

City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan: Consultation Summary Report

September 16, 2021



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Acknowledgements	4
1. Introduction: The Role of Stakeholder Consultation in Shaping the Parks and Recreation Master Plan	5
2. Public Engagement Plan	6
2.1 How Stakeholder Input was Gathered.....	6
2.2 Public and Stakeholder Consultation Methods.....	6
2.3 How Stakeholders Were Invited to Participate	7
2.4 Consultation Participant Profiles (Surveys and Virtual Sessions).....	8
2.5 How the Feedback Data was Analyzed.....	9
2.6 How the Results of the Consultations are Presented	9
2.6.1 A Note on Interpreting the Consultation Results.....	9
3. Round 1 Consultation Results	10
3.1 Facility Usage and Barriers to Use (Indoor and Outdoor)	10
3.1.1 Indoor Facility Usage and Barriers	10
3.1.2 Outdoor Park and Facility Usage and Barriers	12
3.2 Perceived Adequacy of the Number of Facilities (Indoor and Outdoor)	15
3.2.1 The Impact of COVID-19	15
3.2.2 The Adequacy of the Number of Facilities (Indoor and Outdoor).....	17
3.2.3 Opinions, Preferences, and Suggestions for the Development of the Master Plan	19
4. Round 2 Consultation Results	22
4.1 Feedback on Proposed Master Plan Targets	22
4.1.1 Aggregated Survey Results	22
4.1.2 Equity deserving groups, staff Technical Advisory Committee, School Boards, Colleges and Universities and the National Capital Commission.....	24
4. Other Issues and Suggestions Raised in the Consultations	24
5. Thank-you and Next Steps	25
6. Appendix A: Consultation themes and how this feedback was considered in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.....	26

Executive Summary

Parks and recreation facilities play a critical role in the quality of life in Ottawa, with residents using them as places to gather, relax or engage in active sports. The City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (the “Plan”) reviews the City’s current parks and recreation facilities and makes recommendations to ensure all residents can enjoy the benefits and services of the City’s parks and recreation facilities between now and 2031.

As part of its preparation of the 2021 Plan, the City undertook two rounds of extensive consultations with the users of the City’s parks and recreations facilities – including residents, community groups, sports clubs, school boards and colleges and universities – and key City Staff to gather valuable input to help set targets and formulate recommendations in the Plan. Although COVID-19 public health measures meant these consultations were conducted virtually rather than in-person, there still has been a high level of interest and engagement in the consultations, with participation from stakeholders in all City wards, particularly those in urban areas.

Round 1 (January to March 2021) involved online surveys, virtual sessions using Zoom video conferencing, phone or email feedback, and a Technical Advisory Committee of City Staff and equity deserving resident-focused community organizations. The results from Round 1 informed the development of the preliminary draft Plan, which included setting specific targets for active parkland and each of City’s 22 recreational facility types. Those targets formed the basis for Round 2 (May to July 2021), which also involved specific invitations to increase participation from residents who had been underrepresented in Round 1. All the input received during both rounds was collated and analyzed and is summarized in this report.

Almost all survey participants in Round 1 said they use City parks and recreational facilities. Of those who responded to the initial survey on indoor recreation facilities, 92% said they or someone in their household uses at least one type of indoor recreation facility in a typical year. Only 4% said they are non-users because of a “lack of interest,” while the remaining 4% cited a mixture of reasons, including concerns about gathering during a pandemic. The most frequently used facilities are recreational complexes and community centres, while sports domes and fieldhouses are used the least.

The parks and outdoor recreation facilities survey also found almost universal use by respondents. Nearly 100% said they or members of their household use at least one of the six park types once a year or more often, with neighbourhood parks and community parks the most popular. The main reasons given for not using City parks were lack of interest in the activities or features available there and how far away they were. Almost as many respondents (96%) say they or members of their household use one or more outdoor recreation facility types at least once a year. Natural turf sports fields are used most often, followed by picnic/shade shelter/seating, open fields for unstructured play, beaches and outdoor rinks. Facilities for lawn bowling, cricket and horseshoes are used least often.

Most survey respondents said COVID-19 increased the importance to them of City parks and recreation facilities, although some respondents said the importance decreased because people were staying home or were unable to access parks and facilities the way they could before the pandemic.

Survey respondents who expressed an opinion about the adequacy of the number of parks and recreational facilities were much more likely to say there are too few facilities than too many or the right amount. Gymnasiums were most often cited among indoor facilities as being too few, skateboard/BMX/mountain bike facilities were cited most often among outdoor facilities, and woodland parks were cited most often among types of parks.

Input from the virtual stakeholder consultations echoed the online survey findings, with calls for more recreational complexes and parks to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population, particularly in the downtown or inner-city areas. Many participants were concerned the pressure on existing urban parks, community centres and recreation facilities would increase because of a rising demand for housing and the City’s commitment to intensification as described in the 2020 Draft Official Plan.

Round 1 input also showed that most people want community centres and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities to be located relatively close to where they live but are prepared to travel outside of their neighbourhood to go to a larger park, centre or facility.

In Round 2, where participants were asked to provide feedback on Plan targets that had been developed with the help of input from Round 1, online survey respondents and people who attended a virtual session expressed very similar views. There was majority support for the proposed recommendations for 16 of 24 facility or park types, although a significant number of stakeholders felt there should be more of those facilities or parks than was being proposed. The largest gaps between those who agreed with the Plan targets and those who said there should be “more” were for active municipal parkland, recreation complexes and outdoor dep-water pools. Ball diamonds and cricket pitches were the two categories with the largest gap between those who agreed with the Plan targets and those who said there should be “fewer” than what was being proposed.

Some of the calls for more facilities than the number recommended in the Plan may reflect a desire of some community members for “different” facilities that reflect recent growth in activities and sports such as pickleball, lacrosse and disk golf. Other participants said City parks and recreation facilities should better reflect Ottawa’s growing diversity. Parks and recreational facilities that can be used by a wider array of population segments are seen as particularly valuable, with multi-purpose facilities identified as key to meeting growing demand.

The City of Ottawa is grateful to everyone who contributed their experience, thoughts, ideas and time to the development of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. City Staff will now work to identify opportunities for new parkland and recreational facilities as recommended in that Plan.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many residents, partners, community leaders and sports organizations from across the city for sharing your experiences and ideas about the future of Ottawa's parks and recreation facilities. Thank you also to City Staff from across departments for their expertise and advice. This collection of insights and suggestions from residents and staff has been instrumental in the writing of the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan.

1. Introduction: The Role of Stakeholder Consultation in Shaping the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

“If this pandemic has shown us anything, it is the importance of outdoor parks and green space.”

Quote from a Round 1 Virtual Session Participant

Parks, and recreation facilities are critical components and indicators of the quality of life within cities. They have a direct, positive impact on several “determinants of health,” which are the broad range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that determine individual and population health.¹ Parks and recreation facilities also provide a distinct identity to a city and help distinguish one city from another.

Ottawa residents value and use parks and recreation facilities as places to gather, relax or discover, and to engage in active sports. Where and how the City of Ottawa grows is expected to change substantially over the coming years. As it does, it is important to ensure all residents continue to have access to the benefits and services provided by the City’s parks and recreation facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (the “Plan”) looks at the City’s current parks and recreation facilities and makes recommendations for what parks and facilities will be required to serve the needs of the city’s residents to 2031. The Plan is a supporting document to the City’s Official Plan (2021).

Key elements of the Plan include:

- An inventory of all current municipal active parkland and recreation facilities
- A summary of population, growth, and demographic projections, and
- Recommendations for the amount of new parkland and number of new recreation facilities needed by 2031 to meet population growth
- Strategies for achieving the Plan’s recommendations

Citywide targets and recommendations are set within the Plan for active parkland and each of 22 facility types² (e.g., recreation complexes, aquatic facilities, sports fields) per 1,000 residents.

Several inputs coalesced to shape Plan service level targets and recommendations, including City Staff expertise, analysis of current inventory, population projections, documented service gaps, recent usage and recreation trends when available, and municipal benchmarking (i.e., what other cities have). As users of the City’s parks and recreation facilities, stakeholders (e.g., residents, community groups, sports clubs, school boards) have a unique role to play in providing valuable input to the process of setting targets and formulating recommendations.

This report summarizes what we learned during six months of consultations with a broad range of Ottawa stakeholders. It also describes how this input was considered in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

We would like to thank everyone who provided input through this public and stakeholder consultation.

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/population-health/what-determines-health.html#a1>

² Recreation Complexes; Community Centres and Community Buildings; Indoor Aquatic Facilities; Outdoor Deep-Water Pools; Supervised Beaches; Splash Pads and Wading Pools; Arenas; Outdoor Ice Rinks; Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields; Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields; Ball Diamonds; Tennis and Pickleball Courts; Outdoor Basketball Courts; Outdoor Volleyball Courts; Outdoor Fitness Equipment; Cricket Pitches; Lawn Bowling Greens; Recreational Boat Launches and Docks; BMX and Mountain Biking Parks; Fenced Off-leash Dog Parks; Skateboard Parks; Playgrounds.

2. Public Engagement Plan

2.1 How Stakeholder Input was Gathered

Recent City of Ottawa projects or engagement reports were reviewed. Participant feedback related to public engagement planning or the need for new parkland and recreation facilities was considered. This included the [Report on Findings from Women and Gender Equity Strategy Consultations](#) (2019), Downtown Core Programming Plan and the Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards.

Stakeholder consultations specific to the Plan were conducted over two rounds, from January 2021 to the end of July 2021. The results from the initial round of engagement (Round 1) informed the development of the preliminary draft Plan, including the setting of specific targets for active parkland and each of 22 facility types. These draft targets were the basis for a second round of engagement (Round 2).

Several bilingual methods were used to consult with staff and stakeholders. Engage Ottawa surveys and online sessions using Zoom video conferencing, which allowed feedback to be provided via phone or email, were open to everyone. Additional methods included a Technical Advisory Committee of City Staff across departments and equity deserving resident-focused community organizations. The table below summarizes the methods used and the number of participants in each. Additional information on who took part in the consultations is provided in Section 3.3.

The consultations took place during the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Public health measures necessitated the use of virtual approaches in lieu of traditional in-person designs. While a purely virtual approach may have limited the ability of some to participate, it is worth remembering that, by the second year of the pandemic, online/virtual communications had become commonplace, including for some segments of the population who had had little to no experience with this technology-based communicating prior to the pandemic.

Some individuals and organizations participated in more than one consultation method, sometimes across both rounds.

2.2 Public and Stakeholder Consultation Methods

Round 1: Gathering Input for Plan Target Setting (January to March 2021)		
Consultation Method	Participants	Main Issues/Topics
Indoor Recreation Facilities Survey	604 participants	Household use of park and facilities. Barriers to use. Initial views on whether parks and facilities are too few or too many. Concerns and priorities.
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey	1,384 participants	
Online Consultation Sessions	6 sessions involving 202 participants	
Targeted Stakeholder Sessions	Meetings with representative of the National Capital Commission (NCC), School Boards, and Colleges and Universities	Use and long-range planning for municipal parks and school lands (school boards). Current leases and future land development (NCC). Future planning (Colleges and Universities).
Ad Hoc Input (emails)	24 participants	Intensification, access to parks and facilities, interest in specific sports and desire to see particular emphasis on these in the Master Plan (MP); desire for attention to facility-specific issues (e.g., design, operations, maintenance)

Round 1: Gathering Input for Plan Target Setting (January to March 2021)		
Consultation Method	Participants	Main Issues/Topics
Technical Advisory Committee	20 Staff from across City departments	Relationship between MP and work of other departments, and impacts on other departments – Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED), Corporate Real Estate Office (CREO), Legal, Finance, Operations, Asset Management, etc.
City Advisory Committees	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) with 11 members and Arts, Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee (ACRAC) with 10 members. In addition, each Advisory Committee has a Ward Councillor Liaison.	AAC noted opportunities to improve accessible language in the Plan. ACRAC – noted need for increased access for gymnasium-based sports and modernization of programmable spaces/facilities.

Round 2: Gathering Feedback on Proposed Plan Targets (May to July 2021)		
Consultation Method	Participants	Main Issues/Topics
Master Plan Feedback Survey	496 participants	Feedback on recommended targets for 2031 (e.g., adequate versus too low versus too high; rationale for view; concerns and suggestions)
Online Consultation Sessions	6 sessions involving 178 participants	
Ad Hoc Input (e.g., emails, phone calls)	More than 60 participants provided submissions or detailed feedback	Various issues
Organizations led by or working with Equity Deserving Residents	20 + sessions involving 38 residents and community leaders	Usage of park and facilities. Barriers to use. Concerns and priorities. Equity lens on implementation of Plan recommendations.

2.3 How Participants Were Invited to Engage

The Project page was posted on the [Engage Ottawa](#) site on January 11, 2021 and will be maintained until the project completion in the Fall of 2021. So far, more than 11,000 participants have visited at least one Engage Ottawa project page, with 5,100 of them downloading documents or visiting multiple project pages, and 2,102 participants completing one or more surveys. Engage Ottawa visits and survey participation were a mix of direct clicks from the main City of Ottawa launch page (21.7%), clicks on links from social media (5.9%), emails (13.1%), via search engines (8.6%) or referrals (13.4%), with 37.3% of source of traffic not reported.

The City held two rounds of consultations specific to the Plan; the first from January to March 2021 and the second from May to July 2021. This included surveys, online consultation sessions, targeted meetings and submissions from the public or stakeholders via email, phone or mail. There has been a high level of interest and engagement in the project.

The City received 2,484 completed online surveys with all wards represented, but with more participation from downtown and inner and outer urban wards rather than citywide. The City hosted 12 online facilitated consultation sessions open to all members of the public and all interested stakeholder groups. All sessions, including the presentation and breakout discussions, were offered in English and French. Two sessions were co-hosted by Ottawa Sport Council and focused on sports fields, outdoor and indoor sports courts, amenities and the needs of sports clubs and organizations. Round 1 online sessions used breakout rooms to allow City Staff to meet with groups of 6-10 participants and gather their input in a guided discussion format. There were 202 participants in the Round 1 online sessions and 178 participants in the Round 2 online sessions, with citywide participation. The City also received

feedback from more than 70 unique residents or community associations via email, phone calls or formal submissions for review.

A demographic analysis of who participated was done after Round 1 and an outreach plan initiated that increased participation opportunities from under-represented residents in Round 2. Invitations were sent to organizations working with equity deserving resident groups to attend one-to-one meetings virtually or by phone, or to have project staff provide an engagement session with resident working groups. More than 20 community organizations participated and were able to provide their feedback for consideration in the development of the Plan. Additional organizations did not reply to the invitation or were unable to meet with the project team.

The City completed targeted stakeholder sessions focused on institutional partners – including the City’s four school boards, the National Capital Commission and College and Universities – to learn how each of these unique stakeholders currently uses parks and indoor and outdoor municipal facilities, and to identify any issues, trends or opportunities for the term of the Plan to 2031. The [City of Ottawa Report on Findings from Women and Gender Equity Strategy Consultations](#) (2019) highlighted priorities that have been considered during development of the Plan, including a gender-inclusive city, representation and resident engagement. The information from all response types was collated, analyzed and synthesized into this Consultation Summary Report.

2.4 Consultation Participant Profiles (Surveys and Virtual Sessions)

As noted above, there was a high level of interest and engagement on the part of Ottawa stakeholders, including a wide range of community and sports groups/associations. People of all ages provided input (with limited participation from people under 25 years of age). There was good gender representation for women and men (participation rates for women were between 49% and 57% across the three surveys), with lower participation and/or self-identification from gender-diverse residents. Many survey respondents identified as belonging to one or more of the following groups that are at risk of exclusion:

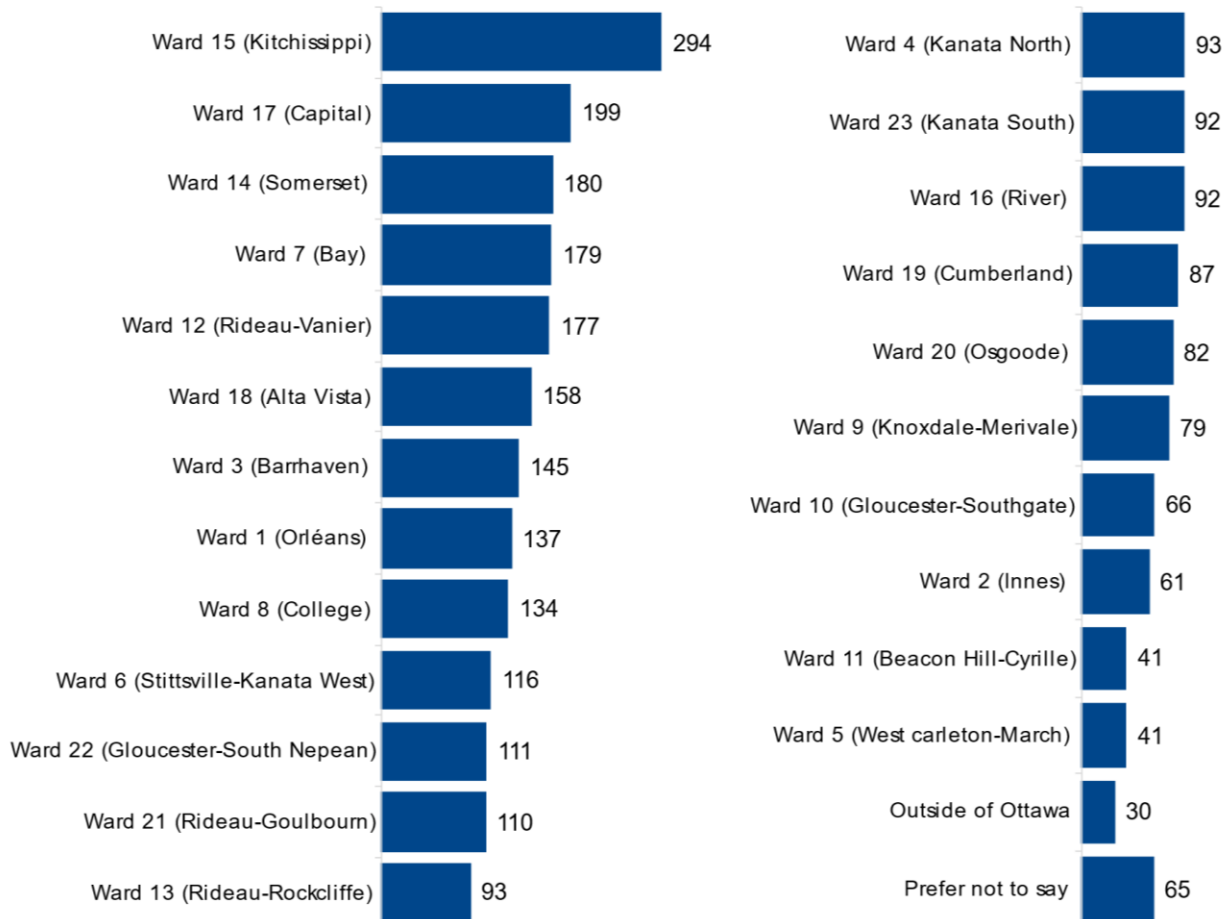
- Women
- Youth
- Francophones
- Newcomers
- 2SLGBTQIA+³
- Persons with a disability
- Racialized persons
- Indigenous persons (First Nations, Inuit or Métis)
- Persons living in poverty
- Racialized persons
- Older Adults
- Rural residents

The household composition of Round 1 survey participants was broad, with 20% of indoor facility survey participants reporting having one or more children between 0 and 9 years of age in their household, 20% reporting living with older children/youth (10 to 19 years of age), and 15% reporting at least one person 70 years of age or older living in their household. The corresponding figures for the parks and outdoor recreation Round 1 survey were 29%, 26% and 11%.

Postal code information was collected in all surveys and virtual sessions. This information was analyzed to understand consultation participation rates across the City’s 23 wards. This analysis, which is presented in Exhibit 1, shows the total number of times input was received from a resident of that ward. If a resident provided input through more than one consultation method (e.g., both surveys, a survey and a session) each of one those inputs is included in the total (e.g., if two people each provided input twice, the total would be 4). The analysis indicates participation from all City wards, but with higher rates in Ottawa’s urban wards, most notably Kitchissippi Ward.

³ Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans/Transgender, Queer (or Questioning), Intersex, Asexual and + for others who use different terms for their gender identities, expression or sexual orientation

Exhibit 1: Consultation Participation According to Ward
Sample size: n=2864



2.5 How the Feedback Data was Analyzed

The three survey questionnaires contained both closed and open-ended questions, with open-ended questions requiring participants to write their responses. The data produced by the Round 1 virtual sessions came from notes taken of participants’ verbal comments. In the Round 2 virtual sessions, participants could provide feedback in three ways: by responding to a core set of items replicated from the survey questionnaire; by providing verbal feedback (of which notes were taken); and by writing comments in the session software’s “chat” section (which were downloaded verbatim).

All survey responses and comments were included in the analysis. The quantitative results were tabulated and analyzed to see if results differed by participant segment (e.g., age, newcomer). The qualitative data from the surveys was coded (i.e., sorted according to theme) and quantified to produce results expressed in percentages, like the survey results. The notes and verbatim comments from the virtual sessions were content analyzed according to common themes, but not quantified.

2.6 How the Results of the Consultations are Presented

The results obtained from the consultation are summarized in Sections 4 and 5.

- Section 4 presents the findings from the Round 1 surveys, virtual sessions and other methods, which focused on issues such as facility use, barriers to use and initial views on current numbers of parks and facilities, as well as concerns and suggestions.
- Section 5 is devoted to examining Round 2 consultation results obtained from a survey, virtual sessions and other means. The main purpose of the second round was to obtain feedback on recommended park and facility targets for 2031 and to do additional outreach to under-represented equity groups and organizations from Round 1.

2.6.1 A Note on Interpreting the Consultation Results

Participation in the surveys (and virtual sessions) was open to all. This “opt-in” approach is in keeping with the spirit of engagement and typical of public and stakeholder consultations. The primary limitation of this approach is that the survey results cannot be generalized to a target

population, (in this case, the residents of Ottawa), even though close to 2,500 survey questionnaires were completed across three surveys. Thus, later in this report when we say that 92% of survey participants or members of their household use indoor recreation facilities in a typical year, it is important to remember that this does not mean that 92% of Ottawa residents or members of their households use these facilities.

3. Round 1 Consultation Results

3.1 Facility Usage and Barriers to Use (Indoor and Outdoor)

Overall, we find that usage of parks, indoor facilities and outdoor facilities was a common characteristic of survey participants. The most frequently used parks and facilities include neighbourhood parks, recreation complexes and open fields for unstructured play.

3.1.1 Indoor Facility Usage and Barriers

Almost everyone (92%) who participated in the initial survey on indoor recreation facilities said they, or someone in their household, use at least one type of indoor building/facility in a typical year (see Exhibit 2).

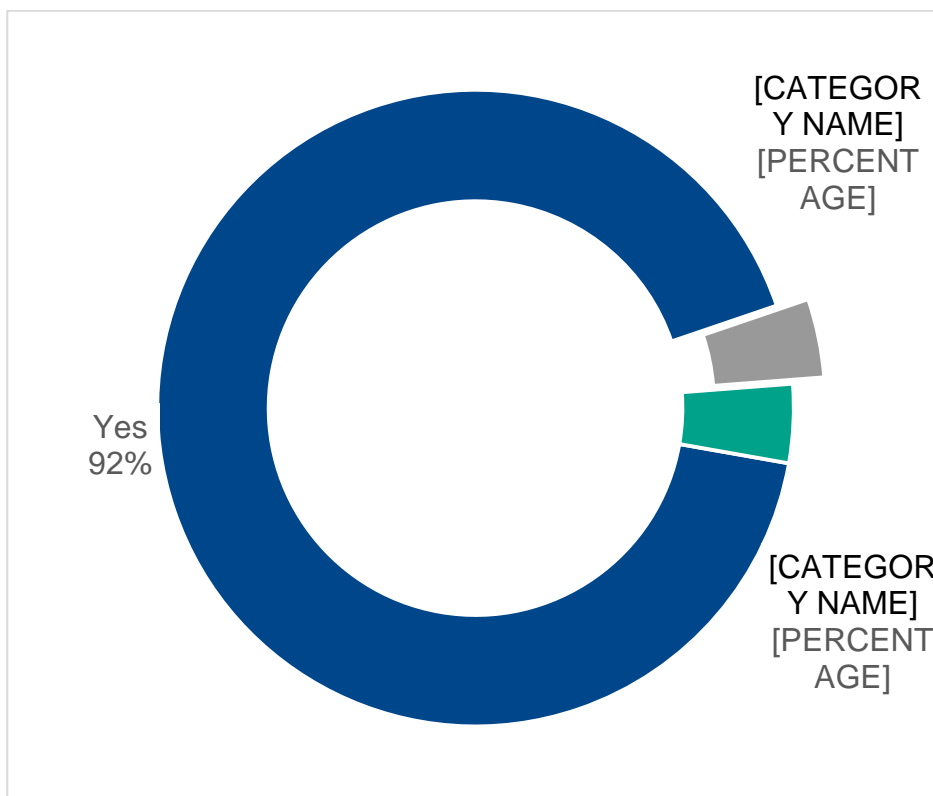
Exhibit 2 also shows that among the 8% of indoor facility non-users, half indicated they did not use these facilities due to a “lack of interest.” The remaining non-users were asked to explain their non-use in a follow-up question. We see that in about one-third of cases, the reason is (also) lack of interest in what is available at facilities. Other barriers include distance, lack of information about what is offered, and not feeling safe at facilities, including concerns about gathering during a pandemic.

Accessibility barriers were mentioned only a handful of times. While this may be encouraging from an accessibility standpoint, it is key to remember that the survey was not based on a representative sample of the population.

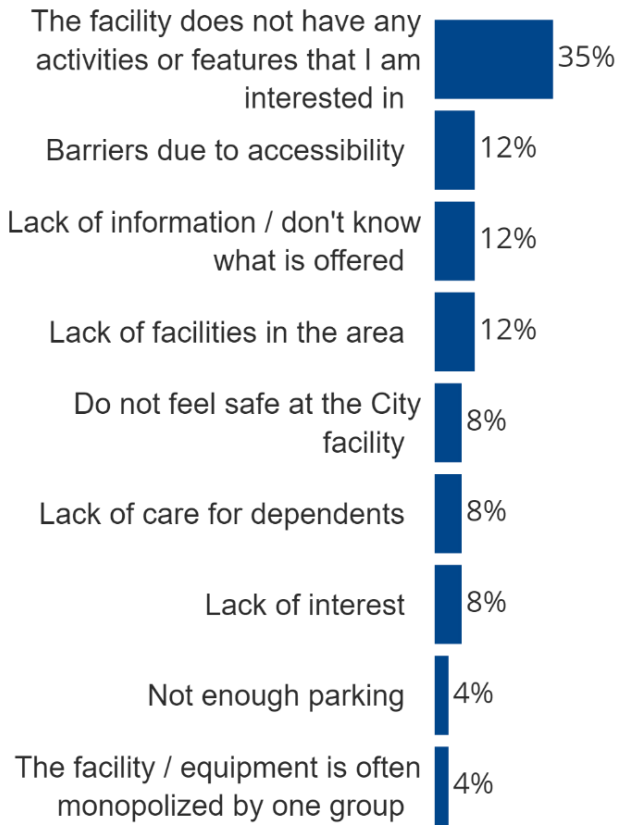
Exhibit 2: Indoor Recreation Facility Use and Barriers

Sample size: n=604

Q. In a typical year, do you or members of your household visit any of the following indoor recreation facilities: Community building (small, 3,500 sq ft multi-purpose building), Community centre (large, 20,000+ sq ft multi-purpose building), Fieldhouse, Multi-pad or single-pad arena, Aquatic facility, Recreation complex, Sports dome.



Q. If you do not visit or participate in any of the following indoor recreation facilities, please indicate why? (Asked of those who do not visit the recreation facilities for reasons other than "lack of interest.") Sample size: n=26.



The consultation survey also examined frequency of use across seven types of indoor facilities. The results are presented in Exhibit 3.

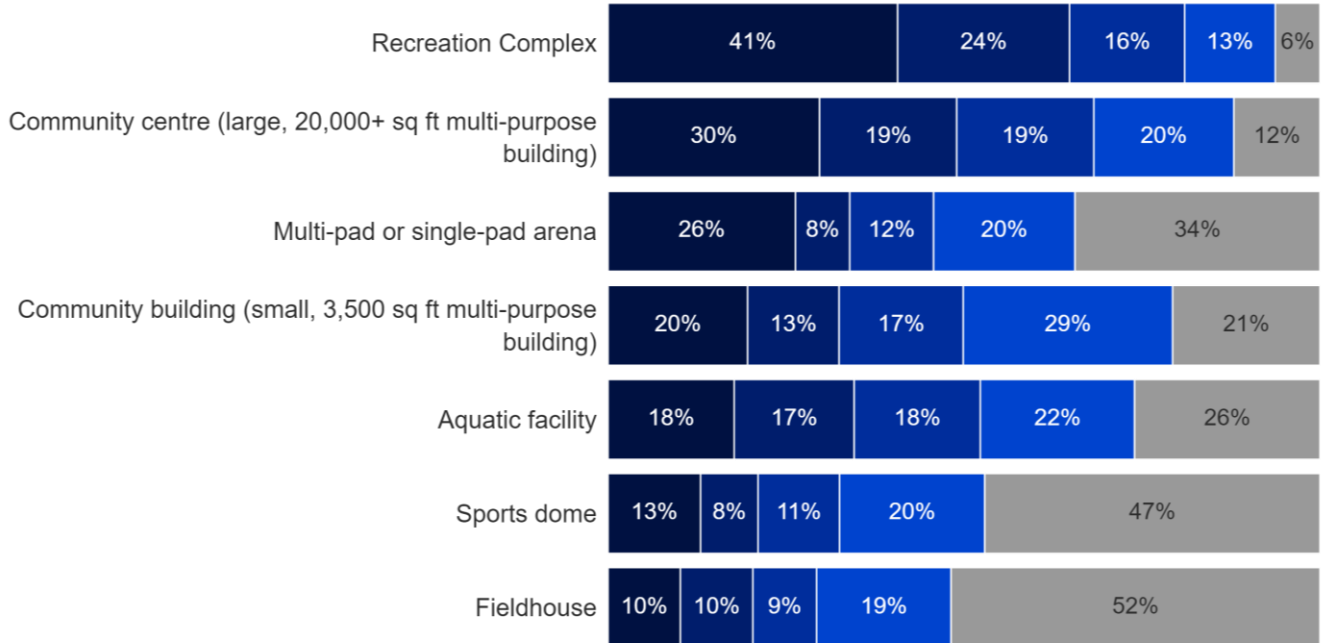
The most frequently used facilities among survey participants are recreational complexes (65% say they used them at least 11 times in a year). At the bottom of the graph, we find facilities such as sports domes and fieldhouses, used “frequently” (i.e., 11 times or more per year) by about 1 in 5 participants.

Analysis of differences by survey participant sub-groups indicate that seniors who responded to the survey are higher than average users of four of seven indoor facilities (recreation complex, community centre, multi-pad or single-pad arena, community building), with the three exceptions being aquatic facilities, sports domes and fieldhouses.

Exhibit 3: Survey Respondent Usage of Indoor Recreation Facilities
Sample size: n=413

Q. How many times in a typical year do you or members of your household visit the following:

Very Frequently (21+) | Frequently (11-20 times) | Occasionally (6-10 times) | Rarely (1-5) | Do not use



3.1.2 Outdoor Park and Facility Usage and Barriers

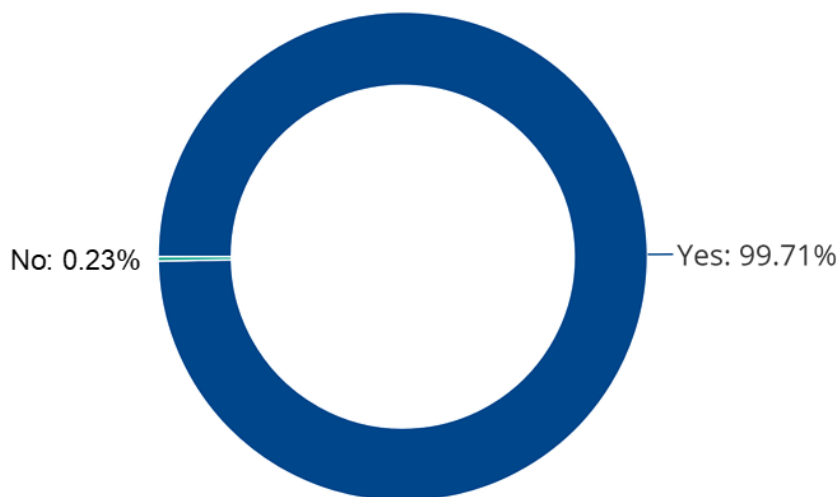
Parks

Nearly 100% of people who responded to the parks and outdoor recreation facilities survey reported using at least one of the six park types once a year or more often (see Exhibit 4).

Participants who indicated they did not use one of the types of parks at least once a year were asked to indicate why (from a list or by providing a written comment under “other”). Exhibit 4 presents the combined results across the six park types and reveals the main reasons for non-use of parks are lack of interest and distance/proximity. We note that accessibility barriers make up 3% of responses to this question.

Exhibit 4: Park Use and Barriers

Q. In a typical year, do you or members of your household visit [any of the parks]?
Sample size: n=1,384.

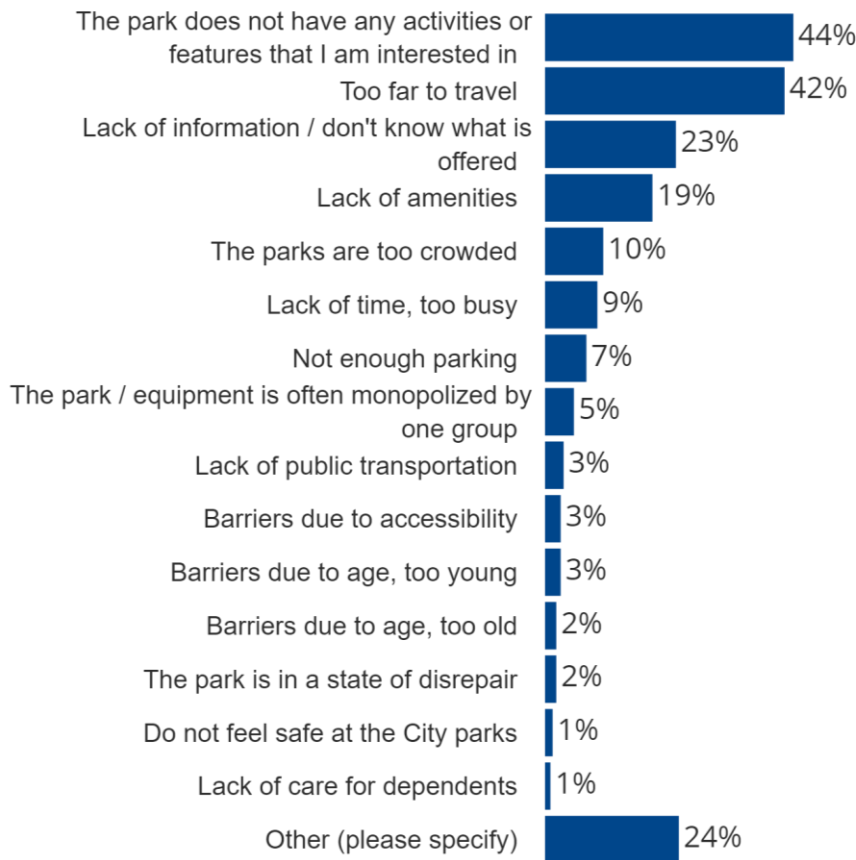


The parks usage questions were asked individually for each park type (neighbourhood, woodland, etc.). The chart above shows a summary where "Yes" represents using at least one

of the park types. The proportion of respondents who do use parks is less than half of one percent.

The parks barriers questions were asked individually. The chart below shows a summary where people selected a barrier for at least one of the parks. Survey respondents also had the opportunity to select “Other” and provide a write-in comment.

Q. Please check all the reasons why you or members of your household do not visit [any of the parks]? (Each barrier question was asked of those who said they do not use that type of park in a typical year.)
Sample size: n=770.

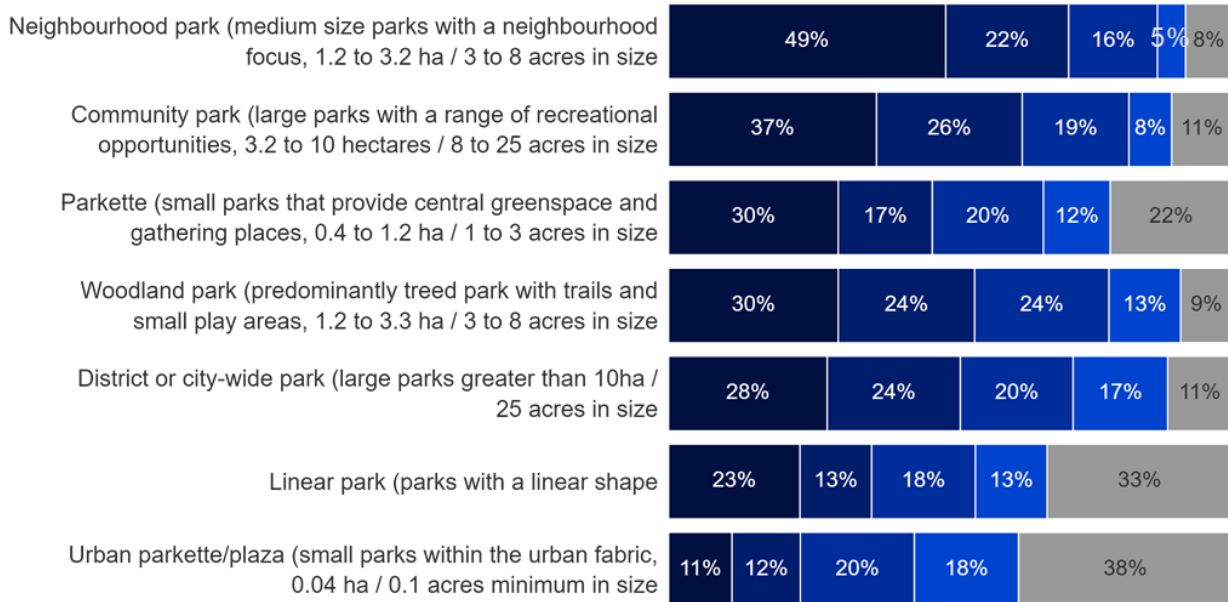


The survey also reveals that among survey participants the most frequently used types of parks are neighbourhood parks and community parks (see Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5: Survey Respondent Usage of Parks
Sample size: n=1,384

Q. How many times in a typical year do you or members of your household visit...

Very Frequently (21+) | Frequently (11-20 times) | Occasionally (6-10 times) | Rarely (1-5) | Do not use



Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Outdoor facilities usage questions were asked individually. Exhibit 6 shows a summary where "Yes" represents using at least one of the City's 23 types of outdoor facilities.

Consistent with findings on indoor facility and park usage, we see that almost everyone who responded to the survey (96%) makes use of one or more outdoor recreation facility types at least once a year. Main reasons for non-use across facility type (also presented in Exhibit 6) are lack of interest and lack of awareness, lack of facilities in the area (i.e., distance/proximity) and lack of information/awareness about what is available.

Exhibit 6: Outdoor Recreation Facility Use and Barriers

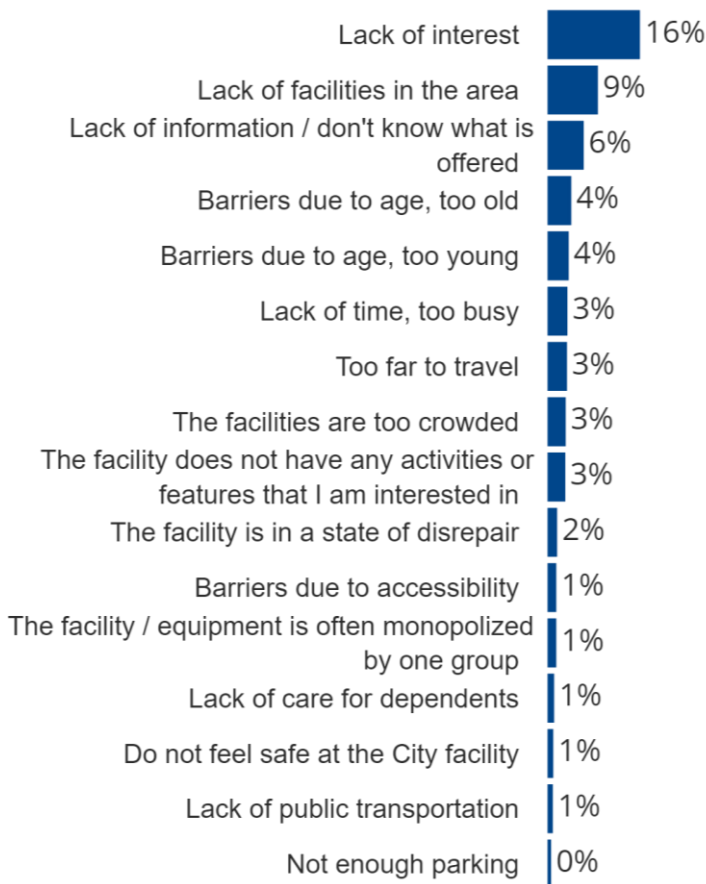
Q. In a typical year, do you or members of your household visit [any of the outdoor facilities]?

Sample size: n=1,384



Outdoor facilities barriers questions were asked individually. The chart below shows a summary where people selected a barrier for at least one of the outdoor facilities.

Q. If you do not visit or participate in any of the following outdoor facilities, please indicate why. (Each barrier question was asked of those who said they do not use that type of outdoor facility in a typical year.) (Sample size: n=1,384).



Among survey respondents, the most commonly and frequently used types of outdoor recreation facilities are:

- **Natural turf sports fields:** used at least once per year by 90%, and 11 or more times per year by 39%.
- **Picnic/shade shelter/seating:** used at least once per year by 80%, and 11 or more times per year by 34%.
- **Open fields for unstructured play:** used at least once per year by 73%, and 11 or more times per year by 39%.
- **Beaches:** used at least once per year by 70%, and 11 or more times per year by 23%.
- **Rinks:** used at least once per year by 67%, and 11 or more times per year by 28%.

Survey participants are least likely to use facilities for lawn bowling (5%), cricket (5%), horseshoes (5%), pickleball (10%) and skateboarding (17%).

3.2 Perceived Adequacy of the Number of Facilities (Indoor and Outdoor)

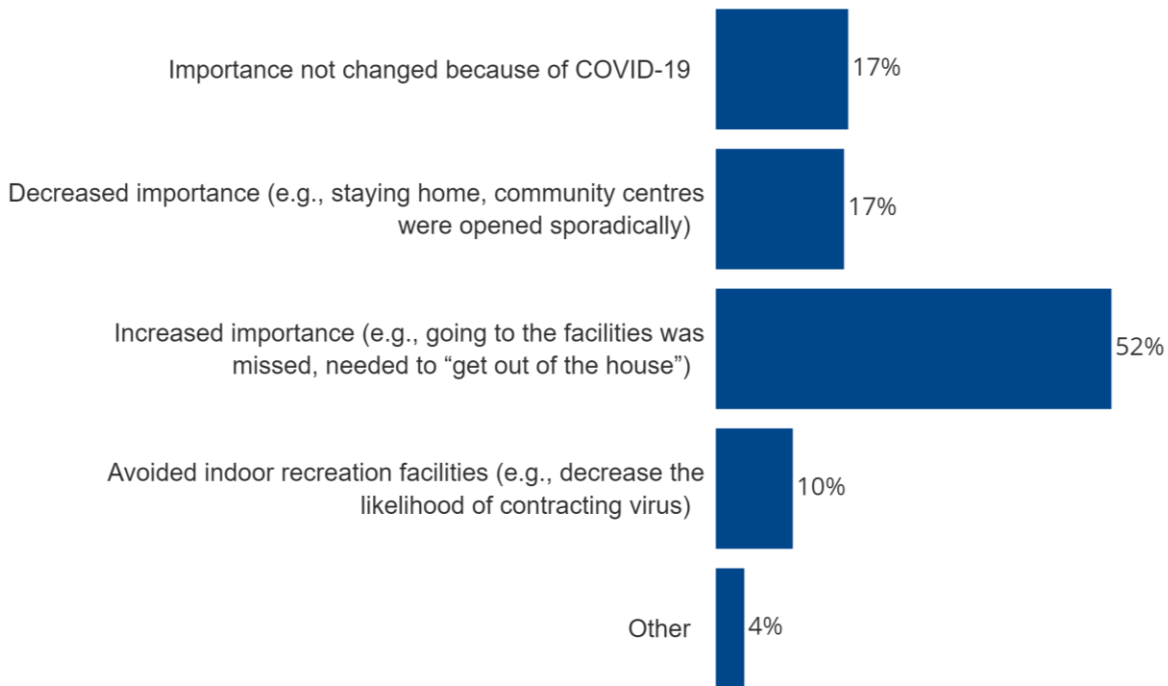
The indoor and outdoor facilities surveys asked participants for their input on the adequacy of the number of facilities. Both questionnaires also elicited opinions about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as opinions, preferences and suggestions about the future of recreational facilities and the development of the Master Plan.

3.2.1 The Impact of COVID-19

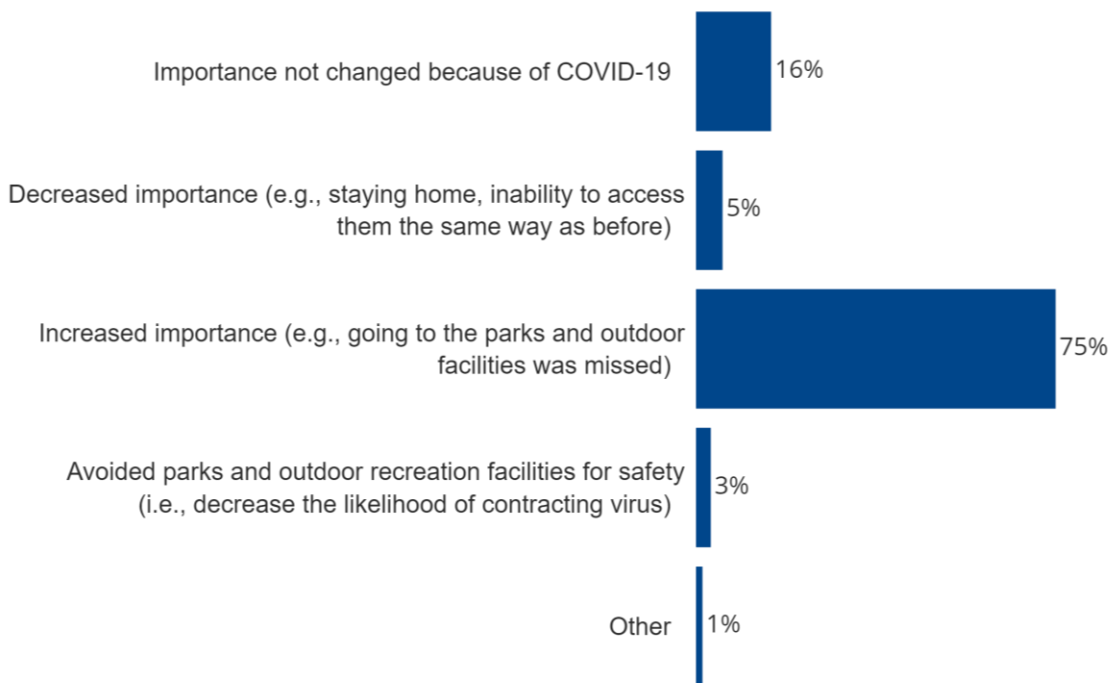
Most participants in both Round 1 surveys felt the pandemic served to increase the importance they (and members of their household) place on the City's parks and facilities. As shown in Exhibit 7, the proportion of participants who said parks and facilities became more important is several times greater than those who said the pandemic made these seem less important (52% to 17% for indoor facilities and 75% to 5% for parks and outdoor facilities). Note that these percentages are based on an analysis of comments to an open-ended question.

Exhibit 7: COVID-19’s Impact on Importance of Community Centres/Indoor Recreation Facilities and Parks/Outdoor Recreation Facilities
Sample size: n=547

Q. Did the COVID-19 pandemic change how important community centres or indoor recreation facilities were to you and your household?



Q. Did the COVID-19 pandemic change how important parks and outdoor recreation facilities were to you and your household? (Sample size: n=1,262).



Consultation Participant Quotes

"Covid 19 made us appreciate the availability of the facilities even more."

"Yes. They opened after the lockdowns allowing a place where indoor pickleball could be played, unlike the school gyms that never opened up for public use."

"Yes, these facilities are critical for ensuring physical, mental and social well-being, even if only a limited capacity of people can enter the facility."

3.2.2 The Adequacy of the Number of Facilities (Indoor and Outdoor)

As part of the initial two surveys, an open-ended question was used to understand the views of survey participants on the adequacy of the number of facilities and parks. The question also asked them to identify the “particular” type or types of facility they were referring to. The questions were worded as follows:

Park/Facility Type	Question Wording
Indoor recreation facilities	Please specify if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular indoor recreation facilities in your community.
Parks	Please specify if your household feels there are too many or too few of any of the following particular park type(s) in your community: District or city-wide park, Community park, Neighbourhood park, Parkette, Linear park, Urban park & Woodland park.
Outdoor recreation facilities	Please specify if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community.

Data analysis was based on the following approach:

- Each comment was read and then coded (or categorized) as indicating either “too many” or “too few” of a particular type of facility or park. While the above survey questions did not explicitly suggest “right amount” as a potential response, many participants indicated this, and thus it was included as a code.
- Some people wrote that they were unsure or had no opinion on the issue; these responses were coded as “Not sure/no opinion” across all park/facility types.
- Blanks (i.e., where nothing was written) were not included in the calculation of results.
- Many participants did not specify a particular facility or park in their comment, for example: “Ottawa needs more parks,” or “We don’t have enough facilities around here.” In such instances (i.e., a general statement about a number being too low), the response was coded as indicating there were too few of all parks/facility types. The same was done for comments indicating there was the right amount of parks/facility without specifying a particular type: “I think the number is about right.” No one said there were too many parks/facilities without specifying a type.

The results of the analysis are presented in Exhibits 8, 9 and 10. In considering the results, it is important to remember the consultation was conducted at a time when COVID-19 public health measures limited or prohibited certain indoor activities.

The following results are noteworthy:

- Overall, survey respondents were much more likely to indicate there are too few facilities rather than too many or the right amount.
- Among Ottawa’s indoor facilities, gymnasium-type facilities stand out as being too few.
- Among the City’s park types, woodland parks stand out as being too few.
- Among outdoor recreation facilities, skateboard/BMX/mountain bike facilities were more likely to be judged as being too few.

Exhibit 8: Perception about the Number of Indoor Recreation Facilities in the Community (Open-ended) Sample size: n=505

Q. Please specify if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular indoor recreation facilities in your community.

Facility Type	Right amount	Too few	Too many	Other	Not sure/ No opinion
Recreation complexes	10%	35%	1%	2%	52%
Community centres and community buildings	10%	30%	0%	1%	59%
Gymnasiums – and any/all activities that can occur here	10%	53%	0%	1%	35%
Indoor pool	10%	32%	0%	1%	56%
Indoor arena or ice pads	10%	28%	0%	2%	60%
Other (this may include outdoor facilities or rec types that the city doesn't currently support)	10%	31%	0%	1%	57%

Exhibit 9: Perceptions about the Number of Outdoor Park types in the Community (Open-ended) Sample size: n=867

Q. Please specify if your household feels there are too many or too few of any of the following particular park type(s) in your community.

Park Type	Right amount	Too few	Too many	Other	Not sure/ No opinion
Woodland park	20%	43%	0%	2%	34%
Community park	20%	28%	0%	2%	49%
Neighbourhood park	20%	28%	0%	3%	48%
Parkette	20%	26%	1%	2%	51%
District or city-wide park	19%	28%	0%	3%	49%
Linear park	19%	25%	0%	2%	52%
Urban park	19%	26%	0%	2%	52%

Exhibit 10: Perceptions about the Number of Outdoor Recreation Facility types in the Community (Open-ended) Sample size: n=941

Q. Please specify if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community.

Facility Type	Right amount	Too few	Too many	Other	Not sure/ No opinion
Wading pools	9%	14%	0%	0%	77%
Outdoor Basketball courts	9%	14%	0%	0%	77%
Outdoor Volleyball courts	9%	14%	0%	0%	77%
Outdoor pools	8%	18%	0%	1%	73%
Splash pads	8%	17%	0%	0%	74%
Outdoor ice rinks	8%	15%	0%	0%	77%
Outdoor artificial turf and natural grass fields	8%	17%	1%	0%	74%
Ball Diamonds	8%	15%	1%	0%	76%
Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Courts	8%	19%	0%	0%	72%
Cricket pitches	8%	11%	0%	0%	80%
Playgrounds	8%	13%	0%	0%	78%
Dog parks	8%	18%	1%	1%	72%
Skateboard, BMX, Mountain Bike	8%	27%	0%	0%	64%

The input received from participants in the virtual stakeholder consultations held in February 2021 echo the survey results. Many individuals and sports organizations said there are not enough recreational complexes and parks in their area to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population. Ice time, for example, was described as difficult to access due to strong demand. In a similar vein, competition for access to facilities was said to be greatest after school and work hours, essentially the time when families can do activities together. Many participants said the City’s “downtown” or inner-city areas need expanded and/or additional recreational facilities.

Gymnasium space, particularly for basketball, was often said to be in short supply, with some participants seeing an equity dimension to this issue as basketball tends to be very popular among racialized and immigrant youth.

Some virtual participant comments indirectly addressed the question of park and facility numbers. Examples include suggestions for making the most of existing facilities by upgrading them to extend their use (e.g., lit ball diamonds, use of artificial turf, and creating more multiple-use facilities). It is important to note, however, that other participants did not agree with some of these suggestions (e.g., artificial turf is not environmentally friendly and some pickleball players prefer to have their own courts).

Consultation Participant Quotes

“Other cities have large, multi-court facilities that allow kids to play and practise basketball without being reliant on school facilities. Ottawa desperately needs to build such a facility.”

“Equity of access regardless of income, gender, and other human rights factors.”

“The specific addition of facilities to address the cycling community, such as an indoor velodrome, another BMX or MTB park like the one at Carlington Park, would go a long way to helping develop useful lifelong skills as well as improve the health of Ottawa citizens, young and old.”

3.2.3 Opinions, Preferences, and Suggestions for the Development of the Master Plan

The initial round of the Master Plan consultation included several opportunities for stakeholders to express their opinions, preferences and suggestions to the City for developing the Master Plan. This feedback is summarized below.

The community centres and indoor facilities survey included eight broad attitudinal questions (see Exhibit 11), while the survey on parks and outdoor facilities had 10 such questions (see Exhibit 12). Result highlights are as follows:

- **Quality and Number:** Satisfaction is highest when it comes to the number and quality of parks (about 1 in 2 participants express satisfaction) and lowest with respect to the number and quality of community centres and indoor recreation facilities (about 1 in 3). (Ward 10: Gloucester-Southgate expressed higher levels of satisfaction.) Views on the number and quality of outdoor recreation facilities are somewhere in the middle (about 2 in 5 are satisfied).
- **Proximity and Transportation:** In both surveys, a strong majority (about 3 in 4) said that their household was willing to travel outside of their neighbourhood to go to a larger park/centre/facility. Other results, however, indicate most participants (69% for indoor facilities and 80% for parks and outdoor facilities) also feel it is important for members of their household to be able to walk, cycle or use a mobility device to get to the centre and facilities they use. Close to half (43% for indoor facilities and 41% for parks and outdoor facilities) say it is important for members of their household to be able to commute to centres and facilities by public transportation. Participants between 25 and 44 years of age are more likely to place importance on using means other than an automobile to get to the centres and facilities they use.

Taken together, these results show that survey participants want community centres and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities to be located relatively close to where they live but don't expect all manner of facilities (i.e., larger ones) to be close to where they live. This finding was echoed in virtual sessions.

- Rebuilding and Renovating:** A strong three-quarter majority of indoor recreation survey participants believe the City should renovate older community centres and indoor recreation facilities. In contrast, only 50% say these centres and facilities should be rebuilt “even if it means moving them to a different location,” with 19% disagreeing (participants living in Ward 6: Stittsville-Kanata West were more likely to disagree). In summary, it seems participants want updated centres and facilities, but some have concerns about where these might be moved to if rebuilding requires a change of location.
- High Performance Training Facilities:** There is support for seeing the City invest in indoor facilities for “competitive high-level athletes.” Views are divided, however, on whether the City should invest money in outdoor facilities with these athletes in mind.

Exhibit 11: Perceptions and Suggestions Pertaining to Community Centres and Indoor Recreation Facilities

Sample size: n=600

Q. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements on City of Ottawa community centres or indoor recreation facilities.

5 – Strong Agree | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 – Strongly disagree | Do not use

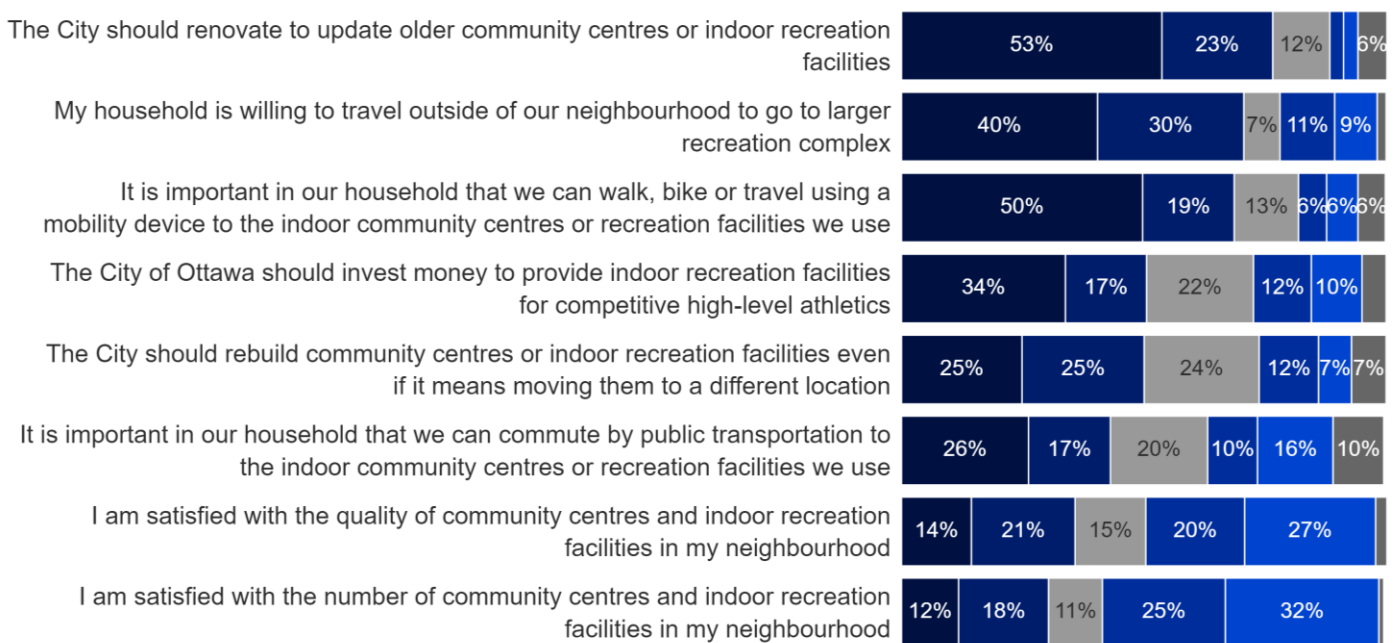
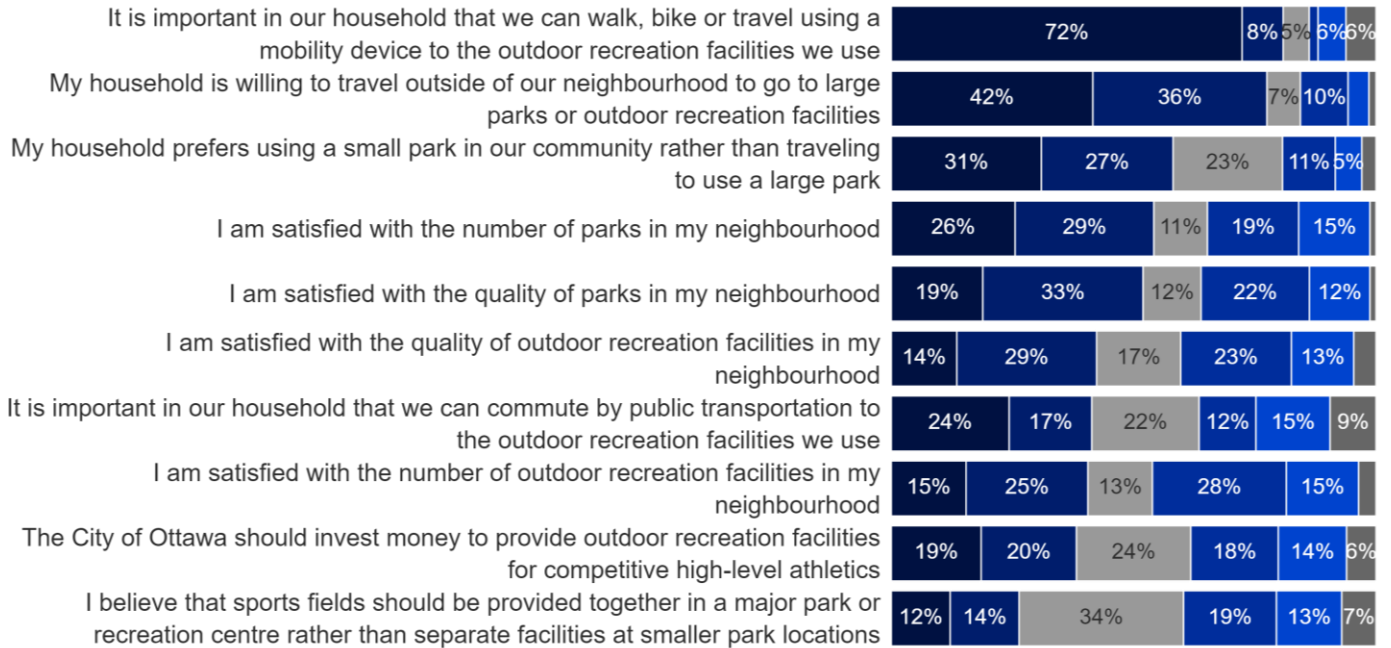


Exhibit 12: Perceptions and Suggestions Pertaining to Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Sample size: n=1,384

Q. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements on City of Ottawa parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

5 – Strong Agree | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 – Strongly disagree | Do not use



As noted earlier in this report, many individuals and several community associations in the virtual consultations expressed concern about the difficulty they could have accessing recreational facilities, particularly in the urban parts of the city. Looking to 2031 given current trends, many worried that a growing population, demand for housing and the City’s commitment to intensification as described in the 2020 Draft Official Plan would place a great deal of pressure on existing urban parks, community centres and recreation facilities.

The notion of “diversification” surfaced several times in the virtual sessions. Many participants suggested there should be “more to do” at facilities, including for all age ranges. In the eyes of some, meeting this need would require a greater number of, or at least expanded, facilities.

Consultation Participant Quotes

“Tennis court facilities can be used for a variety of other purposes in a dome - most noticeable pickleball but also badminton, table tennis and a variety of other activities that require large, flat spaces such as lawn (carpet) bowling .”

“There is significant intensification planned, but facilities with most programming are in the suburbs. Without ... adding facilities like indoor pools and libraries, people will still rely on cars to get to their recreation.”

“The City should be setting aside funds to acquire lands within the urban area to convert to parks. Keep parks a priority as intensification happens.”

4. Round 2 Consultation Results

4.1 Feedback on Proposed Master Plan Targets

The input received in the Round 1 of public and stakeholder consultation was reviewed by the City and considered in the development of Master Plan targets. A second round of consultations was implemented to obtain feedback on these proposed targets across all types of parks, and indoor and outdoor facilities.

Round 2 feedback summarized in this section was obtained through a French and English online survey and six virtual sessions with members of the public and stakeholder groups (e.g., community and sports associations). Additional meetings were held in Round 2 with equity deserving groups, and follow-up meetings with staff Technical Advisory Committee, school boards, Colleges and Universities and the National Capital Commission. Please see section 6.1.2 for a summary of these findings.

The survey design was straightforward: participants were asked a set of 24 closed-ended questions, with each describing the current per capita number of parks/recreational facilities and the recommended target for 2031, using the same per-capita formulation. Survey participants could either “agree” with a recommendation or indicate that the target should be increased or decreased. There was also a “no opinion” option.

Participants in the virtual sessions were asked to provide feedback to the same survey questions and also had the opportunity to provide verbal input and written comments through the sessions’ “chat” function.

4.1.1 Aggregated Survey Results

Analysis reveals that, overall, the views of online survey participants are very similar to those who attended a virtual session. There is consistency with respect to the recommendations they most agree with, as well as where the two groups believe there should be more than what is proposed and where there should be less. It is also worth noting that participants in the virtual sessions were more likely to select “no opinion” than their online survey counterparts.

Exhibit 13 presents the combined (or aggregated) results from the online survey and virtual session survey using the same core questions.

Exhibit 13: Feedback on Draft Target Recommendations

Sample size: n=609 (includes virtual session participants who completed the survey questionnaire)

Category	Agree	Should be More	Should be Fewer	No Opinion
Playgrounds	65%	19%	6%	9%
Grass Sports Fields	65%	16%	7%	10%
Outdoor Ice Rinks	62%	16%	12%	9%
Large and Small parks	62%	28%	2%	7%
Outdoor Fitness Equipment areas	58%	21%	10%	9%
Skateboard Parks	57%	14%	9%	18%
Outdoor full-sized Basketball Courts	57%	22%	9%	11%
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	57%	13%	12%	16%
BMX and Mountain Bike parks	57%	10%	13%	17%
Indoor Ice Pads	56%	21%	11%	11%
Splash Pads	56%	23%	10%	10%
Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields	55%	13%	15%	16%
Community Centres and Community Buildings	54%	33%	5%	6%
Wading pools	54%	29%	4%	13%
Tennis Courts	54%	15%	19%	10%
Indoor Aquatic Facilities	52%	34%	3%	9%
Supervised Beaches	50%	39%	0%	10%
Ball Diamonds	50%	10%	24%	15%
Cricket Pitches	49%	7%	19%	25%
Fenced Off-leash dog parks	46%	26%	11%	16%
Pickleball Courts	43%	19%	20%	15%
Outdoor Deep-Water Pools	40%	44%	2%	13%
Recreation Complexes	36%	57%	2%	4%
Active Municipal Parkland	30%	59%	2%	7%

We note there is majority support (51% or more) for the proposed recommendations with respect to 16 of 24 facility/park types. This increases to 21 of 24 when the analysis includes only those who have an opinion, with four park/facility targets receiving more than 70% agreement: BMX and mountain bike parks (71%), skateboard parks (71%), playgrounds (72%) and grass sports fields (74%)

Three facility types stand-out as having the largest gap between the proportion who agree with the recommendation and the proportion who feel there should be “more” (i.e., the largest gaps):

- **Active Municipal Parkland**, where 30% agreed with the recommendation, but 61% felt there should be more.
- **Recreation Complexes**, where 39% agreed with the recommendation, but 55% felt there should be more.
- **Outdoor Deep-Water Pools**, where 41% agreed with the recommendation, but 44% felt there should be more.

Other categories where there were notably high levels of support for going beyond the recommendations were:

- **Supervised Beaches** (38% should be more)
- Indoor Aquatic Facilities (32% should be more)
- Community Centres and Community Buildings (31% should be more)
- **Large and Small Parks** (28% should be more)
- **Wading pools** (28% should be more)

Two categories stand out for having the largest gap between the proportion who agree with the recommendation and the proportion who feel the target should be lower:

- **Ball Diamonds**, where 50% agreed with the recommendation, 25% felt there should be fewer and 15% had no opinion.
- **Cricket Pitches**, where 49% agreed with the recommendation, 21% felt there should be fewer and 25% had no opinion.

Given the prominence of comments about pickleball in the virtual sessions and responses to open-ended survey questions, it is worth highlighting that a plurality of Round 2 participants agreed with the pickleball target recommendation (42%), while most other points of view were divided between those who felt the target is too high (20%) and those who felt it is too low (19%).

Virtual Session Input Shed Light on Rationale

Analysis of the verbal and written comments provided at the virtual sessions sheds light on some of the rationale behind the quantitative ratings displayed in Exhibit 13.

Some of the calls for “more” facilities may reflect the desire of some community members to see “different” facilities – ones that reflect recent growth in activities and sports, such as pickleball, lacrosse, Gaelic football, disk golf and other sports. Similarly, several participants spoke of the importance of having the City’s parks and recreation facilities reflect Ottawa’s growing diversity, indicating that consultation participants want to see themselves and their community reflected in the Master Plan.

Facilities and parks that can be used by a much wider array of population segments are seen as particularly valuable. Similarly, multi-purpose facilities were identified as key to meeting growing demand. A virtual participant wrote “The Jim Tubman outdoor rink is used for ringette hockey and recreational public skating. It is then used in the summer for basketball, rollerblading ball hockey and exercise classes. These approaches seem particularly wise as they enable a lot of different uses.”

It seems reasonable to conclude that participants who feel there should be “more” of a particular facility or park are basing their judgement on personal experience (e.g., crowded facilities, difficulty gaining access/booking times): “Ours [Plant Bath] is always overbooked and people come from four neighbouring wards, so we need more.”

Some expect climate change will mean shorter winters and thus more reliance on indoor rinks: “As winters get shorter with climate changes that are coming there may be a need to adjust this over 10 years to include more indoor ice rinks and not "hope" for outdoor rinks.”

4.1.2 Equity deserving groups, staff Technical Advisory Committee, School Boards, Colleges and Universities and the National Capital Commission.

To improve participation from equity deserving groups, one-on-one consultation sessions were held with city staff specializing in equity and inclusion (such as the Accessibility Office and Anti-Racism Specialist). Consultations were also held with community agencies that work with residents who identify with many intersections, such as First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, people living with disabilities, people living in poverty, racialized people, newcomers, older adults, 2SLGBTQIA+⁴, women and youth. Consultation feedback was also analyzed by subgroup to see if there were differences in priorities or preferences between the subgroups.

Round 2 also included follow-up meetings and emails with staff Technical Advisory Committee, School Boards, Colleges and Universities, and the National Capital Commission.

4. Other Issues and Suggestions Raised in the Consultations

A significant amount of feedback was directly relevant to parks and recreation facilities, but beyond the scope of the Master Plan. This feedback is summarized below.

- **Maintenance and Repair⁵:** A frequent theme emerging from the consultations was that the City’s older parks and facilities need to be repaired, better maintained and/or expanded. This includes not just buildings, but grass fields, ball diamonds and other aspects.
- **Facility Design and Operations:** It bears repeating that several consultation participants suggested the City develop more multi-purpose facilities because the needs and interests of more people would be served, and it would allow (expensive) land to be used more efficiently. A variation of this would be to extend facility use through expanded seasons or hours of operation.
- **Programming:** Consistent with the above recommendation regarding multi-purpose facilities, several participants suggested that, where possible, facility amenities should be increased and/or diversified (e.g., adding outdoor fitness facilities, lawn bowling, playgrounds). Similarly, some suggested programming be expanded so there is “more to do” at the City’s parks and facilities for all ages ranges and abilities.
- **Transportation and Access:** Both the Round 1 survey results and the views expressed in both rounds of virtual sessions reveal the value participants place on having the opportunity to walk to a park or recreational facility, which is consistent with the *raison d’être* of parks and recreation facilities. It is also important to recall that most survey participants indicated a willingness to travel by car or transit to access “large” facilities (i.e., those offering more specialized services and amenities). In short, we see a desire to be able to walk to core/basic facilities, along with a willingness to travel further to access more specialized programs and facilities.

It is also important to note that several participants cautioned that parks and recreation facilities must also be able to accommodate vehicles. This includes people with mobility

⁴ Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans/Transgender, Queer (or Questioning), Intersex, Asexual and others who use different terms for their gender identities, expression or sexual orientation

⁵ Issues of facility maintenance and repair fall under the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and will be addressed within it.

impairments who need to drive, certain older participants, people transporting equipment (e.g., hockey bags and soccer nets) and people transporting a group of children or who are carpooling. It also includes people who travel significant distances to access a specific program or amenity (e.g., swimming lessons).

- **Indoor Gymnasium Facilities:** Most of the gymnasiums in Ottawa are owned by school boards. Nevertheless, it is important to note that in both the Round 1 survey (see Exhibit 8) and the virtual sessions, many participants expressed a desire to have more indoor facilities in which to play sport such as basketball: “Basketball in the West End is hugely popular among youth. Existing recreation centres are very busy, it’s tough for basketball associations to get prime time....”

5. Thank-you and Next Steps

Thank-you to everyone who contributed their experience, thoughts, ideas and time to the development of this Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan.

City Staff will work to identify opportunities for new parkland and recreation facilities as recommended in the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan. The Plan and its recommendations will also be used to inform upcoming projects, processes and strategies, including but not limited to: Community Benefits Charge Strategy, decision making with regard to future one-time funding (e.g., Federal Stimulus Funding) and other discretionary funding, and the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP).

6. Appendix A: Consultation themes and how this feedback was considered in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Feedback	Response to Feedback
Indoor gymnasiums missing from the needs assessments and service levels	Added a section for indoor gymnasiums and recommended a service level, as was done for other facility or amenity types.
There is a lack of access to gymnasiums, in particular because most gyms are school owned and controlled.	The Plan now includes a needs assessment for gymnasiums. Municipal gymnasiums are fully in the City’s control and are used to provide programming to a variety of users and sports programs (e.g., basketball, floor hockey, badminton, pickleball, fitness programs, summer camps, martial arts). The City also has long-term agreements with school boards for the use of certain specific gyms. Where there is an agreement, the City can control some of the booking hours of the gym and offer City programs and services there. The school boards also offer the public access to gyms via “community use of schools.” This program is administered by each of the Boards with different processes and priorities for community access. The City accesses schools to offer its own community programs through reciprocal use agreements with each Board.
Desire to see more in the Plan about 15-minute neighbourhoods	The 22 facility types in the Plan vary in scale. Facilities such as recreation centres, mountain bike parks, skateboard parks, beaches, arenas and sites with multiple sports fields serve a wide catchment area and draw users from beyond the neighbourhood in which they are located. Other facility types such as playgrounds and splash pads serve users within a much more localized area. This Master Plan recognizes that larger facility types, of citywide appeal, are located as advantageously as possible and consider ease of access by all residents.
Residents from gender groups need to be visually represented in City’s materials.	The final Plan once approved by Council will have images added that are more representative of the city we serve, including more gender groups.
Interest in maximizing evening play hours with basketball, tennis and pickleball court lighting.	Added to the plan, strategy statements like “to review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new courts to expand the hours of use.”

Feedback	Response to Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to smudge in City facilities • Ability to hold a sacred fire on city land • Access to land for ceremony such as a sweat lodge • A city recreation centre that particularly highlights Indigenous culture and hosts cultural programming for Indigenous and non-Indigenous community • Indigenous art in the lobby or public space of all city facilities • Use of Indigenous language in naming rooms • Land acknowledgement statement posted 	<p>The City is working on a smudging policy including how to adapt building safety design features, provide solutions in new buildings and adaptations for existing buildings.</p> <p>The City is exploring locations for Healing Circles along its natural waterways.</p> <p>The City of Ottawa is developing a municipal commemoration policy to guide commemorative programs and activities in our city. Indigenous commemoration and naming are included as cultural actions within the Council approved Reconciliation Action Plan.</p> <p>The City's Public Art team continues to engage with Indigenous community members as well as via directed Public Art process seeking Indigenous artists for City sites.</p>
<p>First Nations and Inuit participants highlighted need for spaces to hold event / gatherings for large community groups to be connected, and multi-purpose spaces and sports fields for games and cultural activities.</p>	<p>Any new recreation facilities would meet the Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards that ensure sizes for gymnasiums that could hold indoor events, sports fields where traditional games could be played and multi-purpose rooms for games or Indigenous cultural activities.</p>
<p>Suggestions to improve consultation including improved engagement with Indigenous peoples and equity deserving groups.</p>	<p>Suggestions added to lessons learned report for staff and information relayed to project management office to continue to improve future consultations.</p> <p>Including following the recommendations from the City of Ottawa – Algonquin Anishinabe Nation Consultative Culture Circle and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for a First Nations, Inuit and Metis engagement framework that are both being developed at the time of this Plan's printing.</p>
<p>Offer 1-pager summaries of key information for the public on large master plans</p>	<p>In advance of committee and council, 1-pagers were created for key parts of the Plan to help residents better understand the Plan recommendations.</p>
<p>Need to compare recreation complexes and community centres based on size not just total number.</p>	<p>A comparison of available space measured in square metres was added to the Recreation Complexes' and Community Centres' needs assessments.</p>
<p>Where are fieldhouses accounted for in the Plan?</p>	<p>Fieldhouses were not included in the first draft. Fieldhouses have been mapped under the Community Centre and Building needs assessment in the final draft.</p>
<p>Indoor aquatic facilities vary across the city; need to be clearer about differences.</p>	<p>The final draft includes a description of some of the many differences in indoor aquatic facilities.</p>

Feedback	Response to Feedback
Residents or organizations identified errors in the draft Plan.	<p>Unintentional errors in the draft Plan have been fixed, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps and provision-level tables • Some Community Centres were counted twice (once as part of a Recreation Complex and again on their own) • Reclassifying some facilities to their correct type (for example, from recreation centre to community centre to better align with Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards)
Consider equity in the implementation of the Plan recommendations.	<p>Added Neighbourhood equity layer to maps in Appendix A to make it clearer where facility types are currently found and to assist in identifying gaps in neighbourhoods with strong equity concerns. Maps 2 and 3 show parkland per 1,000 residents and neighbourhoods with equity concerns. As opportunities arise, this helps identify possible locations for new parkland.</p>
Some language in the draft Plan needed to be further explained.	<p>There was confusion in the use of the word “equity.” There is now a clearer distinction between equity and geographic distribution or age of facilities. All gender references were removed unless specifically required.</p>
Looking for more wading pools, outdoor pools and supervised beaches.	<p>Multiple pieces of information were used to establish the recommended levels. These include existing and projected per-capita provision levels, municipal benchmarking data, data trends and utilization statistics, consultation feedback and staff knowledge and experience with parks and recreation facility planning.</p>
Need to plan for renewal and replacement of older facilities that do not meet current standards and have accessibility and gender barriers to use.	<p>The City has a program for the planned replacement of facilities that currently invests \$6M in parks and \$22.8M in recreation facilities annually. Updated planning for renewal and replacement of older recreation facilities is part of the Recreation Asset Management Plan, which is expected to be completed by Q3 2024.</p>
Recommendation that the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and the implementation of the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan be done together to renew aging facilities at the same time as building new parks and facilities.	<p>RCFS⁶ staff will work with the RAMP project team during the implementation of the Plan recommendations to have shared knowledge of upcoming renewal and replacement projects in the service area.</p>
Desire for higher provision level for indoor aquatic facilities, community centres and community buildings.	<p>Multiple pieces of information were used to establish the recommended levels. These include existing and projected per-capita provision levels, municipal benchmarking data, data trends and utilization statistics, consultation feedback and staff knowledge and experience with parks and recreation facility planning.</p>

⁶ Recreational, Cultural and Facility Services

Feedback	Response to Feedback
Desire for more larger parks than smaller parks.	<p>The Plan recommends a transect level ratio of large to small parks at 1:5. It also recommends prioritizing the acquisition of large parks in transects where the ratio is higher than 1:5.</p> <p>The Plan recommends prioritizing the acquisition of large parks in transects where the ratio of large to small parks is higher than 1:5.</p>
Desire for needs assessments, analysis and recommendations to be at the neighbourhood level	<p>The draft Plan is a supporting document to the new Official Plan (OP), so it adopts the geographic transects of the new OP and uses the population data from the OP team. To identify and address recreation needs, the Plan needs reliable data (including existing and projected population) for analysis that follows the OP direction. The draft Plan is also a master plan; it is beyond the scope of this document to examine the neighbourhood scale. The Plan attempts to balance needs across the city. Should the draft Plan and its recommendations and strategies be approved by Committee and Council, further work will follow.</p>
Concerns that parks and recreation needs will not keep pace with or meet the needs of rapid population growth and the level of intensification permitted by the Official Plan (2021).	<p>New building/intensification will occur via the development review process, which follows a legislated path; if a development application is submitted, the City must consider it. RCFS has no ability to control the pace of development and intensification. Through the development review process, RCFS can collect parkland, Cash-in-lieu of Parkland, and Development Charges; and will continue to do so. The Plan proposes additional new strategies for parkland acquisition, which RCFS will work to implement, if the recommendations are adopted by Council.</p> <p>The Plan also recognizes that additional capacity at existing buildings and park may need to be added. Additionally, it states, “If the provision of new parkland and recreation facilities is to keep pace with population increases across the city, new parkland policies and strategies are required.” Section 7.2 then goes on to recommend strategies.</p>
The Plan does not address issues of facility age or function, the need for upgrades, replacement, repairs and renewals.	<p>Issues of life-cycle renewal will fall under the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP). This is expected to be initiated by staff in 2022.</p>
What is the guarantee that money will be available to implement the Plan?	<p>Section 7.3 of the Plan speaks to the primary methods of funding parks and recreation facilities. Section 8 notes the Plan will be used as a supporting document for the revised Development Charges By-law, where new facilities may be added to the list of funded projects for Council's consideration.</p>

Feedback	Response to Feedback
Desire to see the Parkland Dedication By-law and the CILP ⁷ policy revised as part of the Master Plan and/or to have a neighbourhood designated as a Special Status Area for 100% CILP dedication	The Plan recommends reviewing the Parkland Dedication By-law and the CILP Policy. The Plan does not make any changes to the By-law or Policy, nor does it suggest specific changes that should be made. Any changes that might be made to either the By-law or Policy will happen after a review and consultation process and with Council approval. It is also beyond the scope of the Plan to establish Special Administrative Areas.
General desire to see more emphasis/detail on the parks or recreation facilities of interest to respondent (individual, (community association) or sports organization). For example, desire to see a higher provision level target so that more facilities would be added citywide and/or to their neighbourhood, desire to see more resources allocated to the park/facility type they are interested in (e.g., more/new community centres, more dog parks, more court facilities).	Multiple pieces of information were used to establish the recommended provision levels. These include existing and projected per-capita provision levels, municipal benchmarking data, data trends and utilization statistics, consultation feedback and staff knowledge and experience with parks and recreation facility planning.
For sports not mentioned in the Plan, desire on the part of participants to be added to the document.	There are several specialized sports and facility installations that are not included in this document as they are unique opportunities and are above Recreation Culture and Facility Services' base citywide provision levels.
Desire to see the Plan and the Greenspace Master Plan merged as a single document.	The policies and legislation that affect both can be quite different; therefore, both documents will remain separate supporting plans to the Official Plan.
Lack of specificity on exactly how and where new parks will be located and what facilities will be available in them.	The Plan cannot predict which parcels of land may develop or redevelop over the next 10 years and generate new municipal parkland. For this reason, it cannot specify where and how big new parks may be. The locations of new parks and facilities will depend on opportunity as well as the distribution of existing facilities throughout the transect.
The Plan should provide more data and analysis.	Where we have been able to gather consistent, reliable usage data, we have incorporated it. For many facility types (e.g., splash pads, playgrounds), no user data is collected; for other facility types, user data paints only a partial picture (e.g., we may have user data for an outdoor tennis court when a program is run, but we do not capture community use of the court outside of the programmed use).

⁷ Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland

Feedback	Response to Feedback
Desire to see changes to existing park typologies or additions to park typologies.	The Plan does not propose park typologies and does not replace the Park Development Manual. The descriptions of the park typologies in Appendix B are drawn directly from the Council approved Park Development Manual. As the draft Master Plan is not a design document and does not set park typologies, any possible revisions to park typologies would come via revisions to the Park Development Manual.
Need to have more seating options that encourage community connection; not all benches should be alone and placed far away from each other.	The Plan is a high-level planning document, and seating options recommendations could be considered at the park design stage. This feedback will be used to inform amendments to the Park Development Manual.
Why is my sport or activity not included?	There are several specialized sports and facility installations that are not included in the Plan, as they are unique opportunities and are above Recreation Culture and Facility Services' base citywide provision levels.
There is a need for more public washrooms across the city.	Public toilets are not considered "parks and recreation facilities" themselves but are an amenity within our facilities, and our infrastructure standards do not include a category for stand-alone public toilets. However, public toilets are an important component of our recreation buildings (fieldhouse, community building, community centres, etc.); as such, we can increase the availability of public toilets as we build new recreation buildings that are staffed and/or maintained. The Master Plan will recommend that new recreation buildings be added.
There is a desire for more community gardens.	Community and Social Services Department is the City's lead for community gardens. Community gardens do not require special parkland designations, or capital facility investment. We work with CSSD to provide a garden amenity where it can be accommodated around active recreation pursuits.