lessons are the biggest example of this. The population is increasing, but the amenities and facilities aren't expanding."

"I think Cochrane is doing an amazing job. It is so great to have access to so much right here in our town. The trails for walking and biking are super. The fact we have such amazing rodeo grounds right in the heart Cochrane is a bonus and certainly makes this town one a person wants to live in. "

2.3.3 Your Perspectives on the Value of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Next, respondents were presented with a series of value statements about parks, recreation and culture and were asked the extent to which they agreed with each. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, at least 89% of respondents agreed (strongly agree and somewhat agree) with each value, while over three-quarters (84%) strongly agreed that it is important to ensure that all residents feel safe walking, wheeling and biking on paved pathways and that parks, trails and connected pathways are very important to their health and wellbeing (83%).



2.3.4 General Comments

Respondents were able to provide general comments to conclude the survey.

Feedback from Cochrane residents emphasized the need for improved connectivity, preservation of natural landscapes, and prioritization of youth recreation and sport opportunities. Concerns include lack of cultural facilities, improper use of pathways, and inadequate enforcement of parks, trails and pathway rules / bylaws. Resident's comments additionally stressed the importance of environmental considerations in trail and pathway development and protection of wildlife habitats / corridors. Suggestions include enhancing cycling infrastructure, providing more recreational facilities, improving arts and cultural opportunities, and maintaining cleanliness and safety of public spaces.

Residents also highlighted the need for enhanced accessibility, maintenance of parks and facilities, preservation of natural spaces, and provision of diverse recreational activities. Key themes of the responses included:

- Insufficient off-leash areas, trails, pathways and recreation spaces in certain neighborhoods.
- Residents oppose new trails and pathways in natural spaces to protect wildlife corridors and habitats.
- Accessibility issues for residents living with disabilities.
- Lack of affordability of recreational programs.
- Enhancing trail and pathway connectivity.
- Impacts on wildlife, green spaces, responsible use of outdoor facilities, improving recreational amenities while preserving nature, promoting outdoor activities, cycling etiquette, and infrastructure development are raised.
- Need for cultural events and community spaces.
- Enhancing community engagement.
- Need for consideration of mental health and well-being in recreation and culture planning.
- Lack of sustainable development focus in Cochrane's planning.







Sample Responses:

"Parks, Recreation, Nature and Culture are the #1 reason we live in Cochrane. Very high value for our family. Very high value for the impact it has on the social fabric, the health of our community and the well-being of our town and the folks who live here. Accessibility is a key consideration and the preservation and innovation of spaces as the community matures. Thank you for all you do to make these services and spaces available."

"We feel it is vital that Cochrane strives to maintain (and expand on) it's recreational opportunities. It is events such as Light Up or Culture Fest that keep the townspeople engaged and interested. Pathways, parks and other public spaces give us meeting places and gathering points. This town is full of amazing people who give of their time and energy to make it a great place to live and work. Providing public spaces for them to offer activities is vital to the life blood of our community."

"With the newly paved paths in town, I think it is a huge improvement and a great way to help make our parks more accessible to all. And now that they can be plowed, they will be much safer to use year round!"

"If the town is going to let the growth happen they have to accommodate it and plan for it....or stop letting it ruin everything. Our parks and facilities are starting to show the increased growth and lack of being able to maintain these amazing spaces properly. Start taking responsibility or stop the growth."

"We do not have enough protected green space for our dwindling wildlife. I do not want to see bike paths in Riviera."

"Need more adult things not just for kids! Bike trails for adults, beach volleyball courts, squash courts, outdoor swimming pools"

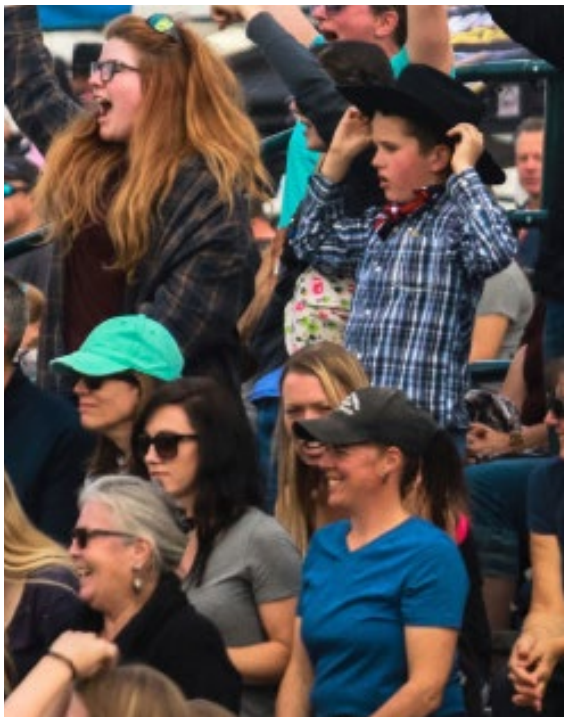
2.3.5 About You

Respondents were asked several questions about their household. The responses are presented in the following table.

Do you live in the Town of Cochrane?	
Yes	96%
No	4%

In which Cochrane neighbourhood do you live?	
Heritage Hills	4%
Sunset Ridge	15%
Heartland	7%
West Pointe	1%
West Terrace	4%
West Valley	5%
Cochrane Heights	3%
Glenbow	6%
Downtown	1%
Bow Ridge	3%
Bow Meadows	4%
Jumping Pound Ridge	3%
East End	3%
GlenEagles	4%
Riverview	4%
Towers Trail	0.20%
Greystone	1%
River Heights	3%
Fireside	7%
The Willows	3%
Riversong	19%













Tenure in Cochrane	
Less than 1 year	4%
1-5 years	26%
6-10 years	24%
11-15 years	21%
16 or more years	24%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Household Composition	
Couple with children	54%
Couple without children	27%
Single parent household	3%
One-person household	5%
Multigenerational household (at least 3 generations)	2%
Two or more adults not a couple (e.g., roommates, siblings living together)	2%
Prefer not to answer	3%
Other (please specify)	3%

I (or someone in my household) identify as an Indigenous Person (First Nations, Metis, Inuit)	10%
I (or someone in my household) identify as a racialized person.	8%
I (or someone in my household) identify as LGBTQ2S+	10%
I (or someone in my household) lives with a disability	27%
I (or someone in my household) moved to Canada in the last 5 years.	5%
Prefer not to answer	40%

Ethnic Origin	
Prefer not to say	14%
Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit)	4%
European (e.g. British Isles, French, Greek, etc.)	63%
Asian (e.g. Chinese, Filipino, Korean, etc.)	3%
South Asian (e.g. Punjabi, Indian, Pakistani, etc.)	1%
Central/South American (e.g. Mexican, Salvadorian, Argentinian, etc.)	1%
African (e.g. Moroccan, Ghanaian, South African, etc.)	1%
Middle Eastern (e.g. Lebanese, Iranian, Syrian, etc.)	0%
Caribbean (e.g. Cuban, Jamaican, Bajan, etc.)	1%
Oceanian (e.g. Australian, New Zealander, etc.)	1%
None of the above	12%

Main Language	
English	81%
French	9%
Spanish	2%
Tagolog	1%
Ukrainian	1%
Punjabi	0%
Prefer not to answer	2%
Other (please specify)	4%





2.4 Group Survey

A survey was fielded with a variety of organizations in Cochrane. These organizations included recreation, culture and other groups who use indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities to delivery their programs, as well as organizations who may use facilitates, amenities and spaces in the town.

An email introducing the project and inviting participation in the survey was sent to a representative from each organization. Each group was provided a link to the survey and asked to provide one response.

Responses were gathered from November 8th to December 18th, 2024. In total 84 responses were gathered. These findings are not representative of all groups in Cochrane, however they do provide insight into the perspectives of the organizations responding.



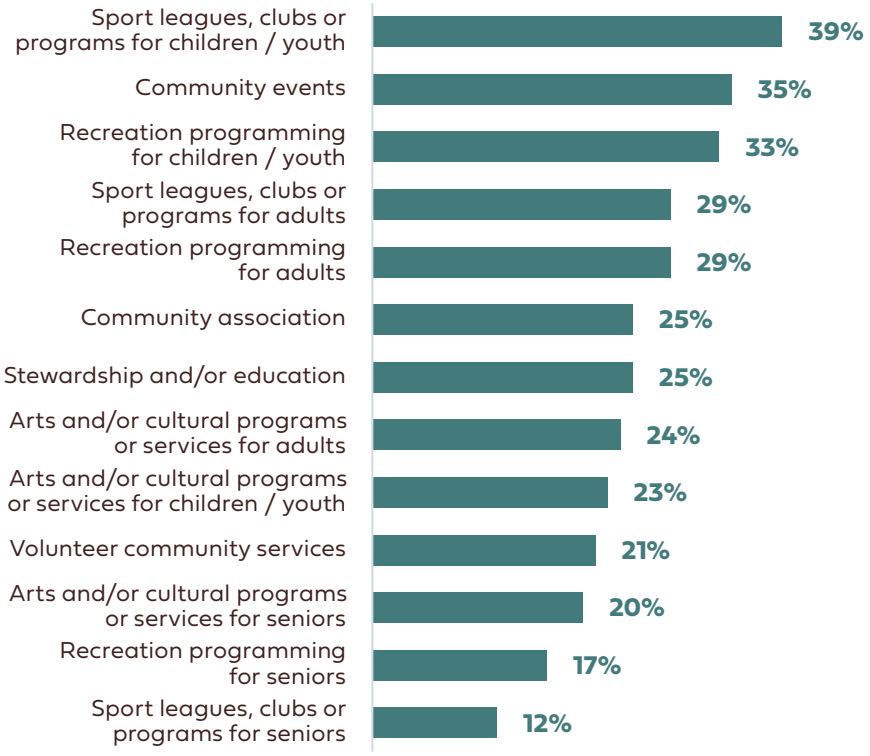


2.4.1 About Your Organization

The survey began by gathering information about the organizations. Survey respondents represent a variety of organizations and facility users including ice users, seniors groups, outdoor recreation organizations, arts and culture organizations and others who provide a diverse range of activities, and events opportunities in the town.

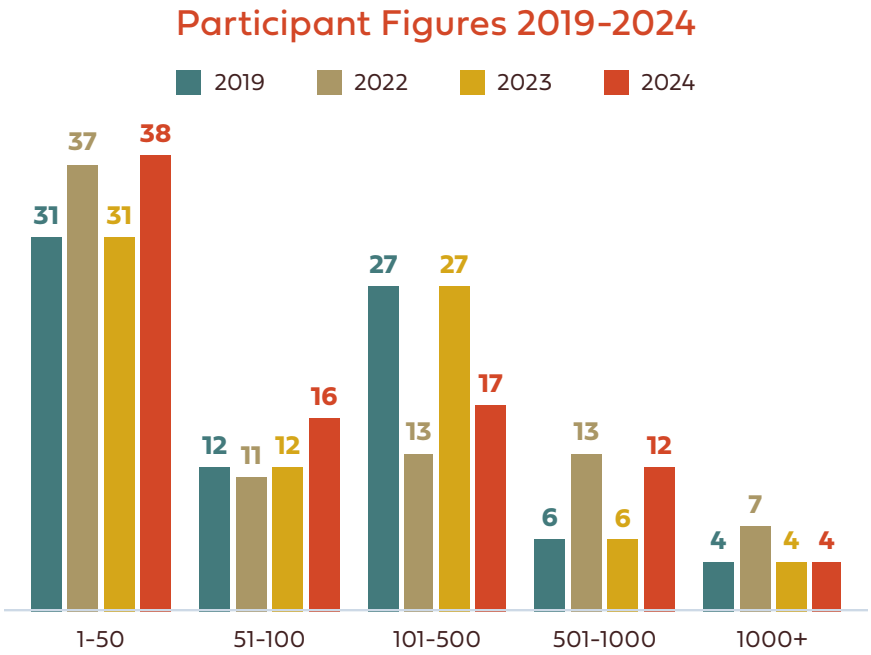
Next, respondents were asked to identify the types of activities or services they provide. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, organizations provide an array of programs, services and events. The most cited types of activities organizations deliver include, sport leagues, clubs for children and youth (39%), community events (35%) and recreation programming for children and youth (33%).

Type of Activities Organizations Deliver

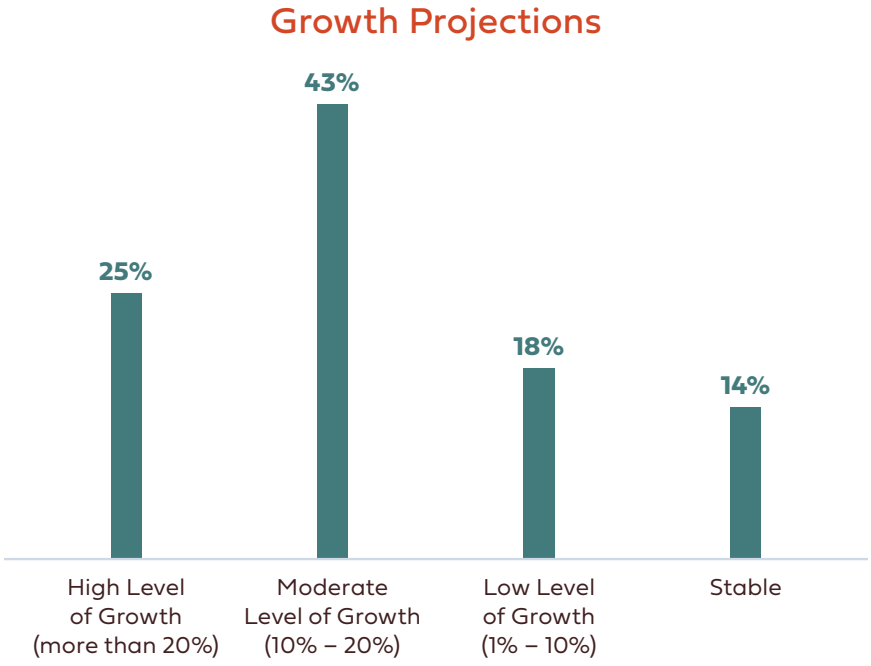


2.4.2 About Your Members / Participants

As illustrated in the accompanying graph, respondent groups have an array of participants or members belonging to their organization.



Approximately half (43%) of respondents anticipate moderate growth of 10-20% over the next five years. Additionally, one-quarter (25%) expect growth exceeding 20% during the same period.



2.4.3 Current Facility Experience

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement regarding whether the current facilities and spaces in Cochrane meet the needs of their organization. Approximately half (47%) agreed (both strongly agree and somewhat agree), while a similar proportion (48%) disagreed (including somewhat disagree and strongly disagree).









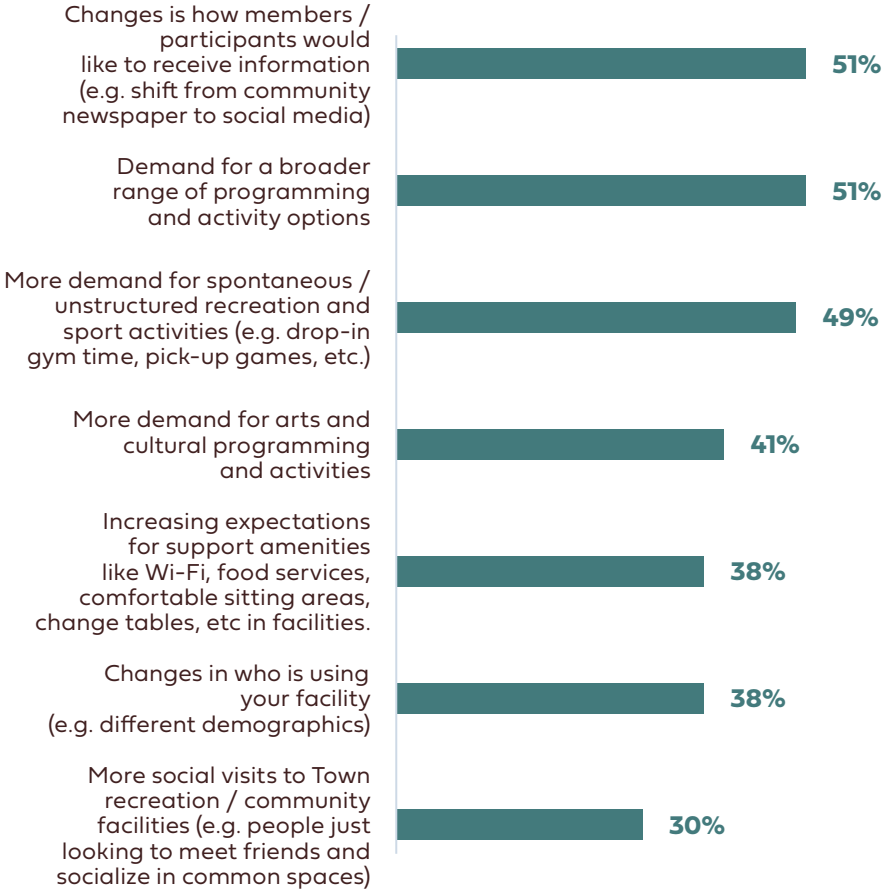


The growing membership of various groups and organizations has highlighted the urgent need for expanded facilities in the community. Groups highlighted a demand for additional access to pool time, need for indoor soccer fields, and a larger indoor theatre. Groups raised concerns about the lack of indoor training facilities which has forced them to rely on venues in nearby municipalities to meet their needs.

Additionally, groups expressed a need for more outdoor recreation spaces, including baseball, softball diamonds, soccer fields and athletics facilities. They noted that the beautiful river offers great paddling opportunities; however, limited access points create logistical challenges for users. Groups expressed that there are successful local sports programs, however competition for existing facilities can be challenging. Similar to the situation with indoor spaces, groups are relying on facilities outside of Cochrane to run their programming.

Next, respondents were presented with a list of facility operation trends and were asked to select any they have observed over the past five year. Approximately half (51%) indicated there have been shifts in how participants would like to receive information about programs/activities, a demand for a broader range of programming (51%) and more demand for spontaneous and unstructured recreation opportunities (49%).

Facility Operation Trends in Facilities Used Over the Past 5 Years



2.4.4 Organizational Challenges

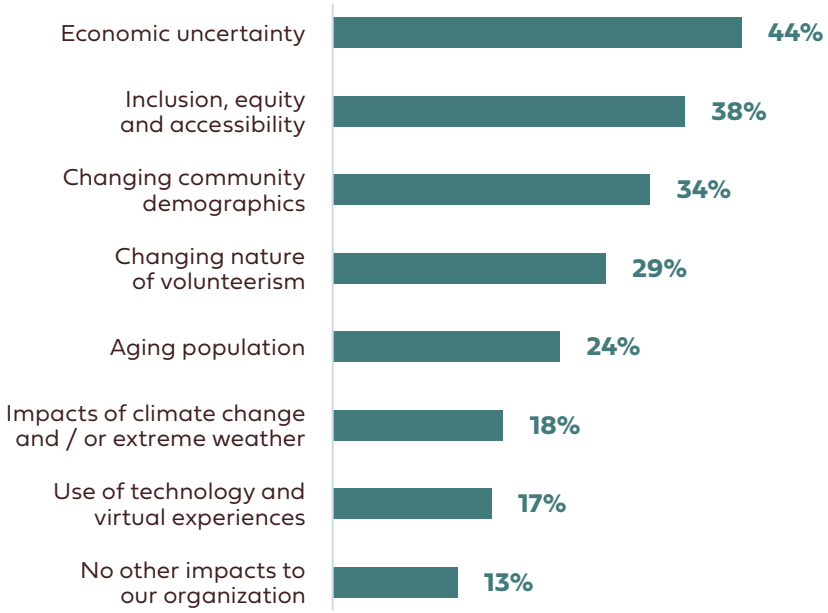
Addressing organizational challenges, respondents were given a list and asked to identify which issues their organization is facing. The top challenges impacting organizations include keeping user costs low for participants (49%), getting sufficient access to facilities and spaces for programming (46%) and the town having inadequate facilities and spaces (44%).

Community organizations in Cochrane highlighted the challenges they are facing. Primary concerns included lack of accessible and affordable recreational facilities, funding limitations, and volunteer shortages. Many organizations reported dealing with issues such as inadequate storage, high facility rental costs, and competition from subsidized programming. Groups emphasized that membership growth has surpassed available resources, creating an increased demand for amenities such as pools, gyms, indoor tracks, ice rinks, soccer fields, and performance spaces. It was noted that rising costs and staffing shortages have further strained operations, making it increasingly difficult to maintain affordable and accessible programs. Volunteer engagement and effective outreach beyond their existing membership remains an ongoing struggle for organizations.



Considering up and coming trends, respondents indicated they expect economic uncertainty (44%), inclusion, equity and accessibility (38%) and changing community demographics (34%) to impact their organization in the coming years.

Trends That May Impact Organizations











2.4.5 General Comments

Respondents were able to share their BIG idea for parks, culture and active living in Cochrane. The responses are presented below:

Recreation and Sports Facilities:

- Build more ice rinks, athletic tracks, and indoor turf facilities.
- Create affordable, inclusive spaces for youth, seniors, and children with disabilities.

Arts and Culture Spaces:

- Develop an arts and culture hub for creative programs, galleries, and community gatherings.
- Build a theatre space to support local performances and attract tourism.

Environmental Awareness and Outdoor Activities:

- Improve river safety education and access.
- Expand trails and pathways, bike parks, and green spaces while protecting natural areas.

Community Engagement and Volunteerism:

- Provide more low-cost meeting spaces and storage for community groups.
- Strengthen volunteer networks and collaboration opportunities.

Affordability and Accessibility:

- Ensure programs and facilities are affordable and prioritize local residents.
- Offer fee assistance and reduce barriers to participation.

Agritourism and Food Innovation:

- Integrate the farmers' market into a larger agritourism, food hall, and culinary hub to support local business.

Developer Contributions:

- Encourage developers to fund infrastructure projects in growing communities to meet the demands of the expanding population.

Tourism and Infrastructure Development:

- Leverage the Calgary Airport Banff Rail (CABR) by building major facilities (e.g., performance centers, hotels, and cultural hubs) to attract visitors and host events.

Lastly, groups were able to share any other comments they had regarding parks, culture and active living in Cochrane. Respondents expressed a strong desire for enhanced recreational spaces and facilities to match the town's rapid growth and active lifestyle culture. There are calls for expanded and interconnected trails and pathways, additional ice rinks, swimming spaces, and arts and culture centers. Concerns include the need for sustainable planning to balance growth with improved amenities, continued public consultation to support future planning exercises and increased transparency in decision-making processes. Respondents emphasize the importance of preserving natural environments, fostering community connection through accessible spaces, and supporting non-profits and cultural programs. Collaborative planning with a regional perspective and long-term investment in infrastructure are seen as vital to maintaining Cochrane's charm and livability.









Appendices

Appendix A: Resident Survey

Your community, your future:

Understanding preferences, satisfaction and values

Help us shape the future of parks, recreation and culture in Cochrane! We're developing a strategic plan to guide how we plan and deliver services for recreation, parks, culture and active living. Our last plan was updated ten years ago. The new plan will identify what our community needs and help us to prioritize investments over the next ten to fifteen years.

We need your input!

Tell us about your experiences with parks, recreation and culture. We want to understand what activities you enjoy, where you spend your time and your satisfaction with current options. Your input will help us understand today's community needs.

To better understand the future needs of our community, additional opportunities will be made available for you to have your say.

Complete the ten-minute survey by October 28 and drop off at:

- **The Station (360 Railway Street W)**
- **Cochrane RancheHouse (101 Ranchehouse Road)**
- **Cochrane FCSS (209, 2nd Ave W)**

Questions? Contact yourcommunity@cochrane.ca or call or 403.851-2500.

Protection of Privacy – This survey is anonymous, and respondents will not be identifiable. The information collected in this survey is collected in accordance with Section 33(c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the FOIP Act) and will be protected under Part 2 of that Act. It will be used for the purpose of developing a Town of Cochrane Parks, Culture & Active Living Masterplan. Should you require further information about the data collection or use of information, please contact the Town of Cochrane at yourcommunity@cochrane.ca or 403.851-2500.



your community, your future:

connecting parks, culture & active living

For more information, visit letstalkcochrane.ca/yourcommunity

cochrane
HOW THE WEST IS NOW

Section 1: your parks, recreation and culture activities

1. Select the activities that you and members of your household participate in on a regular basis (approximately 2 or more times per month during their normal seasons of availability). Check all that apply. Please note these may be activities you participate in outside of Cochrane.

Indoor activities

- ☐ Agricultural activities (e.g. equestrian, rodeo)
- ☐ Archery
- ☐ Attending a dance performance
- ☐ Attending a festival or event
- ☐ Attending a historical event
- ☐ Attending a live musical performance
- ☐ Attending a theatrical performance
- ☐ Attending a sport or recreation event
- ☐ Attending a market (e.g. farmers market, crafters market)
- ☐ Arts & Crafts (e.g., pottery, weaving / knitting, painting, print making, scrapbooking, quilting)
- ☐ Book clubs
- ☐ Court Sports as part of a club or league (e.g., basketball, volleyball, handball, dodgeball, or futsal)
- ☐ Court Sports drop in (e.g., basketball, volleyball, handball, dodgeball, or futsal)
- ☐ Cultural Workshops & Classes (e.g., cooking, traditional dance, language classes)
- ☐ Curling
- ☐ Dance (e.g., organized / structured classes / programs)
- ☐ Darts
- ☐ Esports and Video Gaming Leagues
- ☐ Field sports as part of a club or league (e.g. baseball, soccer, football, rugby, cricket, lacrosse)
- ☐ Field sports drop in (e.g. baseball, soccer, football, rugby, cricket, lacrosse)
- ☐ Fitness classes (e.g., spin, yoga, boot camp)
- ☐ Fitness training at a gym (e.g., cardio, weight training)
- ☐ Inclusive Arts Programs (e.g. painting with assistive devices or music therapy sessions)
- ☐ Indoor gardening
- ☐ Indoor Adapted Sports Teams/league (e.g. wheelchair basketball, sledge hockey)
- ☐ Indoor Adapted Sports drop- in (e.g. wheelchair basketball, sledge hockey)
- ☐ Gymnastics
- ☐ Ice skating drop-in (e.g., public skating or shinny)
- ☐ Ice skating programs / club organized (e.g., learn to skate, hockey league, ringette, figure skating)
- ☐ Indoor playgrounds
- ☐ Lacrosse (box)
- ☐ Library programs
- ☐ Low-impact fitness classes (e.g., Tai Chi, chair yoga, water aerobics)
- ☐ Martial arts
- ☐ Makerspaces/Fabrication Labs: (e.g., 3D printing, electronics, woodworking)
- ☐ Participating in a community arts activity (e.g. community art classes or workshops)
- ☐ Parkour
- ☐ Performing arts activity (e.g., participation in a theatre or musical group or other type of performing arts program or activity)
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Racquet sport drop in (e.g. badminton, tennis, pickleball)
- ☐ Racquet sport team / club organized (e.g. badminton, tennis, pickleball)
- ☐ Religious or faith-based activities
- ☐ Rock Climbing

- [ ] Swimming pool drop-in (e.g., lane swimming, family drop-in swimming)
- [ ] Swimming pool programs (e.g., lessons, swim club, aqua-fitness classes)
- [ ] Shuffleboard
- [ ] Visiting a library
- [ ] Visiting art galleries / spaces
- [ ] Visiting museums or other heritage attractions
- [ ] Volunteering
- [ ] Walking / running (in a gymnasium or an indoor track)
- [ ] Other (please specify): _____

Outdoor activities

- [ ] Agricultural activities (e.g. equestrian, rodeo)
- [ ] Archery
- [ ] Attending a dance performance
- [ ] Attending a festival or event
- [ ] Attending a historical event
- [ ] Attending a live musical performance
- [ ] Attending a sport or recreation event
- [ ] BBQ / picnic / outdoor social gathering
- [ ] Beach volleyball
- [ ] Bird Watching
- [ ] BMX
- [ ] Camping
- [ ] Canine Sports (e.g. agility training)
- [ ] Community gardens
- [ ] Cross country skiing
- [ ] Cycling / mountain biking
- [ ] Disc golf
- [ ] Dog Walking (e.g. off-leash dog park, pathways)
- [ ] Fields sports casual play (e.g., soccer, field hockey, football, rugby, ultimate, cricket, lacrosse, baseball, slo-pitch, softball)
- [ ] Fields sports part of a club or league (e.g., soccer, field hockey, football, rugby, ultimate, cricket, lacrosse, baseball, slo-pitch, softball)
- [ ] Fishing
- [ ] Gardening at your home
- [ ] Golf
- [ ] Hiking / walking / running- as a hobby (on a trail or pathway)
- [ ] Hiking / walking / running- races/clubs (on a trail or pathway)
- [ ] Lawn games (lawn bowling, horseshoes, bocce, spike ball, darts)
- [ ] Library programs
- [ ] Nature Conservation or Citizen Science Projects: (e.g. bird counts or water sampling projects)
- [ ] Outdoor Adapted sports – drop in (e.g. adaptive cycling, wheelchair tennis)
- [ ] Outdoor Adapted Team Sports/league (e.g. adaptive cycling, wheelchair tennis)
- [ ] Outdoor Fitness Equipment or classes
- [ ] Outdoor paved surface activities (e.g., basketball, ball hockey)
- [ ] Outdoor skating / shinny
- [ ] Outdoor swimming lakes & rivers (e.g. recreational swimming, scuba diving, open water swimming)
- [ ] Outdoor swimming pools
- [ ] Paddling (kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding)
- [ ] Parkour
- [ ] Participating in a community arts activity (e.g. outdoor mural painting, community art installations)
- [ ] Participating in other community heritage activities (Pow Wows, Culture Days, or Heritage parades)
- [ ] Photography

3

- ☐ Playing at a playground
- ☐ Racquet sport casual play (e.g. badminton, tennis, pickleball)
- ☐ Racquet sports team/club organized (e.g. badminton, tennis, pickleball)
- ☐ Rock/Ice Climbing
- ☐ Skatepark (e.g. skateboarding/Scootering/ rollerblades)
- ☐ Skiing/snowboarding
- ☐ Snowshoeing
- ☐ Tobogganing
- ☐ Visiting cultural and heritage attractions (e.g. historical walking tours)
- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2. For each of the indoor and outdoor parks, recreation and culture spaces **in Cochrane** listed, please indicate how frequently you or a member of your household used / visited during their normal seasons of availability in the past 12 months. (Note – if multiple household members used the facility at the same time, please count that as one use / visit.)

Indoor

	Frequently (minimum 1/ week)	Occasionally (minimum 1/ month)	Rarely (few times/ year)	Never
Climbing wall	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community cultural / event spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community meeting rooms / spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fitness and wellness spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gymnasiums (non sport or recreation usage)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gymnasiums (sport & recreation usage)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ice arenas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library (programs regular usage)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library (special events)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maker / creative studio spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pool	☐	☐	☐	☐
Turf field	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walking / running track	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify): _____	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify): _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Outdoor

	Frequently (minimum 1/ week)	Occasionally (minimum 1/ month)	Rarely (few times/ year)	Never
Art making spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ball diamonds	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bike park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community cultural / event spaces (stages, gathering spaces)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community gardens	☐	☐	☐	☐
Courts (tennis, pickleball)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disc Golf	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dog parks and off leash areas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ice surfaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks & open spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pathways (paved)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Playgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐
River / waterways	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skateparks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport fields	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spray parks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trails (unpaved, gravel, dirt)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify): _____	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify): _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Do you or someone in your household regularly use parks, recreation and culture facilities or spaces **outside of Cochrane**?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Q4)
- ☐ Unsure

a) Why do you or someone in your household use parks, recreation and culture facilities **outside of Cochrane**? *Please select all that apply.*

- ☐ Better facilities elsewhere
- ☐ Programs/activities don't exist in Cochrane
- ☐ Don't have access to the facilities needed in Cochrane
- ☐ Participation occurs as part of a daily commute to/from work or school (you or other household members commute to work in other municipalities)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

5

4. Have you or anyone in your household attended any **community events or celebrations** in Cochrane in the past 12 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

a) If yes, what community events or celebrations did you attend?

_____

_____

_____

_____

b) If no, what prevented you from attending a community event or celebration?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Have you or anyone in your household participated in a sport, recreation, arts or culture class, program or league in Cochrane in the past 12 months?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Q6)
- ☐ Unsure

a) Please list the class, program or league that you or a household member have participated in over the past 12 months and indicate who delivered the opportunity? *(This could be a minor sport program, arts class. A program is a regularly scheduled activity that participants sign up for or commit to for a period of time.)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. What, if anything, prevents you or someone in your household from participating in parks, recreation and culture opportunities in Cochrane? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Condition of facility or space
- ☐ Difficult to get into and around facilities and spaces / poor accessibility
- ☐ Do not know where the facilities and spaces (parks, trails) are located
- ☐ Don't feel welcome/safe/comfortable
- ☐ Equipment or material cost (e.g. bike, camera, skates)
- ☐ Facility operation issues (e.g. hours of operation, facility is crowded)
- ☐ Features or amenities that I want aren't offered
- ☐ Health/medical issues
- ☐ Lack of childcare
- ☐ Lack of knowledge or awareness of opportunities activity
- ☐ Lack of opportunities of in my community / neighbourhood
- ☐ Language or cultural barriers
- ☐ Nothing limits our ability to participate in parks, recreation and cultural opportunities in Cochrane.
- ☐ Program or registration cost are too high
- ☐ Quality of programs is insufficient
- ☐ Timing does not work for my schedule
- ☐ Too busy with other commitments (work, personal)
- ☐ Transportation challenges to get to the facility or space
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

a) If you would like to expand on your responses, please do so below

_____

_____

_____

_____

7

Section 2: satisfaction with current parks, recreation and culture opportunities

7. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of parks, recreation and culture opportunities in Cochrane?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
The **quality** of **parks**.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **quality** of **playgrounds**.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **quality** of **trails**.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **access to the Bow River corridor (pathways, trails, river)** for recreation activities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The pathway **network and connectivity** to all communities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **quality** of **indoor recreation and culture** amenities and spaces.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **quality** of **outdoor recreation and culture** amenities and spaces (e.g., sport fields, parks, heritage sites)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **accessibility** (physical access) to recreation and culture amenities and spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **sport and recreation** program **opportunities** in Cochrane.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **cultural, arts and heritage** program **opportunities** in Cochrane.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The **affordability** of recreation, sport, arts and cultural programs and activities in Cochrane.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

a) Please explain your responses.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Section 3: your perspectives on the value of parks, recreation and culture

8. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Recreation and culture programs and services are very important to my health and wellbeing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks, trails and connected pathways are very important to my health and wellbeing.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks, recreation and culture activities and events create community connection and a sense of belonging.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parks, recreation, cultural activities, and events help shape the community's identity and character.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to ensure that parks, recreation and culture opportunities are accessible for all residents in the community.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to ensure that all residents feel safe walking / wheeling / biking on paved pathways.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to ensure that all residents feel safe walking / wheeling / biking on dirt/gravel trails.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to ensure that all residents feel safe cycling / scootering in bike lanes.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor recreation spaces help contribute to building sustainable communities.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having access to unique natural outdoor spaces (e.g., the Bow River) in an important part of Cochrane's parks and open spaces.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

General comments

Please use the following space to provide any other comments you may have about parks, recreation, culture and connectivity in Cochrane.

Section 4: about you

Please provide the following information about yourself and your household. We are asking for this information solely to assist with analysis of the survey data and the responses you provide will not be attributed to your specific household or shared with any other third parties. ALL RESPONSES ARE OPTIONAL.

9. Do you live in the Town of Cochrane?

- ☐ Yes (Go to Q10)
- ☐ No (Go to Q12)
  In which community do you live? _____

10. In which Cochrane neighbourhood do you live?

- ☐ Heritage Hills
- ☐ Sunset Ridge
- ☐ Heartland
- ☐ West Pointe
- ☐ West Terrace
- ☐ West Valley
- ☐ Cochrane Heights
- ☐ Glenbow
- ☐ Downtown
- ☐ Bow Ridge
- ☐ Bow Meadows
- ☐ Jumping Pound Ridge
- ☐ East End
- ☐ GlenEagles
- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Riverview
- ☐ Towers Trail
- ☐ Greystone
- ☐ River Heights
- ☐ Rolling Range Estates
- ☐ Fireside
- ☐ The Willows
- ☐ Riversong

11. (If yes to Q9) How long have you lived in Cochrane?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 - 5 years
- ☐ 6 – 10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 16 or more years
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

12. Which best describes your household composition? (Please select one option only)

- ☐ Couple with children
- ☐ Couple without children
- ☐ Single parent household
- ☐ One-person household
- ☐ Multigenerational household (at least 3 generations)
- ☐ Two or more adults not a couple (e.g., roommates, siblings living together)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

13. Please select all that apply:

- ☐ I (or someone in my household) identify as an Indigenous Person (First Nations, Metis, Inuit)
- ☐ I (or someone in my household) identify as a racialized person.
- ☐ I (or someone in my household) identify as LGBTQ2S+
- ☐ I (or someone in my household) lives with a disability
- ☐ I (or someone in my household) moved to Canada in the last 5 years.
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

14. What do you consider your main ethnic origin or that of your ancestors? Select up to four.

Residents of Cochrane come from many different backgrounds. This question helps us understand who we are hearing from and reflecting our community diversity.

- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, Inuit)
- ☐ European (e.g. British Isles, French, Greek, etc.)
- ☐ Asian (e.g. Chinese, Filipino, Korean, etc.)
- ☐ South Asian (e.g. Punjabi, Indian, Pakistani, etc.)
- ☐ Central/South American (e.g. Mexican, Salvadorian, Argentinian, etc.)
- ☐ African (e.g. Moroccan, Ghanaian, South African, etc.)
- ☐ Middle Eastern (e.g. Lebanese, Iranian, Syrian, etc.)
- ☐ Caribbean (e.g. Cuban, Jamaican, Bajan, etc.)
- ☐ Oceanian (e.g. Australian, New Zealander, etc.)
- ☐ None of the above. I identify as: _____

15. What languages do you speak at home? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ English
- ☐ French
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Tagolog
- ☐ Ukrainian
- ☐ Punjabi
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Thank you for helping to shape the future of parks, recreation and culture by completing this survey. Watch for future opportunities to have your say: letstalkcochrane.ca/yourcommunity



your community, your future:

connecting parks, culture & active living

For more information, visit letstalkcochrane.ca/yourcommunity

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