



Town of Taber

Recreation Master Plan

Stakeholder and Public Review

December 11, 2019



Purpose of Today

- To share key research findings
- To present an overview of the draft Master Plan
- To inform you how to provide feedback

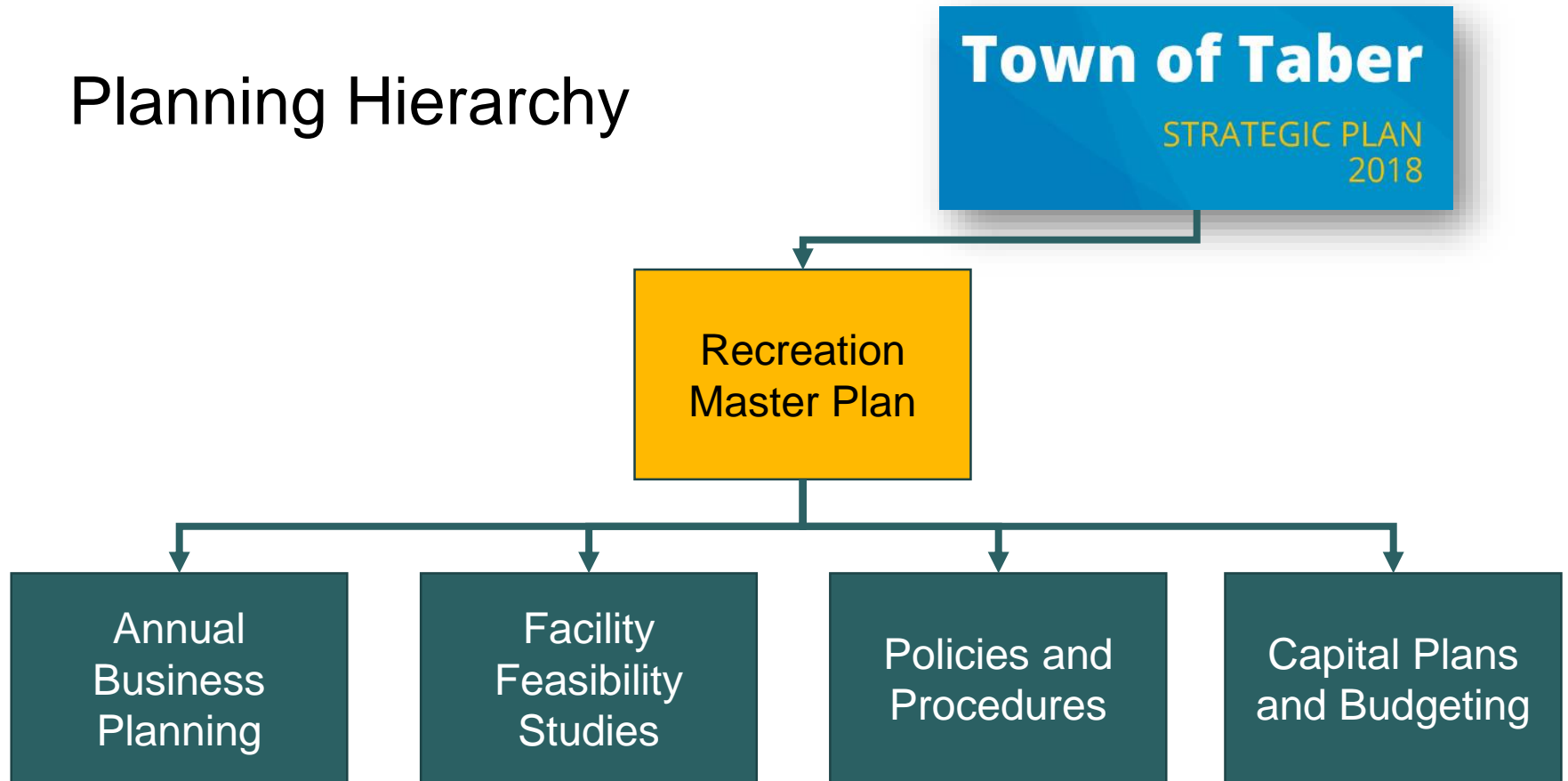


What is a Recreation Master Plan?

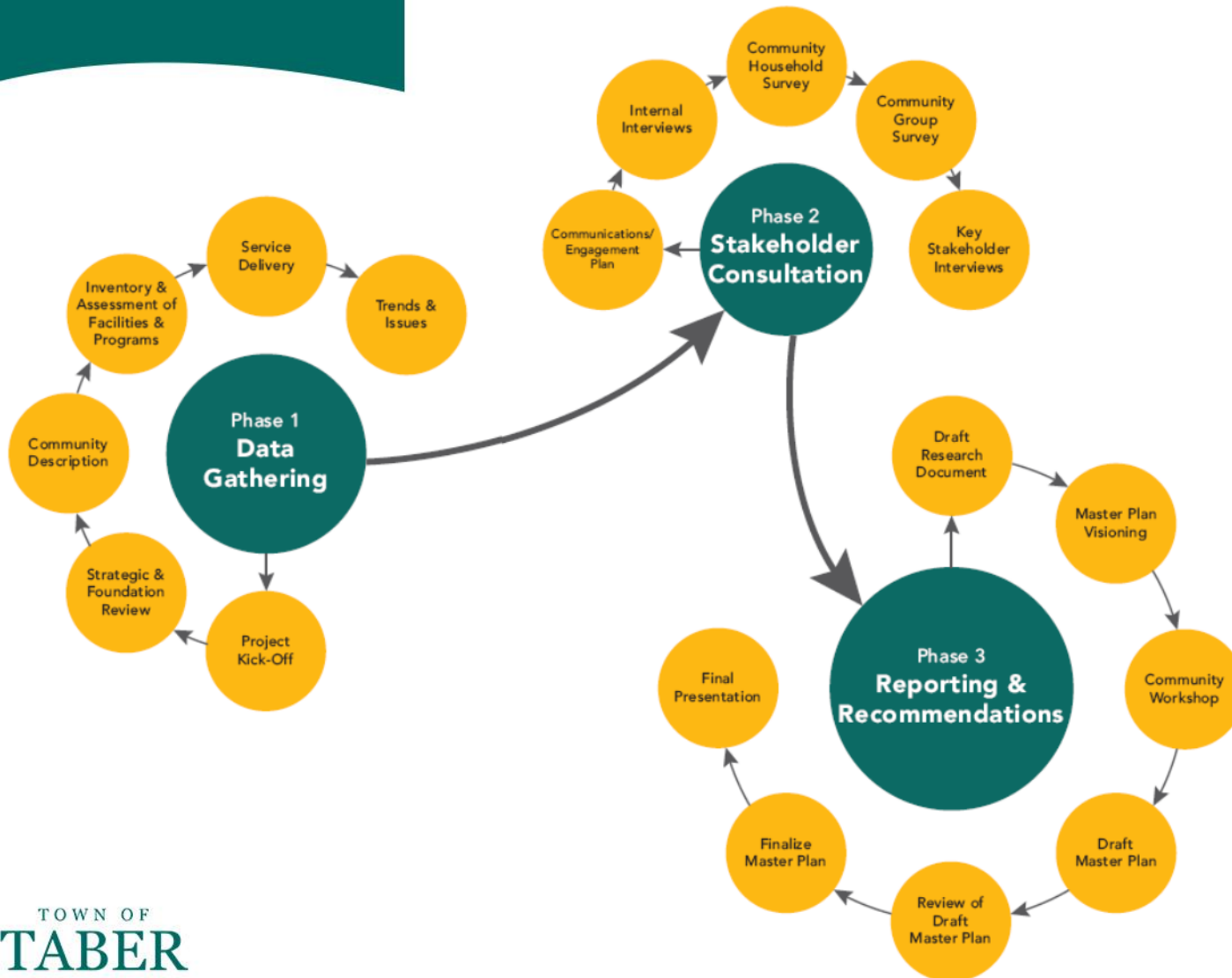
- High-level strategic plan for the Town's recreation department, Council, and the Recreation Board
- It should answer: Why do we provide recreation?
- Guides decision making
- Identifies priorities; provides direction

What is a Recreation Master Plan?

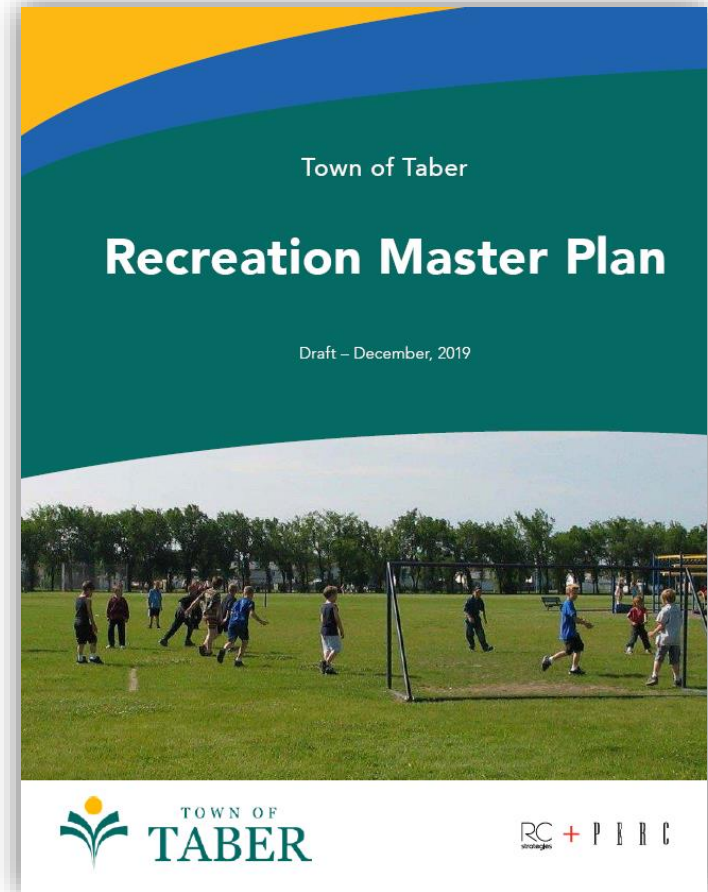
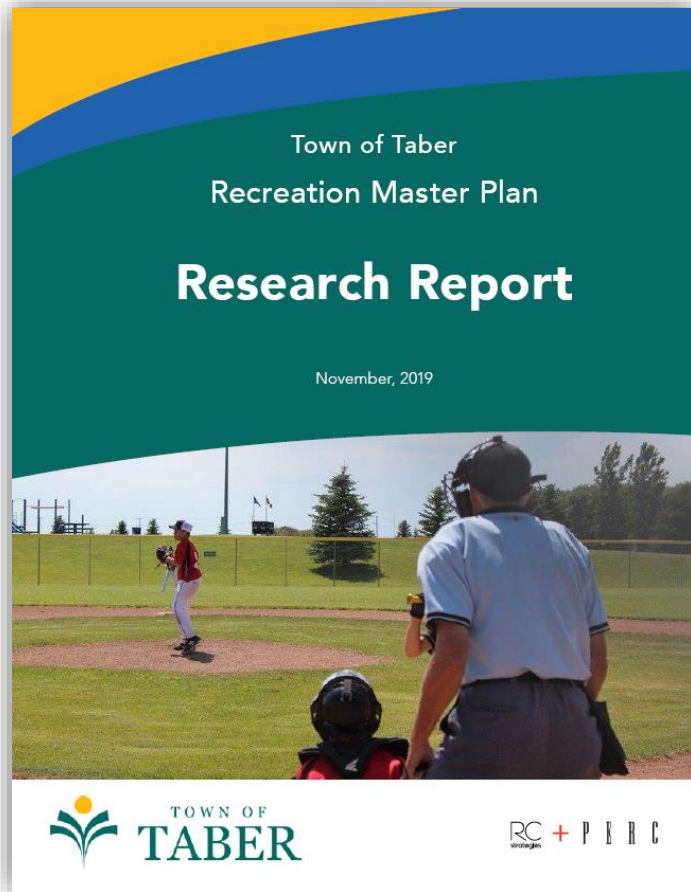
Planning Hierarchy



Planning Process



Planning Process





Research Report

Population and Demographics

- Population of 8,548 in 2016
- 4.0% growth since 2011 (provincial: 11.3%)
- Population could reach 15,000 by 2035 (MDP)
- Higher proportion of children and youth
- Higher proportion of seniors
- 7% speak a German language at home



Research Report

Planning Review

- Town of Taber Strategic Plan (2019)
- Town of Taber Municipal Development Plan (2016)
- Recreation Department Strategic Plan (2018)
- Small Ice Consultant Investigation (2017)
- Taber Multi-Plex Feasibility Study (2015)
- A Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)
- Active Alberta (2011)



Research Report

Facilities Analysis Report

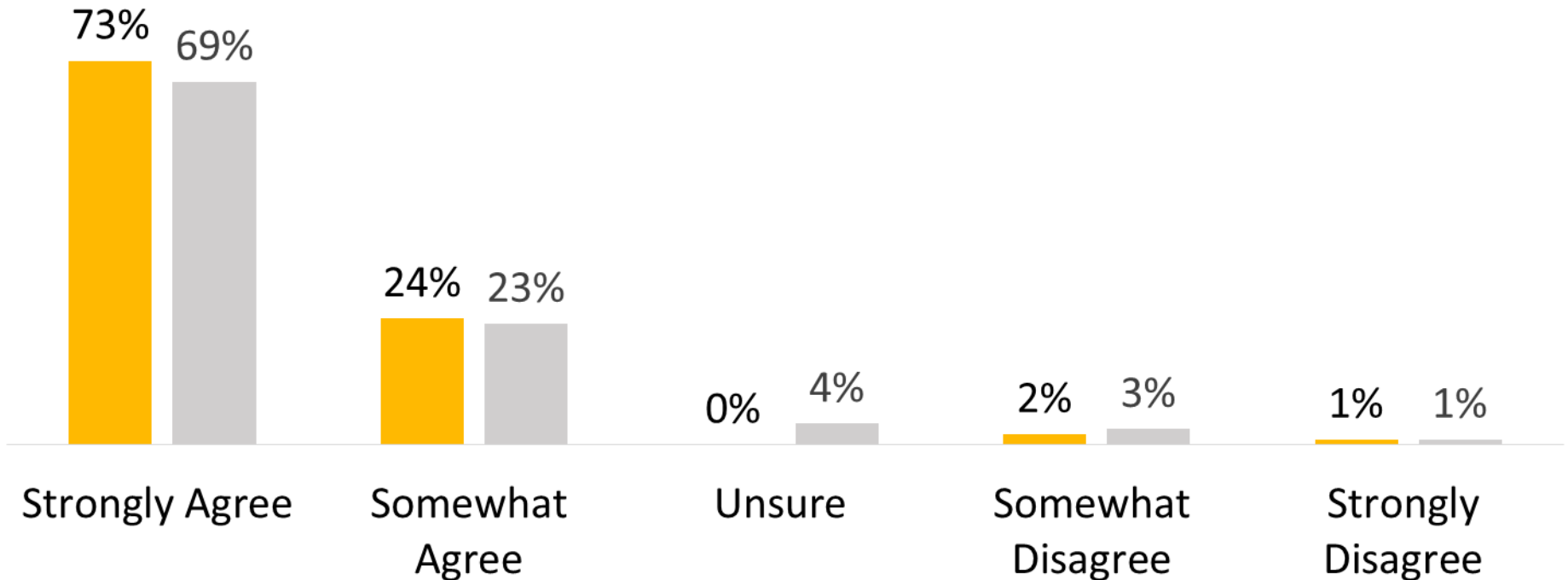
- Short term (0-5 years)
 - \$1,650,000
- Medium term (5-10 years)
 - \$2,395,000
- Long term (10+)
 - \$3,165,000

Research Report

Household Survey

■ Recreation services are very important to our quality of life.

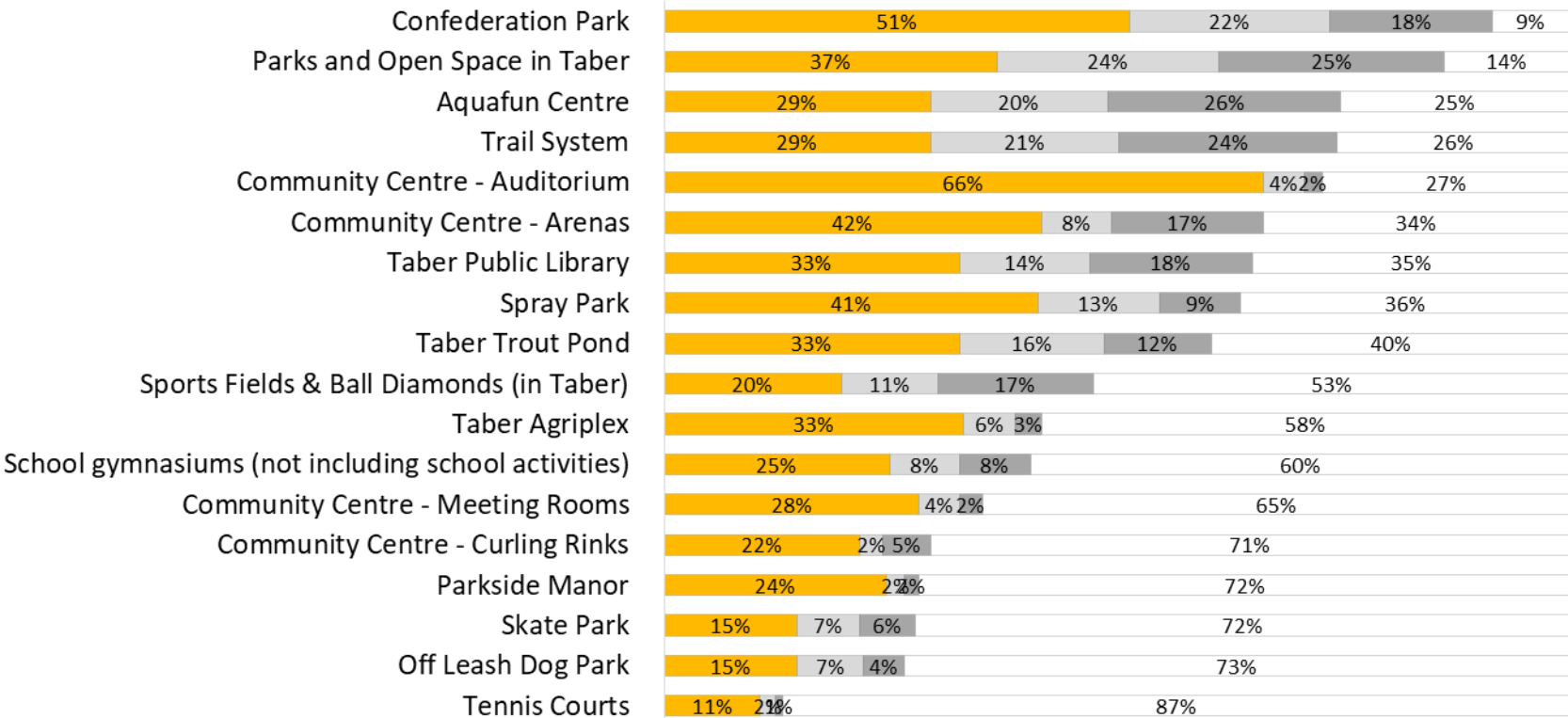
■ The Town should support local groups that deliver recreation opportunities.



Research Report

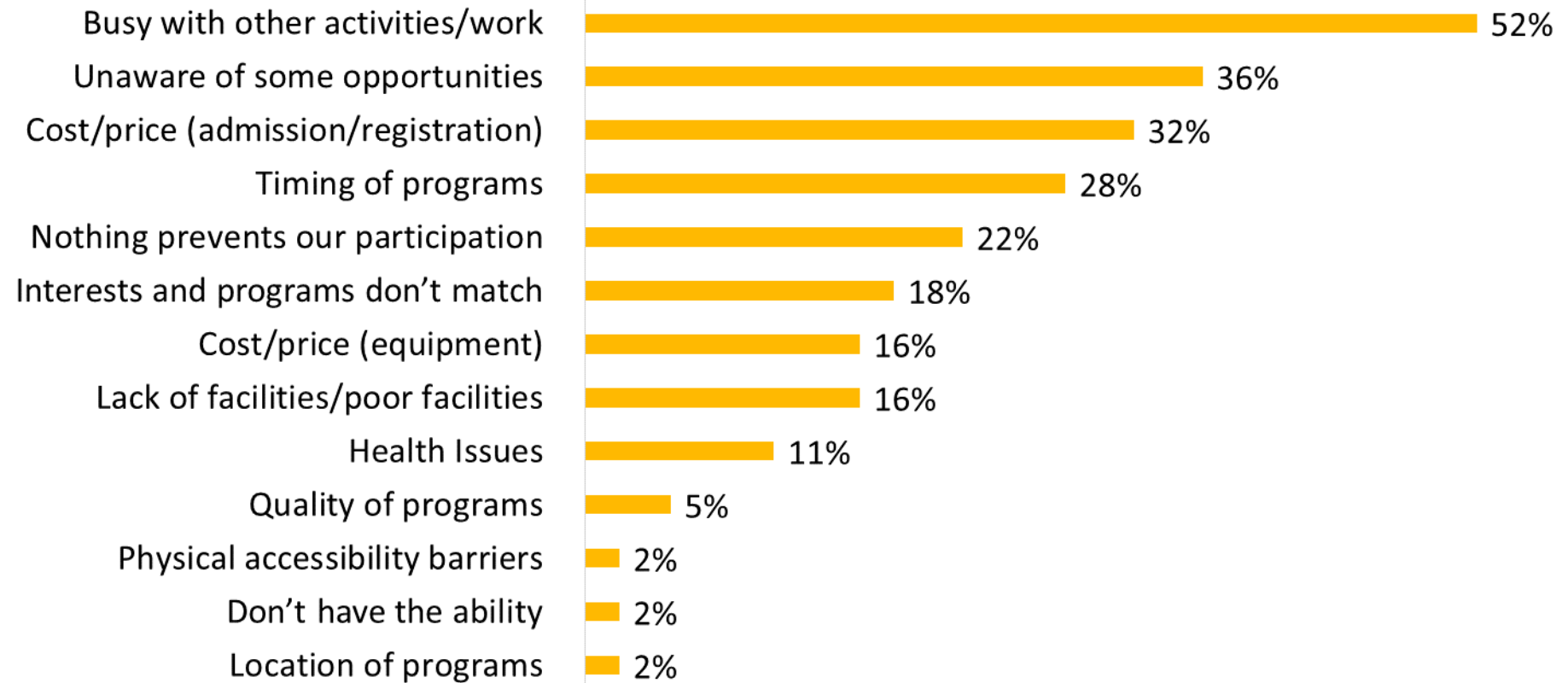
Household Utilization in the Past Year

■ 1-9 Uses
 ■ 10-20 Uses
 ■ 21+ Uses
 ■ Did Not Use



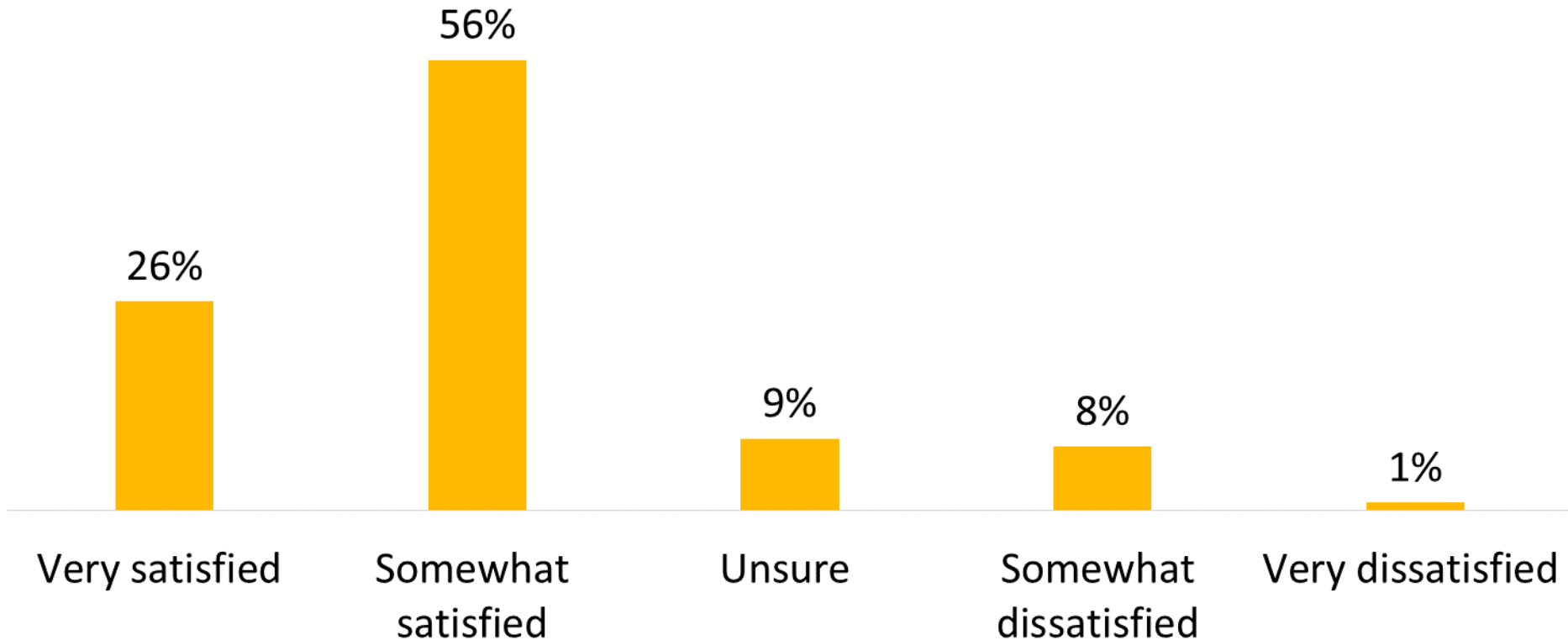
Research Report

Barriers to Participation



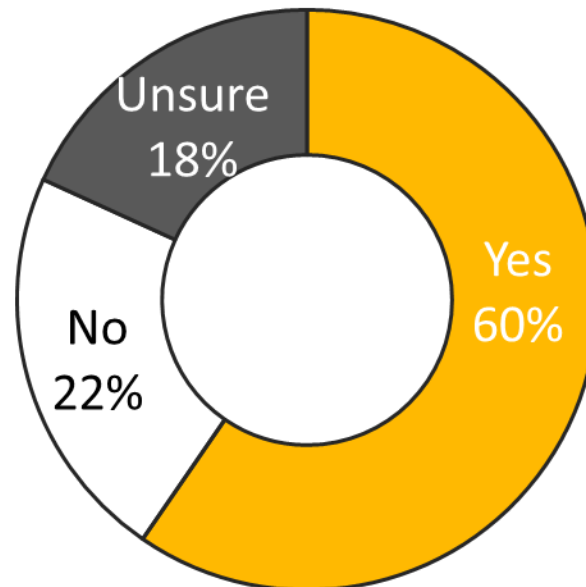
Research Report

Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreation opportunities currently offered in Taber?



Research Report

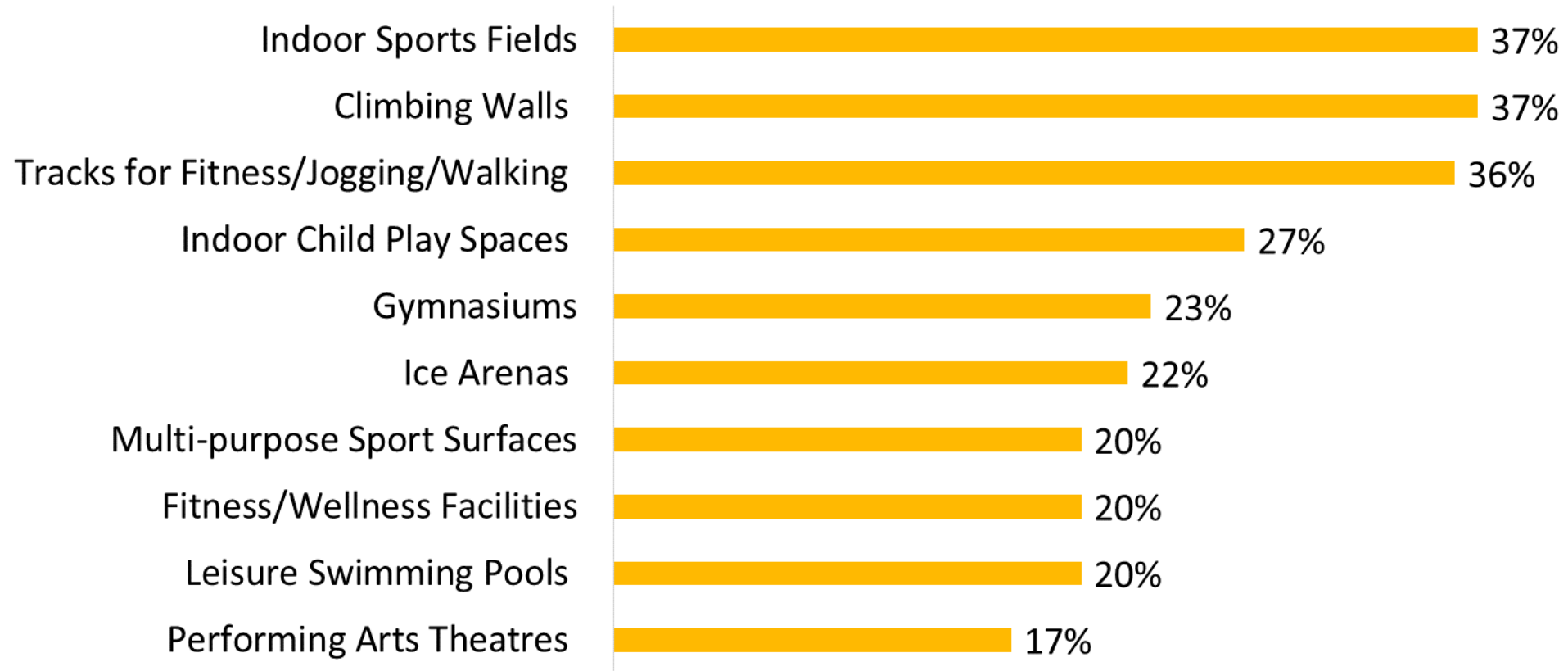
Do you think there are adequate recreation facilities and spaces in Taber to satisfy your household's recreational needs?





Research Report

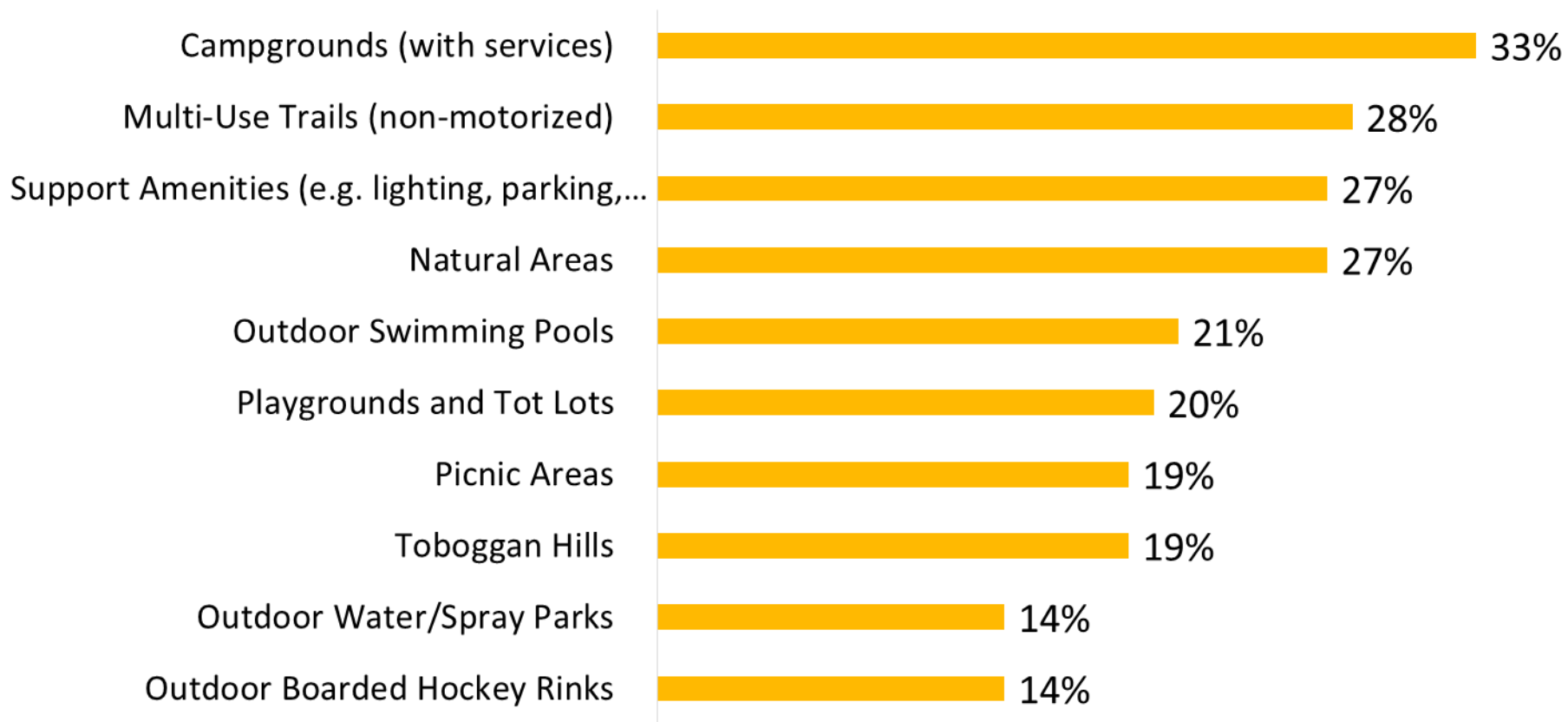
Top 10 Desired Indoor Spaces





Research Report

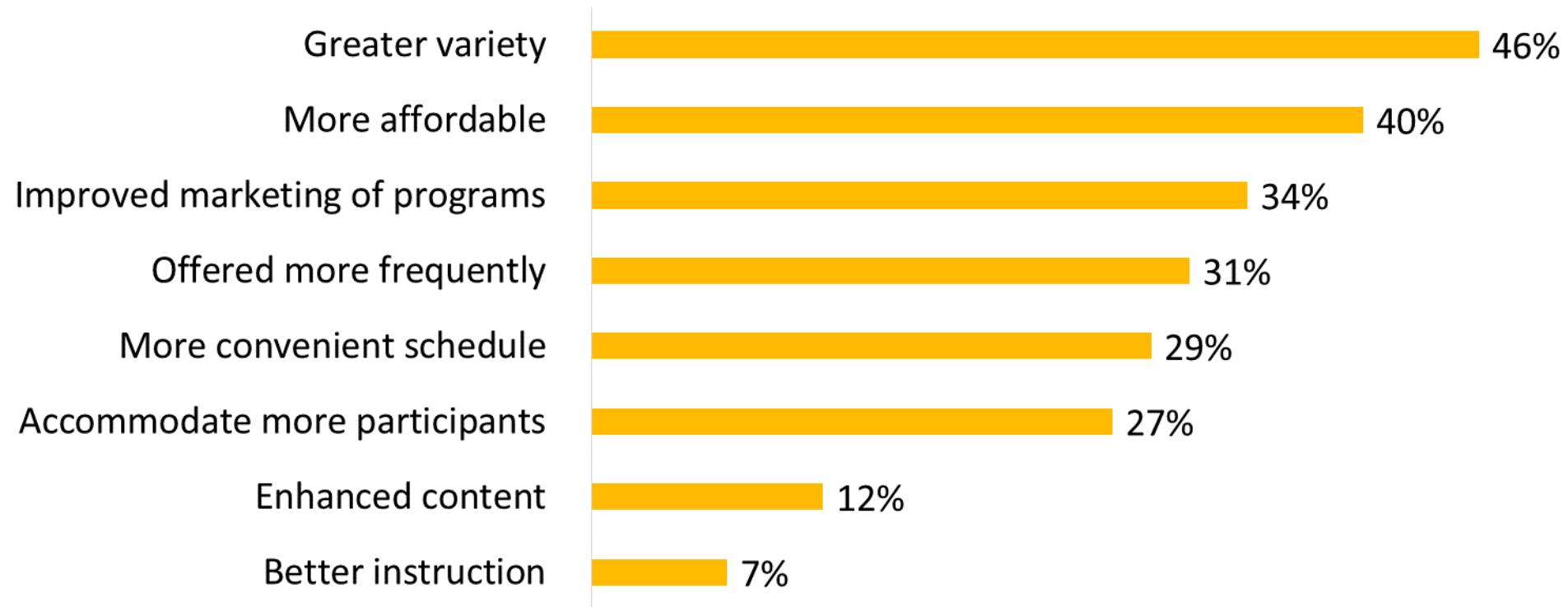
Top 10 Desired Outdoor Spaces





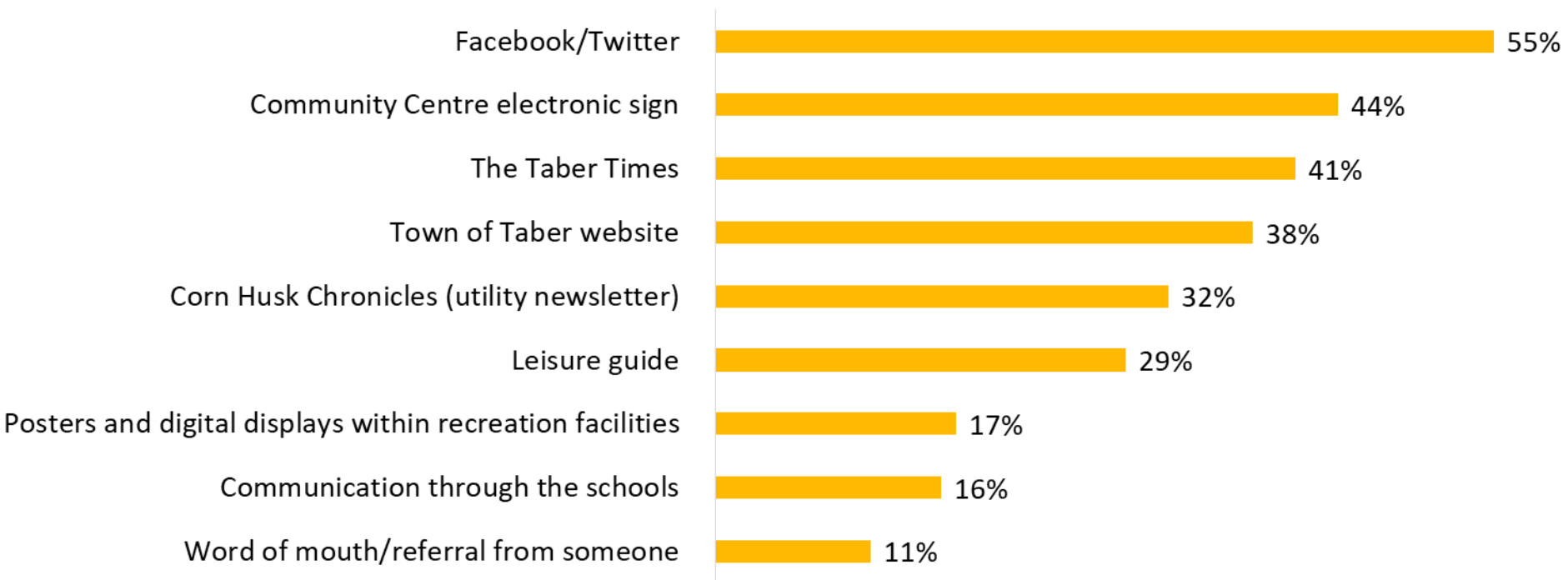
Research Report

What improvements or changes are needed regarding programming?



Research Report

How would you prefer to learn about recreation services and opportunities in the area?
(Select up to 3)

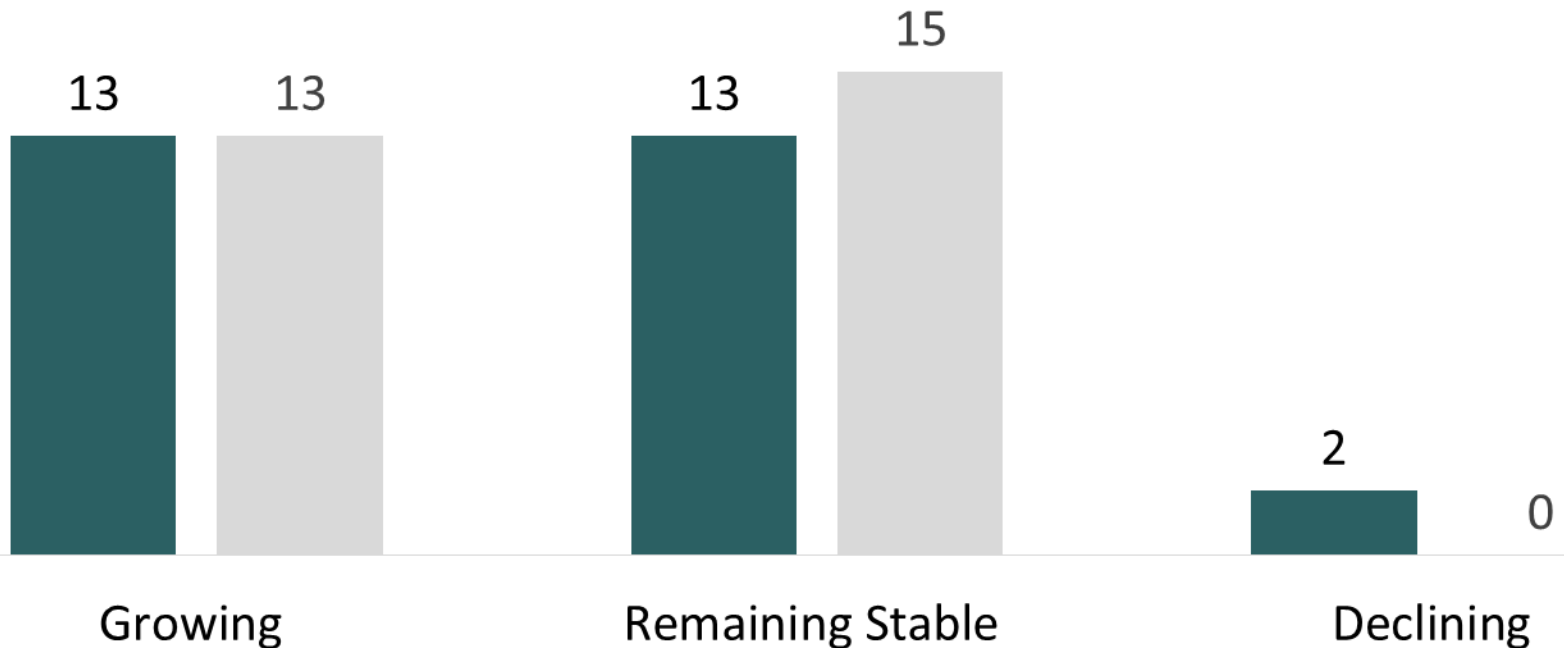


Research Report

Community Group Survey

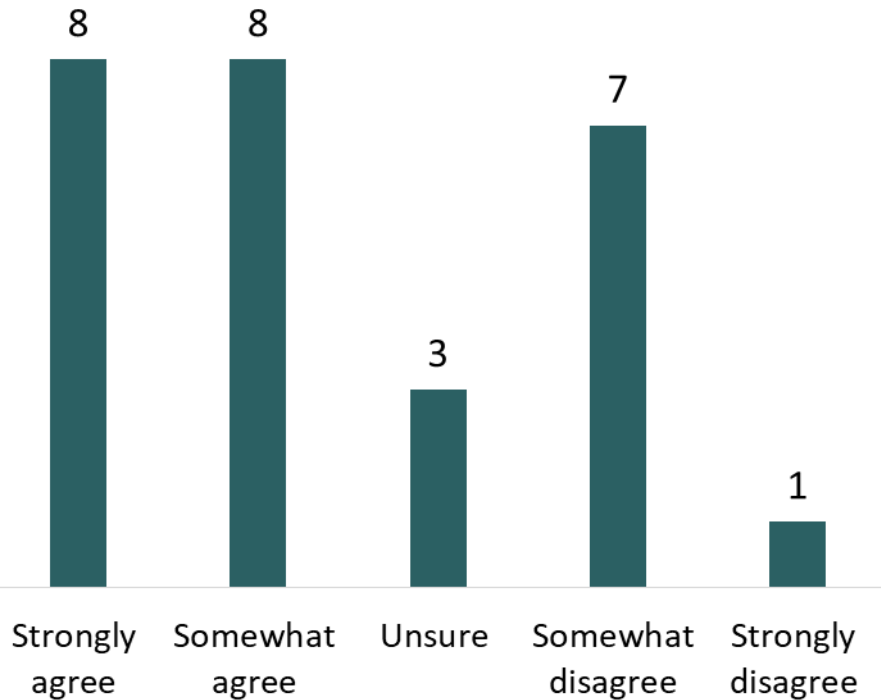
Participation Number Trends

■ Over the past few years ■ Expectation for the next few years

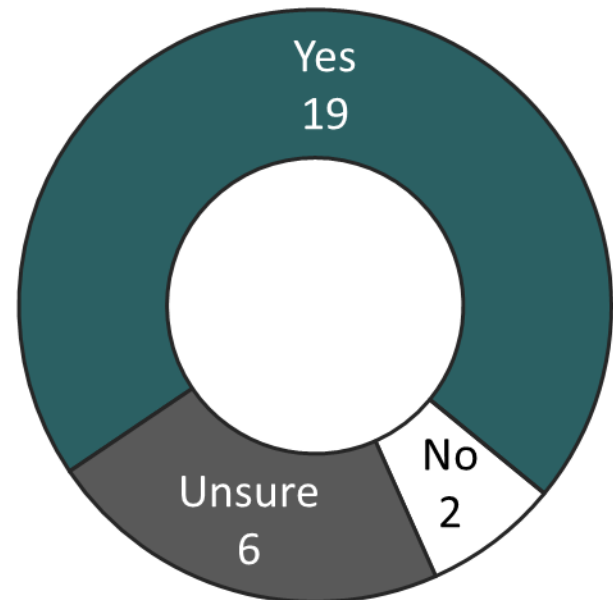


Research Report

“The current facilities and spaces in Taber meet the needs of our organization.”



Is there a need for new and/or upgraded recreation facilities and spaces to be developed in Taber?



Research Report

What challenges, if any, is your organization facing?



Recreation Master Plan

Town of Taber

Recreation Master Plan

Draft – December, 2019



Contents

- Plan Foundations
- Infrastructure Recommendations
- Service Delivery Recommendations



Plan Foundations

Mission Statement

- Why do we provide recreation?

Intended Outcomes

- What are we trying to achieve?

Values

- How do we operate?



Plan Foundations

Recreation Department Mission

To provide safe and clean places, spaces and opportunities to encourage active participation and community building as a means to enhance the quality of life of residents in Taber.

Recreation Department Strategic Plan (2018)



Plan Foundations

Intended Outcomes

- High quality of life
- Everyone feels welcome
- Enhanced sense of community
- High participation levels
- Open communication

Values

- Inclusion
- Informed
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Safety
- Creativity



Infrastructure

This section provides direction on the following topics:

- Guiding Principles for Infrastructure
- Maintaining Infrastructure
- Prioritization Considerations
- Feasibility Process
- Small Ice Arena
- Indoor Dryland Facility
- Lease Agreements
- Guiding Principles for Parks



Guiding Principles for Infrastructure

1. Ensure the safety and ongoing maintenance of recreation infrastructure.
2. Sustain or decommission existing infrastructure before considering new development.
3. Prioritize spaces that are multi-functional and serve a wide range of interests.
4. Inclusion and access need to be considered throughout all infrastructure decisions.



Maintaining Infrastructure

Ensure the safety and ongoing maintenance of recreation infrastructure.

- Conduct facility condition assessments
- Identify maintenance items
- Incorporate expenses into capital planning and budgeting process
- Place a high priority on allocating resources to maintain infrastructure
- Mission statement: “To provide clean and safe places...”
- Good governance
- Open communication
- Informed
- Ensure safety, inclusion, access



Prioritization Considerations

A new or enhanced recreation facility, space or amenity should be a priority over others if...

Very Important

- it is multi-purpose and meets the needs of many different activities, programs and users.
- it responds to demands/requests from the community.

Important

- funding and grants are available that would lower the costs.
- it is not readily available in the Taber area.
- it has potential for attracting users from outside of the Taber area into the community.

Moderately Important

- the costs to run it are lower than others.
- the costs to build it are lower than others.





Feasibility Process

1. Idea brought forward by the community.
2. Preliminary research performed by interested party and presented to Recreation Board.
3. Recreation Board recommends to Council whether the Town should further investigate feasibility.
4. If Council agrees, detailed feasibility analysis conducted by the Town.
5. Administration recommends a course of action to Council.



Small Ice Arena

Sustain the small ice arena and invest in safety and modernization.

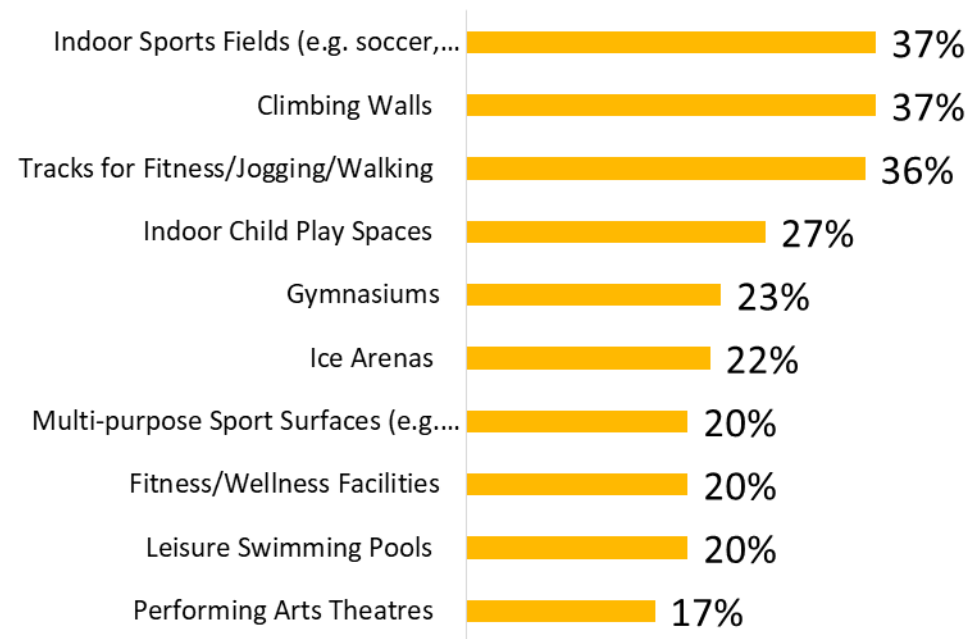
- While a full-size arena replacement may be desirable, indoor dryland spaces are in higher demand; a full-size arena replacement would cost more than small ice modernization and therefore delay other infrastructure priorities.
- In regard to utilization, increased ice capacity is not warranted at this time.
- Ice user groups understand investment is required and some welcome the idea of enhancing the small ice arena.
- Ensure safety, inclusion, access

Indoor Dryland Facility

The next major infrastructure development should be a multi-use indoor dryland facility.

- Desire for such a facility was expressed through the household survey, community group survey, and stakeholder discussions
- Such spaces are currently a gap in Taber
- The Town should further explore feasibility (which was started by the community)

Top 10 Desired Indoor Spaces





Lease Agreements

Ensure that leased spaces are properly maintained and benefit the community.

- Annual reporting and meetings
- Participation rates
- Accountability to maintenance requirements
- Financial responsibilities
- Good governance
- High participation levels
- Open communication
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Ensure safety, inclusion, access



Guiding Principles for Parks

Environmental Stewardship

- Ensure that new park development and ongoing maintenance considers and minimizes negative environmental impacts.
- Offer residents the opportunity to enjoy nature within the town.

Acquisition

- Garner as much parks and open space inventory as possible through land development.
- Consider purchasing land for recreation purposes as needed to supplement or enhance land acquired through development.

Structured Spaces

- Continue to work with community groups to provide and enhance specialized amenities.

Geographic Distribution and Accessibility

- Ensure a balance of neighbourhood vs. specialized amenities.
- Each existing and new residence should be located within close proximity to a park space in their neighbourhood.

Connectivity

- Continue to connect neighbourhoods, parks, and recreation amenities with multi-use trails and pathways.

Affordability

- Continue to provide a variety of outdoor recreation amenities so that all residents can enjoy them without paying user fees.





Service Delivery

This section provides direction on the following topics:

- Volunteerism
- Community Groups
- Partnerships
- Community Events
- Programming
- Arts and Culture
- Awareness of Opportunities
- Data and Information
- Financial Responsibility



Volunteerism

Support and encourage volunteerism.

- Most of the recreation delivery system relies on volunteers
- Volunteer burnout is a challenge
- Promote volunteer opportunities
- Training opportunities
- Recognition of volunteers
- Enhanced sense of community
- High participation levels
- Leadership
- Collaboration



Community Groups

Continue to support community groups.

- Community groups provide a majority of the opportunities available
- Attracting and maintaining volunteers is a challenge for groups
- Continue the grant program
- Access to subsidized facility rentals
- User group meetings
- Open communication
- Informed
- Enhanced sense of community
- High participation levels
- Leadership
- Collaboration



Partnerships

Strengthen current partnerships and develop new ones to maximize capacity and community benefit.

- Effective partnerships can maximize efforts and provide greater amounts of benefit
- Ensure that partnership are mutually beneficial
- Work with the M.D. of Taber to provide recreational opportunities to regional residents
- Engage the school districts to develop a joint-use agreement



Community Events

Continue to host and support community events.

- Attendance and satisfaction with events is high
- Continue to host and support large events such as Cornfest
- Continue to host and support smaller events as well
- Sense of community
- Welcoming to all
- Collaboration
- Creativity



Programming

Expand the delivery of direct programs.

- Direction from department's 2018 strategic plan
- Potential areas: arts, culture, parks, adult sports, afterschool
- Fill gaps; don't compete with groups or private sector
- High quality of life
- Everyone feels welcome
- High participation levels
- Leadership
- Creativity



Arts and Culture

Provide and support arts and culture opportunities.

- The definition of recreation reaches beyond sports
- Many benefits result from participation in arts and culture
- Community events
- Direct programming
- Community group support
- High quality of life
- High participation levels
- Creativity
- Collaboration



Awareness of Opportunities

Promote awareness of all recreation opportunities in Taber.

- Promote Town programming as well as opportunities provided by groups
- Continue with current methods
- Consider expanding the leisure guide to include programs
- Educate group on how to access the leisure guide, electronic sign
- High participation levels
- Open communication
- Informed



Data and Information

Collect data and translate it into useful information to help make informed decisions.

- Participation rates
- Facility utilization
- User trends
- Program feedback
- Good governance
- Informed
- Leadership



Financial Responsibility

Align subsidy levels with community benefit.

- Understand existing subsidy levels for each service
- Develop a sound approach to setting user fees
- Place primary focus on participation rates and benefits (as opposed to cost recovery)
- Good governance
- Informed
- Leadership
- High participation levels
- Inclusion
- High quality of life



Feedback Form

- Please share your thoughts via the feedback form
- [Click here for the online version of the feedback form](#)
- Or copy and paste the following URL:
<https://ca.surveygizmo.com/s3/500633333/Taber-MP-Feedback>



Feedback Form

After reviewing the presentation material of the draft Master Plan please answer the following questions. Your responses should be submitted by December 20th.

Thank you for your interest.

1. To what extent do you agree with the **Plan Foundations** (including the Mission, Intended Outcomes, and Values)?

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

2. Please use the space to provide any comments about the Plan Foundations.

3. To what extent do you agree with the **Infrastructure Recommendations**?

- Strongly Agree



Thank you!